

**Report of the Chief Planning Officer**

**Report to Development Plan Panel**

**Date: 30<sup>th</sup> April 2013**

**Subject: Site Allocations DPD – Issues and Options**

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s): All	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

**Summary of main issues**

1. The Site Allocations Plan will form part of the development plan for Leeds (the LDF). Its` purpose is to identify land in appropriate locations to meet some of the key requirements of the Core Strategy. The scope of the Site Allocations Plan was established by the Executive Board in May 2012 to comprise housing, employment, retailing and greenspace.
2. National planning guidance (the NPPF) requires the Council to determine the scale of housing needed over the plan period. This is set out in the Core Strategy which, amongst other things, indicates that we need to allocate land for 66,000 new dwellings together with some safeguarded land that provides further scope beyond the plan period, should this be necessary. The Site Allocations Plan is required to identify appropriate sites. In the context of these national and local drivers considerable work has been undertaken with members and through the Development Plan Panel to ensure that the package of sites put forward for consideration is as sensitive to local concerns as possible, limiting the impact on the green belt and respecting the character and identity of communities.
3. The material presented today has emerged from an extensive period of engagement with members across the district. Two workshops were held in September, followed by ward meetings to consider potential sites and then a further 11 meetings based on the housing market areas defined in the Core Strategy. The outcome of this work has then been debated through three

meetings of the Development Plan Panel in workshop sessions and a day of site visits.

4. Housing has been by far the most contentious issue given the scale of the land requirement and the need to use Greenfield and green belt land. The need to meet the housing targets, to provide for an additional element of safeguarded land and at this stage to offer some choice and flexibility for communities to consider has meant that the package presented to the Panel today has not always been able to accommodate the local concerns raised by members on individual sites.
5. It is important to remember that this is only the first stage of plan production. This is not a draft plan with draft allocations but is put forward to facilitate early community and stakeholder engagement on the range of options. There will need to be a thorough review of consultation responses before a draft plan emerges. Whilst the timetable is in part dictated by progress with the Core Strategy there is a need to have an up to date plan in place at the earliest opportunity.

#### Recommendations

6. Development Plan Panel is invited to recommend the Site Allocations Plan Issues and Options documents (Volumes 1 and 2 attached) to the Executive Board for the purposes of public consultation.

## **1.0 Purpose of this Report**

- 1.1 This report seeks endorsement of the site allocations material set out in the attached documents and agreement that this be recommended to the Executive Board to enable public consultation to take place in June/July 2013.
- 1.2 In aspiring to be the 'best city in the UK', the Core Strategy takes forward the spatial and land use elements of this vision. Central to this approach is the desire to plan for anticipated population changes and the homes, jobs, education and investment needed across the District in a sustainable manner. Consequently, whilst supporting the ambitions for regeneration, growth and infrastructure, a key emphasis of the plan is for this to be achieved in a form which respects and where possible, addresses local needs, character, distinctiveness and the management of environmental resources. Leeds has in the past successfully accommodated growth and a buoyant economy whilst protecting the green belt and the identity and character of its settlements. We need to plan for substantial additional growth over the plan period allowing the economy to continue to grow and recognising the changing demographics, meeting the housing needs of the young and of the growing elderly population. It is the task of the Site Allocations Plan to identify the sites to meet these needs building on this past success and delivering the ambitions and principles set out in the Core Strategy. This will in turn help inform and be informed by emerging Neighbourhood Plans.
- 1.3 It is important to note that the Issues and Options documents are not a draft plan. It is about providing some initial ideas for the delivery of the Core Strategy's targets and ambitions. This includes a very wide range of sites, exposing the options that are potentially available, and providing considerable choice at this early consultation stage. At this time it would therefore be a mistake to regard the sites as draft allocations and planning applications on them would clearly be premature unless the proposals would be acceptable when considered in the context of existing planning policy. This would not be the case for sites currently in the green belt or PAS sites not covered by the Council's recently adopted informal policy. It cannot be assumed that sites that are currently considered the most favourable opportunities will necessarily remain so throughout the plan preparation process. Consultation and further assessment may well expose difficulties that are not apparent at this time or indeed better alternatives.

## **2.0 Background Information**

### Context

- 2.1 The National Planning Policy Framework requires the Council to have an up to date development plan, now often referred to as the local plan. This needs to include both strategic policies and the site specific allocations that put the policies into effect. The Council has recently approved and submitted for examination its Core Strategy which amongst other things sets the housing target for the district.

- 2.2 The Executive Board on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2012 agreed the scope of the Site Allocations Plan to cover the planning topics of: Retail, Housing, Employment and Greenspace allocations. The Core Strategy, agreed by Council on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2012 and subsequently submitted to the Secretary of State to arrange for public examination, provides the context. The Site Allocations Plan is about the delivery/implementation of the policies and proposals set out in the Core Strategy, for the topics within scope.
- 2.3 The minutes of Executive Board (16<sup>th</sup> May 2012) stressed the need for close member involvement in the site allocations process. To set the scene two workshop sessions were held at the end of September 2012, to which all members were invited. A representative of the Planning Advisory Service was invited to give an overview presentation on the key role and purpose of site allocations plans. Council officers also presented on the work being undertaken in Leeds and gave examples of site assessment approach.
- 2.4 There is a significant amount of site assessment work sitting behind the material present to Development Plan Panel today. An important ingredient is the site assessment proforma (see Annex to Volume 1) which provides a consistent basis for considering the development potential of a site. This was shared with members and subsequently amended as a result of member comment at a previous meeting of the Panel.
- 2.5 As was stressed in the presentations to Members we are at the initial stage of site allocations work. The material before the Panel today is referred to as the "Issues and Options" stage. This is very much about our early ideas and providing material in a way that allows for public input to help shape the final plan. For instance on housing the plans identify all the sites under consideration, far more than is actually needed to meet the Core Strategy targets. A series of questions are posed in each of the topic areas to facilitate public feedback. A more definitive set of allocations with detailed requirements will emerge once the outcome of consultation has been considered.
- 2.6 This is an important point to recognise as site allocation is part of a process that must ultimately lead to the delivery of new development of an appropriate form and quality, alongside the necessary infrastructure. It is not simply a matter of allocating land but about place making and the "liveability" of the communities we create. Work on site allocations is a continuation of the work undertaken on the Core Strategy involving dialogue with other council services, infrastructure providers, communities and other stakeholders. It will be important to recognise the changing demographic picture to ensure that the schools, elderly care facilities, recreation facilities and provision for other community needs reflects the emerging picture.
- 2.7 Following the workshops there has been a further two stage process of general member engagement. The first of these was series of meetings on a ward basis, with 37 meetings held between 25<sup>th</sup> September - 5<sup>th</sup> November 2012. At these meetings officers shared site information and obtained member feedback. In many cases members suggested new sites which were

then fed into the site assessment process. Throughout this process members have recognised that the targets have been established by the Core Strategy and the emphasis has therefore been on promoting sites that meet the objectives of the Core Strategy in the most sensitive and sustainable way.

- 2.8 The second stage was a series of meetings based on the Housing Market Characteristic Areas (HMCA). This was considered appropriate as meeting the housing target is the most challenging issue for the Site Allocations Plan and each of the 11 HMCAs is given a separate target in the Core Strategy. Working on this basis also allowed members to see what was happening in the other parts of the HMCA of which their ward formed a part. As ward and HMCA boundaries do not coincide some members attended more than one meeting. Through this process members were updated on the emerging position including an assessment of new sites, were asked to confirm that officers had accurately recorded views from the earlier meetings and were invited to comment on the updated proposals presented by officers.
- 2.9 Having completed this wide ranging review with members, reports were presented to a series of Development Plan Panel workshops on 5<sup>th</sup> March, 9<sup>th</sup> April and 16<sup>th</sup> April. These sessions sought to concentrate on the issues and sites of concern to members remaining from the earlier meetings. In a number of cases members determined that the Panel should undertake site visits before coming to a conclusion. The material before the Panel today reflects the position agreed through these meetings, including the site visits on 18<sup>th</sup> April.

### **3.0 Main Issues**

#### Overview

- 3.1 The material presented today reflects the debate through the Panel workshops and site visits. Members, both at Panel and more generally, remain concerned about the scale of development and the impact this has on the green belt and other greenfield sites. It is recognised that all greenbelt land is sensitive and the debate through Panel has aimed to achieve a range of sites that have least impact on the purposes of green belt, whilst also recognising the Core Strategy aspirations to respect local character and identity. As far as possible sites have been selected that provide a rounding off to a settlement or could reasonably be considered to be infill and which are visually and physically contained. The importance of trying to retain as much of the green belt wedges that extend into the main urban area was a factor recognised particularly on the site visits. However, in order to meet the targets, in some housing areas it has been necessary to include sites that are not ideal but which are judged to be least worst. It should also be remembered that at this stage of providing options the green belt impact will not ultimately be as great in some areas as the current plans might suggest.
- 3.2 Another area of concern has been the relationship between the site allocations and the infrastructure needs this implies. Members have continuing concerns that the infrastructure requirements will be significant in some areas and timing of delivery is uncertain. This is entirely

understandable. However, particularly at this stage when the final pattern of allocations is unknown, it is not possible to be sure of the need for infrastructure. As work progresses there will be continuing dialogue with infrastructure interests, for instance Children's Services and Highways. Where appropriate reference will be made in the detailed allocations to the need for infrastructure such as roads and schools, requirements will emerge as planning applications are made and the Council will need to make decisions on how it allocates resources including CIL and New Homes Bonus to support areas of growth.

3.3 Members should note that arising from the debate to date the material presented in Issues and Options consultation documents includes:

- changes to colour codings reflecting the discussion through the workshop sessions;
- the final conclusions on a number of sites considered during the site visits on 18<sup>th</sup> April;
- the new text and question related to LBIA discussed at the meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> April but with further minor refinement;
- changed wording relating to bulky goods retailing in and adjoining the City Centre following the debate on 16<sup>th</sup> April; and
- with regard to employment, a number of minor changes which have been made for presentational purposes, including changes to colour codings reflecting the discussion through the workshop sessions and deleting sites which are no longer available.

3.4 In addition Members are advised that in some cases sites identified for possible housing use are also included in the Natural Resources and Waste Local Plan, principally as safeguarded waste sites or areas suitable for new waste facilities. Following consultation and as part of the debate on which sites to allocate it will be necessary to form a view on the balance of interests in each case. A note making this clear has been added to Volume 1 and is a change to the version presented to the Panel workshop. A similar position exists in relation to potential sand and gravel resources near Methley.

3.5 In meeting the requirements of the Habitats Regulations (The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010, SI No. 20101490), officers are currently seeking advice from Natural England regarding the scope and timing of a Screening Assessment to determine if an Appropriate Assessment is required. Members may recall that a similar exercise was completed for the Core Strategy.

#### The Consultation Documents

3.6 The Issues and Options material is organised into: Volume 1 providing a general overview; and Volume 2 which includes 11 chapters, one for each of the Housing Market Characteristic Areas.

3.7 Volume 1 provides an overview of all topic areas. It sets the context and the approach taken to the identification of sites for development or protection. A

key point is that the site allocations plan must be based on the Core Strategy and Volume 1 provides a summary of the key points for each topic area. This comes with a health warning that work on site allocations is happening concurrently with work on progressing the Core Strategy to adoption and it is therefore possible that as a result of the independent examination detailed numerical and policy requirements may change. Volume 2 then seeks to apply the principles set out in Volume 1 to each of the 11 HMCA's.

### Retailing

- 3.8 Consistent with national guidance the Core Strategy identifies the City Centre and the centres listed in Policy P1 as the focus for retail activity. Site allocations work has concentrated on a review of centre boundaries, which essentially stem from the work undertaken for the UDP in the early 1990s, or the definition of boundaries for new centres. The site allocations plan is not promoting specific new retail allocations but where opportunities have been identified and where appropriate, changes to centre boundaries create some opportunity to accommodate new retail proposals (or other town centre uses e.g. offices). This exercise included a review of sites put forward by third parties, although few were submitted for retailing alone.
- 3.9 Apart from considering boundaries retail work includes a review of the primary and secondary shopping frontages within centres. These form the basis for controlling the mix of uses in key locations within centres. As required in national guidance (NPPF para 23) the primary shopping area of a centre is also defined, in smaller centres this often coincides with the centre boundary. Volume 2 includes plans illustrating the proposals for all centres together with a series of questions to help obtain feedback.

### Housing

- 3.10 The Core Strategy establishes a need to find land for 66,000 dwellings. Policies SP6 and 7 provide some guiding principles to aid site identification and set a target for each of the 11 housing market characteristic areas. Sites with planning permission and existing allocations can clearly contribute towards the targets leaving a residual requirement in each area to find from new sites. As Volume 1 explains the source of sites for consideration has been the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) together with sites put forward for consideration by members at the ward meetings. A detailed site assessment has been undertaken for each site, including a site visit. Sites have then been debated with members through the meetings described in paras 2.7 and 2.8 and subsequently at the Development Plan Panel workshops. The outcome has been the coding of sites against a "traffic light" system as follows:
- Green - sites which have the greatest potential to be allocated for housing,
  - Amber - sites which have potential but there may be issues which need to be resolved, or the site may not be in such a favoured location as green sites,

- Red - sites which are not considered suitable for allocation for housing.

3.11 It is important to note, that where practicable, the objective has been to ensure that the total provided for in the green and amber categories is substantially more than the residual requirement in each of the HMCAs. There are a number of reasons for this. It is important to recognise that “Issues and Options” is just that and needs to provide choices for public comment. If the Council’s proposals precisely matched the targets it would give the impression that decisions had already been made and that the plans showed draft allocations. That in turn might encourage premature applications which is clearly not appropriate at this stage. A further reason is that as the overview explains the Site Allocations Plan will also need to consider designation of further ‘protected areas of search’ for future development, in accordance with the Core Strategy, to ensure the long term endurance of the Green Belt. These designations will come from the same pool of sites.

3.12 Reflecting these considerations the position recommended to the Development Plan Panel is set out in the table below.

Housing Market Characteristic Area	Housing Target	Residual Requirement	Green Capacity	Amber Capacity	Green + Amber
Aireborough	2,300	1,548	806	1,487	2,293
City Centre	10,200	5,248	3,684	1,995	5,679
East Leeds	11,400	3,040	1,688	1,445	3,133
Inner Area	10,000	2,059	2,173	3,950	6,123
North Leeds	6,000	3,035	911	2,690	3,601
Outer North East	5,000	3,933	2,323	3,525	5,848
Outer North West	2,000	1,017	270	1,192	1,642
Outer South	2,600	2,407	1,211	2,042	3,253
Outer South East	4,600	3,534	1,121	11,400	12,521
Outer South West	7,200	5,586	4,154	5,499	9,653
Outer West	4,700	2,660	1,655	1,860	3,515
Total	66,000	34,067	19,996	37,085	57,261

3.13 Given the scale of the housing challenge and the need to promote green belt and other greenfield sites in order to meet targets, this has been the most contentious issue for members. It is recognised that the package of proposals presented to Panel as being necessary to meet the strategic objectives set by the Core Strategy includes a number of sites which at a local level remain a significant concern for members.

3.14 National guidance requires local authorities to plan for the needs of gypsies and travelling show people, including a need to provide a five year land supply, mirroring the approach taken with normal housing. This is recognised in the Core Strategy which advises that further assessment is required to determine an up to date position on need, over and above the short term initiative to provide additional pitches at Cottingley. This work is on-going and in the interim the Issues and Options consultation is seeking views on whether any of the housing opportunities might also be suitable for this use and inviting other sites to be suggested.



- 3.15 The position is similar in relation to elderly accommodation. The Core Strategy recognises that this is of growing importance within the wider housing market, without setting specific targets. The consultation seeks view on whether any of the housing sites are considered particularly suited to meet this need either in whole or as part of a wider scheme.
- 3.16 Detailed schedules and plans for each of the 11 HMCA's indicating the categorisation of sites and summary reasons are set out in Volume 2. A series of questions seeks views on whether or not that categorisation is appropriate and provide an opportunity for entirely new sites to be suggested.

### Employment

- 3.17 The overview explains the requirements set out in the Core Strategy for general employment land (493ha) and for office floorspace (706,250sqm) and that the source of sites for assessment come from the Employment Land Review and a call for sites. The position on employment land is very different to that for housing. In this case much of the requirement can be met from existing allocations and permissions. Employment opportunities tend to be concentrated in well established locations such as the City Centre and Aire Valley. As such there is not a specific target for each area. Volume 2 reviews the existing position and any new sites using a similar colour coding to that described above for housing. As noted in para 3.8 the review of centre boundaries may provide some scope for additional office floorspace.

### Greenspace

- 3.18 The overview sets out the methodology used to assess the current provision of greenspace against the standards set out in Policy G3 of the Core Strategy and to draw conclusions on the quality, quantity and accessibility of greenspace in the future. The information collected as part of the Open Space, Sport and Recreation Assessment (July 2011), referred to as the 'open space audit', has been used as a baseline, as it provided a more up to date picture of greenspace in Leeds than the UDP Review 2006. Nevertheless, certain sites were surveyed more recently to ensure that the base data is as accurate as possible. This has flagged up where UDP greenspace allocations are no longer functioning as greenspace; where the boundaries of known greenspace sites have changed and where new pieces of land are being used as greenspace. The greenspace identified in the UDP has therefore being updated and subsequently identified as part of the Site Allocations Plan – Draft Issues and Options.
- 3.19 Using this updated data, the quantity, quality and accessibility of greenspace across the city has been assessed against Policy G3. This has identified whether there is an adequate amount of each type of greenspace (for each area), whether these sites are of sufficient quality and how accessible they are. The findings have generated a number of questions, which are set out in the material for each area in Volume 2. There are some variations in the questions between areas to reflect local circumstances. This includes seeking

views on whether apparently redundant/surplus greenspace might be used for other purposes.

#### **4.0 Other considerations**

##### Sustainability Appraisal

- 4.1 As outlined in this report, the Core Strategy provides the overall strategic context for the preparation of the Site Allocations Plan. Proposals contained in this Plan, therefore need to be consistent with the overall approach of the Core Strategy, which in itself has been subject to a Sustainability Appraisal.
- 4.2 With regard to the Site Allocations Plan, a Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report was produced to set out the approach to assessing the Site Allocations document. In May 2012, the Scoping Report was sent to the 3 statutory consultees on sustainability appraisal (Natural England, the Environment Agency and English Heritage) and their subsequent comments have been incorporated whilst undertaking the Sustainability Appraisal. The Sustainability Appraisal includes an assessment of all the sites being considered for housing, employment and retail sites and centre boundaries where appropriate. Work on the Sustainability Appraisal has been going on alongside the preparation of the Issues and Options report. Whilst this work has been completed much of the material still needs to be written up in its final presentation form. The overview report which explains the approach and methodology is complete and is attached as Appendix 1. The further analysis of local impacts and detailed site schedules have still to be finalised and will be circulated at the meeting if available. In any event the full Sustainability Appraisal report will be completed and provided as a background document when the Issues and Options report goes to the Executive Board in May for formal decision.

##### Infrastructure and Other Comments

- 4.3 Having sufficient infrastructure to serve the levels of development required in the Core Strategy is a key concern, both of members and the public. The first priority has been to get comments from the Highways Agency and the Council's Highways section, as access is a key determinant as to whether a site can be developed. We have also consulted or will be consulting 'infrastructure providers' including Education, Health providers/commissioners, Ecology, the Environment Agency, utilities, built heritage (archaeology and conservation). In some cases the need for a new school may need to be part of an allocation. Where we have not yet received comments, these will be included in the site assessments once received, prior to making final decisions on which sites to allocate (hence site assessments will be added to over time and some sections may be incomplete at present).

##### Duty to cooperate

- 4.4 The Localism Act (2011) and the National Planning Policy Framework (March 2012), provides details of legal and soundness requirements that the Council

and other public bodies have to satisfy. This includes a 'duty to cooperate' on planning issues that cross administrative boundaries, especially those that relate to strategic priorities and allocations set out as part of the Core Strategy and Site Allocation plans (including the homes and jobs planned for). Whilst neighbouring authorities have always had to consult each other on their planning documents, the duty requires joint working on areas of common interest to be diligently undertaken for the mutual benefit of neighbouring authorities. In producing the Site Allocations Plan any cross boundary issues will need to be identified and considered – for example whether any proposed allocations near adjacent authorities will create pressure on schools in other areas and conversely whether proposals of adjacent authorities will affect infrastructure within Leeds. Close working with neighbouring authorities will therefore be necessary. A working group of officers from neighbouring authorities (reporting to the Heads of Planning Group) has been established to consider implications of the duty to cooperate in producing Core Strategies and Site Allocation and other plans.

### Next Steps

- 4.5 Subject to approval by Executive Board on 9<sup>th</sup> May it is proposed to undertake public consultation on the Issues and Options documents for a minimum 6 weeks. The outcome of this exercise will need to be reviewed in detail through the Development Plan Panel prior to any further site selection and detailed allocations being produced. Members will then need to determine whether further informal consultation is appropriate or whether to move to publication of a draft plan. Given the scale of the task it is unlikely that further proposals will emerge before the late autumn. Following publication and submission a public examination to consider representations will need to be held prior to the plan being adopted. It is hoped that the examination will take place in 2014 but this depends in part on progress with the Core Strategy.
- 4.6 The development of more detailed proposals as specific site allocations are established provides the opportunity to reflect the needs of placemaking/liveability referred to earlier (para 2.6). This will be an opportunity to promote proposals that reinforce the character of places, secure improvements or in some cases create entirely new communities. For larger allocations we may wish to specify a need for on site school provision or the creation of a new local centre or park. It is also important not to be too prescriptive and attempt to second guess what might be needed in 10-15 years time. The Site Allocations plan is setting the scene for the further debate that can take place through the planning application process. The current debates on the East Leeds Extension and Thorpe Arch are good examples of this where the detail is being worked up through master-planning and with community input through community forums chaired by local members. Through this dialogue agreement is being reached on the provision of new facilities including schools and a country park as well highway improvements in a way that meets community aspirations. There may be a number of locations in the emerging plan that could be developed in the same way. Possible examples are around Garforth or the new settlement proposal east of Bramham, should these emerge as allocations in the final plan. In

some cases more detail on the form of development and community expectations will come through the neighbourhood plan route, a number of which are currently underway across the district.

## **5.0 Corporate Considerations**

### **5.1 Consultation and Engagement**

There has been extensive consultation with members in the course of preparing the Issues and Options material. The purpose of this report is to seek authority for wider public consultation.

### **5.2. Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration**

EIA screenings have been undertaken on the Core Strategy at Publication Draft, and also at the Pre submission stage, both these EIA screenings consider the impact of the Policies in the Core strategy and how equality has been considered. The Site Allocations material reflects the approach set out in the Core Strategy. Nevertheless an Equality Impact Assessment Screening has been undertaken on the full Issues and Options plan and will be part of the package to be presented to Executive Board in due course. Equality, diversity, cohesion and integration issues are being considered as part of the preparation of the plan and through the sustainability appraisal work which is ongoing.

### **5.3. Council Policies and City Priorities**

The Site Allocations Plan is a key document which forms part of the Local Development Framework, and provides details and allocations to enable the Council's Core Strategy to be delivered. Its delivery is therefore a Council priority. The plan will reflect Council policies and city priorities identified in the Vision for Leeds and the Core Strategy long term spatial vision, objectives and policies.

### **5.4 Resources and value for money**

For the Local Development Framework to be as up to date as possible, the Council needs to produce the Site Allocations Plan as quickly as possible following on from production and adoption of its Core Strategy. This will provide value for money in that the council will influence and direct where development goes. Without an up to date plan the presumption in favour of development by the Government means that any development in conformity with national policy will be acceptable, regardless of any previous positions of the authority, which could have implications in terms of resources and value for money.

### **5.5 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In**

The Site Allocations Plan will follow the statutory development plan process (Local Development Framework). This report has not been circulated with the Panel agenda to the normal Council timetable and will therefore have to be considered as a late item. Getting to this stage in plan preparation has meant

a heavy work programme for both officers and members. Extra meetings of the Development Plan Panel were scheduled on 9<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> April and members also agreed to a day of site visits on 18<sup>th</sup> April. These extra meetings have been held to maintain progress to the May Executive Board meeting. Changes to the documentation arising from these Panel meetings is the fundamental reason why this is a late item. The report is not eligible for call in as no decision is being taken.

## 5.6 Risk Management

Without a current allocations plan(s), aspects of the existing UDP allocations will become out of date and will not reflect or deliver the Core Strategy policies and proposals. Early delivery is therefore essential to enable the Council to demonstrate that sufficient land will be available when needed to meet the Core Strategy targets. As identified at 5.4 above, without an up to date plan the presumption in favour of development by the Government means that any development or neighbourhood plan in conformity with national policy will be acceptable, regardless of any previous positions of the authority. The more the work progresses, the more material weight can be given to it.

## 6.0 **Conclusion**

6.1 The Site Allocations Plan Issues and Options provides preliminary ideas for site allocations. Consultation will create the opportunity for communities to better understand the challenges that the proposed scale of growth presents and to provide their initial feedback to help inform the plan making process. The proposals before the Panel follow extensive engagement with members and debate through the earlier Panel workshops. It is recognised that at the local level members have reservations about some of the sites shown as potential allocations. However it is considered that the package of sites is necessary to meet strategic objectives, to provide choice at this early stage of the plan preparation and acknowledged that changes will arise following consultation and more detailed analysis.

## 7.0 **Recommendation**

7.1 Development Plan Panel is invited to recommend the Site Allocations Plan Issues and Options documents (Volumes 1 and 2 attached) to the Executive Board for the purposes of public consultation.

## 8.0 **Background Papers<sup>1</sup>**

8.1 A Greenspace report for each of the 11 Housing Market Characteristic Areas, with appended plans, with an analysis of greenspace quantity (by ward), quality and accessibility (in relation to Core Strategy Policy G3). It should be noted that due to file size not all of this information will be published on the internet, but can be made available on request.

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<sup>1</sup> The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the Council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.

**Appendix 1 :**

# **LEEDS SITE ALLOCATIONS PLAN**

## **ISSUES & OPTIONS**

### **DRAFT SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL OVERVIEW REPORT**

**APRIL 2013**

**(Please note – this report is currently being finalised  
further updates will be provided at the 30<sup>th</sup> April  
Development Plan Panel)**

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# 1. NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY **TO BE COMPLETED**

## 1.1 Introduction

Leeds City Council is preparing the Leeds Site Allocations Plan which will identify land for housing, employment, retail and greenspace for the period to 2028. This will help to deliver the Core Strategy policies, ensuring that sufficient land is available in appropriate locations to meet the targets set out in the Core Strategy.

The first stage of the Site Allocations Plan is the Issues and Options which sets out initial ideas or options for the Site Allocations Plan. This is the first consultation stage in the preparation of the plan.

## 1.2 What is Sustainability Appraisal?

An integral part of preparing the Site Allocations Plan is the Sustainability Appraisal, which assesses the social, environment and economic impact of the Plan. Alongside this is the requirement to carry out a Strategic Environmental Assessment which is set out in the SEA Directive. The requirements of the Directive have been incorporated into the Sustainability Appraisal, which is explained in Section 3 of the SA Report.

## 1.3 Methodology

The first stage of the Sustainability Appraisal was the review of plans, policies and programmes relevant to the scope of the Site Allocations Plan. Information referred to as baseline evidence was also collated to develop an understanding of the existing social, environmental and economic characteristics of the Leeds district. As part of this process, the Sustainability Appraisal Framework was reviewed to ensure that it could be used to assess the Site Allocations Plan. The SA Framework is explained in more detail in section 1.4 below. A Scoping Report was then prepared and subject to consultation with the SA Consultees (English Heritage, Environment Agency and Natural England) and revised to reflect the comments received.

The sites which are being considered by the Site Allocations Plan have been appraised against the Sustainability Objectives identified in the SA Framework using the approach set out in the Scoping Report. This assessment has informed the development of the Site Allocations Plan Issues and Options.

## 1.4 Key Sustainability Issues

By looking at existing evidence for the Leeds district, the table below identifies the key social, environmental and economic issues that could be affected by or potentially addressed by the Site Allocations Plan:

<b>Social</b>	1. Provide housing provision for all
	2. Improve health and well-being and reduce health inequalities
	3. Improve access and provision of services including access to sustainable means of transport

<b>Environmental</b>	4. Prioritise development on brownfield sites in accessible locations in preference to greenfield sites
	5. Improve access to, increase the quantity and improve the quality of local greenspace
	6. Address the increased likelihood of flooding
	7. Reduce greenhouse emissions to address climate change
	8. Reduce the number of car journeys into and around the city, particularly into the City Centre
	9. Protection of biodiversity and the natural environment
	10. Preserve and enhance the historic environment
<b>Economic</b>	11. Encourage sustainable economic growth, providing new opportunities for economic development
	12. Improve the vitality and viability of the City Centre, town and local centres.

## 1.5 Sustainability Objectives

The Sustainability Appraisal Framework provides a way in which sustainability effects can be described, analysed and compared. It comprises 22 objectives, decision-making criteria and indicators which can be used to assist in the assessment of significant effects. Appendix 5 of the SA Report provides the SA Framework. The SA objectives are listed below:

Economic Objectives	
SA1	Maintain or improve good quality employment opportunities and reduce the disparities in the Leeds' labour market.
SA2	Maintain or improve the conditions which have enabled business success, economic growth and investment.
Social Objectives	
SA3	Increase participation in education and life-long learning and reduce the disparity in participation and qualifications achieved across Leeds.
SA4	Improve conditions and services that engender good health and reduce disparities in health across Leeds.
SA5	Reduce overall rates of crime, and reduce the disparities in crime rates across Leeds.
SA6	Maintain and improve culture, leisure and recreational activities that are available to all.
SA7	Improve the overall quality of housing and reduce the disparity in housing markets across Leeds.
SA8	Increase social inclusion and active community participation.
SA9	Increase community cohesion.
Environmental Objectives	
SA10	Increase the quantity, quality and accessibility of greenspace.
SA11	Minimise the pressure on greenfield land by efficient land use patterns that make good use of derelict and previously used sites and promote balanced development, provided that it is not of high environmental value (defined as ecological value)

SA12	Maintain and enhance, restore or add to biodiversity or geological conservation interests.
SA13	Reduce greenhouse gas emissions and thereby help to tackle climate change.
SA14	Improve Leeds' ability to manage extreme weather conditions including flood risk and climate change.
SA15	Provide a transport network which maximises access, whilst minimising detrimental impacts.
SA16	Increase the proportion of local needs that are met locally.
SA17	Reduce the growth in waste generated and landfilled.
SA18	Reduce pollution levels.
SA19	Maintain and enhance landscape quality.
SA20	Maintain and enhance the quality and distinctiveness of the built environment.
SA21	Preserve and enhance the historic environment.
SA22	Make efficient use of energy and natural resources and promote sustainable design.

## 1.6 Option Selection

The role of the Site Allocations Plan is to identify sufficient land to deliver the spatial development strategy set out in the Core Strategy. Spatial Policy 1 of the Core Strategy identifies the location of development (including new housing, employment land and retail development). In relation to housing, Spatial Policy 6 identifies the housing land requirement and allocation of housing land, and Spatial Policy 7 gives the distribution across the 11 Housing Market Characteristic Area established by the Core Strategy. The preparation of the SAP and the options presented in the Issues and Options document have therefore been guided by the development parameters set by these and other relevant Core Strategy Policies.

## 1.7 Evaluation of Effects

**To be completed**

## 1.8 Monitoring

The social, environmental and economic effects of the Site Allocations Plan are required to be monitored to identify any significant effects and enable mitigation to be taken. The Core Strategy has established a monitoring framework which will also be used to assess the effects of the Site Allocations Plan.

## 2. INTRODUCTION

This document reports the findings of the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) of the Leeds Site Allocations Plan Issues and Options Plan (SAP). It summarises:

- How the SA has informed the development of the SAP to date;
- The likely significant effects of the SAP on people, communities, the economy and the environment; and
- How the SA will continue to inform the implementation of the SAP, including through recommended mitigation and monitoring.

This report will assist anyone participating in the consultation on the SAP

### 2.1 Leeds Site Allocations Plan

The Site Allocations Plan will provide site allocations and details that will help to deliver the Core Strategy policies, ensuring that sufficient land is available in appropriate locations to meet the targets set out in the Core Strategy. It is therefore a key document in the Local Development Framework or Local Plan for Leeds in identifying specific allocations for development to 2028. It will cover housing, employment, retail and greenspace allocations for the whole of Leeds district (except for the area covered by the Aire Valley Area Action Plan (AVAAP)).

The Core Strategy identifies the spatial development strategy for the delivery of land including housing and employment land and has been subject to a detailed sustainability appraisal (SA). The SA of the Core Strategy provides the backdrop to the preparation of the Site Allocations Plan and accompanying SA. This SA should be considered within the framework established by the Core Strategy when considering development options.

The Issues and Options for the Site Allocations Plan sets out initial ideas or options for site allocations for retail, housing, employment and greenspace. This is the first consultation stage in the preparation of the plan. The plan has to go through various stages of preparation and will be subject to examination in public by an independent Inspector before it can be adopted by the Council.

### 2.2 What is a Sustainability Appraisal?

The aim of SA is to ensure that plans are doing as much as they can to support the delivery of social, economic and environmental objectives at the same time. Although plan makers do their best to address these issues, it is possible to miss opportunities to address certain specific parts of sustainability issues and reduce any conflicts that may arise. SA offers a systematic way for checking and improving plans as they are developed. The process provides a mechanism to identify ways to maximise the benefits and minimise the negative effects of plans.

SA also incorporates the requirements of the SEA Directive and its associated Regulations, whose objective 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 and programmes, with a view to promoting*

*sustainable development*” (EC, 2001, Article 1). Table 1 in section 3 provides a summary of the requirements of the SEA Regulations, and where each of these is met or described within this SA Report.

### **2.3 Structure of the Report**

This SA report has been structured as follows:

Section 1 – Non-Technical Summary

Section 2 – Introduction to the Site Allocations Document and SA process

Section 3 – Requirements of the SEA Directive

Section 4 – Appraisal Methodology including when the SA was carried out, who has been consulted in the preparation of the SA and difficulties encountered in compiling information or carrying out the assessment

Section 5 – Sustainability objectives; other policies, plans and programmes; baseline information and SA Framework

Section 6 – Plan issues and options

Section 7 – Summarising the identified effects of the SAP

Section 8 – Implementation of the SAP and recommendations for monitoring effects

### 3. REQUIREMENTS OF THE SEA DIRECTIVE

The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive for the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes was transposed into English Law on the 20 July 2004 in the form of The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.

The Site Allocations Plan is required to meet the provisions of the SEA Directive, which should be included within the content of the Sustainability Appraisal Report.

Table 1 below lists the requirements of the SEA Directive (Schedule 2) and identifies where these requirements have been covered within the SA report.

**Table 1 – Where the SEA Directive Requirements are covered in the SA Report**

<b>SEA Directive requirements</b>	<b>Where covered in SA Report</b>
1. An outline of the contents and main objectives of the plan and programme, and of its relationship with other relevant plans and programmes.	Section 2.1 and 5 and Appendix 3
2. The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme.	Section 5.2 and Appendix 4
3. The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected.	Section 5.2 and Appendix 4
4. Any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to Council Directive 79/409/EEC on the conservation of wild birds (a) and the Habitats Directive.	Section 5.2 and Appendix 4
5. The environmental protection objectives, established at international, Community or Member State level, which are relevant to the plan or programme and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation.	Section 5.3 and Appendix 5
6. The likely significant effects on the environment, on issues such as biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factor. These effects should include short, medium and long-term effects, positive and negative effects, and secondary, cumulative and synergistic effects.	Section 7 and Appendix 6

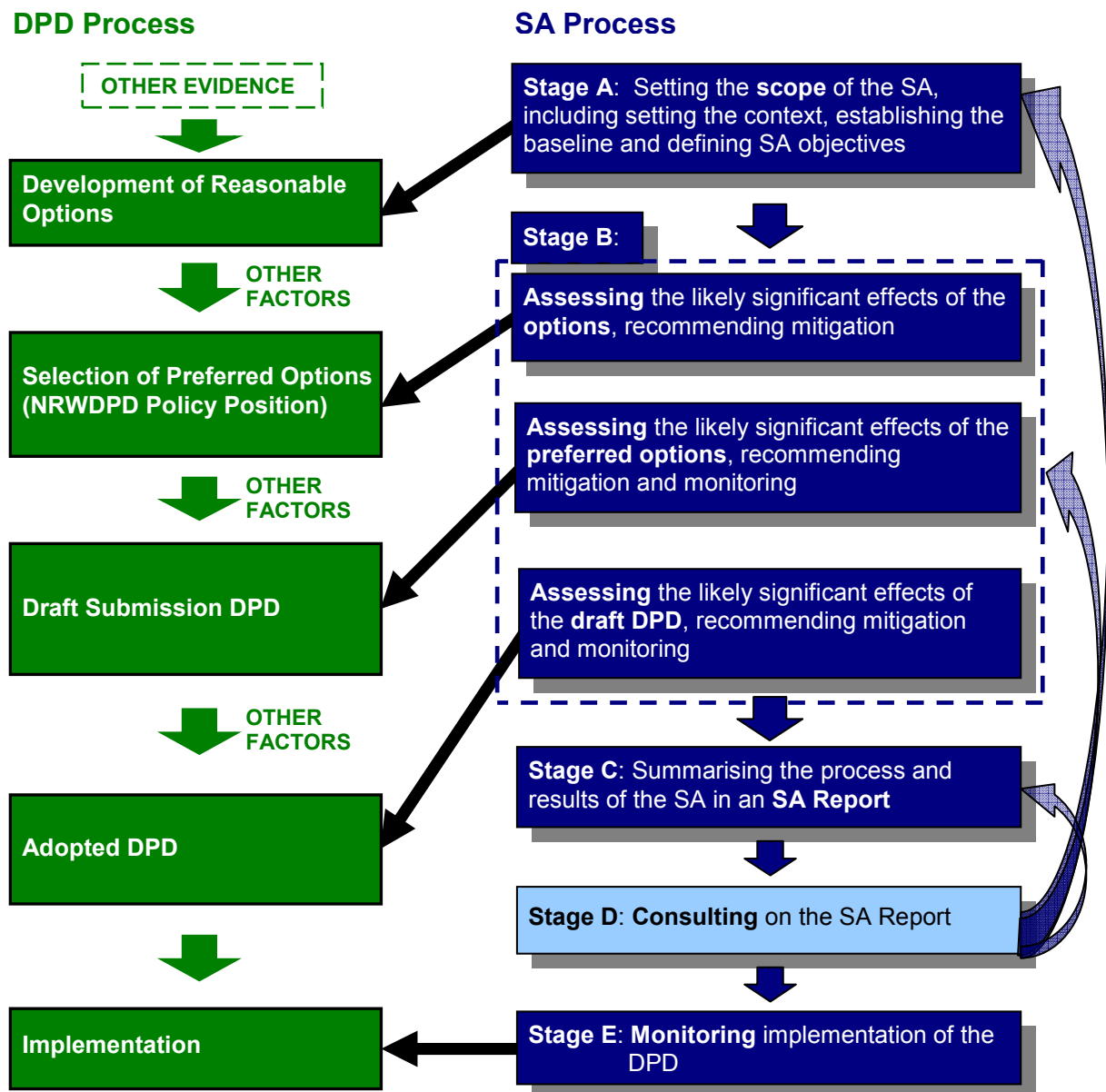
7. The measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme.	Section 7.3
8. An outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with, and a description of how the assessment was undertaken including any difficulties (such as technical deficiencies or lack of know-how) encountered in compiling the required information.	Section 4.1-4.5, 6.1 and 6.2
9. A description of the measures envisaged concerning monitoring in accordance with regulation 17.	Section 8.1
10. A non-technical summary of the information provided under the above headings.	Section 1

## 4. APPRAISAL METHODOLOGY

### 4.1 Approach Adopted by the SA

For SA to be effective, it is important to fully integrate the process into the development and implementation of the SAP. The Development Plan Document preparation process can be divided into four main stages, with a fifth stage for implementation, and the SA aims to influence each stage. This is explained the diagram 1 below

Diagram 1 The Stages of Sustainability Appraisal and DPD Development





Stage A (scoping) is required to ensure that the statutory SEA consultation bodies (the Environment Agency, English Heritage and Natural England) can agree the sustainability issues that will be covered by the assessment stage, and the information proposed to be used to inform the assessment. This involves preparing a Scoping Report which sets the context and objectives, establishes the baseline and decides on the scope of the SA. The Scoping Report for the Site Allocations Plan was published in May 2012 and sent out for consultation to the three statutory consultation bodies (Environment Agency, English Heritage and Natural England). It was also sent to the Leeds Initiative (the Local Strategic Partnership). A number of changes were made to the SA Framework as a result of feedback from these consultees. It includes 22 sustainability objectives divided into economic (2 objectives), social (7 objectives) and environmental (13 objectives). Under each objective there are a number of detailed decision-making criteria which are used to help assess the effects of the plan against that objective.

Stage B is the assessment stage of SA, and thus of central importance to the process. The reasonable options are assessed for their likely significant effects to society or the environment, and the result is used in order to compare the sustainability of options and inform the selection of a set of preferred options. The preferred options are then assessed in further detail in order to maximise beneficial sustainability effects, and avoid, eliminate or reduce adverse effects, as far as is practicable. This is done through a process of recommending and, where acceptable given other considerations, incorporating mitigation in the DPD. In some circumstances, recommendations are made regarding other planning processes.

Stage C summarises the results of the scoping and assessment processes in an SA Report to aid in communication, particularly during consultation, and to provide an audit trail. The SA Report must contain the contents of an 'environment report' as required under the SEA Regulations – this is demonstrated in Table 1.

Stage D is informing the public, statutory consultation bodies and other interested parties of the results and recommendations of the SA, and providing them with an opportunity to comment. Comments on the SA can lead to changes to the sustainability issues and information used to inform the assessment (Stage A), to the assessment results (Stage B), and/or to the way it is reported (Stage C). In turn, this can lead to changes to the DPD options selection and development process, depending upon the nature of changes to the SA considered necessary.

Finally, Stage E is monitoring for sustainability effects of the DPD. This monitoring is recommended during assessment once the sustainability effects, and potential effects, are identified. Should the monitoring identify that sustainability effects are not occurring as forecasted, this stage could lead to changes to the way in which the DPD is implemented.

This description is somewhat simplified, and it is possible that any of the previous stages can be revisited at any time during the SA or DPD development. However, major changes with knock-on effects to the process require that consultation is reconducted to ensure that the relevant parties (statutory bodies at scoping Stage A; statutory bodies, the public and others at Stage D) continue to agree with the results of the SA.

## **4.2 When the SA was Carried Out**

The preparation of the SA has been undertaken alongside the production of the Site Allocations Plan. Work on the SA started in early 2012 and has continued through to the preparation of the Issues and Options document. This has included the review of the SA Framework, baseline information and plans, programmes and policies; establishing a methodology for undertaking the SA; and undertaking the assessment of individual sites using the SA Framework and supporting information.

## **4.3 Who Carried out the SA**

The SA of the Issues and Options document has been undertaken by a team of planning officers from the City Development department. This has included officers involved in the individual site assessments. The SA work has been informed by comments and evidence provided from other officers from the Council together with external consultees. This is detailed further below.

## **4.4 Who was Consulted, When and How**

The SA Scoping Report was published and sent out for consultation on the 15th May 2012 to the three statutory SA consultees (Natural England, the Environment Agency and English Heritage) and Leeds Initiative (Local Strategic Partnership). The five week consultation period ended on the 19<sup>th</sup> June 2012.

Comments were received from the statutory consultees which suggested some amendments to the SA Framework, baseline information and additional plans and strategies relevant to the SA. A summary of the consultation responses and how these have been incorporated into the updated Scoping Report is set out in Appendix 1. A copy of the updated Scoping Report is provided at Appendix 2.

In addition to the formal SA scoping consultation, officers have been working with a number of consultees (internal and external to the Council) to establish an evidence base of comments and information on the individual sites subject to detailed assessment through the Site Allocations process. This work is ongoing and will continue throughout the preparation of the Site Allocations document through to Publication stage. The evidence will inform the assessment of individual sites against the SA Framework objectives.

Comments have been received to date from the Council's highways and transportation, ecology, drainage and Children's Services. External consultees including the Highways Agency, Metro (Passenger Transport Executive), Network Rail, West Yorkshire Ecology, Yorkshire Water and the Environment Agency. Given the scale of the Site Allocations Plan and the number of sites involved, some of this information has yet to be completed. This work will continue and consultees which have yet to be contacted will be consulted during the formal consultation on the Issues and Options document.

#### **4.5 Difficulties Encountered in Compiling the Information or Carrying out the Assessment**

The SA is very much an iterative process and therefore it is likely that in the future the baseline data will need to be brought up to date and amended accordingly. It should also be noted that the Site Allocations Plan is being produced in advance of the Core Strategy being adopted and therefore if changes are made to the Core Strategy, it may be necessary to modify the baseline or approach used in the preparation of this SA.

Given the number of sites subject to assessment, there have been some gaps in collecting evidence and comments, however as explained above officers will continue to collate this evidence and work with consultees throughout the preparation of the SAP which will be an iterative process.

## **5. SUSTAINABILITY OBJECTIVES, BASELINE AND CONTEXT**

### **5.1 Links to Other Policies, Plans and Programmes and How these have been taken into Account**

The preparation of the plan must take into account the relationship between the SAP and other relevant policies, plans and programmes (PPPs). Other PPPs may influence the content of the SAP and help to identify sustainability objectives that the SA of the SAP needs to address.

A review of all relevant plans, programmes and policies at international, European, national, regional and local level has been carried out in order to identify how they may influence the approach and content of Development Plan Documents. This review was used as the basis for identifying the PPPs that are relevant to the SAP and to the sustainability effects it is likely to have.

A table setting out the review of PPPs is included in Appendix 3 of this report. This provides the following information:

- Key objectives that are relevant to the SAP and SA;
- Key targets and indicators that can be used to assess the effects of the SAP against sustainability objectives;
- The implication for the DPD and SA (including any potential synergies to be exploited and any inconsistencies and constraints to be address).

### **5.2 Description of the Social, Environmental and Economic Baseline Characteristics and the Predicted Future Baseline**

In order to assess the sustainability of the SAP, we have first established the status of Leeds under themes for the economic, social and natural environment. The SAP requires the collection of relevant baseline data for the whole of the Leeds District and was first established in 2006 agreed with the statutory consultees and other key stakeholders. The information relates to the issues which are identified of particular importance by national planning policy as well as the environmental data which is required in order to carry out SEA. The baseline data was collected for the Core Strategy Sustainability Appraisal and last updated in 2011. It has been revised following comments from the SA consultees on the Scoping Report and is provided at Appendix 4. The baseline information is the starting point from which the SAP will be working to guide development, and has informed the SA of the SAP.

### **5.3 The SA Framework, including Objectives, Targets and Indicators**

The SA Framework provides a way in which sustainability effects can be described, analysed and compared. It consists of individual SA Objectives covering the significant sustainability issues for the Leeds District, which were determined at the SA scoping stage. The SA Framework was developed by Leeds City Council in consultation with the statutory environmental consultation bodies (Natural England,

English Heritage and the Environment Agency) for all of the documents in the Leeds Local Development Framework.

The SA Framework sets out 22 objectives (under economic, social and environmental headings), and for each of these there are decision-making criteria and indicators to assist in the assessment of significant effects. Through the SA scoping process the 22 objectives were retained with one change to objective 11. A number of changes were made to the decision making criteria and indicators to better reflect the scope and purpose of the Site Allocations Plan. The SA consultees were given an opportunity to comment on these changes through the consultation on the SA Scoping Report.

The full SA Framework for the Site Allocations Plan is set out in Appendix 5, however the SA Objectives are provided in Table 2 below.

**Table 2 – SA Objectives**

Economic Objectives	
SA1	Maintain or improve good quality employment opportunities and reduce the disparities in the Leeds' labour market.
SA2	Maintain or improve the conditions which have enabled business success, economic growth and investment.
Social Objectives	
SA3	Increase participation in education and life-long learning and reduce the disparity in participation and qualifications achieved across Leeds.
SA4	Improve conditions and services that engender good health and reduce disparities in health across Leeds.
SA5	Reduce overall rates of crime, and reduce the disparities in crime rates across Leeds.
SA6	Maintain and improve culture, leisure and recreational activities that are available to all.
SA7	Improve the overall quality of housing and reduce the disparity in housing markets across Leeds.
SA8	Increase social inclusion and active community participation.
SA9	Increase community cohesion.
Environmental Objectives	
SA10	Increase the quantity, quality and accessibility of greenspace.
SA11	Minimise the pressure on greenfield land by efficient land use patterns that make good use of derelict and previously used sites and promote balanced development, provided that it is not of high environmental value (defined as ecological value)
SA12	Maintain and enhance, restore or add to biodiversity or geological conservation interests.
SA13	Reduce greenhouse gas emissions and thereby help to tackle climate change.
SA14	Improve Leeds' ability to manage extreme weather conditions including flood risk and climate change.
SA15	Provide a transport network which maximises access, whilst minimising detrimental impacts.

SA16	Increase the proportion of local needs that are met locally.
SA17	Reduce the growth in waste generated and landfilled.
SA18	Reduce pollution levels.
SA19	Maintain and enhance landscape quality.
SA20	Maintain and enhance the quality and distinctiveness of the built environment.
SA21	Preserve and enhance the historic environment.
SA22	Make efficient use of energy and natural resources and promote sustainable design.

## **6. PLAN ISSUES AND OPTIONS**

### **6.1 Main options considered and how they were identified in conformity with the Core Strategy**

The role of the Site Allocations Plan (SAP) is to identify sufficient land to deliver the spatial development strategy set out by the Core Strategy. Spatial Policy 1 of the Core Strategy identifies the location of development (including new housing, employment land and retail development). In relation to housing, Spatial Policy 6 identifies the housing land requirement and allocation of housing land, and Spatial Policy 7 gives the distribution across the 11 Housing Market Characteristic Areas. The preparation of the SAP and the options presented in the Issues and Options document have therefore been guided by the development parameters set by these and other relevant Core Strategy Policies.

The Issues and Options document describes the process of assessing potential site allocations, including the sieving out of sites. Sites have been excluded from the site assessment process which:

- i) Are wholly within an area of high flood risk – zone 3b (functional floodplain) in the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment
- ii) Are wholly within a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) or national nature conservation designation (ancient woodland)
- iii) Are within minerals safeguarded sites
- iv) Are within the Airport Public Safety Zone

#### SA of Housing Sites

The approach to the SA of potential housing sites has been informed by Spatial Policy 6 of the Core Strategy. The 66,000 units identified for new housing will be composed of current, undelivered allocations, extant planning permissions and other sites deemed to be appropriate for housing delivery, as per the guidelines in Spatial Policy 6 (paragraph 4.6.13). The SA has therefore not included sites with extant planning permission or unimplemented housing allocations. It has only assessed the remaining “sieved” sites, after the process described above has been applied.

The options presented in the Issues and Options document reflect the iterative process for identifying sites following on from the Core Strategy which set out the general approach to the quantum and distribution of development and was itself subject to SA. The colour coding approach adopted in the Issues and Options document has been informed by subsequent work assessing the relative merits and constraints of individual sites. This stage of the preparation process gives the Council’s response to the suitability of sites (i.e. suitable for housing use (green), suitable for housing use but with issues (amber), or not suitable for housing use (red)) and calculates what housing numbers could be achieved within each Housing Market Characteristic Area compared against the Core Strategy requirement set by Spatial Policy 7.

## SA of Employment Sites

Sites with unimplemented planning permission for employment use have not been subject to SA, however unimplemented employment allocations have been subject to SA. A different approach has been taken to employment sites as a number of current allocations are proposed for removal following the Employment Land Review and the Core Strategy does not provide a basis for carrying forward allocations without further assessment (to check)

### Commentary on employment site options

## SA of Retail Sites and the City Centre & Town Centres

A relatively small number of sites have been suggested for retail use and all have been subject to SA, excluding sites in out of centre locations ??

An SA has been undertaken for Centres where the Town Centre boundary is proposed to be amended where this is to incorporate a new development opportunity or site within the centre. Where the boundary has been revised to simply reflect the existing uses on the ground, for example to exclude non-town centre uses, SA has not been undertaken.

## SA of Greenspace

The greenspace sites have not been subject to SA. Given that the principle of providing greenspace use is inherently sustainable and the scoring of sites is likely to be the same of individual sites, it was not considered appropriate to undertake SA.

## **6.2 How the Sites have been assessed against the SA objectives**

Each site is been assessed against each of the SA objectives. In order to achieve a consistency of approach a scoring framework was established (Table X below), setting out a recommended score for sites reflecting how well the site performed against each SA objective. The scores range from a major positive effect (++) , minor positive (+), neutral (O), minor negative (-) to major negative (--). Sites with an uncertain effect are scored ?. Not all SA objectives have a full range of scores from ++ to --, this was dependant on the detailed information available to enable 5 different scores to be devised.

In keeping with the SA being an iterative process, the process of devising the scoring framework has evolved as the site assessment process has progress and has been amended where circumstances have arisen with individual site characteristics which were not originally predicted at the first drafting of the framework. Where this has occurred, previous site assessments have been reviewed and reconsidered where necessary.



**Table 3 – Scoring criteria of sites applying SA objectives**

<b>SA Objective</b>	<b>Assumptions Used</b>	<b>Scoring</b>
SA1 Employment	Based on the location and existing use of the site.	+ Proposed use will create new employment O All sites except existing or proposed employment use - Existing employment use -- If single employment site in a smaller settlement.
SA2 Economic growth	Based on the location and existing use of the site	+ Proposed use will create new employment O All sites except existing or proposed employment use - Existing employment use -- If single employment site in a smaller settlement
SA3 Education	Based on accessibility of site to existing primary and secondary schools (data provided by Metro to LCC highways) The assessment does not consider the capacity of existing schools to accommodate new pupils. Comments will be provided separately by Childrens Services. Large sites (800+ units) could accommodate new school on site.	+ All site within accessibility zones for primary (20 min walk) and secondary education (30 min walk) O Partly within accessibility zones for primary and secondary education. All sites assessed for employment. - Outside accessibility zones for primary and secondary education
SA4 Health	Based on accessibility of site to existing primary health facilities (data provided by Metro to LCC highways) The assessment does not consider the capacity of existing health facilities to accommodate new patients. Comments will be provided separately by health consultees.	+ All site within accessibility zone for primary health facilities (20 min walk) O Partly within accessibility zone. All sites assessed for employment. - Outside accessibility zone
SA5 Crime	Outside of the scope of the Site Allocations document to determine the implications for crime arising from a site's development.	O All sites
SA6 Culture, leisure & recreation	Based on the location in terms of centres and therefore the proximity to cultural and leisure facilities. Consider the size of the site and impact on existing facilities.	++ Near/in the city centre + Near/in a town centre - Not near or in a centre -- Loss of existing leisure facility
SA7	All housing sites will score	+ All sites considered for housing.

Housing	favourably	- All sites assessed for employment.
SA8 Community participation	Outside the scope of the Site Allocations document to determine the implications for social inclusion and community participation. However if large site may be potential to provide new facilities on site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>O Likely to be all sites</li> <li>O? Large site which could potentially accommodate new facilities on site</li> <li>- Site has poor accessibility to existing services</li> </ul>
SA9 Community cohesion	Consider the relationship of the site to the existing area, e.g. scale of site in relation to the scale of the existing settlement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>O Site size considered to be in scale with settlement scale</li> <li>- Site is out of scale with settlement scale or loss of existing community facility (e.g. sports club, allotments)</li> <li>- - Site size is considered to be significantly out of scale with settlement scale</li> </ul>
SA10 Greenspace	SA scoring based on assessment of accessibility of sites to existing greenspace using accessibility standards in Core Strategy (Policy G3). Scores reflect whether a site falls within the accessibility threshold for each greenspace type. The scores are the number of greenspace type thresholds a site falls within	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>++ Access to 8-9 typologies</li> <li>+ Access to 6-7 typologies</li> <li>O Access to 4-5 typologies</li> <li>- Access to 2-3 typologies</li> <li>- - Access to 0-1 typologies</li> <li>-- Existing greenspace use on site</li> </ul>
SA11 Greenfield or brownfield	Consider existing greenfield / brownfield status of the site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ + Derelict brownfield site</li> <li>+ Occupied brownfield site</li> <li>- Part greenfield and brownfield site</li> <li>- - Greenfield site</li> </ul>
SA12 Biodiversity or geological interests	Based on ecology comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>O Support</li> <li>- Support with mitigation</li> <li>- - No support</li> </ul>
SA13 Greenhouse emissions	Based on accessibility assessment provided by LCC Highways	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ + Rank 5</li> <li>+ Rank 4</li> <li>O Rank 3</li> <li>- Rank 2</li> <li>- - Rank 1</li> </ul>
SA14 Flood risk	Data from Leeds Strategic Flood Risk Assessment and Environment Agency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ + Flood Zone 1 and brownfield</li> <li>+ Flood Zone 1 and greenfield</li> <li>O Flood Zone 2 and brownfield</li> <li>- Flood Zone 2 and greenfield</li> <li>- Flood Zone 3 and brownfield</li> <li>- - Flood Zone 3 and greenfield</li> </ul>

SA15 Transport network	Based on LCC Highways comments on accessibility, site access and local network capacity	+ + Rank 5 + Rank 4 O Rank 3 - Rank 2 - - Rank 1
SA16 Local needs met locally	Based on accessibility assessment provided by LCC Highways (using Core Strategy ) NB Where a site is very large potentially scope to accommodate new services on site	+ + Rank 5 + Rank 4 O Rank 3 - Rank 2 - - Rank 1
SA17 Waste	Based on site designation in Natural Resources and Waste DPD. NB 100m buffer zone from waste sites provisional distance. Buffer zone still to be confirmed.	- Designated waste site or within 100m of waste site O All other sites
SA18 Pollution	Check if site located : - Air Quality Management Area - Areas of Concern - HSE Major Hazard Zone - Contaminated site	+ Contaminated site - Air Quality Management Area; Area of Concern or HSE zone (one designation) - - Air Quality Management Area; Area of Concern or HSE zone (two designations) O All other sites If contaminated site but within AQM, A of C or HSE zone, dependent on judgement. Note in comments box.
SA19 Landscape	Does the site fall within a Special Landscape Area? Guided by extent of woodland coverage and number of hedges and other landscape features	O No existing landscape features or feature could be retained - Woodland coverage and hedges or attractive landscape which would be lost - - Special Landscape Area
SA20 Local distinctiveness	Consider scale of site in relation to existing settlement and whether it would it change the distinctiveness of the settlement.	+ Existing unattractive brownfield site. O Brownfield site, but not unattractive; greenfield site in scale with settlement; greenfield site where development could still maintain distinctiveness - Large Greenfield site, out of character with settlement
SA21 Historic environment	Check if site has listed building or is within or proximate to a Conservation Area	+ If unattractive site in conservation area or adjacent to listed building. Development of site would benefit/enhance the historic environment O No effect on listed building or not in conservation area O? Listed building on site. Could be retained and enhanced but depends on detail of scheme - Development of Listed Building or

		development in Conservation Area could detract from their character
SA22 Energy and natural resources	Based on Agricultural Land Classification And Area of Search for Wind  For employment only, consideration of the Environment Agency's information on restricted water available for licensing.	+ Area of Search for Wind Energy (excluding south Leeds) - Area of Search for Wind Energy (South Leeds) O If not agricultural land and not Area of Search for Wind Energy - Grade 3b or 4; - - Grade 1, 2, 3 or 3a; - If Area of Search (north Leeds) but Grade 1, 2, 3 or 3a (with explanation in comments box) + If Area of Search (north Leeds) but Grade 3b or 4 (with explanation in comments box). - employment sites only: where restricted water available for licensing (explanation in comments box). - - employment sites only: where water not available for licensing (explanation in comments box).

## **7. Summarising the Identified Effects of the Site Allocations Plan**

### **7.1 Identified Effects**

**Section and Appendix 6 to be completed when analysis of SA tables completed**

### **7.2 Cumulative impact**

The Issues and Options document does not identify which sites will be proposed for allocation. The purpose of this stage in the Site Allocations process is to assess the suitability of sites for the proposed use (housing, employment or retail), which will subsequently guide the sites proposed for allocation at the next stage of the SAP process. Therefore it is not possible to assess the cumulative impact of the SAP at this stage.

### **7.3 Proposed Mitigation Measures and How the SA has Influenced the Identification of Mitigation Measures**

The SEA Directive requires that the SA Report must include measures to prevent, reduce or offset significant adverse effects of implementing the Site Allocations Plan. These measures are usually referred to as 'mitigation measures', which may also include recommendations for improving beneficial effects.

The Core Strategy has a number of policies to prevent or reduce the severity of these effects. Other appropriate means for mitigation which could be applied by the SAP or through subsequent planning applications for individual sites are listed below:

**Table 4 : Recommendations for Mitigation**

<b>Economic</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Use of local labour agreements to secure local employment.</li><li>• Feasibility work to assess the deliverability of infrastructure proposals including major transport proposals.</li></ul>
<b>Social</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Appropriate phasing of sites to manage the cumulative impact on local infrastructure (including transport and education).</li></ul>

- Contributions towards primary and secondary education provision where existing schools have no capacity to meet the demand for places generated for new development.
- Where identified necessary, large housing sites should provide new facilities (for example schools and health centre).

#### Environmental

- Ensure that sites are well related to public transport services and served by safe and attractive walking and cycling routes to minimise journeys by cars.
- An ecological and landscape survey is carried out of sites where appropriate, prior to development commencing and appropriate mitigation measures adopted.
- For sites in Flood Zones a detailed risk assessment and appropriate mitigation will be required, including a sequential and exception test where relevant.
- Appropriate phasing of sites to manage the release of greenfield and green belt sites and associated environmental effects.
- Mitigation measures provided against noise and air pollution where housing proposals would otherwise be unacceptable.

## **7. IMPLEMENTATION**

### **7.1 Proposals for Monitoring**

The SEA Directive requires the monitoring of significant environmental effects resulting from the implementation of the Site Allocations Plan. The Core Strategy has established a monitoring framework which will also be used to assess the effects of the Site Allocations Plan.

## **APPENDIX 1 - CONSULTATION RESPONSES TO THE SA SCOPING REPORT**



## CONSULTATION RESPONSES TO THE SA SCOPING REPORT

SA CONSULTEE COMMENTS	RESPONSE
<b>Environment Agency</b>	
<b>Policies, Plans and Programmes</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welcome the inclusion of the Water Framework Directive, and the Waste Framework Directive as key objectives relevant to the Plan.</li> <li>• Include the objectives of conserving habitats and species that depend directly on water and the hydromorphology of waterbodies under the Water Framework Directive. Include a target to restore/improve riverine hydromorphology to help achieve good status by 2021-27.</li> </ul>	<p>Comment noted. The additional objectives have been added under the Water Framework Directive.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Humber River Basin Management Plan is not referred to. It is the key plan for the protection and improvement of the water environment throughout the Humber district and provides information on the local pressures.</li> </ul>	<p>The Humber River Basin Management Plan has been added under Local Policies</p>
<b>Baseline Information</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The flood risk section needs to refer to the NPPF and the Council's Strategic Flood Risk Assessment. Any future Site Allocations DPD needs to be in conformity with the NPPF and a robust evidence base such as the SFRA.</li> <li>• Para.3.16 refers to Leeds having 407 flood defences seems high. More details requested.</li> <li>• Fig 9 is incorrect. Should read: Floodzone 3 – Annual River Flooding Probability of 1% or greater; Floodzone 2 – Annual River Flooding Probability of 0.1 to 1%.</li> </ul>	<p>Para. 3.20 has been revised to refer to the NPPF and the SFRA. The reference to 407 flood defences is incorrect. The sentence has been deleted from para.3.22.</p> <p>The map at Figure 9 has been amended to give the correct reference to flooding probability for Zone 2 and 3.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Insert new section under Environmental Profile. Environmental Setting – Leeds Metropolitan District is underlain by 3 distinct bedrock geologies. Coal Measures lie to the south, and Millstone Grit to the north; both are designated as Secondary aquifers. Magnesian limestone forms the eastern boundary, and is</li> </ul>	<p>A new heading 'Environmental Setting' has been added and the suggested text added at para. 3.1.</p> <p>"Leeds Metropolitan District is underlain by 3 distinct bedrock geologies. Coal Measures lie to the south, and Millstone Grit to the north; both are designated as Secondary aquifers. Magnesian limestone forms the eastern boundary,</p>

<p>designated as a Principal aquifer. There are Source Protection Zones located in the north eastern corner of the district, which are in place to help protect abstractions with potable use. The River Aire from Esholt to the River Calder is currently failing Water Framework Directive's chemical classification.</p>	<p>and is designated as a Principal aquifer. There are Source Protection Zones located in the north eastern corner of the district, which are in place to help protect abstractions with potable use. The River Aire from Esholt to the River Calder is currently failing Water Framework Directive's chemical classification".</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Para.3.15. Continuing contamination of the Aire is due to surface water run off, trade discharges, mine waters and industrial discharges and pesticides. There may be additional reasons for continued poor quality, which may include contaminated land and historic landfilling.</li> </ul>	<p>Renumbered para.3.19 amended to add text:          "There may be additional reasons for continued poor quality, which may include contaminated land and historic landfilling".</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water resources is not adequately covered within the report. Water availability needs to be considered as part of site allocation for any water dependent business or industry that will require the abstraction of water from surface or groundwaters. Currently this information is not considered within the document. Water availability is assessed by the EA through Catchment Abstraction Management Strategies (CAMS). Map provided giving indication into water availability and possible restriction on any new licences within the Leeds Local Authority Area.</li> </ul>	<p>The Natural Resources &amp; Waste DPD considers water availability. The Site Allocations Plan will not be defining whether a proposed employment site should include a water dependent business or industry. This would be a detailed consideration, however if the EA has specific concerns about suggested employment sites falling within the areas of restriction comments can be made through the consultation process.          A new section has been provided under the heading Water Resources at para. 3.18 including the water availability map.</p>
<p><b>SA Framework</b></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Objective 18 is particularly important when allocating sites in environmentally sensitive areas, i.e. areas of Source Protection Zones, Principal Aquifer, and the proximity to the River Aire.</li> </ul>	<p>Comment noted. This factor will need to be considered carefully for sites falling within these areas. EA is being consulted on the sites subject to the assessment and will be able to highlight any sites of particular interest or concern affected by this issue.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The environmental objectives do not cover water resources or the Water Framework Directive. Would like to see reference made to protection and enhancement of the water environment through sustainable and efficient use of water and compliance and improvement measures linked to the WFD.</li> </ul>	<p>Objective 22 already includes the efficient use of resources (including water).</p>

<b>Other Comments</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any new development/allocation wherever possible should assess the implications of their proposals on water quality, including mitigation of negative impacts where necessary. Proposals are encouraged to improve water quality and physical habitat, particularly in areas where watercourses are below expected standards. Where a proposal causes physical modifications to any waterbody or the discharge of polluted water into a waterbody an assess will need to be carried out to ensure compliance with the Water Framework Directive and prevent or mitigate against deterioration. The majority of waterbodies within Leeds are currently not a good status and so improvement measures will be necessary to ensure they meet the WFD target. A map and spreadsheet provided showing the WFD status of waterbodies in Leeds. This information should be taken into consideration as part of the site allocation process.</li> </ul>	<p>The Core Strategy provides policies for new development to consider effects upon the environment including the issues raised by the EA. If a particular site has specific environmental requirements, this can be considered in a site specific policy within the Site Allocations Plan. This is a matter for a later stage in the plan process.</p>
<b>English Heritage</b>	
<b>Baseline Information</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Update para.3.44. There are currently: 81 Conservation Areas; 2236 Listed Buildings; 13 Registered Parks and Gardens; 57 Scheduled Monuments; and 1 Registered Battlefield.</li> </ul>	<p>Renumbered para. 3.52 amended to 2236 Listed Buildings. The Council's Conservation team have advised that there are currently 76 Conservation Areas. Para. 3.51 amended to 76 Conservation Areas.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reference should also be made to the number of heritage assets identified as being "at risk". The latest EH "Heritage at Risk Register" identifies the following assets as being at risk: 4 Conservation Areas; 11 Listed Buildings (Leeds has the greatest h=number of Buildings at Risk in Yorkshire and the Humber); 2 Historic Parks and Gardens; 10 Scheduled Monuments; and 1 Registered Battlefield.</li> </ul>	<p>Renumbered para. 3.5 amended as requested.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consent for works to Scheduled Monuments is given by the Secretary of State on the advice of English</li> </ul>	<p>Renumbered para.3.57 amended to make reference to the Secretary of State.</p>

Heritage.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Registered Battlefield should have it's own heading. It is not the same as a Registered Park and Garden.</li> </ul>	New heading provided at para. 3.55 to make specific reference to Registered Battlefields.
<b>SA Framework</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective 21. Registered Battlefield should be added to the list of designated heritage assets in indicator 1. Preferable to use an indicator which covers the majority of designated heritage assets (i.e. the "Heritage at Risk Register", suggest indicator 2 be amended to "No. of heritage assets identified as being "at risk" on the English Heritage "Heritage at Risk Register".</li> </ul>	Indicator 1 under Objective 21 has been amended to include Registered Battlefields and Indicator 2 amended to refer to no. of heritage assets "at risk".
<b>Proposed Structure and Methodology of the SA Report</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is not clear whether the assessment will examine each of the sites which are being considered for development against the SA objectives</li> </ul>	All of the sites subject to the SA are being considered against each SA objective to provide a comprehensive assessment of the economic, social and environmental effects of the Site Allocations Plan.
<b>Natural England</b>	
<b>Plans, Policies and Programmes</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Additional documents to refer to: Natural England White Paper 2011 – The Natural Choice: Securing the value of nature; White Paper on Water 2011 – Water for Life; Biodiversity Strategy 2011 – Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services; Leeds Landscape Character Assessment; Nidderdale AONB Management Plan; Leeds Rights of Way Improvement Plan; and Leeds City Region Green Infrastructure Strategy</li> </ul>	All of the documents referred to have been incorporated
<b>Baseline Information</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Additional information to include: Footpaths and public rights of way; Proximity to accessible natural greenspace per population (e.g. ANGSt); previously developed land; European protected sites (particularly the North Pennine Moors SAC, North Pennine Moors Phase 2 SPA); and protected and valued landscapes,</li> </ul>	A new section 'Footpaths and public rights of way' at para. 2.24 has been added; The greenspace section has been amended to include reference to the Council's (para. 2.23) Leeds Open Space, Sport and Recreation Assessment. The document has also been added to the Plans, Policies and Programmes. Core Strategy policy G3

<p>including areas of tranquillity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No data has been presented on the effect of existing policies on the natural environment biodiversity, landscape and green infrastructure. While this data may not have been collected, it is worth noting the absence of such data makes the task of the SA very difficult and/or the output of the SA less robust.</li> </ul>	<p>was informed by the Council's assessment and identifies accessibility standards for the different greenspace typologies including natural greenspace; A new section headed 'Previously Developed Land' has been added at para. 2.11 European protected sites (North Pennine Moor Special Area of Conservation and North Pennine Moors Phase 2 Special Protection Area) have been added under para. 3.3; A new section 'Landscape' has been added from para. 3.5-3.7 to refer to landscape characteristics of the Leeds district including Special Landscape Areas. The Council has not identified areas of tranquillity. Under the landscape section, reference has been added to the Special Landscape Areas and Strategic Green Infrastructure at paras. 3.6 and 3.7.</p>
<p><b>SA Framework</b></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective 10 gives no decision making criteria or indicators around public rights of way. Suggest an indicator such as the number or length of newly created or improved public rights of way per year. Not clear how the indicator 'accessibility of greenspace to residential areas' is proposed to be measured. Suggest use Natural England's Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard (or "ANGSt") or similar approach.</li> </ul>	<p>The Site Allocations Plan does not have a specific role in providing new public rights of way and therefore the relevance of including a new indicator relating to the provision of new PROW per year is not accepted. It is important to make sites accessible by the footpath network. The retention and/or diversion of footpaths (where necessary) is of more relevance which will be considered as part of detailed site considerations. Core Strategy G3 referred to under Indicator 4 sets out the accessibility standards which is based on the Leeds Open Space, Sport and Recreation Assessment.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For objective 11, in addition to efficient land use patterns, the environmental value of previously developed land should be taken into account in this objective. In accordance with NPPF (para.17), include the phrase 'provided that it is not of high environmental value'. This should be assessed through an indicator, eg based on % of previously developed land that is assessed, through ecological survey to be of 'high environmental value'.</li> </ul>	<p>An additional indicator has been added: 4. % of previously developed land of 'high environmental value' lost to development</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For objective 12, amend indicator 1 to 'change in priority habitats by area'. Also include indicator such as 'percentage of new developments incorporating ecological enhancement measures per year'.</li> <li>• No indicators are given for protected species as part of objective 12. Indicators related to planning applications are appropriate, e.g. the number of applications where protected species are considered; the number of applications where conditions are improved to ensure working practices and the works protect and enhance protected species; or the number of applications which result in the need for protected species license in order to be carried out. This will indicator that protected species are being given appropriate consideration within the planning system and build up information on their occurrence within the plan area.</li> <li>• Suggest more effective indicator for designated sites: number of planning applications with conditions to ensure works to manage/enhance the condition of SSSI/SAC/SPA features of interest; and area of SSSI in adverse condition as a result of development</li> </ul>	<p>Indicator 1 has been amended as requested.</p> <p>It not considered appropriate to provide the level of detail suggested for the indicators for protected species given the current resource limitations within the local authority.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For objective 14, welcome a stronger emphasis on the role of multifunctional green infrastructure plays in mitigating and adapting to climate change, e.g. providing shade through trees in strategic locations, wildlife corridors in order to allow for the adaptation of biodiversity and its potential to contribute to flood defences.</li> </ul>	<p>Comment noted.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For objective 19, not satisfied that the proposed indicators will adequately address whether the DPD is delivering the objective. Suggest indicator added that assesses the proportion of developments which maintain and enhance the quality of the countryside, coasts, estuaries and local landscape character. The decision making</li> </ul>	<p>Add new indicator '% of development which maintain and enhance the quality of the countryside and local landscape character'. The reference to coasts and estuaries have been removed as it is not considered directly relevant for the Leeds context in relation to landscape quality.</p>

<p>criteria could be strengthened with criterion such as “Will it maintain and enhance the landscape character of the area?”, in order to address the important issue of landscape character.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Would be helpful to define “areas of high landscape value” with regards to decision making criteria “a”.</li> <li>• Make reference to the ‘protected areas of tranquillity’ (NPPF para.123).</li> </ul>	<p>The suggested decision making criteria has been added as f.</p> <p>Decision making criteria amended to add ‘(defined as Special Landscape Area)’.</p> <p>Leeds has not identified ‘protected area of tranquillity’, so it would be inappropriate to include this decision making criteria at this stage.</p>
<p><b>Proposed Structure and Methodology</b></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider that the structure adheres to the SEA Directive. It is not made clear whether all elements of the DPD will be assessed in the SA including the vision, aims and objectives and all the policies. If parts of the plan are not to be assessed then this decision should be justified. It would also be useful to include a table outlining the SEA Directive requirements along with a reference to where each requirement is included in the SA.</li> </ul>	<p>All elements of the Site Allocations Plan are subject to SA. At this stage, it is not proposed to provide a vision, aims and objectives specifically related to the SAP. The Core Strategy has a vision and objectives which have been subject to SA as part of the CS process. Table 1 has been provided in Section 3 of the SA Report outlining the SEA requirements and where these have been addressed by the SA.</p>

## **APPENDIX 2 – SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL SCOPING REPORT**



**LEEDS CITY COUNCIL**

**SITE ALLOCATIONS PLAN**

**SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL SCOPING REPORT**

**(Revised to reflect comments from SA Consultees)**

**April 2013**

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1. Introduction
2. The Sustainability Appraisal process
3. Purpose of the Site Allocations Plan
4. Links to other policies, plans and programmes
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6. Key sustainability issues for the SA to address/Issues and Problems
7. The Sustainability Appraisal framework
8. Next steps

## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This document is the scoping report for the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) of the Site Allocations Plan (SAP). The purpose of the SAP is to provide site allocations and policies that will help to deliver the long term spatial vision, objectives and policies of the Leeds Core Strategy. When approved the SAP will form part of the Leeds Local Development Framework.
- 1.2 The Council is required to undertake a Sustainability Appraisal of a DPD under section 39 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, which incorporates the requirements of the European Directive 2001/42/EC (the EU Strategic Environmental Assessment or 'SEA Directive'). The SEA Directive was transposed into English law by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 ('SEA Regulations').
- 1.3 The SA Scoping report is a formal requirement of the SEA and SA processes and is prepared for consultation with the three designated consultation bodies (the Environment Agency, English Heritage and Natural England) and other bodies as the City Council considers appropriate.
- 1.4 This report has reflected on guidance provided by A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (ODPM, September 2005) and Plan-Making Manual (CLG).
- 1.5 The purpose of this scoping report is to:
- identify the other plans, policies and strategies relevant to the Site Allocations Plan
  - provide baseline information, either already collected or still needed, with notes on sources and any problems encountered;
  - identify social, environmental, and economic issues which have emerged as a result of the work undertaken;
  - develop and revise the SA framework to aid the SA of the Site Allocations Plan;
  - include proposals for the structure and level of detail of the SA Report

## 2. THE SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL PROCESS

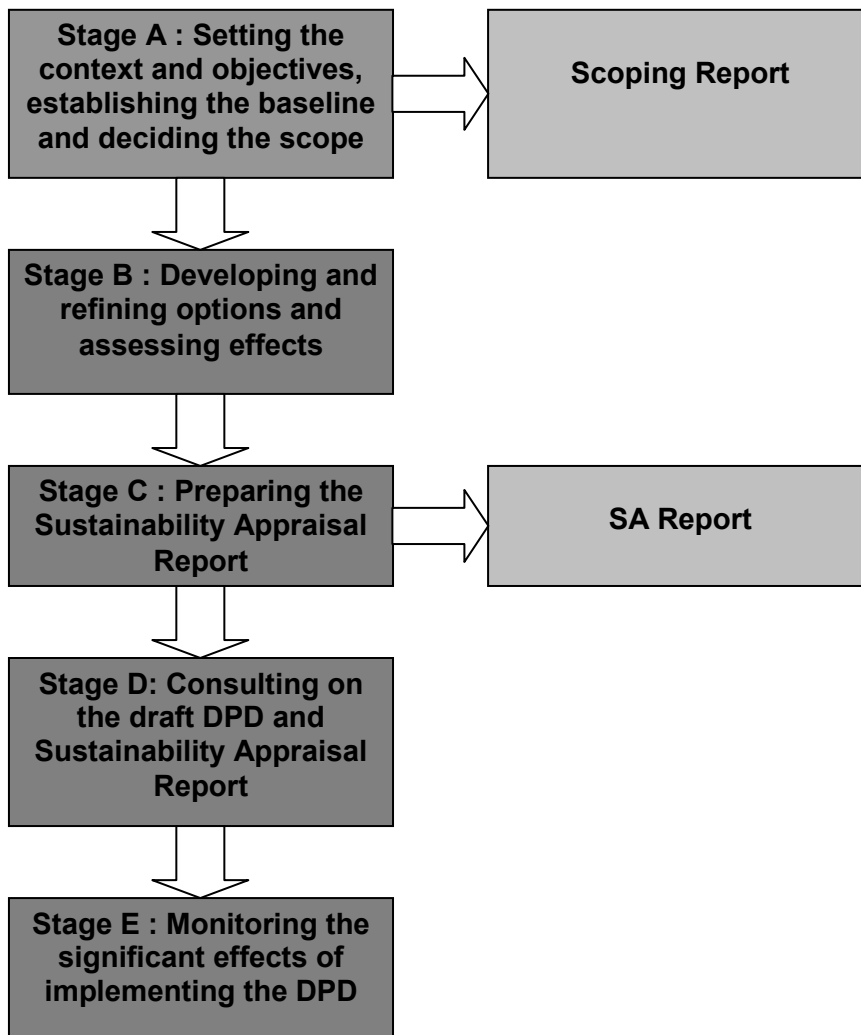
### What is Sustainability Appraisal?

- 2.1 The aim of Sustainability Appraisal (SA) is to make sure plans are doing as much as they can to support the delivery of social, economic and environmental objectives at the same time. Although plan makers do their best to address these issues, it is easy to miss opportunities to incorporate the various factors and reduce any conflict which may arise. SA offers a systematic way for checking and improving plans as they are developed. The process provides a mechanism to identify ways to maximise the benefits and minimise the negative effects of plans.

### Five stages of appraisal

- 2.2 The guidance sets out five stages (A to E) for the appraisal process which are shown in the diagram below:

Figure 1: Sustainability Appraisal Stages and Key Reports



- 2.3 The SA will be carried out in accordance with the processes laid out in the guidance. This will satisfy both SA legislation and the SEA Directive.
- 2.4 There are two formal documents required:
  - 1. The Scoping Report
  - 2. The Sustainability Appraisal Report
- 2.5 The scoping report is the formal report on the first part (Stage A) of the process. It gives an overview of the scope of the appraisal process and must include the objectives of the plans to be appraised. It should also outline the sustainability objectives which will be considered and the baseline information.

### **3. PURPOSE OF THE SITE ALLOCATIONS DPD**

- 3.1 The Site Allocations Plan provides site allocations and policies that will help to deliver the Leeds Core Strategy's long term spatial vision, objectives and policies. The document will cover the specific topic areas of retail, housing, employment and greenspace. Consistent with the overall scale and strategy for future growth, a selective Green Belt review will be necessary to meet housing and employment requirements as appropriate. The preparation of the SAP will also be supported by an assessment of infrastructure requirements arising from the site allocations, including transport and education requirements.
- 3.2 As detailed above, the scope of the SAP and the alternative options considered by the plan will be guided by the development strategy set out by the Core Strategy, which itself has been subject to a detailed Strategic Environmental Assessment.

### **4. LINKS TO OTHER POLICIES, PLANS AND PROGRAMMES**

- 4.1 A comprehensive list of policies, plans and programmes was established for the SA of the Core Strategy. This list has been revised and updated to inform the Site Allocations Plan SA Scoping Report and reflects comments from the SA consultees.

### **5. BASELINE INFORMATION**

- 5.1. Baseline information provides the basis for predicting and monitoring effects and helps to identify sustainability problems and alternative ways of dealing with them. The focus for information collection should be those aspects of the environmental issues that are relevant to the SAP or to the Sustainability Appraisal objectives.
- 5.2 The baseline information used to assess the sustainability of the SAP was first collected in 2006 and updated in 2011 for the sustainability appraisal of the Core Strategy. It has been revised following comments from the SA consultees.

## 6. Key Sustainability Issues

6.1 The table below identifies the key social, environmental and economic issues that could be affected by or potentially addressed by the Site Allocations Plan.

<b>Social</b>	1. Provide housing provision for all
	2. Improve health and well-being and reduce health inequalities
	3. Improve access and provision of services including access to sustainable means of transport
<b>Environmental</b>	4. Prioritise development on brownfield sites in accessible locations in preference to greenfield sites
	5. Improve access to, increase the quantity and improve the quality of local greenspace
	6. Address the increased likelihood of flooding
	7. Reduce greenhouse emissions to address climate change
	8. Reduce the number of car journeys into and around the city, particularly into the City Centre
	9. Protection of biodiversity and the natural environment
	10. Preserve and enhance the historic environment
<b>Economic</b>	11. Encourage sustainable economic growth, providing new opportunities for economic development
	12. Improve the vitality and viability of the City Centre, town and local centres.

## 7. The Sustainability Appraisal Framework

7.1 The City Council has developed an SA Framework which can be used as the basis for the appraisal of all Local Development Documents produced under the Leeds Local Development Framework. The preparation of the framework was completed in 2007 and has been used for the Core Strategy and other local development documents. The framework provides a total of 22 objectives. As part of the preparation of the Scoping Report, the decision making criteria has been reviewed and revised for their relevance and application to the purpose and scope of the Site Allocations Plan. The framework has been revised to take account of comments by the SA consultees.

## 8. Next Steps

8.1 Following consultation on the Scoping Report, the proposed SA methodology will be used to assess the emerging Issues and Options for the Site Allocations Plan. A full Sustainability Appraisal will be undertaken at this stage and will be subject to consultation alongside the Issues and Options Plan.

- 8.2 The proposed structure of the Sustainability Appraisal report has been revised since the Scoping Report to better reflect the methodology used in conducting the SA and to explain the effects. The content incorporates reflects comments made by the SA consultees.

## **APPENDIX 3 – LINKS TO OTHER POLICIES, PLANS AND PROGRAMMES**





## POLICIES, PLANS AND PROGRAMMES

Key objectives relevant to Plan and SA	Key targets and indicators	Implications for LDF and SA
<b>INTERNATIONAL POLICIES</b>		
<b><i>Kyoto Protocol on Climate Change</i></b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Achieve a reduction in anthropogenic CO2 levels to at least 5% below 1990 levels by 2012. Consider afforestation and reforestation as carbon sinks.</li> </ul>	None.	Ensure all reasonable opportunities are taken forward to encourage development reduces reliance on private cars.
<b><i>The Convention on Biological Diversity, Rio de Janeiro (1992)</i></b>		
Article 6a requires each Contracting Party to develop national strategies, plans or programmes for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity.	Ensure all reasonable opportunities are taken forward to encourage development which is energy efficient and reduces reliance on private cars.	SA should consider biodiversity impacts within its objectives. It should take a holistic view of ecosystems rather than a focusing on islands of protected species.
<b>EUROPEAN POLICIES</b>		
<b><i>European Spatial Development Perspective (1999)</i></b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Development of a balanced and polycentric urban system and a new urban-rural relationship;</li> <li>Securing parity of access to infrastructure and knowledge; and</li> <li>Sustainable development, prudent management and protection of nature and cultural heritage.</li> </ul>	None	Mainly relevant at national and regional scale
<b><i>European Biodiversity Strategy COM (98)42</i></b>		
A range of objectives is identified under four themes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity</li> <li>sharing of benefits arising out of the utilisation of genetic resources;</li> <li>Research, identification and monitoring of information; and</li> <li>education, training and awareness</li> </ul>	No specific targets identified	LDF should emphasise the need to halt biodiversity losses and seek biodiversity enhancement where possible.  SA should include objectives on maintaining and enhancing biodiversity through the preservation of existing designated sites and general criteria-based policy.
<b><i>EU Sixth Environmental Action Programme – Environment 2010: Our Future, Our Choice (2001)</i></b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To stabilise the atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases at a level that will not cause unnatural variations of the</li> </ul>	Numerous actions are identified but few specific targets other than for greenhouse gas emissions:	Key European context

Key objectives relevant to Plan and SA	Key targets and indicators	Implications for LDF and SA
<p>earth's climate.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To protect and restore the functioning of natural systems and halt the loss of biodiversity in the European Union and globally. To protect soils against erosion and pollution.</li> <li>To achieve a quality of the environment where the levels of man – made contaminants, including different types of radiation, do not give rise to significant impacts on or risks to human health.</li> <li>To ensure the consumption of renewable and non-renewable resources does not exceed the carrying capacity of the environment. To achieve a de-coupling of resource use from economic growth through significantly improved resource efficiency, dematerialisation of the economy, and waste prevention.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In the short term, the EU is committed, under the Kyoto Protocol, to achieving an 8% reduction in emissions of greenhouse gases by 2008-2012 compared to 1990 level (in the longer term a global reduction of 20-40% will be needed).</li> </ul>	
<b>Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC)</b>		
<p>The main objectives of the WFD are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enhance the status and prevent further deterioration of aquatic ecosystems and associated wetlands - there is a requirement for nearly all inland and coastal waters to achieve 'good status' by 2015;</li> <li>Promote the sustainable use of water;</li> <li>Reduce pollution of water, especially by 'priority' and 'priority hazardous' substances;</li> <li>Lessen the effects of floods and droughts;</li> <li>Rationalise and update existing water legislation and introduce a co-ordinated approach to water management based on the concept of river basin planning.</li> <li>Conserving habitats and species that depend directly on water</li> <li>Hydromorphology of waterbodies</li> </ul>	<p>Requires that all surface waters and groundwaters within defined river basin districts must reach at least 'good' status by 2015 and restore/improve riverine hydromorphology to help achieve good status by 2021-27</p>	<p>Consider the effects of flood and use of water in the location of development.</p> <p>Ensure sustainability objectives include those relevant from the Water Framework Directive.</p>
<b>Waste Framework Directive (91/156/EEC)</b>		
<p>Requires Member States produce a National Waste Strategy containing their policies on waste disposal and recovery. This is implemented into UK law by the Environment Act 1995.</p>	<p>Article 4.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Member States shall take the necessary measures to ensure that waste is recovered or disposed of without endangering human health and without using processes or methods which could harm the environment, and in particular:</li> </ul>	<p>LDF should consider these impacts when deciding on locations for new development.</p>

Key objectives relevant to Plan and SA	Key targets and indicators	Implications for LDF and SA
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. without risk to water, air, soil and plants and animals;</li> <li>2. without causing a nuisance through noise or odours; and</li> <li>3. without adversely affecting the countryside or places of special interest.</li> </ol>	
<b>EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC)</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aim of directive to contribute towards ensuring biodiversity is encouraged through the conservation of natural habitats and of wild flora and fauna.</li> <li>• Measures should maintain and restore to a favourable conservation status, natural habitats and species of wild flora and fauna, accounting for socio-economic and cultural requirements and local characteristics.</li> <li>• Requires all DPDs to be subject to Appropriate Assessment to consider effects on sites of European importance.</li> <li>• Linear structures such as rivers/streams, hedgerows, field boundaries, ponds, etc., that enable movement and migration of species should be preserved.</li> </ul>	No specific targets identified	<p>Consider how plan can protect natural habitats .</p> <p>Include sustainability objectives to conserve important natural habitats to improve biodiversity.</p>
<b>EC Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds (79/409/EEC)</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide for the protection, management and control of all species of naturally occurring wild birds in the European territory of Member States.</li> <li>• Requires measures to preserve a sufficient diversity of habitats for all species of wild birds.</li> <li>• To conserve the habitat of certain particular rare species and migratory species.</li> </ul>		Consider effects of local development on European protected bird species.
<b>Directive 1996/62/EC on Ambient Air Quality and Management</b>		
Establishes mandatory standards for air quality and sets limits and guides values for sulphur and nitrogen dioxide, suspended particulates and lead in air.	None.	The location of new developments should take into account any emissions caused by new transport links (and new 'need' to travel), along with emissions from new industry. SA will include objectives for air quality
<b>NATIONAL POLICIES</b>		
<b>Securing the Future – the UK Sustainable Development Strategy (2005)</b>		
<p>Guiding principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Living within environmental limits</li> </ul>	Includes 68 strategy indicators and 20	Key national objectives and indicators (also targets)

Key objectives relevant to Plan and SA	Key targets and indicators	Implications for LDF and SA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensuring a strong, healthy and just society.</li> <li>• Achieving a sustainable economy</li> <li>• Promoting good governance</li> <li>• Using sound science responsibly</li> </ul> <p>Shared priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustainable consumption and production</li> <li>• Climate change and energy</li> <li>• Natural resource protection and environmental enhancement</li> <li>• Sustainable communities</li> </ul>	<p>framework indicators.</p> <p>The framework indicators are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Greenhouse gas emissions:</b> Kyoto target and CO2 emissions</li> <li><b>2. Resource use:</b> Domestic Material Consumption and GDP</li> <li><b>3. Waste:</b> arisings by (a) sector (b) method of disposal</li> <li><b>4. Bird populations:</b> bird population indices (a) farmland birds (b) woodland birds (c) birds of coasts and estuaries</li> <li><b>5. Fish stocks:</b> fish stocks around the UK within sustainable limits</li> <li><b>6. Ecological impacts of air pollution:</b> area of UK habitat sensitive to acidification and eutrophication with critical load exceedences</li> <li><b>7. River quality:</b> rivers of good (a) biological (b) chemical quality</li> <li><b>8. Economic output:</b> Gross Domestic Product</li> <li><b>9. Active community participation:</b> civic participation, informal and formal volunteering at least once a month</li> <li><b>10. Crime:</b> crime survey and recorded crime for (a) vehicles (b) domestic burglary (c) violence</li> <li><b>11. Employment:</b> people of working age in employment</li> <li><b>12. Workless households:</b> population living in workless households (a) children (b) working age</li> <li><b>13. Childhood poverty:</b> children in relative low-income households (a) before housing costs (b) after housing costs</li> <li><b>14. Pensioner poverty:</b> pensioners in relative low-income households (a) before housing costs (b) after housing costs</li> <li><b>15. Education:</b> 19 year olds with level 2 qualifications and above</li> <li><b>16. Health inequality:</b> (a) infant mortality (by socio-economic group) (b) life expectancy (by area) for men and women</li> <li><b>17. Mobility:</b> (a) number of trips per person by mode (b) distance travelled per person per year by broad trip purpose</li> <li><b>18. Social justice:</b> <i>(social measures to be developed)</i></li> <li><b>19. Environmental equality:</b><i>(environmental measures to be developed)</i></li> <li><b>20. Well being:</b> <i>( measures to be developed)</i></li> </ol> <p>Key targets are:</p>	<p>SA framework must encompass the guiding principles, shared priorities and key targets.</p>

Key objectives relevant to Plan and SA	Key targets and indicators	Implications for LDF and SA
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 12.5% below 1990 levels and move towards a 20% reduction in CO2 emissions below 1990 levels by 2010.</li> <li>• Improve air quality by meeting the Air Quality Strategy targets for carbon monoxide, lead, nitrogen dioxide, particles, sulphur dioxide, benzene and 1,3 butadiene.</li> <li>• Enable at least 25% of household waste to be recycled or composted by 2005-06, with further improvements by 2008.</li> <li>• Reverse the long-term decline in the number of farmland birds by 2020, as measured annually against underlying trends.</li> <li>• Bring into favourable condition, by 2010, 95% of all nationally important wildlife sites.</li> <li>• Improve river water quality, as measured by compliance with River Quality Objectives.</li> <li>• Raise the trend rate of growth (GDP) over the economic cycle.</li> <li>• Narrow the gap in productivity with our major industrial competitors.</li> <li>• Increase voluntary and community engagement, especially amongst those at risk of social exclusion.</li> <li>• Reduce crime by 15% and further in high crime areas, by 2007-08.</li> <li>• Increase the employment rate and reduce the difference between the employment rates of disadvantaged groups and the overall rate.</li> <li>• Halve the number of children in relative low-income households between 1998-99 and 2010-11.</li> <li>• Reduce the proportion of children living in workless households by 5% between spring 2005 and spring 2008.</li> <li>• Increase the stock of Ofsted-registered childcare by 10% by 2008.</li> <li>• Increase the take-up of formal childcare by lower income families by 50% by 2008.</li> <li>• Reduce the proportion of young people not in education, employment or training by 2 percentage points by 2010.</li> <li>• Increase the proportion of older people being supported to live in their own home by 1% annually in 2007 and 2008.</li> <li>• Eliminate fuel poverty in vulnerable households in England by 2010.</li> <li>• Increase the proportion of 19 year olds who achieve at</li> </ul>	

Key objectives relevant to Plan and SA	Key targets and indicators	Implications for LDF and SA
	<p>least NVQ level 2 by 3 percentage points between 2004 and 2006, and a further 2 percentage points between 2006 and 2008, and increase the proportion of young people who achieve level 3.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce health inequalities by 10% by 2010 as measured by infant mortality and life expectancy at birth.</li> <li>• Substantially reduce mortality rates by 2010: a) from heart disease and stroke and related diseases by at least 40% in people under 75, with at least a 40% reduction in the inequalities gap between the fifth of areas with the worst health and deprivation indicators and the population as a whole; b) from cancer by at least 20% in people under 75, with a reduction in the inequalities gap of at least 6% between the fifth of areas with the worst health and deprivation indicators and the population as a whole; and c) from suicide and undetermined injury by at least 20%.</li> <li>• Halt the year-on-year rise in obesity among children under 11 by 2010.</li> <li>• By 2010, increase the use of public transport (bus and light rail) by more than 12% in England compared with 2000 levels, with growth in every region.</li> <li>• Improve the accessibility of services for people in rural areas.</li> <li>• Reduce the number of people killed or seriously injured in Great Britain in road accidents by 40% and the number of children killed or seriously injured by 50%, by 2010 compared with the average for 1994-98.</li> <li>• By 2010, bring all social housing into a decent condition with most of this improvement taking place in deprived areas, and for vulnerable households in the private sector, including families with children, increase the proportion who live in homes that are in decent condition.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>National Planning Policy Framework (2012)</b></p>		

Key objectives relevant to Plan and SA	Key targets and indicators	Implications for LDF and SA
<p><u>Core planning principles</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning should be plan-led, empowering local people to shape their surroundings, with succinct local and neighbourhood plans setting out a positive vision for the future of the area</li> <li>• Finding ways to enhance and improve the places in which people live their lives</li> <li>• Proactively drive and support sustainable economic development to deliver homes, business and industrial units, infrastructure and thriving local places</li> <li>• Seek to secure high quality design and good standard of amenity for all existing and future occupants of land and buildings</li> <li>• Take account of different roles and character of areas, promoting vitality of main urban areas, protecting Green Belts, recognizing intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside and supporting thriving rural communities</li> <li>• Supporting transition to low carbon future in a changing climate, taking full account of flood risk and coastal change, and encourage the reuse of existing resources and encourage use of renewable resources</li> <li>• Contribute to conserving and enhancing the natural environment and reducing pollution. Allocation of land for development should prefer land of lesser environmental value</li> <li>• Encourage the effective use of land by reusing previously developed land, provided not of high environmental value</li> <li>• Promote mixed use developments and encourage multiple benefits from the use of land in urban and rural areas.</li> <li>• Conserve heritage assets appropriate to their significance</li> <li>• Actively manage patterns of growth to make the fullest use of public transport, walking and cycling, and focus significant development in locations which are or can be made sustainable</li> </ul>		<p>Wide ranging implications for site allocations</p>



Key objectives relevant to Plan and SA	Key targets and indicators	Implications for LDF and SA
<p><b><i>Take account of and support local strategies to improve health, social and cultural wellbeing for all, and deliver sufficient community and cultural facilities and services to meet local needs.</i></b></p> <p><u>Building a strong, competitive economy</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Set out a clear economic vision and strategy for the area of the local planning authority, which positively and proactively encourages sustainable economic growth</li> <li>• Set criteria, or identify strategic sites, for local and inward investment to match the strategy and to meet anticipated needs over the plan period</li> <li>• Support existing business sectors, taking account of whether they are expanding or contracting, and where possible, identify and plan for new or emerging sectors likely to locate to the area</li> <li>• Plan positively for the location, promotion and expansion of clusters or networks of knowledge driven, creative or high technology industries</li> <li>• Identify priority areas for economic regeneration, infrastructure provision and environmental enhancements</li> <li>• Facilitate flexible working practices such as the integration of residential and commercial uses within the same unit</li> <li>• Planning policies should avoid the long term protection of sites allocated for employment use where there is no reasonable prospect of a site being used for that purpose.</li> </ul> <p><u>Ensuring the vitality of town centres</u></p> <p>Planning policies should be positive, promote competitive town centre environments and set out policies for the management and growth of centres over the plan period</p> <p>Define the extent of town centres and primary shopping areas, based on a clear definition of primary and secondary frontages in designated centres</p> <p>Allocate a range of suitable sites to meet the scale and type of retail, leisure, commercial, office, tourism, cultural, community and residential development needed in town centres.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Allocate appropriate edge of centre sites for main town centre uses that are well connected to the town centre where suitable and viable town centres are not available. If insufficient edge of centre sites cannot be identified, set</li> </ul>		

Key objectives relevant to Plan and SA	Key targets and indicators	Implications for LDF and SA
<p>policies for meeting the identified needs in other accessible locations that are well connected to the town centre</p> <p><u>Supporting a prosperous rural economy</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Planning policies should support economic growth in rural areas in order to create jobs and prosperity by taking a positive approach to sustainable new development.</li> </ul> <p><u>Promoting sustainable transport</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plans should ensure developments that generate significant movement are located where the need to travel will be minimised and the use of sustainable transport modes can be maximised.</li> </ul> <p><u>Delivering a wide choice of high quality homes</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local planning authorities should use their evidence base to ensure that their Local Plan meets the full, objectively assessed needs for market and affordable housing in the housing market areas, as far as is consistent with the policies set out in the NPPF, including identifying key sites critical to the delivery of the housing strategy over the plan period</li> <li>To deliver a wide choice of high quality homes, widen opportunities for home ownership and create sustainable, inclusive and mixed communities, local planning authorities should: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plan for a mix of housing based on current and future demographic trends, market trends and the needs of different groups of the community;</li> <li>Identify the size, type, tenure and range of housing required in particular locations, reflecting local demand; and</li> <li>Where they have identified that affordable housing is needed, set policies for meeting this need on site, unless off-site provision or a financial contribution of broadly equivalent value can be robustly justified</li> </ul> </li> <li>The supply of new homes can sometimes be best achieved through planning for larger scale development, such as</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify and update annually a supply of specific deliverable sites sufficient to provide 5 years worth of housing against housing requirements with an additional buffer of 5% to ensure choice and competition in the market for land</li> <li>Identify a supply of specific, developable sites or broad locations for growth, for years 6-10 and, where possible, for years 11-15</li> </ul>	

Key objectives relevant to Plan and SA	Key targets and indicators	Implications for LDF and SA
<p>new settlements or extensions to existing villages and towns that follow the principles of Garden Cities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To promote sustainable development in rural areas, housing should be located where it will enhance or maintain the vitality of rural communities.</li> </ul> <p><u>Promoting healthy communities</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local planning authorities should create a shared vision with communities of the residential environment and facilities they wish to see. LPAs should aim to involve all sections of the community in the development of Local Plans and should facilitate neighbourhood planning.</li> <li>Planning policies should ensure that established shops, facilities and services are able to develop and modernise in a way that is sustainable, and retained for the benefit of the community and ensure an integrated approach to considering the location of housing, economic uses and community facilities and services</li> <li>Existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on unless: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An assessment has been undertaken which clearly shows the open space, buildings or land to be surplus to requirements; or</li> <li>The loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location; or</li> <li>The development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the needs for which clearly outweigh the loss.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><u>Protecting Green Belt land</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The fundamental aim of Green Belt policy is to prevent urban sprawl by keeping land permanently open. The essential characteristics of Green Belts are their openness and their permanence</li> <li>The five Green Belt purposes:</li> </ul>		

Key objectives relevant to Plan and SA	Key targets and indicators	Implications for LDF and SA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To check the unrestricted sprawl of large built up areas;</li> <li>• To prevent neighbouring towns merging into one another;</li> <li>• To assist in safeguarding the countryside from encroachment;</li> <li>• To preserve the setting and special character of historic towns; and</li> <li>• To assist in urban regenerations, by encouraging the recycling of derelict and other urban land</li> </ul> <p>• Once established Green Belts boundaries should only be altered in exceptional circumstances, through the preparation or review of the Local Plan.</p> <p><u>Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LPAs should adopt proactive strategies to mitigate and adapt to climate change, taking full account of flood risk, coastal change and water supply and demand consideration</li> <li>• Plan for new development in locations and ways which reduce greenhouse gas emissions</li> <li>• Local Plans should apply a sequential, risk-based approach to the location of development to avoid where possible flood risk to people and property and manage any residual risk.</li> </ul> <p><u>Conserving and enhancing the natural environment</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In preparing plans to meet development needs, the aim should be to minimise pollution and other adverse effects on the local and natural environment. Plans should allocate land with the least environmental or amenity value</li> <li>• LPAs should take into account the economic and other benefits of the best and most versatile agricultural land.</li> </ul>		

Key objectives relevant to Plan and SA	Key targets and indicators	Implications for LDF and SA
<p><u>Conserving and enhancing the historic environment</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LPAs should set out in their Local Plan a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment.</li> <li>• LPAs should identify and assess the particular significance of any heritage asset that may be affected by a proposal taking account of the available evidence and any necessary expertise. They should take this assessment into account when considering the impact of a proposal on a heritage asset, to avoid or minimise conflict between the heritage asset's conservation and any aspect of the proposal.</li> </ul> <p><u>Facilitating the sustainable use of minerals</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is important that there is a sufficient supply of material to provide the infrastructure, buildings, energy and goods</li> <li>• Define Minerals Safeguarding Areas and adopt appropriate policies in order that known locations of specific minerals resources of local and national importance are not needlessly sterilised by non-mineral development.</li> </ul> <p><u>Local Plans</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local Plans must be prepared with the objective of contributing to the achievement of sustainable development</li> <li>• Indicate broad locations for strategic development on a key diagram and land-use designations on a proposals map</li> <li>• Allocate sites to promote development and flexible use of land, bringing forward new land where necessary, and provide detail on form, scale, access and quantum of development where appropriate</li> </ul> <p><u>Using a proportionate evidence base</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that the Local Plan is based on adequate, up-to-date and relevant evidence about the economic, social and environmental characteristics and prospects of the area</li> <li>• LPAs should work with other authorities and providers to assess the quality and capacity for infrastructure</li> </ul>		

Key objectives relevant to Plan and SA	Key targets and indicators	Implications for LDF and SA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider viability and costs in plan-making and decision taking. Plans should be deliverable.</li> </ul> <p><u>Planning strategically across local boundaries</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Public bodies have a duty to cooperate on planning issues that cross administrative boundaries, particularly strategic priorities.</li> <li>Demonstrate evidence of having effectively cooperated</li> </ul>		
<b>UK Biodiversity Action Plan (DoE, 1994)</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A halting, and if possible a reversal, of declines in priority habitats and species, with wild species and habitats as part of healthy, functioning ecosystems;</li> <li>The general acceptance of biodiversity's essential role in enhancing the quality of life, with its conservation becoming a natural consideration in all relevant public, private and non-governmental decisions and policies;</li> <li>Biodiversity and education.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reverse the long-term decline in the number of farmland birds by 2020, as measured annually against underlying trends</li> <li>Bring into favourable condition by 2010 95% of all nationally important wildlife sites.</li> </ul>	Key national context
<b>Communities Plan: Northern Way Growth Strategy</b>		
No specific objectives – vision is to “establish the North of England as an area of exceptional opportunity, combining a world-class economy with a superb quality of life”.		Promotion of the Leeds City region and the Leeds / Manchester axis as a driver of the North's economic growth. Leeds City Region development programme being prepared Strong economic focus but weak on the environment and climate change
<b>The Natural Choice: Securing the Value of Nature (White Paper 2011)</b>		
<p>Four themes:</p> <p><u>Protecting and improving our natural environment</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supporting Local Nature Partnerships, working at a strategic level to improve benefits and services from a healthy natural environment.</li> <li>Support establishing new Nature Improvement Areas based on local assessment of opportunities for restoring and connecting nature on a significant scale , including identifying within local plans.</li> <li>The planning system to deliver the homes, business, infrastructure and thriving local places while protecting and enhancing the natural and historic environment,</li> </ul>	Public Health Outcomes Framework 2013-16 (January 2012) linked to White Paper, includes wider determinants of health (greenspace and employment, noise pollution) and health protection (air pollution)	Awareness of possible new natural environment designations and initiatives affecting potential site allocations. Closer links between greenspace accessibility and public health.

Key objectives relevant to Plan and SA	Key targets and indicators	Implications for LDF and SA
<p>through planning reform (NPPF).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introducing biodiversity off-setting, managed locally.</li> <li>• Planning for low-carbon infrastructure</li> <li>• Restoring the elements of our natural network (Protecting and improving woodlands and forests, restoring nature in rivers and water bodies, restoring nature in towns, cities and villages, including valuing green infrastructure for communities and managing environmental risks (flooding and heat waves)</li> </ul> <p><u>Growing a green economy</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Range of initiatives to encourage environmental benefits for business</li> </ul> <p><u>Reconnecting people and nature</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local Nature Partnerships and Health and Wellbeing Boards work together in promoting the health benefits of the natural environment</li> <li>• Promoting the natural environment in schools</li> <li>• Improve access to nature in local neighbourhoods, including measures in the Localism Act (including neighbourhood plans)</li> <li>• Improving access to the countryside</li> </ul> <p><u>International and EU leadership</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of key reforms including implementation of the Nagoya commitments on biodiversity</li> </ul>		
<b><i>Water for Life (White Paper 2011)</i></b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Catchment-based approach to water quality and diffuse pollution. 70 catchment scale pilot projects and intensive support for 25 of them. Activity on land affects the quality of the water environment and the life it supports, as well as quantity of water available for abstraction and risk of heavy rainfalls leading to flooding.</li> <li>• Houses and offices should not be built until water and sewerage infrastructure sufficient to ensure environment not at risk. Highlights importance of close dialogue and collaboration between local authorities, developers, Environment Agency and water companies</li> </ul>	None identified	Consideration of infrastructure requirements arising from new development and possible environmental effects (water quality, flooding)

Key objectives relevant to Plan and SA	Key targets and indicators	Implications for LDF and SA
in local plan preparation (cross reference to NPPF)		
<b><i>Biodiversity 2020: A Strategy for England's Wildlife and ecosystem services</i></b>		
<p>Linked to the Natural Environment White Paper, sets out how international and EU commitments (including Nagoya agreement) will be implemented.</p> <p>Mission: “to halt overall biodiversity loss, support healthy well-functioning ecosystems and establish coherent ecological networks, with more and better places for nature for the benefit of wildlife and people”. Sets out high level outcomes to 2020.</p> <p>Vision: “By 2050 our land and seas will be rich in wildlife, our biodiversity will be valued, conserved, restored, managed sustainably and be more resilient and able to adapt to change, providing essential services and delivering benefits for everyone”.</p> <p>Priority Action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish more coherent and resilient ecological networks on land that safeguard ecosystem services for the benefit of wildlife and people;</li> <li>• Establish and effectively manage an ecologically coherent network of marine protected areas covering in excess of 25% of English waters by end of 2016;</li> <li>• Take targeted action for recovery of priority species, whose conservation is not delivered through wider habitat-based and ecosystem measures;</li> <li>• Ensure that ‘agricultural’ genetic diversity is conserved and enhanced wherever appropriate;</li> <li>• Work with the biodiversity partnership to engage significantly more people in biodiversity issues;</li> <li>• Promote taking better account of the values of biodiversity in public and private sector decision making, including providing tools to help consider a wider range of ecosystem services;</li> <li>• Develop new and innovative financing mechanisms to direct more funding towards achievement of biodiversity outcomes.</li> </ul>	<p><u>Outcome 1 –Habitats and ecosystems on land (including freshwater environments)</u></p> <p>1A. Better wildlife habitats with 90% of priority habitats in favourable or recovering condition and at least 50% of SSSIs in favourable condition, while maintaining at least 95% in favourable or recovering condition;</p> <p>1B. More, bigger and less fragmented areas for wildlife, with no net loss to priority habitat and an increase in the overall extent of priority habitats by at least 200,000 ha;</p> <p>1C. By 2020, at least 17% of land and inland water, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services including through management of our existing systems of protected areas and the establishment of nature improvement areas;</p> <p>1D. Restoring at least 15% of degraded ecosystems as a contribution to climate change mitigation and adaptation.</p> <p><u>Outcome 2 – Marine habitats, ecosystems and fisheries;</u></p> <p>2A. By the end of 2016 in excess of 25% of English waters will be contained in a well-managed Marine Protected Area network that helps deliver ecological coherence by conserving representative marine habitats;</p> <p>2B. By 2020 we will be managing and harvesting fish sustainably;</p> <p>2C. By 2022 we will have marine plans in place covering the whole of England’s marine area, ensuring the sustainable development of our seas, integrating economic growth, social need and ecosystem management.</p> <p><u>Outcome 3 - Species</u></p> <p>By 2020, an overall improvement in the status of wildlife and prevented further human-induced extinctions of known threatened species.</p> <p><u>Outcome 4 – People</u></p> <p>By 2020, significantly more people engaged in</p>	<p>Awareness of biodiversity value of land in assessment of potential site allocations.</p>



Key objectives relevant to Plan and SA	Key targets and indicators	Implications for LDF and SA
	biodiversity issues, aware of its value and taking positive action.	
<b><i>Underground, Under Threat - Groundwater Protection: Policy &amp; Practice</i></b>		
<p>Environment Agency's core groundwater policy:            "To protect and manage groundwater resources for present and future generations in ways that are appropriate for the risks that we identify".            The policy supports the EA's overall vision for "a healthy, rich and diverse environment in England and Wales, for present and future generations"            Themes of vision:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Better quality of life</li> <li>• Improved and protected inland and coastal waters</li> <li>• Enhanced environment for wildlife</li> <li>• Reducing flood risk</li> <li>• Restored, protected land</li> <li>• Greener business world</li> <li>• Sustainable use of natural resources</li> <li>• Limiting climate change</li> <li>• Cleaner air</li> </ul>	None identified.	Awareness of Environment Agency's policy for groundwater protection.
<b>REGIONAL POLICIES</b>		
<b><i>The Yorkshire and Humber Plan – Draft for Public Consultation (Yorkshire and Humber Assembly, 2005)</i></b>		
<p>The Yorkshire and Humber Plan is a new approach to the long-term management of the Region's environment, transport, housing and economic development up to 2021 and beyond. The Yorkshire and Humber Plan was submitted to Government in December 2005 and issued for public consultation between 16 January and 13 April 2006.</p>	<p>The 'headlines of the core approach', embodied by policies YH1 to YH9, are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reverse the long term trend of population and investment dispersal away from the Region's cities and major towns;</li> <li>• Transform cities and major towns in the Region as attractive places where people want to live, work and invest in;</li> <li>• Support the roles of market towns as the local development and service focus for meeting needs in rural areas;</li> <li>• Diversify urban and rural economies and help deliver a better performing and more competitive economy;</li> <li>• Achieve a focus of development and investment to better connect with excluded communities and areas requiring</li> </ul>	

Key objectives relevant to Plan and SA	Key targets and indicators	Implications for LDF and SA
	regeneration; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve accessibility and increase the use of public transport;</li> <li>• Raise environmental quality and pro-actively respond to the global and local effects of climate change;</li> <li>• Maintain the existing strategic extent of Greenbelts in the Region.</li> </ul>	
<b>Advancing Together : Creating a Better Yorkshire and Humber (Regional Assembly, 2003)</b>		
Yorkshire and Humber will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have a world class, prosperous and sustainable economy</li> <li>• Have physical infrastructure and communications which meet the needs of people, businesses, places and the environment.</li> <li>• Have a high quality and man-made environments</li> <li>• Have exceptional education and training, widespread learning and skills and a healthy labour market without skills gaps or shortages</li> <li>• Be a socially inclusive and cohesive region. Our people will have the capacity, resources, and equitable access to quality services needed to live well.</li> <li>• Possess and portray the highest levels of governance in all sectors and at all levels, and the highest levels of civic participation in decision making and community life</li> </ul>	<b>32 indicators – see also the report ‘Progress in the region’</b>	<b>Vision for regional development</b> <b>Provides the overarching vision for the RSDF</b>
<b>Regional Economic Strategy for Yorkshire and Humber 2006-2015 (Yorkshire Forward and Yorkshire and Humber Assembly, 2006)</b>		
The purpose of the Review is to assess the progress made to date on achieving the objectives and targets outlined in the RES of 2003 and outline the revised strategy for growth in the region.  This strategy has six objectives that reflect the aims of Business, People and Environment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More businesses – because higher levels of enterprise are so important;</li> <li>• Competitive businesses – making indigenous businesses more productive because they innovate and invest;</li> <li>• Skilled People – with talents that employers value and which offer due reward;</li> <li>• To connect people to good jobs – because levels of employment make a big difference to people and the economy, and we need more people in jobs in deprived</li> </ul>	The following Tier 1 and 2 targets have been set for 2016: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase GDP faster than major competitors</li> <li>• Raise the ILO Employment rate from 74.4% in 2004 to 78%-80% - equating to around 155,000 - 200,000 net extra jobs;</li> <li>• Raise GVA per worker by 25-30% from £28,300 in 2003 to between £35,000 -£37,000 (GVA per workforce job);</li> <li>• Double R&amp;D expenditure from 0.5% of GVA in 2002 to 1% of regional GVA (Business Enterprise R&amp;D all industries, total workplace based);</li> <li>• Increase total business stock by 25% from 32 businesses per 1,000 adults in 2004 to 40 businesses per 1,000 adults – based on VAT registered firms and equating to over 30,000 extra net businesses;</li> </ul>	Provides the economic policy context for the LDF.

Key objectives relevant to Plan and SA	Key targets and indicators	Implications for LDF and SA
<p>areas;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enhanced transport, infrastructure and the environment – a strong economy needs good transport connections and to make the best of the environment and infrastructure; and</li> <li>Stronger cities, towns and rural communities – to ensure they are attractive places to live, work and invest.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Raise % of people with NVQ level 2 or higher to 80% (from 70% in 2004) and the proportion within this total with Level 4+ from 37% in 2004 to 45%;</li> <li>Achieve real terms increase in transport investment in the region as a % of regional GVA from 0.9% in 2004/5 to over 1% of GVA;</li> <li>Raise total private sector manufacturing and services investment by 50% from £5.3 billion in 2002 to £8b;</li> <li>Notably improve quality of place in renaissance cities and towns equal weighting of 12 factors change desired in renaissance cities and towns;</li> <li>Reduce greenhouse gas emissions (CO2 equivalent) by 20-25% over 1990 baseline, based on modelling of energy/resources consumption attributable to Y&amp;H; and</li> <li>Cut the % of local 'super output areas' in the region in the 10% most deprived nationally from 16% (in 2004) to 13% - halving the gap to national average.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Yorkshire and the Humber Regional Housing Strategy 2005 - 2021 (Yorkshire and Humber Assembly 2005)</b></p>		
<p>The Regional Housing Strategy complements and supports other key regional strategies. The strategy also sets out how close alignment with the RES and RSS will deliver sustainable communities.</p> <p>The strategy is focused around three themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Creating better places - responding to the diversity of markets and improving neighbourhood infrastructure and facilities;</li> <li>Delivering better homes, choice and opportunity - delivering choice and opportunity for all people to meet their housing aspirations, and to improve housing condition and services for all; and</li> <li>Fair Access - making sure the requirements and preferences of all parts of communities are met by sensitive and appropriate housing solutions, and that obstacles faced by specific groups to accessing their housing choices are removed.</li> </ul>	<p>Creating Better Places:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Close by a third the gap between the level of vacancies and house values in Pathfinder areas and West Yorkshire low demand areas compared to the regional average.</li> <li>Achieve population stability in the main urban areas.</li> <li>Achieve an overall regional vacancy rate of between 2.5 and 3.5% by 2010, and sustain it within this threshold thereafter.</li> <li>Deliver 360 affordable homes in rural areas – 50% of which to be in settlements with a population of less than 3,000.</li> </ul> <p>Delivering Better Homes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure all social housing tenants live in decent homes by 2010, as a minimum, and continue to do so thereafter.</li> <li>Increase the proportion of vulnerable private sector households living in decent homes to at least 70% by 2010.</li> <li>End fuel poverty for vulnerable households by 2010, and for all households by 2016; including increasing average home energy rating across all homes to SAP 65 by 2016 including reducing the percentage of homes with a SAP rating of less than 30 to below 1% in social housing and 2% (or less) in private sector housing.</li> </ul>	<p>Provides the housing policy context for the LDF.</p>

Key objectives relevant to Plan and SA	Key targets and indicators	Implications for LDF and SA
	Fair Access to Quality Housing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The number of homelessness acceptances across the region to be reduced by at least 30% by 2010 from the Quarter 3, 2004 level.</li> <li>• Continue to ensure that no families with children are placed in Bed &amp; Breakfast accommodation for longer than 6 weeks throughout the region.</li> </ul>	
<b>Regional Cultural Strategy</b>		
Includes 19 objectives for cultural development including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish the principles of sustainability at the heart of the regions cultural development</li> </ul>		Context for cultural development Links cultural development and sustainable development
<b>Regional Sustainable Development Framework Update 2003-05 (Regional Assembly, 2003)</b>		
15 regional aims for Sustainable Development: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Good quality employment opportunities available to all</li> <li>• Conditions enabling business success, economic growth and investment</li> <li>• Education and training opportunities building the skills and capacities of the population</li> <li>• Safety and security for people and property</li> <li>• Conditions and services engendering good health</li> <li>• Culture, leisure and recreation opportunities available to all</li> <li>• Vibrant communities participating in decision making</li> <li>• Local needs met locally</li> <li>• A transport network maximising access whilst minimising detrimental impacts</li> <li>• A quality built environment and efficient land use patterns making good use of derelict sites, minimising</li> <li>• Travel and promoting balanced development</li> <li>• Quality housing available to everyone</li> <li>• A bio-diverse and attractive natural environment</li> <li>• Minimal pollution levels</li> <li>• Minimal greenhouse gas emissions and a managed response to the effects of climate change</li> <li>• Prudent and efficient use of energy and natural resources with minimal production of waste</li> </ul>	Includes 36 indicators of Sustainable Development but no specific targets.	Aims and objectives for a sustainable Framework for SA in the region
<b>Regional Waste Strategy (Regional Assembly, 2004)</b>		

Key objectives relevant to Plan and SA	Key targets and indicators	Implications for LDF and SA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gain community support and involvement in implementation of the strategy</li> <li>Reduce waste production and increase re-use, recycling and composting</li> <li>Manage residual waste in a sustainable way</li> <li>Provide technical support and advice</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduce the annual increase in waste production per household to 2% by 2008/9</li> <li>Achieve statutory targets for recycling and composting household waste and diverting BMW from landfill</li> </ul>	Safeguard land for waste facilities in location of new development.
<b>LOCAL POLICIES</b>		
<b>Leeds UDP (Adopted 2001, Review Adopted 2006)</b>		
<p>Incorporates four specific strategic goals and a number of thematic strategic aims.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SG1: to use the mechanism of land use planning to help to coordinate all the aims and aspirations of the Council's strategic initiatives, with the intent of improving the quality of life for all the residents of Leeds and those who use the city;</li> <li>SG2: to maintain and enhance the character of the District of Leeds;</li> <li>SG3: to ensure that the legitimate needs of the community are met;</li> <li>SG4: to ensure that development is consistent with the aims of sustainable development</li> </ul>		Existing strategic policy context for LDF DPDs and SPDs until replaced by the Core Strategy. Existing policy context for sustainable development in spatial planning
<b>Leeds Growth Strategy (2011)</b>		
<p>Sets out opportunities and how to progress with them. Its purpose is to provide clarity and direction that will help partners within Leeds and its city region to plan and act together and provide businesses beyond with the confidence they need to invest and share in the city's growth.</p> <p>Outlines seven core priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>health and medical</li> <li>financial and business services</li> <li>low carbon manufacturing</li> <li>creative, cultural and digital</li> <li>retail</li> <li>housing and construction</li> <li>social enterprise and the third sector</li> </ul>	<b>No specific targets.</b>	<b>Provides an overarching vision for local economic progress.</b>
<b>West Yorkshire Local Transport Plan 2011 – 2026</b>		
The Plan sets out 3 objectives:	15 year target (to 2026)	Local transport policy context.

Key objectives relevant to Plan and SA	Key targets and indicators	Implications for LDF and SA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Economy. To improve connectivity to support economic activity and growth in West Yorkshire and the Leeds City Region;</li> <li>Low Carbon. To make substantial progress towards a low carbon, sustainable transport system for West Yorkshire, while recognising transport's contribution to national carbon reduction plans;</li> <li>Quality of Life. To enhance the quality of life of people living in, working in and visiting West Yorkshire.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A 77.6% increase in car journey time reliability by 2026</li> <li>Increase the number of the total accessible workforce to Leeds to +43,000 by 2026</li> <li>No change in the % of the Principal Road Network where maintenance should be considered – 5% by 2026</li> <li>Increase of low carbon trips crossing main district centre cordons to 70%</li> <li>Increase rail patronage to 38.5m</li> <li>Increase bus patronage to 193.3m</li> <li>33% reduction in road casualties (KSI)</li> </ul> <p>Increase residential population within 30 min of local centre by public transport to 74% peak and 75% inter-peak period</p>	
<b>City Priority Plan 2015 (2011)</b>		
<p>Outlines what the key priorities are for the city over the next four years.</p> <p>Vision: By 2030, Leeds will be locally and internationally recognised as the best city in the UK.</p> <p>Three aims:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Leeds will be fair, open and welcoming;</li> <li>Leeds' economy will be prosperous and sustainable;</li> <li>All Leeds' communities will be successful.</li> </ul>	<p>Five separate action plans have been drawn up to deliver these priorities. These are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Children and Young People's City Priority Plan;</li> <li>Health and Wellbeing City Priority Plan;</li> <li>Housing and Regeneration City Priority Plan;</li> <li>Safer and Stronger Communities City Priority Plan; and</li> <li>Sustainable Economy and Culture City Priority Plan.</li> </ul> <p>Children and Young people indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduce the number of children in care.</li> <li>Raise the level of attendance in both primary and secondary schools.</li> <li>Reduce the number of 16 to 18-year-olds that are not in education, employment or training.</li> </ul> <p>Health and Wellbeing indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduce the number of adults over 18 that smoke.</li> <li>Reduce the rate of emergency admissions to hospital.</li> <li>Reduce the rate of admission to residential care homes.</li> <li>Increase the proportion of people with long-term conditions feeling, supported to be independent and manage their condition.</li> <li>Reduce the differences in life expectancy between communities.</li> <li>Reduce the difference in healthy life expectancy between communities.</li> </ul> <p>Sustainable Economy and Culture indicators:</p>	<p>LDF should include policies that address the City Priorities.</p>

Key objectives relevant to Plan and SA	Key targets and indicators	Implications for LDF and SA
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase the number of new jobs.</li> <li>• Increase the number of employers offering apprenticeships.</li> <li>• Hectares of brownfield land under redevelopment.</li> <li>• Increase number of businesses registering for Value Added Tax (VAT).</li> <li>• Increase the proportion of adults and children who regularly participate in cultural activities.</li> <li>• Increase the percentage of residents who can get to work by public transport within half an hour at peak times.</li> <li>• Reduce carbon emissions.</li> <li>• Improve our position in the European survey of best cities in which to do business.</li> </ul> <p>Safer and Stronger communities indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce the overall crime rate.</li> <li>• Improve public perception rates that anti-social behaviour is being managed effectively.</li> <li>• Reduce the percentage of streets in Leeds with unacceptable levels of litter.</li> <li>• Increase the number of people who believe people from different backgrounds get on well together in the local area.</li> </ul> <p>Housing and Regeneration indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase the number of new homes built per year.</li> <li>• Increase the number of new affordable homes built each year.</li> <li>• Increase the number of long-term empty properties brought back into use.</li> <li>• Improve the percentage of people satisfied with the quality of the environment.</li> <li>• Increase the number of properties improved with energy efficiency measures.</li> <li>• Increase the number of properties, which achieved the decency standard.</li> </ul>	
<b>Corporate Plan</b>		
Priorities: creating better neighbourhoods and confident communities; making the most of people; competing in a global	Includes PSA targets for Leeds	PSA targets

Key objectives relevant to Plan and SA	Key targets and indicators	Implications for LDF and SA
economy; integrated transport; looking after the environment		
<b>Leeds 2030: Vision for Leeds 2011 to 2030 (Leeds Initiative, 2011)</b>		
<p>General objectives:</p> <p>Leeds will be fair, open and welcoming; To do this Leeds will be a city where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is a strong community spirit and a shared sense of belonging, where people feel confident about doing things for themselves and others;</li> <li>• People from different backgrounds and ages feel comfortable living together in communities;</li> <li>• Local people have the power to make decisions that affect them;</li> <li>• People are active and involved in their local communities;</li> <li>• People are treated with dignity and respect at all stages of their lives;</li> <li>• There is a culture of responsibility, respect for each other and the environment;</li> <li>• The causes of unfairness are understood and addressed;</li> <li>• Our services meet the diverse needs of our changing population;</li> <li>• People can access support where and when it is needed; and</li> <li>• Everyone is proud to live and work.</li> </ul> <p>Leeds' economy will be prosperous and sustainable; Leeds will be a city that has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A strong local economy driving sustainable economic growth;</li> <li>• A skilled workforce to meet the needs of the local economy;</li> <li>• A world-class cultural offer;</li> <li>• Built on its strengths in financial and business services, and manufacturing, and continued to grow its strong retail, leisure and tourism, health and medical sectors, and its cultural, digital and creative industries;</li> <li>• Developed new opportunities for green manufacturing and for growing other new industries;</li> <li>• Improved levels of enterprise through creativity and innovation;</li> <li>• Opportunities for work with secure, flexible employment and good wages;</li> </ul>	<p>No specific targets.</p>	<p>As the Community Strategy it must be taken into account in preparing the LDF.</p>



Key objectives relevant to Plan and SA	Key targets and indicators	Implications for LDF and SA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sufficient housing, including affordable housing, that meets the need of the community;</li> <li>• High-quality, accessible, affordable and reliable public transport;</li> <li>• Increased investment in other forms of transport, such as walking and cycling routes, to meet everyone's needs;</li> <li>• Successfully achieved targets to make Leeds a lower carbon city;</li> <li>• Adapted to changing weather patterns;</li> <li>• A commitment to find new ways to reuse and recycle;</li> <li>• Increased its use of alternative energy supplies and locally produced food; and</li> <li>• Buildings that meet high sustainability standards in the way they are built and run.</li> </ul> <p>All Leeds' communities will be successful.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To do this Leeds will be a city where:</li> <li>• People have the opportunity to get out of poverty;</li> <li>• Education and training helps more people to achieve their potential;</li> <li>• Communities are safe and people feel safe;</li> <li>• All homes are of a decent standard and everyone can afford to stay warm;</li> <li>• Healthy life choices are easier to make;</li> <li>• People are motivated to reuse and recycle;</li> <li>• There are more community-led businesses that meet local needs;</li> <li>• Local services, including shops and healthcare, are easy to access and meet people's needs;</li> <li>• Local cultural and sporting activities are available to all; and</li> <li>• There are high quality buildings, places and green spaces, which are clean, looked after, and respect the city's heritage, including buildings, parks and the history of our communities.</li> </ul>		
<b>Leeds Housing Strategy 2009 – 2012</b>		
The vision of the Leeds Housing Strategy 2009-2012 is to 'create opportunities for people to live independently in quality, affordable housing'.	The strategy details measurable targets for each of the strategic themes.	<b>Sets out the key housing priorities for Leeds.</b>

Key objectives relevant to Plan and SA	Key targets and indicators	Implications for LDF and SA
<p>The strategic vision encompasses three strategic themes, each with more specific strategic priorities:</p> <p>Increasing the supply of affordable housing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Helping people to become and remain home-owners</li> <li>• Increasing the supply of social and intermediate housing</li> <li>• Maximise use of existing housing stock</li> <li>• Deliver the right housing mix of new housing</li> <li>• Increase the supply of new accessible housing.</li> </ul> <p>Improve Housing Quality:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bring all social housing up to the decency standard</li> <li>• Identify future investment options for council housing</li> <li>• Increase the supply of private housing that meets the decency standard</li> <li>• Improve the long-term sustainability of private housing</li> <li>• Continue to improve standards in the private rented sector</li> <li>• Improve the standard of temporary accommodation leased through the private sector.</li> </ul> <p>Promote Independent Living:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deliver high quality and enhanced housing options services so that people are able to find a solution to their housing need or requirement</li> <li>• Maximise opportunities to prevent homelessness</li> <li>• Reduce the incidence of temporary accommodation</li> <li>• Enable people to live independently through housing related support, adaptations, lettings and assistive technology</li> <li>• Modernise housing provision for vulnerable people</li> <li>• Contribute to promoting community cohesion, reducing worklessness and tackling crime and anti-social behaviour</li> <li>• Encouraging and enhancing mechanisms for tenant and resident engagement and empowerment.</li> </ul>		
<b>Leeds Cohesion and Integration Priorities 2008 - 2011</b>		
<p>Community cohesion is what must happen in all communities to enable different groups of people to get on well together. A key contributor to community cohesion is integration which is what must happen to enable new residents and existing residents to adjust to one another.</p> <p>Our vision of an integrated and cohesive community is based on</p>	<p><b>There are 6 priorities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leadership and community empowerment;</li> <li>• Sense of belonging and opportunities for all;</li> <li>• Preventing the problems of tomorrow;</li> <li>• Children and young people;</li> <li>• Communication and information;</li> </ul>	<p><b>Sets out the key cohesion and integration priorities for Leeds and so forms a key component of the social sustainability agenda.</b></p>

Key objectives relevant to Plan and SA	Key targets and indicators	Implications for LDF and SA
<p>three foundations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People from different backgrounds having similar life opportunities</li> <li>• People knowing their rights and responsibilities</li> <li>• People trusting one another and trusting local institutions to act fairly.</li> </ul> <p>And three key ways of living together:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A shared future vision and sense of belonging</li> <li>• A focus on what new and existing communities have in common, alongside a recognition of the value of diversity</li> <li>• Strong and positive relationships between people from different <b>backgrounds.</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The inclusion of cohesion and integration into key council and city based policies and practices.</li> </ul> <p>Each priority has a series of outcomes.</p>	
<b>Leeds Air Quality Action Plan (2004)</b>		
<p>Presented steps to be taken to address objective exceedences for NO2 and PM10 particles.</p> <p>Key objectives in the plan are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Traffic demand management methods</li> <li>• Reducing the need to travel</li> <li>• Improvements to the highways network</li> <li>• Reducing vehicle emissions</li> <li>• Reducing emissions from industrial and domestic sources</li> <li>• Raising awareness</li> </ul>	No specific targets identified	Key sustainability issue
<b>Integrated Waste Strategy for Leeds 2005 – 2035</b>		
<p>Key principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustainability - to develop and promote sustainable waste management;</li> <li>• Partnership - to work in partnership with communities, businesses and other stakeholders to deliver sustainable waste management;</li> <li>• Realistic and Responsive - to ensure that the Strategy is realistic and responsive to future changes.</li> </ul> <p>Key objectives:</p>	<p><b>Measurable targets:</b></p> <p>WP5 - Reduce the annual growth in waste per household to 0.5% by 2010 and to 0% per household by 2020</p> <p>RC4 - To recycle and compost a minimum of 40% of municipal waste by 2020</p> <p>R4 - To recover 90% of municipal waste by 2020</p> <p>L2 - Landfill no more than 10% of municipal waste by 2020</p> <p>Key theme 8- Planning To assist with meeting the requirements of sustainable waste</p>	<p><b>Safeguard land for waste facilities in the location of new development</b></p>

Key objectives relevant to Plan and SA	Key targets and indicators	Implications for LDF and SA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To move waste management up the waste hierarchy, with particular focus on reduction;</li> <li>• To manage waste in ways that protect human health and the environment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Without risk to water, air, soil, plants and animals;</li> <li>- Without causing a nuisance through noise or odours;</li> <li>- Without adversely affecting the countryside or places of special landscape, townscape, archaeological and historic interest;</li> <li>- Disposing of waste at the nearest appropriate installation, by means of the most appropriate methods and technologies.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• To develop integrated and sustainable waste management services, that are flexible and have optimal end-to-end efficiency;</li> <li>• To exceed Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme (LATS) targets;</li> <li>• To meet statutory and local 'stretched' recycling and composting targets;</li> <li>• To provide a waste solution that is affordable and delivers best value;</li> <li>• To stimulate long-term and certain markets for outputs in order to promote local and regional self-sufficiency.</li> </ul> <p><b><i>To increase community cohesion by recognising the links between crime and the environment and improving access to services based on local needs.</i></b></p>	<p>management through the existing UDP and emerging LDF process</p> <p>P1 - Assist with and influencing the contents of the Local Development Framework, particularly the waste Development Plan Document</p> <p>P2 - Identify sites and obtain planning permission for municipal waste facilities</p> <p>P3 - Explore the development of a Sustainable Energy Park.</p>	
<p><b><i>Tourism Strategy 2002-2007 (Leeds Initiative, 2003)</i></b></p>		

Key objectives relevant to Plan and SA	Key targets and indicators	Implications for LDF and SA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To build on its existing strengths in the business and conference market, maintaining existing market share and creating additionality within core markets. In the longer term increase market share and value.</li> <li>To develop the day visitor market</li> <li>To develop the short break market</li> <li>To maintain the value of the overseas market</li> <li>To ensure that Leeds remains one of the UK's premier group destinations</li> <li>To address the overall image of the city and its brand position in relation to audiences targeted</li> <li>To continue to enhance the quality of the visitor experience in Leeds</li> <li>To improve sustainable visitor management by developing an integrated transport system</li> <li>To be a "green and attractive city, committed to continuous environmental improvement".</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase the number of day visits from a catchment area of 5.7m people who live within one hour's drive of the city centre;</li> <li>Develop the family market by addressing a perception that Leeds is not family friendly;</li> <li>Explore possibility of developing further city centre attractions;</li> <li>Convert a proportion of day visitors to staying visitors;</li> <li>Develop public coach park facility;</li> <li>Develop additional drop-off point for coaches;</li> <li>Ensure the tourist product is up-to-date and maintained;</li> <li>Investigate feasibility of a major event;</li> <li>Alter visitor perceptions of overcrowding;</li> <li>Further enhance community and visitor safety;</li> <li>Make Leeds an accessible city with a quality transport system;</li> <li>Alleviate traffic related problems;</li> <li>Balance the needs of local communities with the needs of visitors to ensure tourism is socially sustainable.</li> </ul>	
<b><i>Taking the Lead: A strategy for sport &amp; active recreation in Leeds 2006-2012 (Leeds Initiative, 2006)</i></b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To increase participation levels across all sections of the community.</li> <li>To ensure equality of opportunity and to narrow the participation gap in sport and active recreation between different sectors and groups within the community.</li> <li>To ensure effective talent identification and development structures are in place to enable people to achieve their full potential.</li> </ul> <p>To ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is a network of appropriately located quality facilities, including built facilities, playing pitches and open spaces which are accessible to the community; and</li> <li>Facilities are of appropriate specification to meet the training and development needs of high-performance athletes in selected sports.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A 1% year-on-year increase to 2012 in the number of adults participating in moderately intensive sport and active recreation for 30 minutes, three times a week</li> <li>At least 90% of five to 16-year-old students to take part in at least four hours of sport every week, comprising two hours quality PE plus a further two to three hours beyond the school day by 2012.</li> <li>A 6% increase in young people who are members of sport clubs at Year 9</li> <li>An increase in the percentage of Leeds' residents living within 20 minutes travel time of a range of facilities, one of which has a quality assured standard.</li> <li>The percentage of Leeds' residents satisfied with local authority sport and leisure facilities to be at least 70% by 2007.</li> </ul>	<p>Implications for the type, scale and location of new facilities and the location of new housing development to existing and proposed facilities.</p> <p>Importance of increasing participation of people of all ages and abilities in sport, and targets and indicator associated with this, should be reflected in the SA framework.</p>
<b><i>Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy (Leeds Initiative)</i></b>		

Key objectives relevant to Plan and SA	Key targets and indicators	Implications for LDF and SA
Key objective is to narrow the disparities between the most disadvantaged neighbourhoods of Leeds and the rest of the city	Compares national with local targets under the headings: worklessness and jobs; crime; education and skills; health; housing and the environment	Particularly relevant to area action plans Key social issues
<b>Leeds Climate Change Strategy (Leeds Initiative, 2009)</b>		
<b>Leeds' climate change strategy is a clear set of priorities that each of the organisations that make up the Leeds Initiative is working on to tackle the causes and impact of climate change.</b>	<b>Outlines Key Emissions Reduction Activities under the following headings:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Home energy efficiency;</li> <li>• Sustainable transport;</li> <li>• Partnership emission reduction;</li> <li>• Waste and resource efficiency;</li> <li>• Business emission reduction;</li> <li>• Low carbon new developments;</li> <li>• Low carbon energy infrastructure.</li> </ul> <p>Low carbon new developments includes the priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 20. Develop and enforce appropriate planning policies and guidance within the LDF and Sustainable Construction SPD.</li> <li>• 22. Develop plans to include holistic packages of energy efficiency and renewable energy measures in regeneration projects to achieve transformational carbon reductions.</li> </ul>	Key overarching strategy.
<b>Leeds' Climate Change Action Plan 2009</b>		
Details LCC specific actions and target timescales for each priority that appears in the Climate Change Strategy.	<p>Low Carbon New Developments</p> <p><b>By 2011, some major low and zero carbon developments have been built and key developers and planning policies support low carbon development.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 20. Finalise and publish Sustainable Design &amp; Construction SPD- adoption Spring 2010;</li> <li>• Develop a detailed Natural Resources and Waste Development Plan Document (NRWDPD) that covers policies on waste management, use of natural resources, renewable energy and flood risk management- adoption Spring 2011;</li> <li>• LDF Core Strategy to include specific policies (including draft policies on CO2 reduction, sustainable construction, improving green infrastructure and spatial</li> </ul>	LDF should include policies as specified in the action plan.

Key objectives relevant to Plan and SA	Key targets and indicators	Implications for LDF and SA
	<p>location to reduce need to travel) to promote low carbon and sustainable development- adoption Spring/Summer 2011.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 22. Ensure next phase of EASEL new build (63 homes) is built to Code for Sustainable Homes (CSH) level 3 and subsequent phase to level 4 or above. Continue to seek funding for energy efficient upgrading existing terraced housing;</li> <li>• Ensure that the Little London and Beeston Hill &amp; Holbeck PFI scheme contributes to reducing carbon emissions by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 400 new build council homes (125 in LL and 275 in BH&amp;H) specified and maintained for 20 years to at least: Level 4 CSH Lifetime Homes standards</li> <li>- Provide recycling facilities</li> </ul> </li> <li>• 1,230 council properties will be refurbished (852 in LL and 378 in BH&amp;H) and maintained for 20 years to at least Eco Homes XB.</li> <li>• Develop a mix of high quality and affordable Lifetime Homes and Extra Care services for Older people under the Leeds PFI Round 6 Lifetime Neighbourhoods for Leeds Project. Aim to build new houses, where possible, to meet Code for Sustainable Homes Level 5.</li> <li>• Promote and enforce the SPG for Holbeck Urban Village which sets targets for BREEAM Excellent for non-domestic and Code for Sustainable Homes Level 4 across the 30 hectare development.</li> <li>• Ensure that the Eastgate and Harewood quarter implements BREEAM standards (Very Good and Excellent) for refurbishment and new build.</li> </ul> <p>Adaptation By 2011, we will have developed a clear understanding of what the key climate risks are for Leeds, which parts of the city are most vulnerable, and have a clear plan to make Leeds more resilient.</p>	

Key objectives relevant to Plan and SA	Key targets and indicators	Implications for LDF and SA
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>27. Include climate change adaptation issues (particularly flood risk) within Natural Resources and Waste Development Plan Document (NRWDPD), Core Strategy, Area Action Plans and guidance within Sustainable Design and Construction Supplementary Planning Document.</li> </ul>	
<b>Leeds Biodiversity Action Plan</b>		
<p><b>Vision for biodiversity in Leeds:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A range of habitats, characteristic of the landscapes of Leeds, supporting both typical and rare species, contributing to regional and national biodiversity and providing an attractive and sustainable natural environment for leisure, education and work</li> </ul> <p>Objectives set for habitats and individual species</p>	<p>Targets set for habitats and individual species (numbers and number of locations found). Local priorities for biodiversity.</p>	
<b>Leeds Nature Conservation Strategy</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To conserve valuable existing nature conservation sites;</li> <li>To ensure all Leeds residents have easy access to nature conservation;</li> <li>To promote greater awareness and care for the whole of the natural environment through the distribution of information;</li> <li>To enhance nature through sympathetic development and management.</li> </ul>		
<b>Leeds Landscape Character Assessment (1994, Review 2011)</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Describe and analyse landscape character of the district identifying individual landscape types and features / elements which characterise them</li> <li>Provide a landscape framework to; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Guide and inform those responsible for development, landscape change and management of landscape</li> <li>Seek to conserve and enhance the characteristic landscape types of the area</li> <li>Seek to avoid management methods and forms of development which would be detrimental to landscape character</li> <li>Specify measures to meet landscape management objectives</li> <li>Identify areas where little or no original fabric remains, where there are opportunities to create new landscapes</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>No specific targets or indicators</p>	<p>Consider the effect of the proposed site allocations on existing landscape character areas</p>



Key objectives relevant to Plan and SA	Key targets and indicators	Implications for LDF and SA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify the factors which have had an influence upon landscape change in the past and those that are likely to do so in the future, in making recommendations on how to respond to these changes</li> <li>Have regard to local perceptions of landscape both past and present, 'sense of place' and areas of local landscape value</li> </ul>		
<b>Nidderdale AONB Management Plan 2009-14</b>		
<p>Five themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Importance of landscape</li> <li>Climate change</li> <li>Ecosystem services</li> <li>Sustainable development</li> <li>Farming and land management</li> </ul> <p>Vision:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Landscape</li> <li>Natural environment</li> <li>Heritage and the historic environment</li> <li>Understanding and enjoyment</li> <li>Living and working in the AONB</li> </ul>	21 indicators used for monitoring, including number of applications refused on grounds of harm to AONB landscape	Consider wider effects of site allocations on the environment of the AONB.
<b>Leeds Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2009 to 2017</b>		
Management plan setting out areas of consideration and improvement across the public rights of way network within the Leeds district.	Series of statement of action. Relevant to planning: PA1 Assert and protect rights of the public where affected by planned development PA2 Raise profile of public rights of way, and the need for informal outdoor recreational facilities, within development sites in conjunction with PPG17 PA3 Seek to secure section 106 planning agreements for path improvements within development sites PA4 Seek to secure section 106 funding for path improvements in the vicinity of new development sites PA5 Seek to secure that developers provide suitable alternative routes for paths affected by development PA6 Seek to secure that non definitive routes are recognised on planning applications and provisions made for them	Consider effect of site allocations on existing public rights of way and permissive paths
<b>Leeds City Region Green Infrastructure Strategy</b>		
The goal of the strategy is to make the Leeds City Region vision for green infrastructure a reality by building and sustaining its contribution to the development of the city region and by placing green infrastructure at the heart of spatial planning and economic development	IP1 – Urban green adaptation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Significantly reducing flood risk in urban areas in the city region</li> <li>Reducing the 'urban heat island' effect in the major urban areas in the city region</li> </ul>	Wide ranging implications for identifying site allocations including existing location and function of land, assessment of flood risk and future use of land incorporating greenspace and other green considerations.

Key objectives relevant to Plan and SA	Key targets and indicators	Implications for LDF and SA
<p>Strategic objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To promote sustainable growth and economic development</li> <li>• To adapt to and mitigate climate change</li> <li>• To encourage healthy and wellbeing living</li> <li>• To improve biodiversity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Offering opportunities to contribute to local biodiversity gain</li> <li>• Offering new opportunities for community engagement with the natural environment</li> </ul> <p>IP2 – Greening our economic potential</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increasing the attractiveness of brownfield and employment sites for commercial investment, either as new build or as estate refurbishment</li> <li>• Increasing and sustaining a high quality employment offer with a series of on-site open spaces, water bodies, footpaths and landscaping as appropriate</li> <li>• Enhancing the appearance of the public transport hubs and services to promote walking and cycling as journeys to work and improving the appeal of using public transport</li> <li>• Offering opportunities to address other green infrastructure objectives</li> </ul> <p>IP3 – Carbon capture</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Significantly increasing the volume of carbon captured and stored to reduce the carbon emissions of the city region</li> <li>• Offering opportunities to contribute to local biodiversity gain</li> </ul> <p>IP4 – Woodfuel</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce carbon emissions of the city region by increasing use of woodfuel as a source of renewable energy</li> <li>• Developing the green technology sector in the city region to create new businesses and jobs</li> <li>• Offering opportunities to contribute to local biodiversity gain</li> </ul> <p>IP5 – Rivers for life</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Significantly reducing flood risk in urban and rural areas in the city region</li> <li>• Offering opportunities to contribute to local biodiversity gain</li> <li>• Increasing access and recreation along river corridors</li> <li>• Improving river corridors as visitor attractions to promote local tourism business and jobs</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Water for Life and Livelihoods. River Basin Management Plan, Humber River Basin District</b></p>		
Protection, improvement and sustainable use of water	Number of indicators for quality of water bodies (including	Effect upon water quality

Key objectives relevant to Plan and SA	Key targets and indicators	Implications for LDF and SA
<p>environment prepared under the Water Framework Directive Aire &amp; Calder section refers to the work of the Aire Action Leeds partnership, householder awareness raising by Yorkshire Water and bankside and river habitat work at Armley Mills.</p>	<p>rivers, surface and groundwater) – biological, ecological and chemical status.</p>	

**APPENDIX 4 – BASELINE INFORMATION**

## Economic Profile

- 1.1 Leeds is the regional capital of Yorkshire and the Humber and the regional centre for finance, business and media. Leeds is home to over 30 national and international banks and several law firms which now rank amongst the top ten firms in the UK. Leeds also has a very strong retail sector and provides the region's largest retail centre. The City is also the UK's third major manufacturing centre. Consequently the economy is built on a diversity of industries and this helps to support its stability. It is the only district in West Yorkshire to have a net in-flow of commuting and this is expected to rise by 10,000 in the next decade.
- 1.2 During 1996-2006, Leeds accounted for 16% of the 267,400 net additional jobs in the Yorkshire and Humber region as a whole. In 2006-2016, Leeds is expected to account for 23% of the 116,300 net additional jobs in the region. Total employment peaked at 449,600 jobs in 2006, falling by 22,000 over the five years up to 2011. Following over a decade of growth the global economic downturn has had an impact on all regional and local economies. Before the recession economic forecasters were predicting massive economic growth over the next ten years, these predictions have now been revised with growth at a much lower rate.
- 1.3 Forecasts suggest that employment will increase over the next decade reaching 2006 levels by 2017 and adding 39,500 jobs by 2021. The two leading employment sectors in Leeds as a whole are financial and business services (29% of total), and public administration, education and health (25%). These are forecast to remain the two leading sectors in Leeds over the next 10 years.
- 1.4 Gross weekly earnings for male residents in 2010 was £560.90 (equivalent of £29,200 per annum) compared to the national average of £608.90 (£31,700) - this is 92% of the national average. Women's average weekly earnings was £377.30 (£19,600) compared to the national average of £381.90 (£19,900). This is 98% of the national average.
- 1.5 The city is also an increasingly important visitor destination for both business and leisure tourism. Recent research has found that the value of tourism in Leeds was estimated to be £1.25 billion, supporting over 25,000 actual jobs (19,000 full-time equivalents) according to the Cambridge Econometric Impact Model.
- 1.6 The city centre is a major shopping destination, drawing in people from well beyond the City's own boundaries. With over 1,000 shops and a retail footprint in 2007 of 2,284,100 sq ft, Leeds city centre is one of the largest retail centres in the UK. Its primacy in the regional hierarchy of centres will be further enhanced by the completion of the Trinity Quarter, a £650m scheme currently under construction, which will be the city centre's first million sq ft shopping centre.

## **2.0 Social Profile**

### DEMOGRAPHICS

- 2.1 The city's population has grown significantly during the last 20 years unlike many others in the UK. The growth seen in Leeds has been attributed to a number of factors, including a strong economy, buoyant markets and increased in-migration levels. Over the past decade, the city has experienced a large in-migration of economically active people looking for better quality of life.
- 2.2 The Strategic Housing Market Assessment published in May 2011 used local housing and GP registration data to put the population estimate at 755,580 in 2010 with a forecast for it to reach 847,978 by 2026. The 2011 Census is expected to provide a clearer picture on the current population levels, all forecasts predict the city's population to grow further in the coming years.
- 2.3 Leeds is a multicultural city where everyone has an equal chance to live their life successfully and realise their potential. It is a more diverse place home to people of over 130 different nationalities with many cultures, languages, races and faiths. In 2009, ONS estimates put the total resident population from black and minority ethnic (BME) communities at 17.4%. The BME communities are largely concentrated in just three wards. The BME community makes up 40.9% of the total ward population in Gipton & Harehills, 36% in Chapel Allerton and 31.6% in Hyde Park & Woodhouse.

### HOUSING

- 2.4 The LDF will provide the strategy for which future growth and development will occur. The Core Strategy sets out the long term housing requirement and the Site Allocations Development Plan Document will identify locations and sites which will help to deliver the housing requirement.
- 2.5 During 2004-8, RSS required average net increases of 2260 dwellings per year, 9040 in total. Actual net output in this period totalled 12972, 43% in excess of the requirement. This was a period of strong house building performance in Leeds. A combination of great demand and abundant land supply raised output to levels not seen in the city since the mid 1970s.
- 2.6 Completions over the past three years highlight the extent to which the development industry has slowed due to the recession. Dwellings under construction dropped continually from 5900 in June 2008 to 1792 in September 2010, but have recently picked up slightly to 1919 in March 2011. As a result of the relatively low level of recent starts, completions are set to remain low in the next few years and it may be much longer before output returns to pre-recession levels.

**Table 1 - Net additional dwellings - 2004/05 to 2010/11**

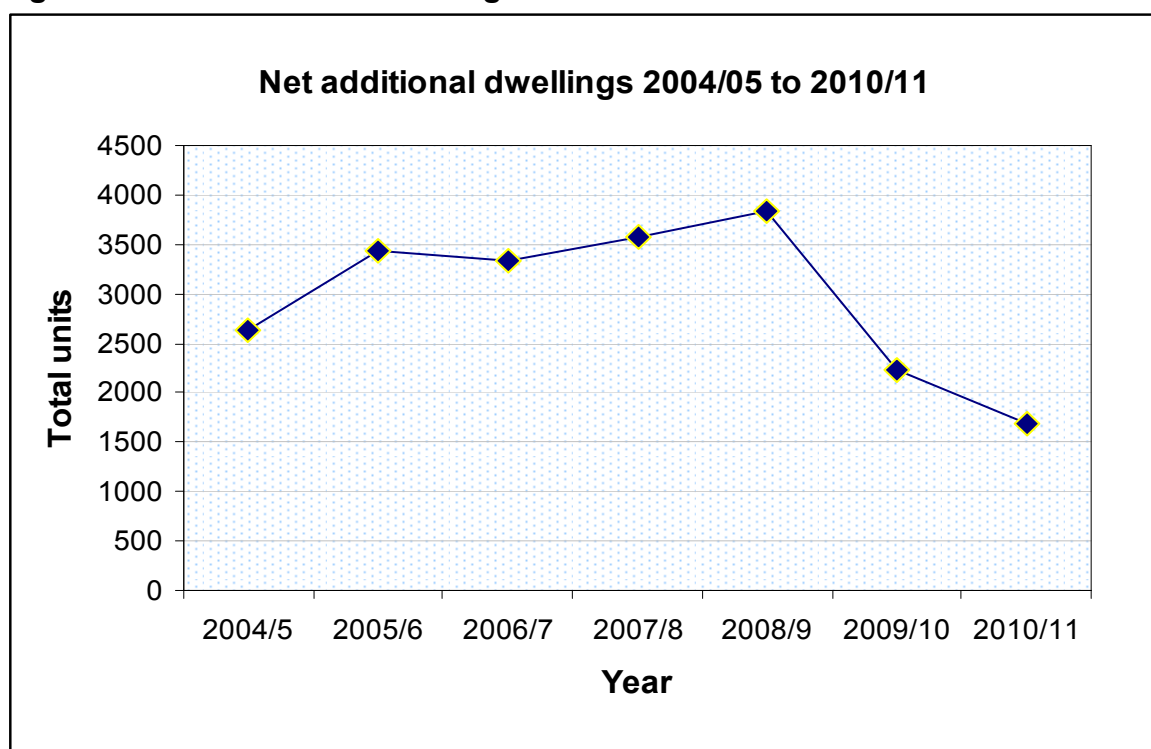
Year	Total	Target	% Target	Over/ Under Annual Delivery	Cumulative Total	Total requirement
2004/05	2633	2260	116.5%	373	2633	2260
2005/06	3436	2260	152.0%	1176	6069	4520
2006/07	3327	2260	147.2%	1067	9396	6780
2007/08	3576	2260	158.2%	1316	12972	9040
2008/09	3828	4300	89.0%	-472	16800	13340
2009/10	2238	4300	52.1%	-2062	19038	17640
2010/11	1686	4300	39.2%	-2614	20724	21940

**Table 2 - Completions and demolitions in City Centre – 2010/11**

Location	Completions (gross)	Demolitions	Net gain
City Centre	192	6	186

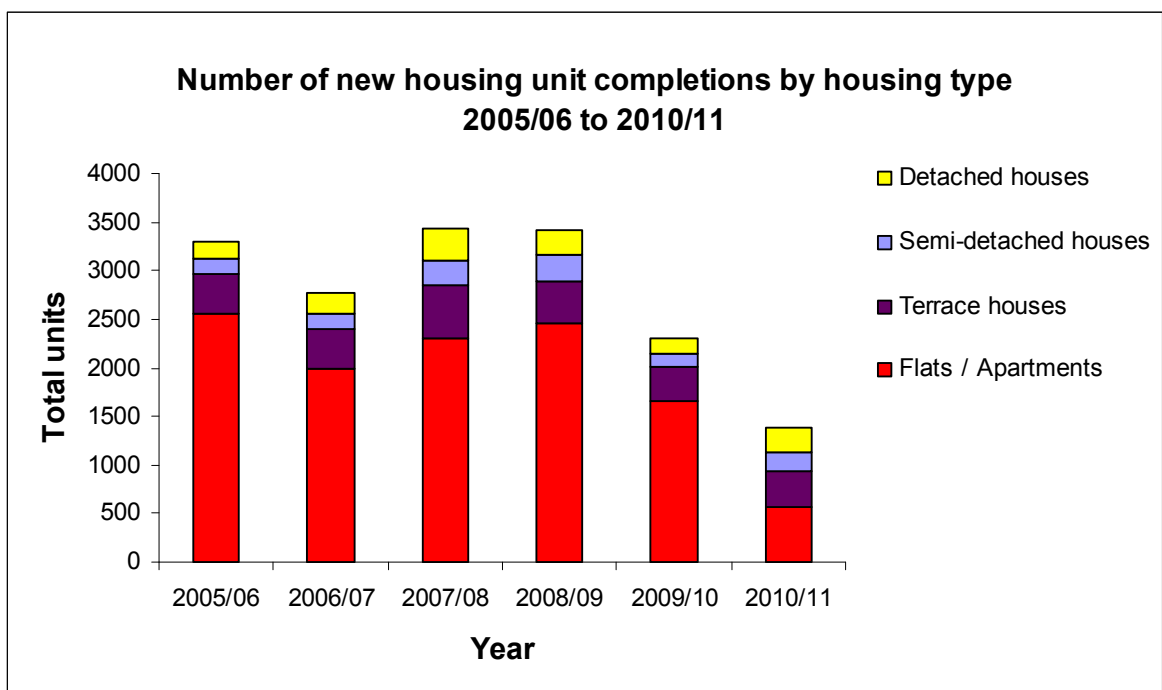
2.7 Housing starts decreased sharply in early summer 2008. Following July 2008, the rate of new starts dropped to an average of 80 units a month in March 2010. This rate of starts is equivalent to an annual completion rate below 1000 units and compared to an average of 330 starts/month in the four preceding years. However, in the twelve months up to the end of March 2011, 1476 units were started which indicates some uplift in development in recent months.

**Figure 1 - Net additional dwellings 2004/05 to 2010/11**



2.8 Between 2005 and 2010, housing mix had been characterised by a dominance of flats and apartment building. In 2010/11 more houses were completed than flats and apartments for the first time since the AMR began monitoring this indicator in 2005/6. 59.1% of all dwelling units were houses compared with 28% in 2009/10. Of the 817 houses, 44.5% were terrace, 29.9% detached and 25.6% semi-detached. The data from 2005/06 through to 2010/11 is shown in Figure 2. The average house price in Leeds in 2011 was £159,033.

**Figure 2 - New housing by type - 2005/06 to 2010/11**



2.9 Affordable housing completions are reported in the Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix (HSSA). 779 units were completed in 2010/11, which was an 89% increase from 2009/10. Of the 779 units, just 40 were delivered through Section 106 Agreements with 413 through grant assisted schemes and 326 through Government initiatives. Whilst affordable housing delivery has increased, the expected target of 927 units for 2010/11 was not met. The reasons for not meeting the target are due in part to some anticipation in build slippage into 2011/12 together with the end of the Homebuy Direct programme in September 2010.

2.10 Population and household data for Leeds show an average household size in 2010 of 2.36. It is estimated that there are approximately 319,400 households in the City. Evidence suggests that there has been a relative stagnation of household size, with affordability issues and the availability of type and location of new stock being important factors.



## PREVIOUSLY DEVELOPED LAND

- 2.11 In Leeds, the percentage of total housing development on previously developed land has been 92% over the past ten years. The average anticipated delivery rate over the whole of the Core Strategy plan period 2012/13 to 2027/28 is anticipated to be approximately 63%. This is above the Core Strategy proposed target of 60%. For employment, the provision of brownfield land in the identified overall supply amounts to approximately 58%, comprising 405 hectares. Provision for the industrial sectors (B2 and B8) remains predominantly brownfield, where 74% of this provision is previously developed land. In contrast, the land identified for office development comprises only 29% brownfield.

## EDUCATION, SKILLS AND TRAINING

- 2.12 Leeds has 294 schools, eight colleges of further education, two universities, a dental school and a large number of community and family learning centres. There are over 45,000 university students in the City and the University of Leeds is rated as one of the country's top ten universities.
- 2.13 Generally across the District, GCSE rates have been steadily improving but are still below the national average. 54.1% of pupils left school with 5 GCSE grades A\*-C including Maths and English. However, there are two schools in the inner city which are failing to meet required standards. Educational achievement for pupils from Pakistani, Bangladeshi, black Caribbean, black African communities and children of mixed race is lower than the city average. Overall, 14% of 16 to 24 year olds have no formal qualifications but this figure rises to over 25% in BME communities. These also tend to live in the city's poorest neighbourhoods.

## CRIME

- 2.14 Leeds has focused on five key areas of crime reduction, which are anti-social behaviour, burglary, drugs, vehicle crime and young offenders. Between the period 2005/2006 and 2007/2008 recorded crime fell by 12.5%, with violent crime falling by 13.5%. Some areas, such as vehicle crime, fraud and forgery, and criminal damage fell significantly over that time period. However domestic burglary increased by 10.2% and robbery increased by 13.5% during this time (Safer Leeds, 2008). Of the five notable offences recorded by the police, four have shown a fall in numbers since 2005 and only one, robbery, has shown a slight rise in occurrence.

**Table 3 - Crime figures in Leeds 2005 and 2011**

<b>Offence</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2011</b>
Violence against a person	14,784	11,399

Robbery	1,202	1,232
Burglary in a dwelling	9,441	8,863
Theft of a motor vehicle	5,388	2,000
Theft of a vehicle	9,863	7,349

- 2.15 Across the District, the outer wards have crime rates close to the England and Wales average; the inner City wards have much higher crime rates, as much as ten times more than the national average.

### HEALTH

- 2.16 At birth men are expected to live for 76.7 years and woman 81.6 years, life expectancy has grown since 1997 when men and woman were expected to live to 74.6 years and 80.1 years respectively (NHS Leeds, 2008). 68% of the population in Leeds is generally in good health, 21% is in fairly good health and 9% not in good health (2001 Census). At the time of the 2001 Census 18% of the population were reported to be living with a long-term illness.
- 2.17 Over the last 10 years, the overall death rate in Leeds has fallen by around 5%. Coronary Heart Disease is the most common cause of death in men and is also one of the main causes of hospital admissions for males. However, poverty is the main cause of ill health in some neighbourhoods and communities. People who are low-paid have poorer health than those with higher incomes. The health of people in some of the city's disadvantaged neighbourhoods is as poor as almost anywhere in the country. Children born in these areas have lives that are eight to 10 years shorter than those in the wealthier areas of Leeds. There is poorer take-up of services that help to prevent ill health in disadvantaged areas and among ethnic-minority groups.
- 2.18 The World Health Organisation defines health as "a state of complete physical, mental and social well being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity" (WHO, 1948). The national problem of obesity is also present in Leeds, and, as is seen on a national scale, there is special concern regarding obesity amongst children. In 2009, 20.9% of 10-11-year-olds were obese, and 14.2% were overweight (ONS, 2010). Levels of obesity are higher than those nationally. The baseline data for health reflect factors specific to natural resource flow related impacts in Leeds.

### SOCIAL DEPRIVATION

- 2.19 Around 15,000 people in Leeds, almost 20% of the population, live in areas officially rated as amongst the most deprived in the country. The Index of Deprivation 2000 showed that 12 of the 33 wards in Leeds were in the top 20% of deprived wards in England. While unemployment is low for the City as a whole, there are some areas in Leeds that experience rates of unemployment at double the City's average. There are similar inequalities in house prices, educational achievement, health and crime.

- 2.20 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.
- 2.21 Out of 476 number Super Output Areas (SOAs) in Leeds, the 2010 Index of Multiple Deprivation shows that there are 92 SOAs in Leeds 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 has risen to 25 in 2010. Overall, 154 have seen an improvement in their ranking but 322 have seen their ranking fall between 2007 and 2010. Gipton & Harehills is the only ward with 100% of its SOAs ranked in the most deprived 20%.

### GREENSPACE

- 2.22 Even of the City's parks hold 'Green Flag' status. These are spread across the District at Golden Acre Park, Kirkstall Abbey, Lotherton Hall Estate, Pudsey Park, Roundhay Park, Temple Newsam Estate and Otley's Chevin Forest Park. Leeds City Council manages approximately 4,000 hectares of park and green space, including parks, public right of ways, cemeteries, trees, allotments, closed churchyards and floral displays. There are 1,750 greenspace sites, 278 children's play facilities and 154 indoor sports sites.
- 2.23 The Leeds Open Spaces, Sport and Recreation Assessment (2011) considered the supply and demand issues for open spaces, sport and recreation facilities in Leeds. The study provides a detailed assessment of quantity and quality of provision. Modelling was used to measure the existing greenspace provision against future population growth scenarios and identified accessibility standards for the different types of greenspace use. These standards have been incorporated in the Core Strategy Policy G3.

### FOOTPATHS & PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

- 2.24 The public rights of way network in Leeds is both extensive and varied and includes a number of key recreational routes. Key aspects to highlight include from the Rights of Way Improvement Plan for Leeds 2009 to 2017:
- i) total length of path network of 799 km broken down to specific categories of public rights of way. In addition. Over and above this provision are permissive paths which also make an important contribution and enhance overall public access;
  - ii) Key strategic and recreational routes, such as the Dales Way Link, Ebor Way, Leeds Country Way, Trans Pennine Trail and Aire Valley Towpath;
  - iii) Local recreational routes such as the Meanwood Valley Trail, Calverley Millenium Way, Pudsey Link Bridleway, Leeds Links, The

Linesway, Harland Way, Rothwell Greenway, Temple Newsam  
bridlepath, West Leeds Country Park and Green Gateways and the  
Wykebeck Valley Way;

- iv) Open access land (total of 350ha) and Woodland Trust sites.

### 3.0 Environmental Profile

#### ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

- 3.1 Leeds Metropolitan District is underlain by 3 distinct bedrock geologies. Coal Measures lie to the south, and Millstone Grit to the north, both are designated as Secondary aquifers. Magnesian limestone forms the eastern boundary, and is designated as a Principal aquifer. There are Source Protection Zones located in the north eastern corner of the district, which are in place to help protect abstractions with potable use. The River Aire from Esholt to the River Calder is currently failing Water Framework Directive's chemical classification.

#### BIODIVERSITY, FLORA AND FAUNA

- 3.2 The Leeds Biodiversity Action Plan identifies 4 natural areas in Leeds (Coal Measures, Southern Magnesium Limestone, Pennine Dales Fringe and Southern Pennines) each with broad habitat types found in these areas, key features and groups of species and also particularly notable species. From this initial analysis the following habitats and species are identified as requiring action plans:

##### **Habitats**

Magnesium Limestone  
Reedbed  
Lowland wet grassland  
Hedgerow and field margins  
Ancient and/or species rich  
hedgerows  
Cereal field margins  
Coastal and floodplain grazing  
marsh  
Lowland calcareous grassland

##### **Species**

Pasqueflower  
Thistle broomrape  
Harvest mouse  
Pipistrelle bat  
Atlantic stream or White clawed  
crayfish  
Great crested newt

- 3.3 The value of particular sites and areas for nature conservation is recognised through designation within particular categories:

##### **European Protected Sites**

North Pennine Moor Special Area of Conservation  
North Pennine Moors Phase 2 Special Protection Area

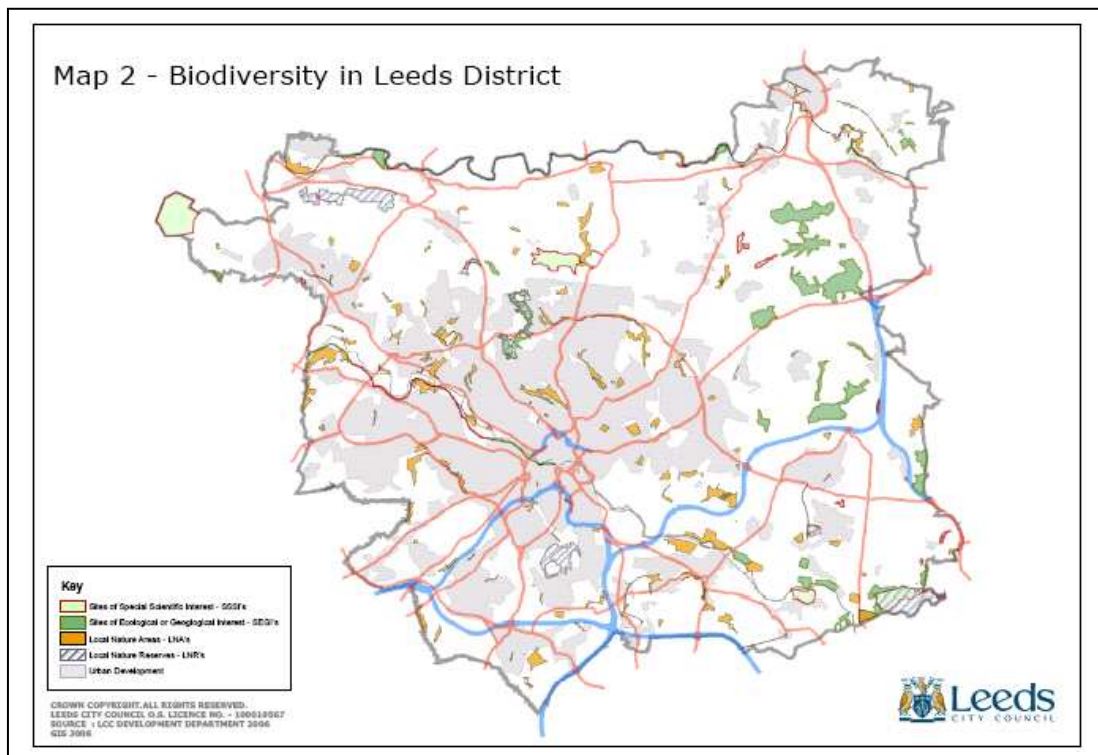
**Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)** are of national or international importance for nature conservation and these comprise the most precious habitats in the District. The interests of nature conservation will prevail over all but the most exceptional needs for development of such sites. There are 17 wholly or partly within the Leeds area ranging in size from 0.6 hectares to 225 hectares.

**Sites of Ecological or Geological Interest (SEGIs)** are of particular importance within the West Yorkshire context. There are 63 sites in Leeds of which 7 are designated for their geological/landform interest. Amongst these, there is part of one internationally important site, the South Pennine Moors. It is designated as a Special Protection Area (SPA) under the European Birds Directive (Council Directive 79/409/EEC), and a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) under the Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC).

**Local Nature Reserves (LNRs)** are of special interest within the District and some include areas that are also SSSIs. The City Council has a legal interest in LNRs and can thus offer protection through their ownership or control as well as through the planning process. There are 8 LNRs within the District.

**Leeds Nature Areas (LNAs)** are sites of local or District – wide importance for the enjoyment, study or conservation of wildlife, geological features and landforms. They are of particular value in parts of the city where residents would otherwise have little opportunity to enjoy and learn about wildlife close to their homes. There are 116 LNAs within the District.

**Figure 3 - Location of biodiversity sites in Leeds:**



- 3.4 Due to a lack of monitoring of habitats and species it is not easy to identify any emerging trends. However it has been noted that the River Aire has a number of weirs which have contributed to isolating fish populations by preventing them from reaching spawning and nursery areas. This has led to the demise of both salmon and eel stocks in the catchment.

Generally, there is a need to review the District in terms of Local Nature Areas to ascertain if sites are still serving an LNA function or if new sites should be designated.

### LANDSCAPE

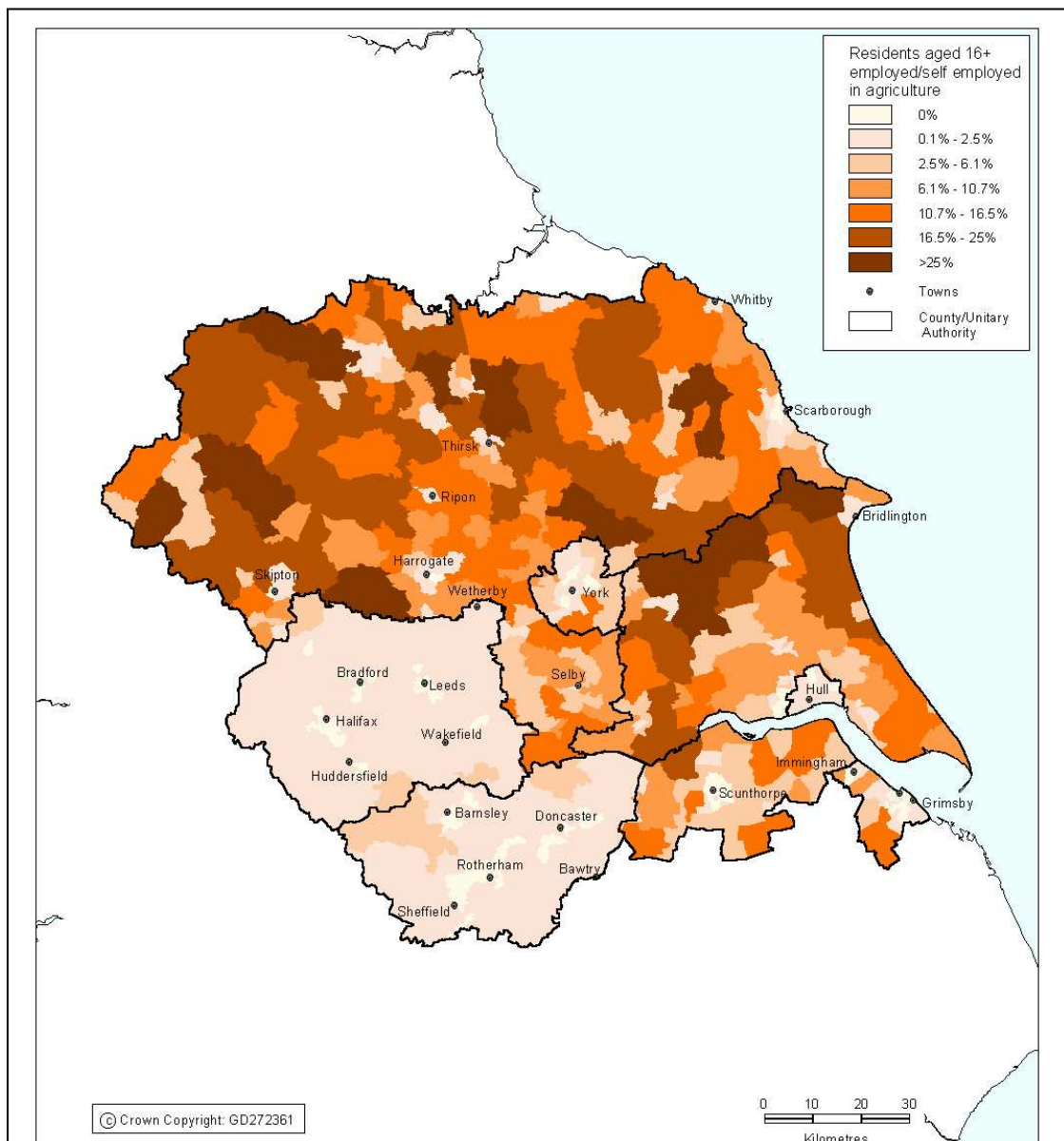
- 3.5 The Leeds Landscape Character Assessment (1994 and reviewed in 2011) provides a detailed description and analysis of the different landscape character areas, types and units. There are 5 Regional Character Areas: Leeds Coal Measures; Millstone Grit Plateau; Wharfedale; Eastern Limestone Belt; and Vale of York. There are 4 landscape types: settled; agricultural; wooded; and river landscapes. The landscape units are 45 geographical areas.
- 3.6 The areas of high landscape value, defined as Special Landscape Areas (SLAs) were designated in the Leeds Unitary Development Plan (Policy N37). There are 18 SLAs:
- i) Hawksworth Moor;
  - ii) Otley Chevin;
  - iii) Wharfe Valley southern slopes;
  - iv) Linton/Wetherby;
  - v) Wetherby/Boston Spa;
  - vi) Golden Acre/Eccup;
  - vii) Harewood;
  - viii) Collingham/East Keswick/Bardsey/Scarcroft/Thorner/Shadwell;
  - ix) Bramham;
  - x) Parlington/Becca;
  - xi) Ledsham/Ledston;
  - xii) Temple Newsham;
  - xiii) Swillington/Leventhorpe;
  - xiv) Methley Park;
  - xv) Oulton Park/Springhead Park;
  - xvi) East Ardsley;
  - xvii) Fulneck/Tyersal/Troydale/Cockersdale;
  - xviii) Woodhall/Calverley/Crag Wood/Hungerhills.
- 3.7 The Strategic Green Infrastructure of Leeds has been broken down into the following corridors, identified by Spatial Policy 13 of the Core Strategy):
- i) The Aire Valley, along the river and canal corridors including West Leeds Country Park and Kirkstall Valley Park to the north; Fairburn Ings; St Aidans and Aire Valley Leeds to the south incorporating the proposed urban eco-settlement (strengthening green links to Leeds City Centre, the lower Aire Valley, Temple Newsam and Rothwell Country Park;

- ii) South Leeds (including the Morley-Middleton corridor);
- iii) The Limestone Ridge (running north-south at the eastern edge of the district);
- iv) The Wharfe Valley;
- v) Wyke Beck Valley;
- vi) Woodhouse Ridge;
- vii) Meanwood Valley;
- viii) Tong Cockersdale;
- ix) Gledhow Valley.

## AGRICULTURE

3.8 Compared to the rest of the Yorkshire and Humber Region, agriculture plays only a small part in providing employment for the Leeds population. This is shown in figure 4 below. However, it should be noted that in some parts of the District agriculture has an important local role and should not be overlooked by the predominantly urban nature of the District.

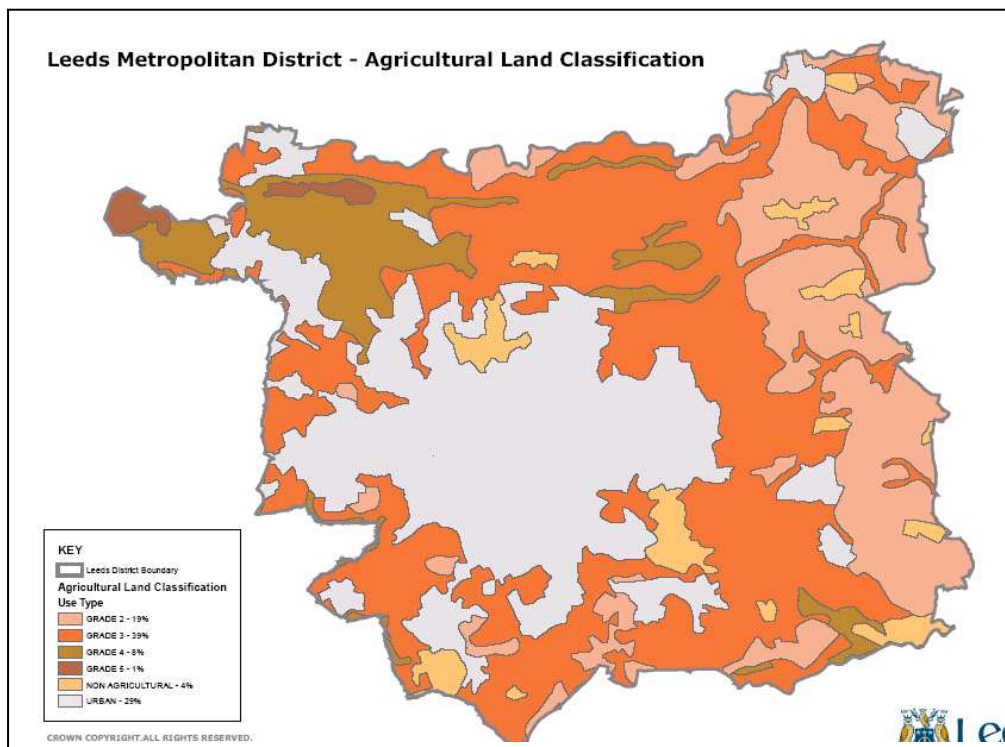
**Figure 4 - Employment in agriculture as a percentage of total employment for Yorkshire and the Humber (Source: Yorkshire and the Humber Chapter of the England Rural Development Programme, Defra).**



- 3.9 Unusual for a major UK City, Leeds has a relatively large 'rural' hinterland within its Metropolitan District boundary. Integral to this characteristic also, are a series of "Green wedges" and river valleys, which penetrate the main urban area of Leeds and link inner urban areas to wider expanses of countryside and open land. Agriculture therefore has an important influence on the District. Agricultural practices in the UK have led to a number of environmental problems, although a recent change in national policy places more emphasis on improving the environmental and social aspects of the industry.
- 3.10 Substantial tracks of the Leeds countryside/agricultural areas are designated as Green Belt (in the Adopted Leeds Unitary Development Plan Review 2006). This designation seeks to recognise the amenity value of countryside around towns and cities and to help sustain the continued regeneration of the urban area. Whilst being supportive of agricultural diversification and rural enterprise, Green Belt policies are such that the development of open land is strictly controlled.
- 3.11 Overlaying and complementing UDP policies for Green Belt and the countryside, the City Council has for a number of years worked with a series of partners in developing countryside and forestry strategies. These strategies have sought to recognise the importance of the countryside around Leeds and the wider amenity and recreation benefits of multifunctional community woodland through the "Forest of Leeds" initiative.
- 3.12 The Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) provides a method for assessing the quality of farmland to enable informed choices to be made about its future use within the planning system, and to prevent inappropriate development. Where development is to occur the ALC should ensure that land of poorer quality is used in preference to higher quality land. The ALC is based on the assessment of climate, site and soil characteristics and is concerned with the inherent agricultural potential of land - the current agricultural use, or intensity of use, does not affect the grade. Grade 1 land is classed as 'excellent quality', and grade 5 is classed as 'very poor'.
- 3.13 The attached Plan (figure 5) identifies the quality, quantity and distribution of agricultural land within Leeds Metropolitan District. From this it can be noted that most of the agricultural land in the District is Grade 3 Land (39%), followed by Grade 2 (19%), Grade 4 (8%) and Grade 5 (1%).



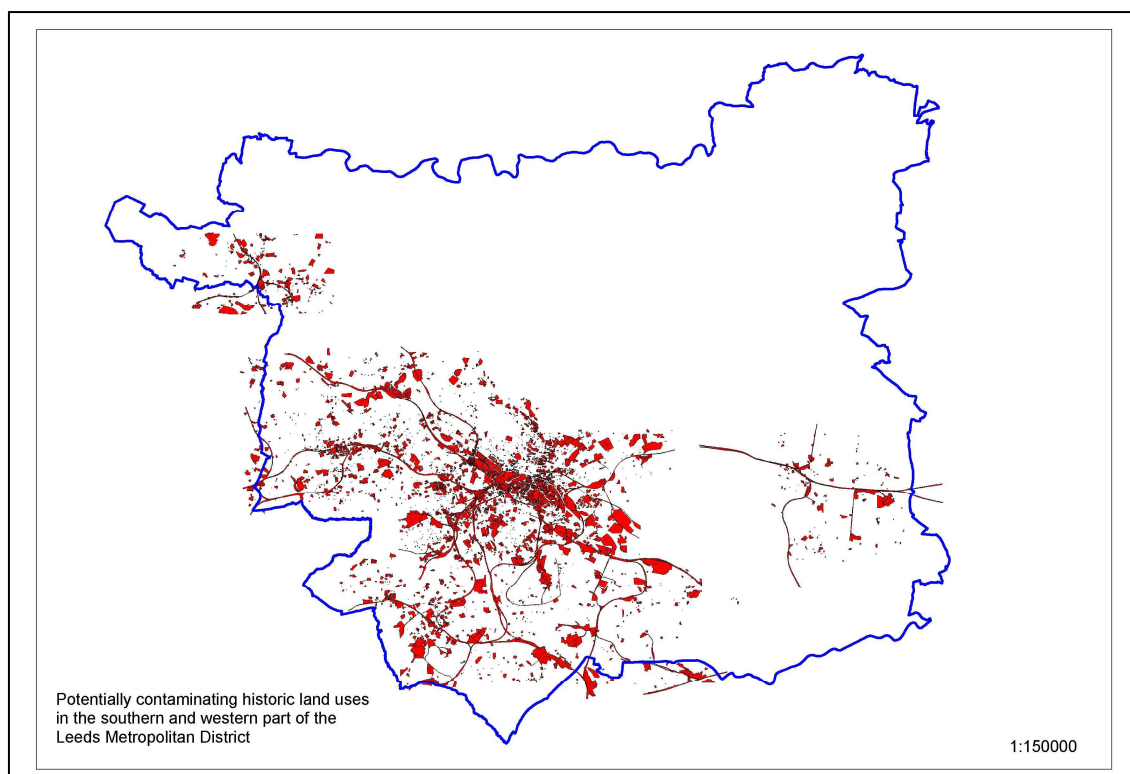
**Figure 5 - Agricultural Land Classification**



**CONTAMINATED LAND**

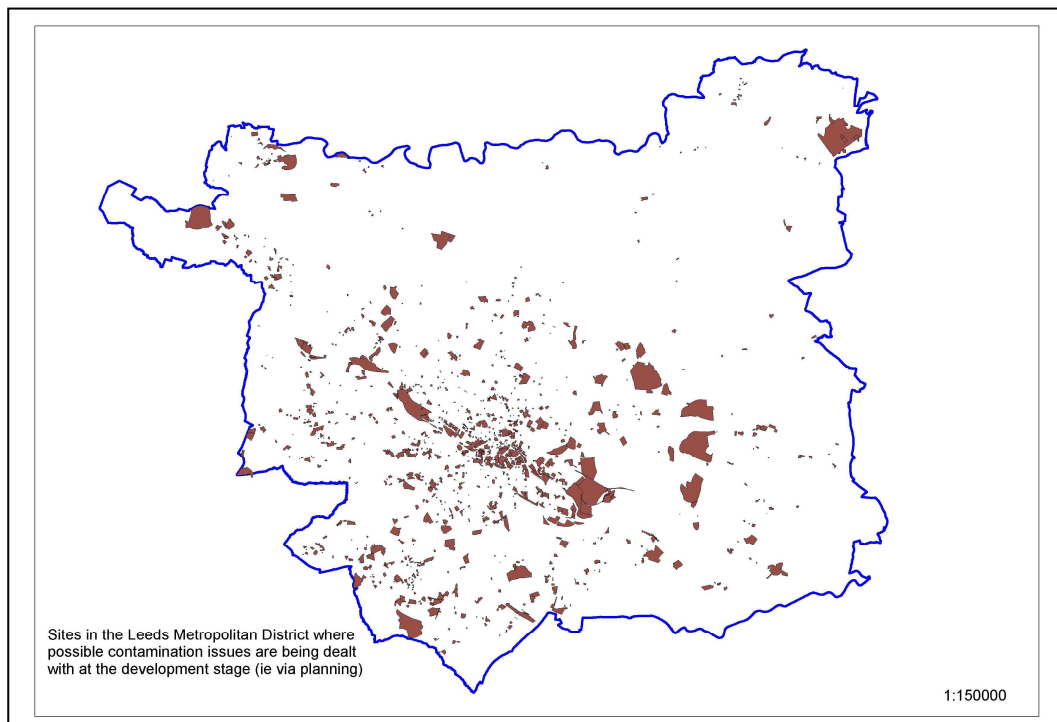
3.14 The Council is identifying which parts of Leeds have previously been subject to a potentially contaminating land use. This data has been extracted from historical mapping and converted to a digital format. The process has been completed for roughly half of the Leeds area and the data is seen below in Figure 6.

**Figure 6 - Potentially Contaminating Historic Land Uses**



- 3.15 The total area of the Leeds district for which the data capture has been completed is approximately 20000ha. Roughly 3479ha has been subject to a potentially contaminating land use, 17.4% of the total area studied. Work is continuing to capture the missing data.
- 3.16 The Council is also collecting data on sites in Leeds where at least some works relating to contamination issues have been carried out, usually as part of the development process. Some sites may have undergone full remediation whereas others may be included merely on the basis of limited information about site conditions.
- 3.17 The data represents over 1300 separate sites and covers an area of roughly 3000ha (15% of the Leeds district) and is shown on the Map below. An analysis of the data indicates that the risk of contamination impacting on human health and the environment is reducing in the Leeds District.

**Figure 7 - Contaminated sites where remediation has been carried out**

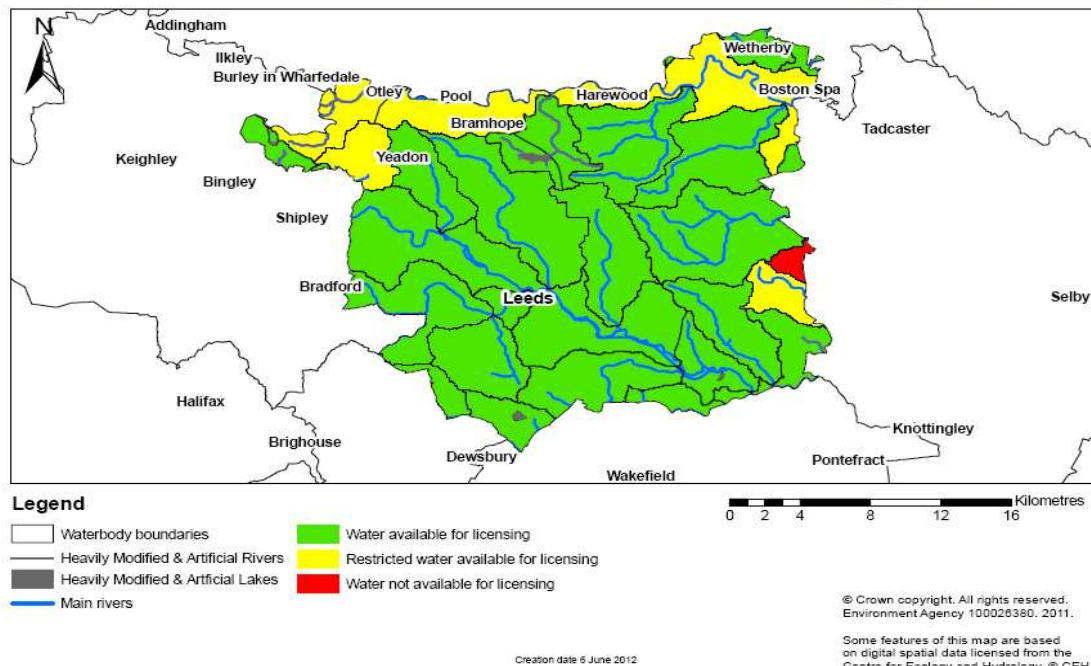


### WATER RESOURCES

- 3.18 Work undertaken as part of the Natural Resources and Waste DPD found that overall water consumption within Leeds is higher than average. Water availability is assessed by the Environment Agency through Catchment Abstraction Management Strategies. Fig 8 illustrates water resource availability in Leeds including restricted areas for water licensing (for water based business and industry).

**Figure 8 - Water Resource Availability in Leeds**

Water resource availability colours for Leeds Metropolitan District 



## WATER QUALITY

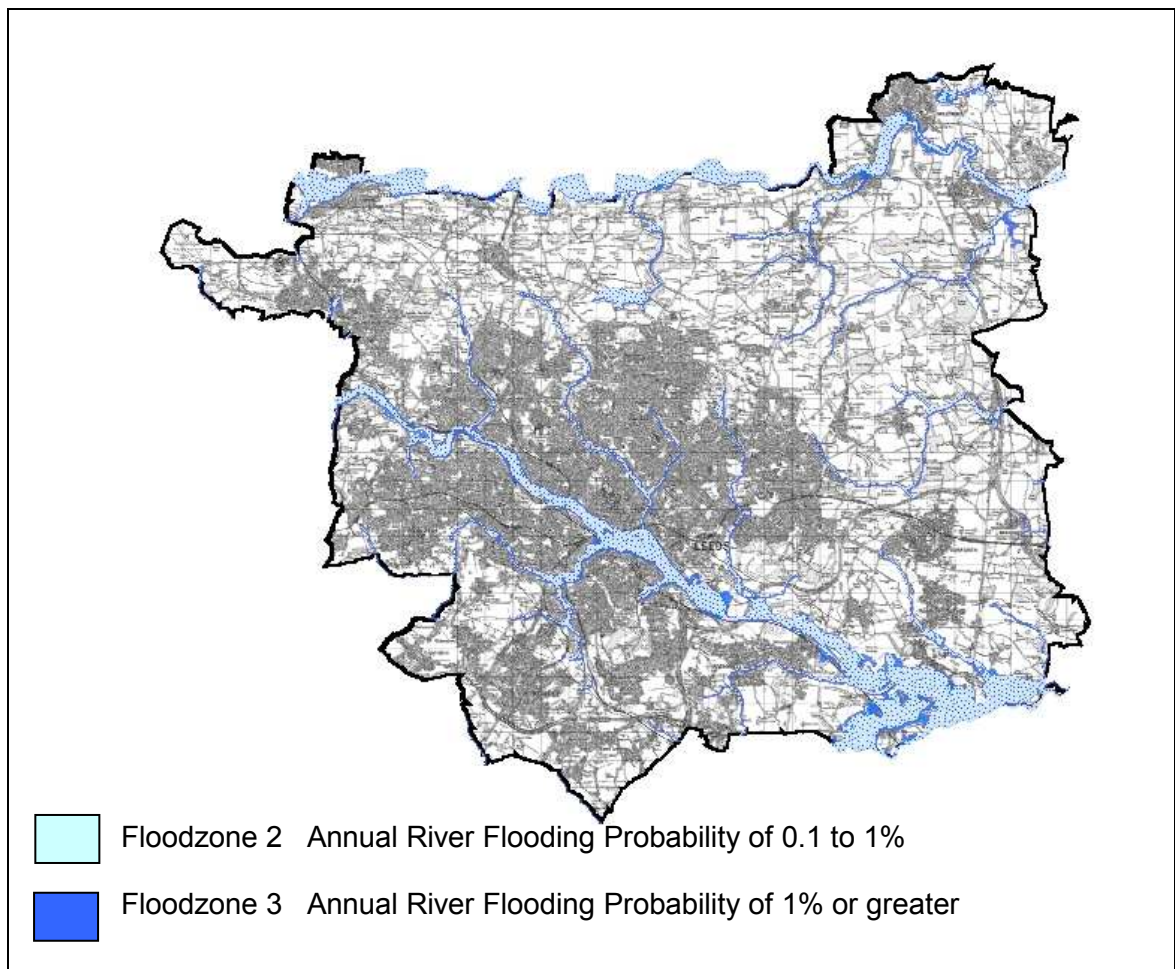
- 3.19 The Leeds District has two rivers running through it, the Aire and the Wharfe; Leeds also experiences flooding from the River Calder. Both rivers also have a number of tributaries. The large majority of river water in Leeds is classed as good or fair quality according to the Environment Agency's general quality assessment. There has been an improvement in water quality since 1990 when the River Aire was graded as 'poor'. In 2001 only 16.7% of the River Aire was graded as poor. This is due mainly to improved treatment of sewage and industrial waste. Further improvements will have to be made to meet the requirements of the new Water Framework Directive – that all rivers will have to meet 'good' status by 2015. Continuing contamination of the Aire is due to surface water run off, trade discharges, mine waters and industrial discharges and pesticides. There may be additional reasons for continued poor quality, which may include contaminated land and historic landfilling.

## FLOOD RISK

- 3.20 The National Planning Policy Framework sets the national policy context for considering flood risk. The Leeds Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) defines 4 flood zones:
- Zone 1 – areas of low flood probability;
  - Zone 2 – areas of medium flood probability;
  - Zone 3a – areas of high flood probability; and
  - Zone 3b – functional flood plain

- 3.21 The Core Strategy and the Natural Resources and Waste DPD provide policy relating to development in flood risk zones and sustainable drainage requirements.
- 3.22 The Environment Agency estimates that there are over 3,862 homes and 700 businesses at risk of flooding from the River Aire alone. The flood risk areas of Leeds are shown in Figure 9 below. In Leeds there are 10,883 domestic properties and 2,100 commercial properties in flood risk zones 2 and 3. The Environment Agency plans to have 1,500 domestic properties protected by flood alleviation schemes by 2012.

**Figure 9 - Flood Risk Zone in Leeds (Source: Environment Agency)**



- 3.23 A number of towns and villages are situated within the 1% (100 year) flood extent (i.e. within Zone 3a High Probability), including a considerable proportion of Leeds city centre. Indeed, the Environment Agency estimates that there are over 2000 properties at 'significant' risk of flooding within the district of Leeds, susceptible to a 1.33% chance of flooding in any one year, or flooding on average once in every 75 years.

- 3.24 Some structures that provide a flood defence function are present along the River Aire and the River Wharfe, however, very few are formally maintained flood defences. These may increase the standard of protection provided to properties situated behind the structures in some areas but there is always a residual risk that these structures may be overtopped in more extreme flood events or fail in some way. It is crucially important therefore that future development takes careful consideration of the possible risk to life should a flood occur.
- 3.25 Smaller watercourses and drains affect fewer properties than the River Aire and River Wharfe, however, they are far more susceptible to flash flooding as a result of localised intense rainfall. With changing climate patterns it is expected that storms of this nature will become increasingly common, potentially increasing the risk posed to properties situated in close proximity to local streams.
- 3.26 The Council requires all new development to comply with its sustainable drainage policy.

#### AIR QUALITY

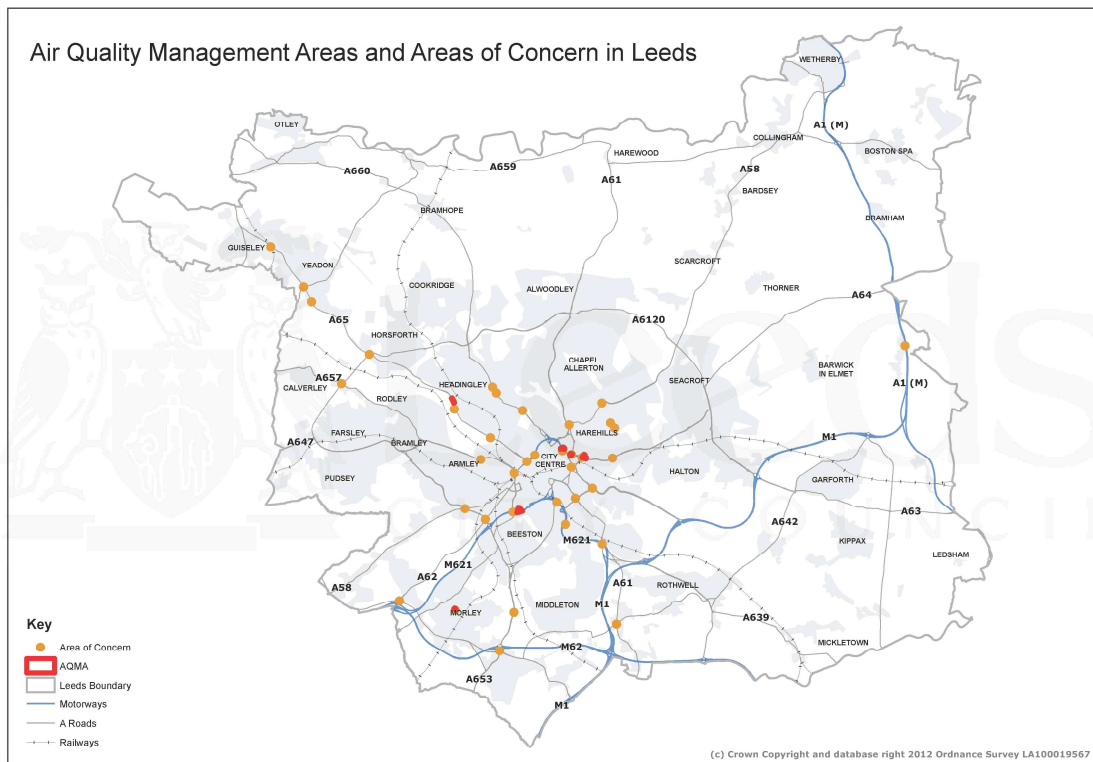
- 3.27 In the UK the requirements of the European Air Quality Framework Directive have been transposed into the National Air Quality Strategy (NAQS), which sets mandatory health based standards for seven air pollutants. Of these seven pollutants, Leeds only has any potential problem with levels of NO<sub>2</sub> and PM<sub>10</sub>. In the UK the requirements of the European Air Quality Framework Directive have been transposed into the National Air Quality Strategy (NAQS), which sets mandatory health based standards for seven air pollutants. Of these seven pollutants, Leeds only has potential problems with levels of NO<sub>2</sub> and PM<sub>10</sub> (particulates). Road traffic is the greatest source of emissions for both of these.
- 3.28 Failure to meet the standards for any of the above pollutants requires declaration of an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) together with the preparation of an Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) to help mitigate the most significant problems. Areas of Concern (AoC) are those locations identified during the review and assessment process as being at risk of exceeding the standards and therefore requiring further investigation. AQAPs are also required for sites deemed to be AoCs.
- 3.29 The Council's Air Quality Action Plan presents a detailed description of the work carried out by Leeds City Council in respect of its duties under the Local Air Quality Management regime. It also acts as a delivery mechanism to present a summary of planning application determinations as well as planning, transport and climate change initiatives that could influence air quality. A Progress Report was published in October 2010.
- 3.30 As a result of the Council's second Detailed Assessment carried out in 2008, the Air Quality Management Orders made in 2001 (for nitrogen dioxide and PM10 particles) were to be revoked and a new Order for nitrogen dioxide,



identifying three of the original Air Quality Management Areas and three new ones was prepared.

- 3.31 The Updating and Screening Assessment carried out in 2009 supported by the revised guidance that became available early in that year had indicated the need to proceed to a further Detailed Assessment for nitrogen dioxide. To enable an appropriate assessment to be made of all the areas of concern, extensive monitoring was commenced in 2009 with additional sites being identified (and monitored) in 2010. The comprehensive monitoring programme led to the third Detailed Assessment, completed in 2011.
- 3.32 Leeds currently has 6 designated AQMAs which are monitored regularly. Figure 10 below shows the location of Leeds AQMA's and AoC's. All are related to traffic related NO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

**Figure 10 - Air Quality Management Areas and Areas of Concern in Leeds**



- 3.33 All the traffic related AQMA's are located close to junctions or interchanges between main radial routes and the Inner Ring Road. These areas suffer from a combination of highly localised emissions from congested junctions on top of the high general background created by the large volume of traffic concentrated over the relatively small city centre area.
- 3.34 The AoC's are isolated areas of housing located very close to the strategic motorway network. There is a risk of these areas exceeding the NAQS standards due to the very high traffic flows and HGV content on these roads.

- 3.35 On-going monitoring throughout Leeds continues to identify road transport emissions as the most significant source of NO<sub>x</sub> and PM<sub>10</sub> in West Yorkshire. Road transport emissions of NO<sub>2</sub> and PM<sub>10</sub> account for approximately 75% (for NO<sub>2</sub>) and 50% (for PM<sub>10</sub>) of total urban emissions. The most significant levels of exhaust emissions (approx 55% of weekday emissions) occur during peak periods (AM & PM), which are exacerbated during congested traffic conditions.

#### GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS, ENERGY CONSUMPTION AND CLIMATE CHANGE

- 3.36 The main greenhouse gas is carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), although other gases including methane and nitrous oxides are also involved.
- 3.37 The scientific evidence is now overwhelming. Since 1990, global temperatures have risen by 0.2C and atmospheric carbon dioxide concentrations have increased from 354 parts per million to over 380 parts per million and are still rising. If the anticipated growth in emissions is left unchecked, global average temperatures could be as much as 5.8C higher by the end of this century, with a devastating impact on our economy and natural world, in the UK and, above all, in the most vulnerable developing countries.
- 3.38 In 2006, Leeds produced almost 6.1 million tonnes of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>). The three biggest contributors are the commercial and industrial sector (37%), domestic (30%) and transport (26%). Over the past four years, total emissions have declined by just 1% with falls in domestic and transport emissions offset by rising commercial and industrial emissions. In 2008/09 Leeds City Council produced 141,699 tonnes of carbon dioxide from buildings, street lighting, fleet vehicles and staff travel. Building emissions (over 70% of council emissions) have been falling steadily since the 1990s and the council has committed to reduce total emissions by 3.4% within two years.
- 3.39 In 2008 the Government has adopted the legally binding target in the Climate Change Act to cut UK emissions by 80% between 1990-2050 and by at least 26% between 2005-20. Given both these factors, we will adopt a target to also reduce emissions from Leeds by 80% between 2005 and 2050. This means cutting total emissions to no more than 1.21m tonnes of carbon dioxide which equates to a reduction of 107,000 tonnes every year. These are very tough targets. But cities around the world will face similar targets over coming years. Early action now to make cost-effective carbon reductions will put Leeds in a strong position in future.

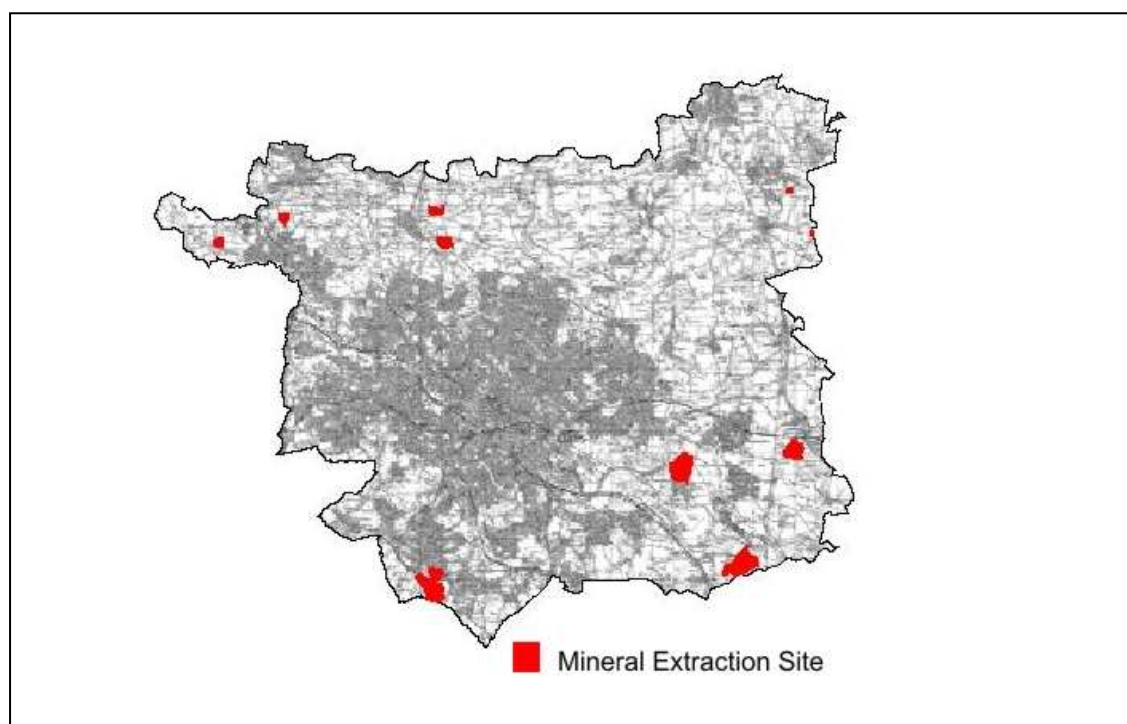
#### NATURAL RESOURCES

- 3.40 There are 14 quarries in Leeds where minerals are produced, these are primarily stone and sand and gravel. A number of sites formerly used for

quarrying or coal mining haven been restored to provide a beneficial use (e.g. for biodiversity and recreation).

- 3.41 There are no more active opencast coal sites in the District. Sand and gravel extraction is a constant but with declining overall permitted reserves. Hard rock quarries still have significant reserves and building stone production is steady, having recovered in recent years, however output is small compared with aggregates. Total aggregate production is around 430,000 tonnes per year, however in order to meet demand Leeds has to import a lot of aggregates.
- 3.42 Minerals and aggregates data are complete at a regional (Yorkshire & Humber) level and this data was reduced proportionally to the Leeds City Council level (Table 6). The conversion factors used were calculated by the proportion of the resources used in the Leeds area according to employment sector. The employment sectors were broken down into manufacturing, construction, services and agriculture. Figure 11 below shows the location of minerals quarries across the District.

**Figure 11 - Minerals Quarries in Leeds**



**Table 3 - Leeds City Council minerals and aggregates data**

Category	Manufacturing	Agriculture	Construction	Services
	(Thousand tonnes)			
<b>Sales of Minerals &amp; Aggregates</b>				
Land-won Sand & Gravel	528	48	N/A	N/A



Category	Manufacturing	Agriculture	Construction	Services
Marine Sand & Gravel	36	10	N/A	N/A
Total Sand & Gravel	563	160	878	812
Crushed Rock	1436	407	2237	2070
<b>Total</b>	<b>2563</b>	<b>625</b>	<b>3115</b>	<b>2882</b>

Consumption of Minerals & Aggregates				
Land-won Sand & Gravel	710	201	N/A	N/A
Marine Sand & Gravel	39	11	N/A	N/A
Total Sand & Gravel	749	212	1167	1079
Crushed Rock	1381	391	2153	1991
<b>Total</b>	<b>2879</b>	<b>815</b>	<b>3320</b>	<b>3070</b>

Imports of Minerals & Aggregates				
Land-won Sand & Gravel	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Marine Sand & Gravel	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total Sand & Gravel	258	73	402	372
Crushed Rock	190	54	296	274
<b>Total</b>	<b>448</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>698</b>	<b>646</b>

Export of Minerals & Aggregates				
Land-won Sand & Gravel	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Marine Sand & Gravel	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total Sand & Gravel	73	21	113	105
Crushed Rock	258	73	402	372
<b>Total</b>	<b>331</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>515</b>	<b>477</b>

### ACCESSIBILITY

- 3.43 Leeds is experiencing continued growth in travel into the city. Road traffic in Leeds grew by 6.4% between 1995 and 2005. In 2004, 759,000 vehicles on an average weekday travelled into/out of central Leeds and traffic flows on some sections of the Inner Ring Road now exceed 80,000 vehicles a day. In

2008 and 2009 traffic levels declined by approximately 2% each year. The first time traffic levels have reduced in two consecutive years since 1979 (Leeds City Council, 2010e). Leeds is the only centre in West Yorkshire to have experienced a marked change in transport mode from 1998 to 2003. There has been a shift away from the use of the private car and towards the use of public transport, especially buses (West Yorkshire Local Transport Plan Partnership, 2006).

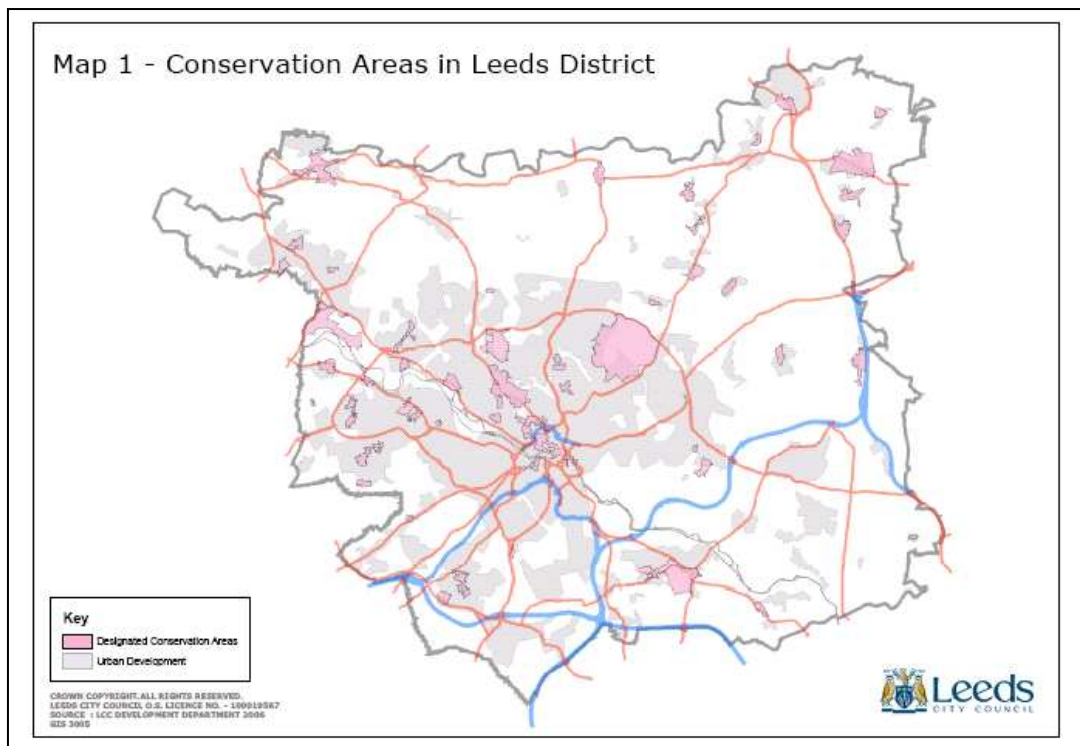
- 3.44 Leeds is connected to other parts of the UK by an extensive network of rail services and is served by the electrified East Coast Main Line (ECML) route. Leeds City Station has the highest number of passengers of any station outside central London, with over 900 trains and 90,000 passengers passing through the station every day. Approximately 18,000 people arrive at the station in the morning peak.
- 3.45 Leeds has good bus services (there are about 90million trips a year) and is also linked into long distance services from the rest of West Yorkshire. The Leeds Free City Bus began operating in January 2006 connecting the rail station with main areas of the city centre including the Infirmary, Dental Hospital, Metropolitan University, main shopping area and the bus and coach stations. The service has been a success and is currently carrying around 5,000 passengers per day with 5% of passengers switching from the car.
- 3.46 Commuting to work in Leeds has increased rapidly in recent years and is projected to increase further. The 2001 Census shows that there are nearly 108,000 commuters travelling into Leeds to work each day (over 55,000 net in-commuters).
- 3.47 Surveys to identify the mode of travel used to enter the city centre in the morning peak period confirm that 57% travel by car; 26% by bus; 12% by rail; 4% walk; less than 1% cycle; and less than 1% use a motorcycle.
- 3.48 Around 34% of households in Leeds lack access to a car and therefore public transport, walking and cycling play a vital role in meeting a very significant travel need in the community. Accessibility to key services and facilities by public transport in Leeds is relatively high. For example 85% and 100% of 16-19 year olds in Leeds are within 30 and 60 minutes respectively of a further education establishment by public transport, and 99% and 100% of people of working age (16-74) are within 20 and 40 minutes respectively of an employment centre. For healthcare, 99% and 100% of households in Leeds without a car are within 15 and 30 minutes respectively of a GP by public transport and 92% and 100% of households without a car are within 30 and 60 minutes respectively of a hospital.
- 3.49 In 2009, 2.7m passengers used Leeds Bradford International Airport, including 1.2m scheduled international passengers. There are now plans to increase the number of passengers using Leeds Bradford Airport to 5m passengers each year by 2016, with a longer-term forecast of 8.2m passengers by 2030.

- 3.50 Traffic levels are also expected to grow across the whole of the Leeds district particularly traffic going into central Leeds. Addressing issues of car use are a major challenge for the Core Strategy in terms of locational policies to reduce the need to travel and incentives to encourage a modal shift from the car to public transport.

### HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT

- 3.51 **Conservation Areas:** There are 76 Conservation Areas in Leeds, which range from the City Centre, suburbs such as Headingley and Roundhay, and some towns and villages, including Otley, Wetherby and Pudsey.

**Figure 12 - Conservation Areas in Leeds District**



- 3.52 **Listed buildings:** Leeds possesses a remarkable range of buildings and structures which are listed, which means they are included in the National List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historical Interest, and thereby given special protection. There are 2336 Listed Buildings in Leeds in 2012. This list is continuing to grow as further buildings are identified and researched by English Heritage.
- 3.53 Since 1998 English Heritage has maintained and published an annual *register of buildings at risk*, which lists details of all Grade I, II and structural scheduled monuments known to be 'at risk' on the basis of condition and (where appropriate) occupancy.

### Entries on the 'Register of Buildings at Risk' in Leeds District - 1999 to 2009

1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2009
12	12	13	12	12	96

- 3.54 **Registered Parks and Gardens:** English Heritage maintains registers of Registered Parks and Gardens. Leeds has 13 Registered Parks and gardens (including two cemeteries).
- 3.55 **Registered Battlefields:** English Heritage also holds records of Registered Battlefields, of which there is one within the Leeds district at Adwalton Moor near Drighlington.
- 3.56 **Scheduled Ancient Monuments:** Special status and protection is given to the oldest sites and structures in the district by their designation as Scheduled Ancient Monuments. These sites are strictly controlled by English Heritage (advising to the Secretary of State), and Leeds now has 57 such sites.
- 3.57 **Heritage at Risk Register**  
The latest English Heritage "Heritage at Risk Register" has identified the following assets as being at risk in Leeds:-  
4 Conservation Areas  
11 Listed Buildings (Leeds has the greatest number of Buildings at Risk in Yorkshire and the Humber)  
2 Registered Parks and Gardens  
10 Scheduled Monuments  
1 Registered Battlefield

## **APPENDIX 5 - SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL FRAMEWORK**

## SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL FRAMEWORK FOR SITE ALLOCATIONS PLAN

SA OBJECTIVES	DECISION MAKING CRITERIA	INDICATORS
<b>ECONOMIC OBJECTIVES</b>		
1. Maintain or improve good quality employment opportunities and reduce the disparities in the Leeds' labour market.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Will it maintain or improve current employment rates in Leeds?</li> <li>b. Will it support employment opportunities for people who live in or close to the area?</li> <li>c. Will it support equal employment opportunities?</li> <li>d. Will it reduce the disparities in employment rates between deprived and affluent parts of Leeds?</li> <li>e. Will it help to reduce the high rates of unemployment among black and ethnic minority groups?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. % of people who are in work</li> <li>2. Total employment</li> <li>3. Unemployment rates (%)</li> <li>4. Worklessness rates (those claiming job seeker's allowance, income support, incapacity benefit)</li> <li>5. Average gross weekly earnings for residents (£)</li> <li>6. % of SOAs in the 20% most deprived nationally in the IMD employment domain</li> <li>7. Difference in employment rates between the highest and lowest SOAs</li> <li>8. Unemployment rates among BME groups (%)</li> <li>9. Amount of land developed for employment by type</li> <li>10. Amount of completed office development and % developed in town centres</li> </ul>
2. Maintain or improve the conditions which have enabled business success, economic growth and investment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Will it support existing businesses?</li> <li>b. Will it encourage investment?</li> <li>c. Will it improve productivity and competitiveness?</li> <li>d. Will it encourage rural diversification?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Gross Value Added (GVA) per capita</li> <li>2. No. of VAT registered businesses</li> <li>3. Amount of completed retail and leisure development</li> <li>4. Employment land supply (ha)</li> </ul>
<b>SOCIAL OBJECTIVES</b>		
3. Increase participation in education and life-long learning and reduce the disparity in participation and qualifications achieved across Leeds.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Will it provide accessible training and learning opportunities for adults and young people?</li> <li>b. Will it increase participation in education and qualifications in disadvantaged communities?</li> <li>c. Will it increase participation in education and qualifications among BME groups?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. % of economically active adults with at least level 2 and level 3 qualifications</li> <li>2. Educational qualifications: students achieving 5 or more GCSEs at grades A*-C</li> <li>3. Educational qualifications of those aged 16-49 by ethnicity</li> <li>4. % of SOAs in the 20% most deprived nationally in the IMD Education, skills and training deprivation domain</li> </ul>
4. Improve conditions and services that engender good health and reduce disparities in health across	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Will it promote healthy life-styles, and help prevent ill-health?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Life expectancy</li> <li>2. Mortality rates from coronary heart disease and cancer</li> </ul>

SA OBJECTIVES	DECISION MAKING CRITERIA	INDICATORS
Leeds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>b. Will it improve access to high quality, health facilities?</li> <li>c. Will it address health inequalities across Leeds?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. % of people of working age population with limiting long-term illness</li> <li>4. % of people whose health was not good</li> <li>5. Estimate of obesity %</li> <li>6. No of people on incapacity benefits and severe disability allowance</li> <li>7. % of SOAs in the 20% most deprived nationally in the IMD Health deprivation &amp; disability domain</li> </ul>
5. Reduce overall rates of crime, and reduce the disparities in crime rates across Leeds.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Will it help address the causes of crime?</li> <li>b. Will it help to reduce disparities in crime rates across Leeds?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Crime survey trends in burglary and vehicle related thefts</li> <li>2. Recorded crime (violent crime, robbery, domestic burglary, vehicle crime, criminal damage)</li> <li>3. Fear of crime in residents surveys</li> <li>4. % of SOAs in the 20% most deprived nationally in the IMD crime domain</li> </ul>
6. Maintain and improve culture, leisure and recreational activities that are available to all	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Will it increase provision of culture, leisure and recreational (CLR) activities/venues?</li> <li>b. Will it increase non-car based CLR activities?</li> <li>c. Will it increase participation in CLR activities by (i) local people and (ii) tourists?</li> <li>d. Will it preserve, promote and enhance local culture and heritage?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Visitor statistics from major attractions</li> <li>2. % participation in sport and physical activity</li> </ul>
7. Improve the overall quality of housing and reduce the disparity in housing markets across Leeds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Will it make housing available to people in need (taking into account requirements of location, size, type and affordability)?</li> <li>b. Will it reduce (the risk of) low housing demand in some parts of the city, and reduce the number of empty properties?</li> <li>c. Will it help improve the quality of the housing stock and reduce the number of unfit homes?</li> <li>d. Will it improve energy efficiency in housing to reduce fuel-poverty and ill-health?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Housing completions (annual number)</li> <li>2. Average house price</li> <li>3. House price/earnings ratio</li> <li>4. Annual completions of affordable housing</li> <li>5. % of dwellings by tenure (owner-occupied, private rented and social rented)</li> <li>6. % of total dwellings that are vacant</li> <li>7. % of LA and RSL dwellings that are difficult to let</li> <li>8. % of LA, RSL and owner-occupied dwellings that are low demand</li> </ul>

SA OBJECTIVES	DECISION MAKING CRITERIA	INDICATORS
		9. % of total dwelling stock that is unfit 10. % of LA dwellings that fall below the 'Decent Homes Standard' 11. % of Fuel poor households 12. Average energy efficiency rating of homes
8. Increase social inclusion and active community participation	<p><i>Social inclusion</i></p> a. Will it help to reduce poverty? b. Will it provide more services and facilities that are appropriate to the needs of ethnic minorities, older people, young people and disabled people? <p><i>Community participation</i></p> c. Will it give the community opportunities to participate in or towards making decisions? d. Will local community organisations be supported to identify and address their own priorities? e. Does it enable less-well resourced groups to take part? f. Does it take steps to involve not yet reached groups?	<p><i>Social inclusion</i></p> 1. % of SOAs in the 20% most deprived nationally in the IMD Income deprivation domain 2. % of SOAs in the 20% most deprived nationally in the IMD Income deprivation affecting children index 3. % of SOAs in the 20% most deprived nationally in the IMD Income deprivation affecting older people index 4. Educational qualifications of African Caribbean, Pakistani and Bangladeshi pupils: students achieving 5 or more GCSEs at grades A*-C compared to Leeds average 5. Unemployment rates among BME groups (%) <p><i>Community participation</i></p> 6. Civic participation - % who participated in civic affairs in the last 12 months 7. Turnout in local elections (%)
9. Increase community cohesion	a. Will it build better relationships across diverse communities and interests? b. Will it increase people's feelings of belonging? c. Will it encourage communities to value diversity? d. Could it create or increase tensions and conflict locally or with other communities?	<p><i>Indicators to be included from Community Cohesion Action Plan when finalised</i></p>
ENVIRONMENTAL OBJECTIVES		
10. Increase the quantity, quality and accessibility of greenspace	a. Will it increase the quantity of publicly accessible greenspace? b. Will it address deficiencies of greenspace in areas that are under-provided? c. Will it improve the quality and management of greenspace across Leeds?	1. Quantity of greenspace 2. Quantity of greenspace per 1,000 population 3. % of eligible greenspace managed to green flag award standard 4. Accessibility of greenspace to residential areas (Core Strategy Policy G3 Standards for Open Space, Sport and Recreation)
11. Minimise the pressure on greenfield land by efficient land use patterns that make good use of	a. Does it make efficient use of land by promoting development on previously used land, re-use of	1. % of land developed for employment which is on previously developed land



SA OBJECTIVES	DECISION MAKING CRITERIA	INDICATORS
derelict and previously used sites & promote balanced development, provided that it is not of high environmental value (defined as ecological value)	buildings and higher densities? b. Will it promote the development of communities with accessible services, employment, shops and leisure facilities?	2. % of new homes on previously developed land 3. % of new dwellings completed at less than 30 dwellings per hectare 4. % of previously developed land of 'high environmental value' lost to development
12. Maintain and enhance, restore or add to biodiversity or geological conservation interests	a. Will it protect and enhance existing habitats, especially priority habitats identified in the UK and the Leeds Biodiversity Action Plan? b. Will it protect and enhance protected and important species? (Important species are those identified in the UK and the Leeds BAP.) c. Will it protect and enhance existing designated nature conservation sites? d. Will it provide for appropriate long term management of habitats? e. Will it make use of opportunities to create and enhance habitats as part of development proposals? f. Will it protect / mitigate ecological interests on previously-developed sites? g. Will it protect sites of geological interest?	1. Change in priority habitats by area 2. Areas designated for their intrinsic environmental value inc. sites of international, national, sub-regional or local significance (SSSIs, SEGIs, LNRs, LNAs) 3. Status/condition of SSSIs (favourable or recovering) (%)
13. Reduce greenhouse gas emissions and thereby help to tackle climate change	Will it reduce greenhouse gas emissions from: a. Transport	1. Estimated CO <sub>2</sub> emissions (Total) 2. Estimated CO <sub>2</sub> emissions (Industry/Commercial) 3. Estimated CO <sub>2</sub> emissions (Domestic) 4. Estimated CO <sub>2</sub> emissions (Road Transport)
14. Improve Leeds' ability to manage extreme weather conditions including flood risk and climate change	<i>Flood Risk including likely effects of climate change</i> a. Will it prevent inappropriate development on flood plains and prepare for the likelihood of increased flooding in future? b. Does it reduce the role of multi-functional green infrastructure?	1. No. of properties located within flood risk zones 2. Number of incidences of internal property flooding per annum 3. No. of planning permissions granted contrary to the advice of the Environment Agency on flood defence grounds
15. Provide a transport network which maximises access, whilst minimising detrimental impacts	a. Will it reduce the need to travel by increasing access to key services and facilities by means other than the car?	1. AM peak period mode split to central Leeds 2. Change in area wide road traffic 3. Change in peak period traffic flows to central Leeds.

SA OBJECTIVES	DECISION MAKING CRITERIA	INDICATORS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>b. Will it ease congestion on the road network?</li> <li>c. Will it provide/improve/promote information about alternatives to car-based transport?</li> <li>d. Will it reduce the number of journeys by personal motor transport?</li> <li>e. Will it make the transport/environment attractive to non-car users?</li> <li>f. Will it encourage freight transfer from road to rail and water?</li> <li>g. Will it reduce the causes of transport-related accidents?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. Ease of pedestrian access to jobs, services, leisure etc (pedestrian counts)</li> <li>5. Peak period rail patronage</li> <li>6. Annualised index of cycling trips</li> <li>7. Distance of public transport stops/station to residential areas (desire lines distances between public transport facilities and residential areas)</li> <li>8. Total killed/seriously injured (KSI) casualties</li> <li>9. Child KSI casualties</li> </ul>
16. Increase the proportion of local needs that are met locally	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Will it support the use of more local suppliers for agriculture, manufacture, construction, retailing and other services?</li> <li>b. Will it ensure that essential services (e.g. education, employment, health services and shops) and resources to serve communities are within reasonable non-car based travelling distance?</li> <li>c. Will it provide appropriate housing for local needs?</li> <li>d. Will it support the vibrancy of city, town and village centres?</li> <li>e. Will it help facilitate improved ICT services and resources in disadvantaged communities?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. % of new residential development within 30 minutes public transport time of a GP, hospital, primary and secondary school, employment and a major health centre</li> <li>2. % of new residential development within 800m (10 minutes walk) of: a GP premises, primary school, supermarket or convenience store, post office</li> <li>3. Number of vacant units and % of vacant floorspace in town centres</li> <li>4. Amount and % of completed retail, office and leisure development respectively in town centres</li> </ul>
17. Reduce the growth in waste generated and landfilled.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Will it help to provide or safeguard facilities for recycling, recovering and processing waste?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Total household waste (kg per person)</li> <li>2. Household waste recycled (%)</li> <li>3. Amount of municipal waste arising, &amp; managed by type, &amp; the % each management</li> </ul>
18. Reduce pollution levels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Will it promote the clean-up of contaminated land?</li> <li>b. Will it reduce air, water, land, noise and light pollution?</li> <li>c. Will it reduce the risk of pollution incidents and environmental accidents?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Total area of contaminated land</li> <li>2. No. of days when air pollution is moderate or high</li> <li>3. Number of Air Quality Management Areas and areas of concern / no. of dwellings affected</li> <li>4. Annual road traffic emissions of NOx across principal road network</li> <li>5. Water quality – length of rivers in good or fair chemical</li> </ul>

SA OBJECTIVES	DECISION MAKING CRITERIA	INDICATORS
		and biological quality 6. Satisfaction with cleanliness of streets
19. Maintain and enhance landscape quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Will it maintain and enhance areas of high landscape value (defined as Special Landscape Areas)?</li> <li>b. Will it protect and enhance individual features such as hedgerows, dry stone walls, ponds and trees?</li> <li>c. Will it increase the quality and quantity of woodland features in appropriate locations and using native species?</li> <li>d. Will it protect and enhance the landscape quality of the City's rivers and other waterways?</li> <li>e. Will it take account of the geomorphology of the land?</li> <li>f. Will it maintain and enhance landscape character of the area?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Amount of development taking place in areas of high landscape value</li> <li>2. Area of woodland coverage</li> <li>3. % developments which maintain and enhance quality of countryside and local landscape character</li> </ul>
20. Maintain and enhance the quality and distinctiveness of the built environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Will it ensure new development is appropriate to its setting and support local distinctiveness?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Consistency of development with Leeds City Council design guidance</li> </ul>
21. Preserve and enhance the historic environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Will it protect and enhance sites, features and areas of historical, archaeological and cultural value in urban and rural areas?</li> <li>b. Will it protect and enhance listed buildings, conservation areas and other designated historic features and their settings?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. No. of listed building of each grade, conservation areas, scheduled ancient monuments, historic parks and gardens and Registered Battle fields</li> <li>2. No. of heritage assets identified as being 'at risk' on the English Heritage "Heritage at Risk Register"</li> <li>2. No. of listed buildings demolished</li> <li>3. No. &amp; % of conservation areas with appraisals</li> <li>4. Areas of known significant archaeological interest of national, regional or local interest</li> </ul>
22. Make efficient use of energy and natural resources and promote sustainable design.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Will it increase energy and water efficiency in all sectors?</li> <li>b. Will it increase energy from renewable sources?</li> <li>c. Will it promote the energy, water and resource efficiency of buildings?</li> <li>d. Will it minimise the loss of high quality agricultural land and soils?</li> <li>e. Will it affect land designated for minerals use?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Domestic water consumption (litres/day/household)</li> <li>2. Use of SUDS and interceptor measures</li> <li>3. Renewable energy capacity installed by type</li> <li>4. Agricultural land classification</li> </ul>

**APPENDIX 6 – TABLES ASSESSING SITES AGAINST SA OBJECTIVES**

**To be completed**