

Appendix 4:

The Leeds Core Strategy & the Leeds City Region

1. As the regional capital, Leeds has a number of key roles to play at the heart of the City Region. This is reflected in the role of Leeds as: -
 - § a key economic driver for the Yorkshire and Humber region as a whole, a strategic transport hub (with key gateways to the City and City Region through Leeds City Station and Leeds Bradford International Airport and connections beyond);
 - § the location of major international sporting and learning establishments (including Headingley, Elland Road, the University of Leeds, Leeds Metropolitan University and Leeds College of Music);
 - § the role of the City Centre as a destination for major retail, leisure, cultural and commercial development. This includes both existing facilities and attractions (such as City Varieties, West Yorkshire Play House and the Grand Theatre) but also investment in major development and new attractions (including the Leeds Arena and Trinity retail development - due to open Spring 2013, improvements to Kirkgate Market, the Eastgate retail development, the south bank and new city centre park and the Southern entrance to Leeds City Station).
 - § Situated within the Lower Aire Valley, the Leeds City Region Enterprise zone and proposals for an urban eco settlement, based around existing communities and commercial activities (linking the City Centre to Fairburnings) provide major new opportunities for investment in mixed use, low carbon and sustainable development, situated as part of strategic network of green infrastructure.
2. Analysis of these roles through travel to work patterns, housing market geography, retail catchment patterns and wider economic relationships demonstrates that the city has a reach well beyond its administrative boundary that drives the wider economy and has complex interdependencies particularly with its larger neighbours.
3. In reflecting this strategic role and the delivery of an ambitious programme of major investment and infrastructure projects, Leeds aspires to be the 'best city in the UK' (Vision for Leeds 2011). In helping to take this forward the Core Strategy takes forward the overarching spatial and land use aspects of this vision, in planning for population changes and the homes, jobs and investment needed across the District in a sustainable manner. This is crucial in ensuring that longer term regeneration and growth is achieved in a form which respects local character and distinctiveness, meets local needs, managing environmental resources and in providing a strategic framework for, influencing investment decisions, securing resources and in delivering resources.
4. The development of the city's wider role has been taken forward through the City Region Partnership which was established in 2004. This Partnership of eleven local authorities is almost wholly self contained in regard of travel to work patterns and therefore can reasonably described as a functional

economic area. This has been confirmed by the creation of the City Region Local Enterprise Partnership in 2010 which complements the established local government partnership. The Partnership has developed priorities for addressing the opportunities for and barriers to growth through the LEP Plan and thematic strategies for Transport, Green Infrastructure and Housing and Regeneration. In summer 2012 the City Region agreed a City Deal with the Government which includes the creation of a city region investment fund that will enable a more effective approach to investment in Transport Infrastructure and economic growth. The priorities for the fund will be shaped by a city region investment plan that is currently being developed. Both the investment plan and the fund will be launched in April 2013

5. In seeking to develop the role of Leeds as part of the wider City Region, the Core Strategy sets out a Spatial Vision and Objectives. Central to this approach is the desire to support economic growth and job creation (including the role of the City Centre and Aire Valley Leeds), planning for housing growth to meet needs in sustainable locations - related to the distinctive settlement pattern, supporting existing town and local centres and the provision of community infrastructure (including the provision of health and school facilities to meet the needs of a changing population), the protection and enhancement of the City's unique character and the delivery of high quality, innovative and sustainable design, the management of environmental resources (including opportunities for low carbon and energy efficient heat and power, the key role of green infrastructure and the delivery of an integrated transport system (and major projects) to improve accessibility and economic competitiveness.