



Craven Local Plan

Equality Impact Assessment

Pre-publication draft, April 2016

Introduction

Equality Impact Assessment is an important part of Craven District Council's commitment to meeting the needs of all local communities. Completing an Equality Impact Assessment of policies and decisions enables the Council to consider people's different needs and how they can be met. An assessment will often take account of views expressed by stakeholders.

The Equality Act 2010 requires the Council to work towards

- eliminating unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation
- advancing equality of opportunity and
- fostering good relations

with respect to the following 'protected characteristics'

- age
- disability
- gender reassignment
- marriage and civil partnership
- pregnancy and maternity
- race
- religion or belief
- sex
- sexual orientation

The Equality Impact Assessment process helps in understanding the likely impacts of a proposal on protected groups. If a proposal is likely to have a negative effect on some people, the assessment may reveal ways in which the effect can be reduced or removed. Assessments are considered by the Council's policy committee, with significant implications highlighted in a covering report, so that decision-making takes full account of the Council's equality responsibilities.

The following document is an Equality Impact Assessment of draft planning policies, which appeared in the April 2016 version of the draft Craven Local Plan. Equality Impact Assessment has been abbreviated to EqIA to distinguish it from Environmental Impact Assessment.

Equality Impact Assessment reports

A report has been prepared for each of the April 2016 draft local plan policies using a format based on the Council's standard EqlA template:

- Reports begin by assessing the policy's relevance to equality
- A copy of the policy is included in the report for ease of reference
- A reasoned answer is provided to the question of whether the policy has the potential to cause a negative impact on or discriminate against protected groups
- If the answer is 'no', the assessment is complete, but if the answer is 'yes' the assessment continues to a second and third stage
- The second stage is judging how the impact may be addressed
- The third and final stage is establishing an action plan for addressing the impact

Summary of results

In this initial EqlA of emerging local plan policies, a potential impact on equality has been identified in draft policy ENV1: Countryside and Landscape. As a result, two revisions to the policy have been recommended for inclusion in the next consultation draft of the local plan.

A separate EqlA report for each draft policy is provided below, in the same order that policies appeared in the draft local plan itself.

Next steps

A further pre-publication draft of the emerging Craven Local Plan will be subjected to public consultation in 2017. This initial EqlA of policies contained in the previous draft will form part of that consultation. This will enable further and wider consideration of potential equality impacts and an opportunity for valuable feedback from stakeholders – especially those with a particular interest or expertise in equality matters. Stakeholder feedback will be used to review and refine the EqlA, which will then be used in the finalisation of policies for the publication version of the Craven Local Plan.

Monitoring

The Council is required to monitor the effectiveness of local plan policies and to report its findings in an Annual Monitoring Report (AMR). The AMR is an essential part of the local plan process and enables the Council to examine past trends and predict future changes across a range of economic, environmental and social indicators; determine whether relevant local plan policies are having a positive or negative effect; and identify any need to amend, supplement, replace or remove policies.

Establishing relevance to equality

DRAFT POLICY SD1: THE PRESUMPTION IN FAVOUR OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The Craven Local Plan provides a positive planning framework for guiding development and change in Craven in line with national planning policy. At the heart of the local plan is the aim to deliver sustainable growth.

The Council will take a positive and proactive approach to the consideration of development proposals that reflects the presumption in favour of sustainable development that is contained in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

The Council will take a proactive approach and will work co-operatively with people and organisations wishing to carry out development and applying for planning permission.

Development that accords with the provisions of the local plan (and neighbourhood plan where applicable) will be approved unless material considerations indicate otherwise.

Where the local plan (or neighbourhood plan where applicable) is silent, or where relevant policies have become out of date, proposals for development will be approved, unless there are sound planning reasons why development should not be approved, taking into account whether:

- a) Any adverse impacts of development would outweigh the benefits, when assessed against the National Planning Policy Framework (taken as a whole); or**
- b) Specific policies in the National Planning Policy Framework indicate that development should be restricted.**

Does the policy or procedure have the potential to cause negative impact or discriminate against different groups in the community based on age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation?

Links to evidence:

[National Planning Policy Framework](#)

Answer:

No. Sustainable development is about positive growth – making economic, environmental and social progress for this and future generations.

Establishing relevance to equality

DRAFT POLICY SP1: MEETING HOUSING NEED

To meet the housing needs of Craven, provision is made for 5,120 net additional dwellings in the plan area over the period 1st April 2012 to 31st March 2032. This is a minimum provision and equates to an annual average housing requirement of 256 net additional dwellings per annum. The housing requirement will be provided through all of the following:-

- a) Net dwellings completed since 1 April 2012;
- b) Sites with planning permission or under construction;
- c) New site allocations identified in the local plan at Policies SP5, SP6, SP7, SP8, SP9, SP10 and SP11 in accordance with the distribution strategy set out at Policy SP4;
- d) Small sites allowance identified in accordance with the distribution strategy set out at Policy SP4.

Housing monitoring shows that 282 net dwellings have been completed between 1 April 2012 and 31 March 2015 and 988 dwellings are either under construction or have planning permission as at 31 March 2015. Table 3 below shows what the balance of the housing requirement is to be provided on sites granted planning permission since 31 March 2015, new site allocations and via the small site allowance over the plan period.

Does the policy or procedure have the potential to cause negative impact or discriminate against different groups in the community based on age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation?

Links to evidence:

[Craven Strategic Housing Market Assessment 2015](#)

Answer:

No. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) requires local planning authorities to use their evidence base to ensure that their local plan meets the full, objectively assessed needs for market and affordable housing in their area.

Establishing relevance to equality

DRAFT POLICY SP2: ECONOMIC ACTIVITY AND BUSINESS GROWTH

The local economy will grow, diversify and generate new employment and productivity opportunities. This will be achieved by:

- a) Supporting sustainable economic activity within towns, villages and the rural areas, including the sustainable growth of the existing employment cluster at Broughton Hall Business Park;**
- b) Safeguarding existing employment land (in Policy EC2);**
- c) Making provision for 28 Hectares of additional employment land in Craven for economic activity purposes. Site allocations are made in Skipton, identified in Policy SP 5; in Settle, identified in Policy SP6; in Bentham, identified in Policy SP7; and in settlements identified in Policies SP8 to SP11, to reflect the distribution strategy set out in Policy SP4. The site allocations in Skipton, Settle and Bentham underpin the roles of these settlements as areas of change and enhancement, and to reflect their roles as key service centres for their respective sub areas and in the case of Skipton, as the principal town for Craven; and**
- d) Supporting enhanced transport connectivity with the wider Leeds City Region, Lancashire, Cumbria and Greater Manchester. This includes capacity and congestion mitigation improvements, pedestrian and cycle links to enhanced public transport facilities and protection of the original double track route of the Skipton to Colne railway line for future transport use as identified on the policies map.**

Individual development proposals will be considered under Policy EC1: Employment & Economic Development.

Does the policy or procedure have the potential to cause negative impact or discriminate against different groups in the community based on age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation?

Links to evidence:

Employment Land Review (draft, 2016)

Answer:

No. Economic growth will be balanced with housing growth and employment opportunities will be provided for all residents and entrepreneurs.

Establishing relevance to equality

DRAFT POLICY SP3: HOUSING MIX

The Council will work to enhance the overall mix of housing types and sizes provided in the plan area so that it reflects and responds to the demographic profile of the resident population, is attractive to households of working age and families, and is accessible to newly forming households, or those wishing to downsize later in life. Proposals will be supported where they meet these policy objectives and, in respect of individual allocated sites, meet the provisions for housing mix within Policies SP5, SP6, SP7, SP8, SP9, SP10 and SP11.

Does the policy or procedure have the potential to cause negative impact or discriminate against different groups in the community based on age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation?

Links to evidence:

[Craven Strategic Housing Market Assessment 2015](#)

Answer:

No. The mix of housing to be provided will reflect the objectively assessed need, as evidenced in the SHMA. Evidence highlights a need for smaller one and two-bedroom homes and homes for older people, families, newly forming households and households working locally in a growing economy.

Establishing relevance to equality

DRAFT POLICY SP4: SPATIAL STRATEGY AND HOUSING GROWTH

To deliver the spatial strategy and underpin sustainable growth within the plan area over the plan period 2012 to 2032, new dwellings, are distributed in the following hierarchy:

Tier	Settlement	Proportion of housing growth (%) at 256 net dwellings pa	Housing Provision (net dwellings pa)
1	Skipton (Principal Town Service Centre for Craven and south sub area)	50%	128
2	Settle (Key Service Centre for mid sub area)	10.5%	27
2	Low and High Bentham (Key Service Centre for north sub area)	10.2%	26
3	Glusburn/Crosshills (Local Service Centre)	5.1%	13
3	Ingleton (Local Service Centre)	3.1%	8
3	Gargrave (Local Service Centre)	2%	5
4a	Villages with Basic Services		
	Burton-in-Lonsdale	1.2%	3
	Carleton,	1.2%	3
	Cononley	1.2%	3
	Cowling	0.8%	2
	Farnhill & Kildwick	0.8%	2

	Hellifield	0.8%	2
	Low Bradley	0.8%	2
	Sutton-in-Craven.	2%	5
	Rathmell	0.8%	2
4b	Settlements with basic services that are bisected by the National Park Boundary		
	Bolton Abbey	0%	0
	Clapham	0.8%	2
	Embsay	1.2%	3
	Giggleswick	0.8%	2
	Long Preston	0%	0
5	Other villages/open countryside small sites allowance across Craven.	6.7%	18

Most growth is directed towards Skipton as the Tier 1 settlement. Growth to underpin and enhance their roles as Key Service Centres is directed towards Settle and High Bentham as Tier 2 settlements. Proportionate growth to underpin their roles as Local Service Centres is directed towards Glusburn/Crosshills, Gargrave and Ingleton as Tier 3 settlements. More limited growth is directed towards Tier 4a settlements to sustain their vitality and function, whilst Tier 4b settlements will receive limited growth to reflect the roles of these settlements as Local Service Centres and/or tourism hubs/gateways in/on the edge of the Yorkshire Dales National Park.

contd

Tier 5 settlements and open countryside will receive a low level of growth which:

- a) Is necessary to support a sustainable, vibrant and healthy rural economy and communities; or**
- b) Can be justified in order to secure significant improvements to the environment or conservation of designated heritage assets in accordance with the National Enabling Development Policy; or**
- c) Is justified through the neighbourhood planning process**

Does the policy or procedure have the potential to cause negative impact or discriminate against different groups in the community based on age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation?

Links to evidence:

[Sustainability Appraisal of Spatial Strategy Options \(5/4/16\)](#)

Answer:

No. The spatial strategy reflects the roles of settlements, their respective functions and level of services and consideration of their ability to accommodate growth and improve the mix of housing. The strategy is the preferred option to deliver sustainable patterns of development in Craven.

Establishing relevance to equality

NOTE: THE COUNCIL IS CURRENTLY CONSULTING ON A POOL OF SITE OPTIONS (SEE POOL OF SITE OPTIONS WITH POTENTIAL FOR RESIDENTIAL OR MIXED USE CONSULTATION DOCUMENT) SO THE FOLLOWING POLICIES SP5 TO SP11 DO NOT AT THIS STAGE SHOW ANY SPECIFIC SITES TO MEET THE DISTRIBUTION OF HOUSING REQUIREMENTS UNDER POLICY SP4, AND THE EMPLOYMENT LAND REQUIREMENTS OF POLICY SP2.

SPECIFIC SITES AND INFRASTRUCTURE REQUIREMENTS WILL BE DETAILED IN POLICIES SP5 TO SP12 FOLLOWING CONSIDERATION OF CONSULTATION RESPONSES ON THE POOL OF SITE OPTIONS AND PREFERRED SITES HAVE BEEN SELECTED FROM THE POOL OF SITE OPTIONS.

DRAFT POLICY SP5: STRATEGY FOR SKIPTON –TIER 1

Skipton is the primary focus for growth and provision is made for the following development areas to meet the housing needs, commercial and employment space in the town:

Area Ref	Location	Uses
SK		
Commentary		

Does the policy or procedure have the potential to cause negative impact or discriminate against different groups in the community based on age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation?

Links to evidence:

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Answer:

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Establishing relevance to equality

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DRAFT POLICY SP6: STRATEGY FOR SETTLE – TIER 2

Settle is a secondary location for growth in the plan area, providing serviced employment land and housing growth to reflect the role of Settle as a rail connected key service centre for the mid sub area. Development will provide housing to meet local needs whilst employment development will ensure that a medium to long term supply of serviced employment land is delivered to provide opportunities for entrepreneurs and businesses to expand and locate in the mid sub area. Provision is made for the following sites and locations to meet these aims:

Area Ref	Location	Uses
SE		
Commentary		

Does the policy or procedure have the potential to cause negative impact or discriminate against different groups in the community based on age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation?

Links to evidence:

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Answer:

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Establishing relevance to equality

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DRAFT POLICY SP7: STRATEGY FOR BENTHAM –TIER 2

Bentham is a secondary location for growth in the plan area, reflecting its role as a key service centre in the north sub area and providing serviced employment land and housing growth to underpin growing prosperity in the town; capitalise on linkages with the rail connected university city of Lancaster, and the tourism potential of the Forest of Bowland AONB.

Provision is made for the following development areas to bolster prosperity and resilience in the town:

Area Ref	Location	Uses
BE		
Commentary		

Does the policy or procedure have the potential to cause negative impact or discriminate against different groups in the community based on age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation?

Links to evidence:

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Answer:

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Establishing relevance to equality

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DRAFT POLICY SP8: STRATEGY FOR GLUSBURN/CROSSHILLS – TIER 3

Located between Skipton and Steeton/Silsden in Bradford district, Glusburn/Crosshills is a substantial centre of population in Craven and is a service centre. There are however physical constraints to growth that influence future growth and direction. A proportionate level of growth is directed towards to Glusburn/Crosshills which takes account of this role, recognises associated infrastructure constraints and accounts for development opportunities. Provision is made for the following sites to secure growth that underpins the role and function of Glusburn/Crosshills:

Area Ref	Location	Uses
GL		
Commentary		

Does the policy or procedure have the potential to cause negative impact or discriminate against different groups in the community based on age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation?

Links to evidence:

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Answer:

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Establishing relevance to equality

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DRAFT POLICY SP9: STRATEGY FOR INGLETON –TIER 3

Located to the north of Low and High Bentham and adjacent to the A65, Ingleton is a tourist and employment centre, with a village centre that is struggling for vitality. A proportionate level of growth is directed towards Ingleton to bolster its' role and function as a service centre, and provision is made for the following sites to achieve this:

Area Ref	Location	Uses
IN		
Commentary		

Does the policy or procedure have the potential to cause negative impact or discriminate against different groups in the community based on age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation?

Links to evidence:

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Answer:

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Establishing relevance to equality

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DRAFT POLICY SP10: STRATEGY FOR GARGRAVE –TIER 3

Located astride the A65 and benefitting from rail connections with Skipton, Settle, Lancaster and beyond, Gargrave provides employment opportunities and has an active community set within a high quality built environment. A neighbourhood plan is in preparation. A proportionate level of growth is directed towards Gargrave to underpin and bolster its' role and function as a local service centre as follows:

Area Ref	Location	Uses
GA		
Commentary		

Does the policy or procedure have the potential to cause negative impact or discriminate against different groups in the community based on age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation?

Links to evidence:

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Answer:

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Establishing relevance to equality

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DRAFT POLICY SP11: STRATEGY FOR TIER 4A AND 4B VILLAGES WITH BASIC SERVICES AND BISECTED VILLAGES WITH BASIC SERVICES

Tier 4 settlements will receive a limited amount of growth that underpins their role and function as settlements with basic services and to ensure ongoing sustainability.

Villages with basic services and/or tourism function which are bisected by the National Park boundary also receive an appropriate level of growth on the following sites:

Area Ref	Location	Uses
T4a.		
Commentary		
Area Ref	Location	Uses
T4b.		
Commentary		

Does the policy or procedure have the potential to cause negative impact or discriminate against different groups in the community based on age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation?

Links to evidence: ?

Answer: ?

Establishing relevance to equality

DRAFT POLICY SP12: INFRASTRUCTURE, STRATEGY AND DEVELOPMENT DELIVERY

The Council will work with statutory undertakers, utility companies and other agencies to identify and deliver adequate infrastructure to serve the growth proposals and change set out in this plan, and to support local communities.

The Council will work to secure adequate mitigation and minimise any adverse impacts arising from the delivery of new infrastructure required to deliver the plan proposals. Decisions on the timing and phasing of infrastructure delivery will be tied to the timing and phasing of development delivery over the plan period. Associated decisions should be taken based upon an assessment of the contribution to social, economic and environmental sustainability, and effect upon implementation of the strategy, not solely cost.

Development proposals should provide, or enable the provision of, infrastructure which is directly related to, or made necessary by that development. Where infrastructure cannot be provided directly, the Council will seek developer contributions through planning obligations in accordance with policy INF1 or Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL).

The Council expects that infrastructure improvements and investments to be delivered by development, or through developer contributions. Delivery of infrastructure should be timely and to an adoptable standard, as specified by the relevant responsible statutory undertaker, organisation or authority.

Does the policy or procedure have the potential to cause negative impact or discriminate against different groups in the community based on age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation?

Links to evidence:	Evidence of infrastructure requirements is being gathered and will be used to formulate an Infrastructure Delivery Plan.
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Answer:	?
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Establishing relevance to equality

DRAFT POLICY ENV1: COUNTRYSIDE AND LANDSCAPE

Sustainable growth will ensure that the quality of Craven's countryside and landscape is conserved for future generations to enjoy; and that opportunities to restore and enhance the landscape are taken wherever possible. To achieve this, the Council will:

- a) Expect new development proposals, in those areas not subject to national landscape designations, to respect, safeguard, and wherever possible, restore or enhance the landscape character of the area. Proposals should have regard to the relevant Landscape Character Appraisal, and specifically to the different landscape character types that are present in the plan area. Proposals should show how they respond to the particular character type they are located within.**
- b) Support proposals that secure the restoration of degraded landscapes, in ways that also help to achieve biodiversity and heritage objectives.**
- c) Support proposals that secure the restoration, preservation and where possible enhancement of natural and historic man-made features.**
- d) In determining proposals which affect the Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and its setting or the setting of the Yorkshire Dales National Park, the Council will give great weight to conservation of their landscape (including their intrinsically dark landscapes for the enjoyment and experience of dark skies) and scenic beauty. In addition, proposals will be considered on a needs basis, should be in scale with, and have respect for their surroundings and be in line with the AONB or National Park Management Plan objectives.**
- e) Enable settlements to grow in ways that respect their form, distribution and landscape setting. Important considerations will include creating connections between built-up areas and the countryside, allowing the countryside to permeate built-up areas, and maintaining gaps between settlements in order to preserve their separate identities.**

Does the policy or procedure have the potential to cause negative impact or discriminate against different groups in the community based on age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation?

Links to evidence: [Rights of Way Improvement Plan](#) (currently under review), [Local Access Forums](#) ([NYCC](#) and [YDNP](#))

Answer: Yes. Whilst the draft policy's supporting text mentions the Rights of Way Improvement Plan and Local Access Forums, the policy itself doesn't actually promote disabled access to the countryside.

Addressing the impact

Having considered the potential or actual impacts the policymaker should be in a position to make an informed judgment on what should be done. There are four possible options:

Which of the options below best address the impact?

Options:

1. No major change - the EIA demonstrates that the policy is robust and that the evidence shows no potential for discrimination and that all opportunities to promote equality have been taken.
2. Adjust the policy to remove barriers or better promote equality.
3. Continue the policy despite potential for adverse impact or missed opportunities to promote equality.
4. Stop and remove the policy – if the policy shows actual or potential unlawful discrimination it must be stopped and removed or changed.

Answer:

2. Adjust the policy to remove barriers or better promote equality.

With the addition of the following new paragraph, between current paragraphs d) and e), the policy would better promote equality and, at the same time, would be improved more generally:

- **Support proposals that secure the restoration, preservation and where possible enhancement of the public rights of way network, including the improvement of existing public rights of way, the creation of new public rights of way and the promotion of disabled access to the countryside.**

Leading on from this, current paragraph e) could also be improved by mentioning public rights of way specifically:

- e) Enable settlements to grow in ways that respect their form, distribution and landscape setting. Important considerations will include: allowing the countryside to permeate built-up areas; maintaining gaps between settlements in order to preserve their separate identities; and preserving and creating connections between built-up areas and the countryside, including existing and new public rights of way.**

Action plan

	ACTION	BY WHEN
1	Revise draft policy ENV1 as suggested above and re-consult	In time for scheduled consultation on the 2017 pre-publication draft local plan
2	Take comments into account before finalising the policy	In time for scheduled publication of the final local plan in 2017

Establishing relevance to equality

DRAFT POLICY ENV2: HERITAGE

Craven's historic environment will be conserved and, where appropriate, enhanced and its potential to contribute towards the economic regeneration, tourism and education of the area fully exploited. This will be achieved through:-

a) Paying particular attention to the conservation of those elements which contribute most to the District's distinctive character and sense of place.

These include:-

- i) The legacy of mills, chimneys, and terraced housing associated with the textile industry**
- ii) The buildings and structures associated with Settle-Carlisle Railway**
- iii) The buildings, bridges, locks and other and structures associated with the Leeds-Liverpool Canal and Thanet Canal**
- iv) The historic market towns of Skipton and Settle**
- v) The legacy of traditional barns and other buildings and structures associated with the farming industry and historic land estates**

b) Ensuring that proposals affecting a designated heritage asset (or an archaeological site of national importance) conserve those elements which contribute to its significance. Harm to such elements will be permitted only where this is outweighed by the public benefits of the proposal. Substantial harm or total loss to the significance of a designated heritage asset (or an archaeological site of national importance) will be permitted only in exceptional circumstances.

c) Supporting proposals that would preserve or enhance the character or appearance of a Conservation Area, especially those elements which have been identified in a Conservation Area Appraisal as making a positive contribution to its significance.

contd

- d) Ensuring that proposals affecting an archaeological site of less than national importance conserve those elements which contribute to its significance in line with the importance of the remains. In those cases where development affecting such sites is acceptable in principle, mitigation of damage will be ensured through preservation of the remains in situ as a preferred solution. When in situ preservation is not justified, the developer will be required to make adequate provision for excavation and recording before or during development.**
- e) Supporting proposals which conserve Craven’s non- designated heritage assets. Developments which would remove, harm or undermine the significance of such assets, or their contribution to the character of a place will only be permitted where the benefits of the development would outweigh the harm.**
- f) Supporting proposals which will help to secure a sustainable future for Craven’s heritage assets, especially those identified as being at greatest risk of loss or decay.**

Does the policy or procedure have the potential to cause negative impact or discriminate against different groups in the community based on age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation?

Links to evidence:

[Public records and information about national and local heritage assets](#)

Answer:

No. Heritage is what we’ve inherited from the past and place special value upon. It’s a broad term applied to a wide range of things from landscapes and buildings to customs and knowledge. Heritage is irreplaceable and heritage conservation is therefore essential to the achievement of sustainable development. Communities and groups have an important role to play in helping to identify heritage assets which are appreciated locally for their historic, cultural or townscape value—ensuring that the significance of those assets can be properly and fully appreciated by all.

Establishing relevance to equality

DRAFT POLICY ENV3: GOOD DESIGN

Good design will help to ensure that growth in Craven results in positive change, which benefits the local economy, environment and quality of life. This will be achieved by following the general design principles set out in broad terms below:

- a) Development should respond to the context and proposals should be based on a proper understanding and appreciation of environmental features, including both natural and built elements such as landscape, topography, vegetation, open space, microclimate, tranquillity, light and darkness**
- b) Designs should respect the form of surrounding buildings including density, scale, height, massing and use of high quality materials which should be locally sourced wherever possible;**
- c) Development should seek to enhance local distinctiveness through maintaining good aspects of the local environment, improving poorer aspects and adding new aspects that benefit the local environment;**
- d) Development should protect the amenity of existing residents and business occupiers as well as create acceptable amenity conditions for future occupiers;**
- e) The design of all new developments will be required to promote safe living environments, reduce opportunities for crime and the fear of crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour.**
- f) All aspects of development should be accessible and inclusive to everyone;**
- g) Development should be legible and create a sense of place by maintaining, enhancing and creating good townscapes with beneficial elements like views, vistas, enclosures, focal points, public art, backcloths and landmarks;**
- h) Development should be permeable and should make getting around easier—especially for pedestrians, cyclists and people with disabilities—by improving existing routes, adding new ones and creating connections to enhance the local network;**
- i) Access roads should be designed as streets—they should form part of the public realm, be people-friendly, safe and active, allow natural surveillance and help to create a network of easy-to-use routes;**

contd

- j) Development should promote socialising, recreation, art, health and wellbeing, by maintaining and improving existing public spaces and by creating new public spaces, such as parks, squares and other areas of public realm;**
- k) Sustainability should be designed in, so that development takes the opportunity to reduce energy and water use and carbon emissions in the way it is laid out and constructed;**
- l) Designs should anticipate the need for external storage space within new developments, including space for the storage and collection of recyclable waste**
- m) Necessary services and infrastructure should be able to be accommodated without causing harm to retained features, or result in visual clutter.**

Does the policy or procedure have the potential to cause negative impact or discriminate against different groups in the community based on age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation?	
Links to evidence:	North Yorkshire Police support the policy for its inclusion of designing out crime.
Answer:	No. Good design will help to ensure positive change that benefits the local economy, environment and quality of life and will promote: reductions in crime, the fear of crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour; greater accessibility and inclusiveness for everyone; and the social role of public spaces.

Establishing relevance to equality

DRAFT POLICY ENV4: BIODIVERSITY

Growth in housing, business and other land-uses will be accompanied by improvements in biodiversity. This means that:

- a) Wherever possible, development will make a positive contribution towards achieving a net gain in biodiversity and in particular will:
 - i) Ensure that there is no adverse impact on any locally, nationally or internationally designated sites, unless the benefit of the development clearly outweighs the impact on the designation;**
 - ii) Avoid the loss of, and encourage the recovery or enhancement of ecological networks, habitats and species populations (especially priority habitats and species as identified in the Craven Biodiversity Action Plan, 2008 or any subsequent update) by incorporating beneficial biodiversity features in the design (i.e. through landscaping or SuDS);**
 - iii) Conserve and manage the biodiversity and/or geodiversity value of land and buildings within the site;**
 - iv) Increase trees and woodlands by incorporating appropriate planting, using native and locally characteristic tree and plant species where possible, and retaining and integrating existing mature and healthy trees and hedgerows that make a positive contribution to the character, appearance and setting of an area;**
 - v) Ensure there is no deterioration in the ecological status of surface or ground waterbodies;**
 - vi) Enable wildlife to move more freely and easily throughout the local environment, including both the natural and built elements.****
- b) Development proposals should achieve benefits in biodiversity that are equal to, or where possible exceed the biodiversity value of the site prior to development. Where improvements in biodiversity are achievable these should be on site; however if this is not possible or practical, an equivalent improvement should be provided off-site by way of mitigation; ideally, this should be as close to the site as possible.**

contd

- c) **Development proposals that result in a significant loss in, or harm to, biodiversity on site, and where no compensatory measures are proposed, will be resisted.**
- d) **Would-be developers should be aware that compensation through replacement of biodiversity assets may not be practical or realistic in every case (e.g. recreating ancient woodland) and that any development scheme based on such impractical or unrealistic proposals will not be acceptable.**
- e) **The following allocated sites will be accompanied by guiding development principles which will identify areas within each site where significant contributions to a net gain in biodiversity are to be made:**

LIST OF ALLOCATED SITES: (links to/from relevant policies)

Site address (with hyperlinks)	Site reference	Inset map
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Does the policy or procedure have the potential to cause negative impact or discriminate against different groups in the community based on age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation?

Links to evidence:

[National Planning Policy Framework](#), [Biodiversity Action Plan](#)

Answer:

No. Biodiversity means biological diversity, or the number and variety of plants and animals living in a specific area. Some safeguarded habitats and species are protected by law under national and international designations and some are identified under local designations.

Establishing relevance to equality

DRAFT POLICY ENV5: GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

Craven's growth will include growth in green infrastructure and will help to create an improved and expanded green infrastructure network. This will be achieved in the following ways.

a) Wherever possible, development proposals will:

- i) Avoid the significant loss of, or harm to, existing green infrastructure assets and the disruption or fragmentation of the green infrastructure network;**
- ii) Enhance existing or create new green infrastructure and secure its long-term management and maintenance;**
- iii) Enhance existing or create new links in the green infrastructure network, including habitat corridors that help wildlife to move more freely through the local environment.**

b) Development proposals should achieve improvements to the green infrastructure network where possible. Where improvements are viable these should be achieved on site, however if this is not possible or practical, contributions for off-site enhancements should be made for projects as close to the site as possible in order to promote linkages and stepping stones across the green infrastructure network.

c) Development proposals that result in a significant fragmentation or loss to the green infrastructure network, and where no compensatory measures are proposed, will be resisted.

**d) The following allocated sites will be accompanied by guiding development principles which will set out more specifically how improvements and growth to the green infrastructure network can be achieved on each site:
LIST OF ALLOCATED SITES (Insert link to relevant policies)**

Site address

Site reference

Inset map (with hyperlink)

Does the policy or procedure have the potential to cause negative impact or discriminate against different groups in the community based on age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation?

Links to evidence:

[National Planning Policy Framework](#), [Playing Pitch, Open Space and Built Facilities Study \(2016\)](#), [Yorkshire and Humber Green Infrastructure Mapping Project](#), [Leeds City Region Green Infrastructure Strategy](#)

Answer:

No. The term green infrastructure applies to all sorts of natural and semi-natural features that form a network across rural and urban areas and which support a sustainable, healthy and enjoyable way of life. Initiatives that enhance or create green infrastructure links within or beyond the plan area and which promote district, sub-regional or regional green infrastructure corridors and projects will be supported.

Establishing relevance to equality

DRAFT POLICY ENV6: FLOOD RISK

Growth in Craven will help to avoid and alleviate flood risk in the following ways:

- a) Development will take place in areas of low flood risk wherever possible and always in areas with the lowest acceptable flood risk, by taking into account the development's vulnerability to flooding and by applying any necessary sequential and exception test;**
- b) Development will safeguard waterways and benefit the local environment (aesthetically and ecologically) by incorporating sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) where possible; where the use of SuDS is not feasible or appropriate other means of flood prevention and water management should be used. All surface water drainage systems (SuDS or other) should be economically maintained for the lifetime of the development.**
- c) Development will maintain adequate and easy access to watercourses and flood defences, so that they may be managed and maintained by the relevant authority.**
- d) Development will avoid areas with the potential to increase flood resilience, and seek to enhance as far as possible the natural capacity of soils, vegetation, river floodplains, wetland and upland habitats to reduce flood risk.**
- e) Development will minimise the risk of surface water flooding by ensuring adequate provision for foul and surface water disposal in advance of occupation (as per standards set out by the Environment Agency, see Appendix B). Surface water should be managed at the source and not transferred, and every option should be investigated before discharging surface water into a public sewerage network.**
- f) Development will maximise opportunities to help reduce the causes and impacts of flooding by ensuring adequate sufficient attenuation and long term storage is provided to accommodate storm water on site without risk to people or property and without overflowing into a watercourse (as per standards set out by the Environment Agency, see Appendix B).**

In all of the above, it will be important to refer to the latest and best flood risk information from Craven's strategic flood risk assessment and any relevant site-specific flood risk assessment, plus advice from the Environment Agency and the contents of the NPPF.

Does the policy or procedure have the potential to cause negative impact or discriminate against different groups in the community based on age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation?

Links to evidence:

[National Planning Policy Framework](#), [Strategic Flood Risk Assessment](#)

Answer:

No. Development will take place in areas of low flood risk wherever possible and always in areas with the lowest acceptable flood risk, by taking into account the development's (and therefore occupiers') vulnerability to flooding.

Establishing relevance to equality

DRAFT POLICY ENV7: LAND AND AIR QUALITY

Land Quality

Growth in Craven will help to safeguard and improve land quality in the following ways:

- a) Development will avoid the plan area's best agricultural land (grade 3) wherever possible, unless the need for and benefit of development justifies the scale and nature of the loss;**
- b) The re-use of previously developed (brownfield) land of low environmental value will be preferred and supported;**
- c) The remediation of contaminated and unstable land will be encouraged and supported, taking into account what may be necessary, possible, safe and viable.**

Air Quality

Growth in Craven will help to safeguard and improve air quality in the following ways:

- d) Development will avoid the creation or worsening of traffic congestion and, wherever possible, will help to ease existing traffic congestion;**
- e) The location, layout and design of development will encourage walking, cycling and the use of public transport, and green travel plans will promote reductions in car use;**
- f) The location, layout and design of development will avoid or reduce harmful or unpleasant emissions from buildings, and mitigation measures will be introduced where necessary.**

Does the policy or procedure have the potential to cause negative impact or discriminate against different groups in the community based on age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation?

Links to evidence: [National Planning Policy Framework](#), [Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment](#)

Answer: No. New development should be accessible by walking, cycling and public transport and green travel plans should be used to encourage less reliance on cars for local journeys.

Establishing relevance to equality

DRAFT POLICY ENV8: WATER RESOURCES, WATER QUALITY AND GROUNDWATER

Growth in Craven will help to safeguard and improve water resources in the following ways:

Water Resources

- a) Development will be served by adequate sewerage and waste water treatment infrastructure, which matches the type, scale, location and phasing of the development, and which safeguards surface and ground water resources.**
- b) Development will encourage the incorporation of water conservation into its design, to maximise opportunities to collect and re-use water on-site.**

Water Quality

- c) Development will reduce the risk of pollution and deterioration of water resources by anticipating any likely impact and incorporating adequate mitigation measures into the design.**
- d) Development will not lead to pollution of controlled waters in line with the requirements of the Water Framework Directive.**

Groundwater

- e) Developers will protect surface and groundwater from potentially polluting development and activity, by carrying out preliminary site investigations prior to permission being granted to ensure that land is suitable for the intended use.**
- f) Developers will ensure that sources of groundwater supply are protected by guiding development away from identified Source Protection Zones (SPZ), i.e. areas close to drinking water sources where the risk associated with groundwater contamination is greatest. The Source Protection Zones in the Craven plan area are shown on the Proposals Map.**

Does the policy or procedure have the potential to cause negative impact or discriminate against different groups in the community based on age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation?

Links to evidence:

[National Planning Policy Framework](#), [Humber River Basin Management Plan](#)

Answer:

No. Water is an important and essential resource that needs to be managed in a sustainable way, so that it may continue to support Craven's homes, farms, industry, recreation, biodiversity and so on. In England and Wales, development is required to comply with the European Water Framework Directive, through meeting the relevant River Basin Management Plans' requirements.

Establishing relevance to equality

DRAFT POLICY ENV9: RENEWABLE AND LOW CARBON ENERGY

Renewable and low carbon energy development will help to reduce carbon emissions and support sustainable development. This will be achieved by:

- a) Supporting well-conceived projects and infrastructure proposals that offer a good balance of economic, environmental and social benefits, and are not outweighed on balance by one or more negative impacts.**
- b) Ensuring that there are no significant adverse impacts on natural, built and historic assets and developments harmonise with the local environment, and respect the character of the immediate setting and wider landscape.**
- c) Avoiding developments that may detract from the landscape and scenic beauty of the Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty or its setting and the setting of the Yorkshire Dales National Park;**
- d) Safeguarding the amenity of local residents and communities, and ensuring that satisfactory mitigation can be achieved to minimise impacts such as noise, smell or other pollutants.**
- e) Developers engaging with the community at the earliest stages of the planning process and seeking to achieve community benefits wherever possible.**
- f) Ensuring there are no unacceptable impacts on civil, military aviation, radar and telecommunications installations.**
- g) Supporting proposals which demonstrate that the natural environment including designated sites will not be adversely affected without satisfactory mitigation. Enhancements should be achieved wherever possible.**
- h) Supporting proposals where the potential cumulative impacts are not found to be significantly adverse.**
- i) Ensuring operational requirements can be met including accessibility and suitability of the local road network, ability to connect to the grid and where relevant proximity of feedstock.**
- j) Grid connections being provided underground, wherever feasible without adversely impacting upon historical or archaeological assets.**

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k) Ensuring measures are in place to secure the removal of infrastructure should it become redundant or no longer operational and that satisfactory site restoration can be achieved.

Commercial Scale Wind Turbines/Farms

The Council has not identified suitable areas for commercial scale wind turbines or farms for the purpose of providing power into the National Grid within Craven. The development of commercial scale wind turbines or wind farms for the purposes of inputting power into the National Grid will therefore only be permitted where the criteria a) to k) listed above are met and:

- i) The site is located within an area defined as being suitable for such use within an adopted Neighbourhood Plan; and,**
- ii) Following consultation it can be demonstrated that the planning impacts identified by affected local communities have been fully addressed and therefore the proposal has their backing.**

Small Scale Wind Turbines

In the case of small scale turbines, which require planning permission (generally 30m or under in tower height but considered on a case by case basis), proposals will be supported where they meet the criteria a) to k) listed above and:

- iii) They are directly related to, and generate power principally for, the operation of a farmstead, other rural business or a local settlement; or,**
- iv) The site is identified as being suitable for the development of wind turbines within an adopted Neighbourhood Plan.**

Does the policy or procedure have the potential to cause negative impact or discriminate against different groups in the community based on age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation?

Links to evidence: [National Planning Policy Framework](#), [Renewable Energy Study](#), [Landscape Sensitivity Framework](#)

Answer: No. The policy establishes a positive stance on renewable and low-carbon energy and encourages well-conceived proposals for sustainable generation projects and infrastructure.

Establishing relevance to equality

DRAFT POLICY ENV10: DESIGNATION AND PROTECTION OF LOCAL GREEN SPACE

1 Designation of Local Green Space

Sites will be designated as Local Green Space where the following criteria within the Council's Local Green Space Designation Assessment Methodology have been satisfied:

- a) The site does not already have planning permission for an incompatible alternative use;
- b) The site is not already allocated for an incompatible alternative use in the local plan or neighbourhood plan;
- c) The site is local in character and does not form an extensive tract of land;
- d) The site is located reasonably close to the community it serves;
- e) Clear supporting evidence has been provided which demonstrates that the site holds a particular local significance and value to the local community by virtue of the site's beauty, historic significance, recreational value, tranquillity, richness of wildlife or other reason.
- f) The site is capable of enduring beyond the end of the plan period (2032)

2 Protection of Designated Local Green Space

Sites designated as Local Green Space and identified on the Policies Map will be protected from development that would adversely impact on their open character and the particular local significance placed on such green areas which make them valued by their local community. Development proposals on land designated as Local Green Space will be refused other than in the following very special circumstances:

- a) Where the community would gain equivalent benefit from the provision of a suitable replacement and
- b) Where the development is essential to meet specific and necessary infrastructure needs and no alternative feasible site is available.

Does the policy or procedure have the potential to cause negative impact or discriminate against different groups in the community based on age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation?

Links to evidence:

[National Planning Policy Framework](#), [Local Green Space Methodology](#)

Answer:

No. The NPPF introduced the Local Green Space (LGS) Designation to enable communities to identify and protect green spaces of importance to them. LGS can only be designated in a local or neighbourhood plan.

Establishing relevance to equality

DRAFT POLICY H1: NEW HOMES ON UNALLOCATED SITES

The plan strategy sets out where and how new homes needed to meet local housing requirements (set out in policies SP1 and SP4) will be delivered on sites which already have planning permission and allocated local plan sites. These are listed in Policies SP5 to SP11 and identified on the policies map. Policy SP4 also proposes a low level of growth in Tier 5 settlements and open countryside to be delivered on unallocated small (less than 5 dwellings or 0.1ha) sites.

Additional homes may be provided through the sustainable development of other unallocated sites put forward in planning applications. Proposals for residential development on such sites, including the infilling, rounding off, or extension of settlements will be acceptable provided the proposal:-

- a) **Accords with Policy SD1 and Policy SP4, being of a scale appropriate to the location and reflecting the location's role within the Spatial Strategy;**
- b) **Does not increase significantly the scale of planned growth in that location over the plan period. The cumulative impact of development must be taken into account when assessing whether or not an appropriate scale of growth has been or will be achieved in a particular location over the plan period;**
- c) **Can demonstrate that the traffic generated as a result of the proposal can be satisfactorily accommodated by the highway network;**
- d) **Accords with all other relevant local plan policies and any relevant neighbourhood plan policies and will help to achieve plan led sustainable development.**

Does the policy or procedure have the potential to cause negative impact or discriminate against different groups in the community based on age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation?

Links to evidence:

[National Planning Policy Framework](#), [Craven Strategic Housing Market Assessment 2015](#)

Answer:

No. This and related policies support sustainable development and the provision of a variety of homes to cater for people's different needs, including affordable housing, low-cost market housing, homes for rent and homes for families, one-person households, elderly people and people with disabilities.

Establishing relevance to equality

DRAFT POLICY H2: AFFORDABLE HOUSING

- a) Local affordable homes that are needed in the plan area will be delivered by:
 - i) Negotiating with developers and landowners to secure a proportion of new housing development to be provided as affordable units;**
 - ii) Supporting registered providers in bringing forward wholly affordable schemes within Craven's market towns and villages;**
 - iii) Supporting in principle, the release of rural exception sites.****
- b) Affordable homes will also be provided in conjunction with landlords through the purchase and repair of existing dwellings, alterations and improvements to the existing affordable housing stock and through the re-use of empty homes.**

Affordable housing from developer contributions

- c) The local planning authority will seek the provision of 40% of new dwellings as affordable housing on-site as part of developments of 5 dwellings or 0.2 ha or more. Where the on-site contribution does not equate precisely to whole numbers of units, equivalent financial contributions will be sought.**
- d) Below the threshold of 5 dwellings/0.2 ha, a pro-rated financial contribution will be sought from all new residential development, where this is viable.**
- e) In negotiating schemes the local planning authority will look to maximise provision to achieve these targets, having regard to the circumstances of individual sites and scheme viability. Developers will be expected to conduct negotiations on an 'open book' basis.**
- f) The size, type and tenure of affordable units will be expected to reflect the affordable housing needs in the locality. Affordable housing contributions should comprise both social and affordable rent tenures as well as intermediate tenure types. Off-site provision in lieu of on-site contributions will only be supported where it is agreed that this is preferable in terms of management arrangements or where there are clear advantages or overriding reasons for contributions in lieu of provision on-site.**

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- g) Proposals which involve the subdivision of a site or that propose the development of a site which does not reflect an efficient use of the site or utilise its full potential as a means of avoiding the thresholds in this policy, will be refused.**
- h) The provision of affordable housing will be secured using a condition which seeks to ensure that the units provided are maintained in perpetuity for households in affordable housing need.**

Rural exception sites

- l) Proposals for affordable housing schemes for all settlements in the plan area (except Skipton) will be supported where:**
 - i) A scheme will help to meet but not exceed proven local need;**
 - ii) The site is small and is physically and visually well related to the settlement; and**
 - iii) The affordable homes provided are available to households in local housing need in perpetuity.**
- j) A limited number of market homes will be allowed as part of rural exception sites where it can be demonstrated that:**
 - 1. These are essential to enable the delivery of the affordable homes by a registered provider and the delivery of an appropriate mix of affordable house types and tenures to reflect need in the locality;**
 - 2. The market homes proposed are the minimum number required to achieve viability in the absence of and public subsidy or with reduced public subsidy.**

Does the policy or procedure have the potential to cause negative impact or discriminate against different groups in the community based on age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation?

Links to evidence:	National Planning Policy Framework , Craven Strategic Housing Market Assessment 2015
Answer:	No. The local plan aims to secure a mix of affordable housing to reflect community needs evidenced by the 2015 SHMA, i.e. 25% one-bedroom, 60% two-bedroom and 15% three or more bedroom dwellings; and 25% intermediate tenure and 75% affordable rented. Two-bedroom and intermediate tenure dwellings are to support newly-forming and growing households. The precise mix on each site will be negotiated to ensure provision reflects identified needs.

Establishing relevance to equality

DRAFT POLICY H3: GYPSIES, TRAVELLERS, SHOWMEN AND ROMA

The housing requirements of Gypsies, Travellers, Showmen and Roma will be met by maintaining an adequate supply of private sites to occupy, in line with current evidence of existing and future need.

Development of a site within the existing established supply of private sites for any other purpose will be refused, unless:

- a) Current evidence shows that the site is not needed; or**
- b) The development proposal makes provision for an equivalent replacement site of an equal or better standard.**

Extensions to existing private sites or entirely new private sites (including temporary, permanent or transit sites) will be supported to meet existing need and where there is evidence of newly arising need, and where:

- c) Occupiers of the site would have access to employment, local services and facilities, including public transport, shops, schools and health care provision;**
- d) The site is of sufficient size to provide a good residential environment, in terms of design, layout, spacing, provision of facilities, and amenity space; has good and safe access to the public highway and adequate space within the site for the parking and turning of vehicles;**
- e) The site provides opportunities to reflect traditional lifestyles i.e., allowing travellers to live and work from the same location, contributing to sustainability;**
- f) The site is or can be connected to all necessary utilities and infrastructure including mains water, electricity supply, drainage, sanitation and provision is made for the screened storage and collection of refuse, including recyclable materials;**
- g) The proposal and neighbouring land uses are compatible and the proposal relates well in scale and location to neighbouring settled communities;**

contd

- h) The proposal and neighbouring land uses are compatible and the proposal relates well in scale and location to neighbouring settled communities;**
- i) Occupiers of the site and their belongings are not exposed to unacceptable environmental conditions including flood risk; and**
- j) Any potential impacts on the environment can be avoided or adequately mitigated and have regard to the requirements relating to protecting the natural and built environment set out in other relevant local plan policies.**

Does the policy or procedure have the potential to cause negative impact or discriminate against different groups in the community based on age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation?

Links to evidence: [National Planning Policy Framework](#), [Craven Traveller Housing Needs Survey \(2013\)](#) and [Technical Note \(2015\)](#), comments from local plan consultation 2016

Answer:

No. The local plan aims to address the local housing requirements of all communities, including Gypsies, Travellers, Showmen and Roma who live in or travel through the plan area (Romany Gypsies and Irish Travellers are ethnic groups and as such are protected against race discrimination). In doing so, the local plan will contribute to the overarching national aim of ensuring fair and equal treatment for travellers, in a way that facilitates their traditional way of life, whilst respecting the interests of settled communities. Policy H3 aims to maintain an adequate supply of sites to meet the housing requirements of Gypsies, Travellers, Showmen and Roma within Craven through safeguarding existing supply and supporting extensions to existing sites or new sites to meet newly arising need. A comment received during public consultation in April and May 2016 states that the wording of the policy is more restrictive than that used in other housing policies (H1 and H2) and is therefore discriminatory. However, detailed examination reveals that the comment is based on a misunderstanding of the policies and no actual potential discrimination has been identified.

Establishing relevance to equality

DRAFT POLICY H4: HOUSING DENSITY

To achieve an enhanced housing mix in accordance with Policy SP3 and to make efficient use of land, housing development proposals will achieve an indicative dwelling density of 40 dwellings to the hectare (net).

Housing development proposals on allocated sites identified in Policies SP5, SP6,SP7,SP8,SP9,SP10 and SP11 are expected to comply with the above indicative density target, unless a different density/yield target for an individual site has been specified in Policies SP5 to SP11.

Proposals for residential development at densities that fall below the indicative density target will be supported where it is demonstrated that a lower density is necessary to comply with other relevant local plan policies and to achieve sustainable development.

Does the policy or procedure have the potential to cause negative impact or discriminate against different groups in the community based on age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation?

Links to evidence:

[National Planning Policy Framework](#)

Answer:

No. The draft local plan seeks to create better places, meet housing requirements and to provide a mix of housing types and sizes. This is so that the needs of a range of residents are met, the right housing is delivered and land is used in an efficient and effective manner. The setting of a housing density target is also a key component in achieving these aims, whilst also enabling proposals to deliver good, appropriate design, and respond to the local context.

Establishing relevance to equality

DRAFT POLICY EC1: EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Proposals for employment/economic development in existing employment areas (Policy EC2), on land allocated for employment/mixed use (SP5 to SP11), or in locations that accord with the Spatial Strategy (SP4) will be supported subject to compliance with the following criteria:-

- a) The proposal will not give rise to adverse amenity effects on sensitive uses that cannot be mitigated adequately;**
- b) Traffic generated as a result of the proposal being satisfactorily accommodated in the surrounding highway network;**
- c) The proposal not adversely affecting the significance of designated heritage assets and open space provision;**
- d) The proposal being adequately served by communications infrastructure; and**
- e) The proposal being of a design that accords with the provisions of Policy ENV3.**

Elsewhere proposals for employment/economic development will be supported where they meet criteria a) to e) above and it can be clearly demonstrated that :-

- f) There are no allocated sites or existing employment areas available in the local area that could accommodate the proposal;**
- g) The proposed activity requires a specific location in which to operate adequately;**
- h) The proposal will help deliver specific aims and objectives of the York, North Yorkshire and East Riding Local Economic Partnership (LEP) or the Leeds City Region LEP; or**
- i) The proposal will benefit the rural economy in accordance with Policy EC3.**

Does the policy or procedure have the potential to cause negative impact or discriminate against different groups in the community based on age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation?

Links to evidence:

[National Planning Policy Framework](#), Employment Land Review (draft, 2016)

Answer:

No. Together, draft policies EC1 and EC2 support economic growth, retention of sites and premises, and promote economic diversity, particularly with respect to class 'B' uses. They aim proactively to meet development needs, whilst avoiding long term protection of sites that are not needed or redundant.

Establishing relevance to equality

DRAFT POLICY EC2: SAFEGUARDING EXISTING EMPLOYMENT AREAS

In order to ensure that there is an adequate supply of employment locations in Craven for 'B' Class Uses, existing sites and premises in 'B' Class use in established employment areas identified on the policies inset map will be safeguarded from non 'B' Class uses unless:-

- a) The development proposal makes equivalent compensatory provision of employment land/premises to an equivalent or better standard; or
- b) It is demonstrated that there is no reasonable prospect of the site being retained, reused or redeveloped for a 'B' Class employment generating use;
- c) The proposed new use is compatible with surrounding uses, and will not result in adverse effects to new occupiers that cannot be adequately mitigated.

Broughton Hall Estate and Business Park provides opportunities for both 'B' Class employment and tourism development. Existing 'B' Class employment uses in this location will be safeguarded under this policy and proposals for tourism development will be supported, in principle, in accordance with Policy EC4: Tourism.

Does the policy or procedure have the potential to cause negative impact or discriminate against different groups in the community based on age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation?

Links to evidence: [National Planning Policy Framework](#), Employment Land Review (draft, 2016)

Answer: No. Together, draft policies EC1 and EC2 support economic growth, retention of sites and premises, and promote economic diversity, particularly with respect to class 'B' uses. They aim proactively to meet development needs, whilst avoiding long term protection of sites that are not needed or redundant.

Establishing relevance to equality

DRAFT POLICY EC3: RURAL ECONOMY

Craven's rural economy will be supported, so that it may grow and diversify in a sustainable way to provide long term economic, environmental and social benefits for local communities. This will be achieved in the following ways:

- a) Enabling enterprise, welcoming innovation and supporting economic development proposals that will benefit the local economy, environment and quality of life;**
- b) Recognising opportunities to use farmland and farm buildings in new and different ways to support individual farm businesses and to diversify the wider rural economy;**
- c) Helping rural businesses to succeed, grow and expand, by working with them co-operatively and proactively, so that development proposals can be supported wherever possible;**
- d) Enabling farm, forestry and other land-based businesses to build the new and replacement buildings and infrastructure they need to function efficiently, including dwellings where they are fully justified on functional and financial grounds;**
- e) Acknowledging the potential social, economic, environmental benefits of reusing existing buildings by supporting proposals for the conversion of barns and other vernacular buildings for residential and/or employment uses within sustainable rural locations, providing opportunities for people to live and work locally.**
- f) Protecting existing live/work units for the valuable contribution they make to the rural economy; and**

Proposals of the type described above will be supported provided they accord with all relevant local plan policies and any relevant neighbourhood plan policies, and will help to achieve sustainable development.

Does the policy or procedure have the potential to cause negative impact or discriminate against different groups in the community based on age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation?

Links to evidence:

[National Planning Policy Framework](#)

Answer:

No. The policy aims to acknowledge the rural situation and its particular set of circumstances. It takes a positive stance and looks to encourage growth in the rural economy by supporting proposals for sustainable development, by broadening the scope for and increasing the variety and diversity of economic activity in rural areas, and by 'not getting in the way' of enterprise and innovation that offers economic, environmental and social benefits to local communities. The policy is intended to be flexible and adaptable, so that it can respond to different needs within the rural economy, new opportunities that may arise in the future and changes in the rural economy over time.

Establishing relevance to equality

DRAFT POLICY EC4: TOURISM

Tourism will grow in a sustainable way, so that it helps to improve the economy, environment and quality of life. Such growth will be achieved by:

- a) Enabling established destinations to become even better through the development of new and improved facilities;**
- b) Helping up-and-coming destinations to establish themselves and become successful;**
- c) Recognising opportunities to bring tourism into new areas that have untapped potential, including new types of activity and new destinations;**
- d) Acknowledging the range of sporting, recreational, cultural and leisurely activities that people may wish to engage in as tourists;**
- e) Ensuring that tourism development provides easy access to the network of public transport services, footpaths and cycle routes (including canal towpaths) in the area and, wherever possible, secures the improvement and expansion of that network;**
- f) Realising opportunities, where they arise, to secure additional knock-on benefits from placing tourism development and other forms of business and commercial development together in the same location, thereby achieving synergies of co-location;**
- g) Supporting, in principle, proposals for tourism development and for achieving synergies of co-location, in the following key locations for tourism development identified on the policies map;**

Bolton Abbey/Bolton Abbey Railway Station

Broughton Hall Estate

Ingleton – viaduct area

Gargrave – canal area

Skipton – canal and railway station area

Bentham – railway station area

Hellifield – railway station area

Embsay – railway station area

contd

- h) Supporting sustainable tourism development of the committed tourism development opportunity site on land to the west of Hellifield, in accordance with broad requirements set out on the policies inset map;**
- i) Ensuring that the benefits of tourism growth – to the economy, environment and quality of life – are felt as broadly as possible within local communities;**
- j) Securing appropriate community use of private facilities provided as part of tourism developments, including sports, leisure, recreational and cultural facilities, shops and open spaces;**
- k) Encouraging local communities to promote their own sustainable tourism projects through neighbourhood planning;**
- l) Proposals of the type described above will be supported provided they accord with all relevant local plan policies and any relevant neighbourhood plan policies, and will help to achieve sustainable development.**

Does the policy or procedure have the potential to cause negative impact or discriminate against different groups in the community based on age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation?

Links to evidence:

[National Planning Policy Framework](#), [Retail and Leisure Study \(2016\)](#)

Answer:

No. The boost that tourism and visitors provide is seen in the success of Craven's market towns as local places for shopping, culture, leisure and business. Tourism also helps in the understanding and appreciation of Craven's natural environment, heritage and culture, which, in turn, helps to conserve these resources for future generations. Supporting sustainable tourism is therefore an important aim of the local plan and will help to secure a thriving economy, vibrant town-centres, cultural experiences, active recreation, rich biodiversity, beautiful landscapes and well-preserved historic places, which will be both attractive to visitors and beneficial to local communities.

Establishing relevance to equality

DRAFT POLICY EC5: TOWN, DISTRICT AND LOCAL CENTRES

Proposals for the ongoing enhancement and focus of town and village centres as locations for commercial, retail, leisure and community activity (town centre uses) will be supported in line with the following hierarchy:

Tier	Town/Village Centre
1	Skipton town centre
2	Settle town centre
3	Bentham district centre
3	Crosshills district centre
4	Ingleton local centre

Within Skipton and Settle town centres, as identified on the proposals map, the primarily commercial, retail, leisure and community functions will be safeguarded and enhanced.

Within the primary retail area of Skipton as identified on the proposals map, the primarily retail function of this area will be safeguarded.

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Retail Capacity

The following capacity by centre for comparison and convenience retailing is presented in the table below:

Tier	Town/Village centre	Comparison floorspace requirement to 2032	Convenience floorspace requirement to 2032
1	Skipton town centre	3,291 sq.m	2,441 sq.m
2	Settle town centre	650 sq.m	0 (-588) sq.m
3	Bentham district centre	217 sq.m	474 sq.m
3	Crosshills district centre	83 sq.m	353 sq.m
4	Ingleton local centre	285 sq.m	389 sq.m

Proposals that make contributions to meeting the identified capacity will be supported, subject to compliance with other relevant plan policies.

Out of Centre Proposals

When considering proposals for town centre uses in out of centre locations as identified on the proposals maps, proposals will be required to demonstrate that there are no locations available in the town centre that could accommodate the proposal, and the impact of the proposals are acceptable.

The following thresholds are applied in respect of proposals for town centre uses in out of centre locations:

Tier	Settlement centre	Floorspace Impact Thresholds (gross)
1	Skipton town centre	1,500 sq.m
2	Settle town centre	750 sq.m

3	Bentham district centre	500 sq.m
3	Crosshills district centre	500 sq.m
4	Ingleton local centre	250 sq.m

Out of centre proposals will be expected to meet both the sequential and impact tests as they apply to proposals.

Within the town centres of Skipton and Settle as identified on the proposals maps, proposals for town centre uses will be supported where they underpin and support the functions of these centres.

Proposals for town centre uses identified as part of the regeneration of sites identified for mixed use under policy SP5 site references xxxx will be supported subject to compliance with other relevant development plan policies, meeting sequential and impact tests and the provisions of the NPPF.

Within the town and village centres of Bentham, Crosshills and Ingleton, proposals for town centre uses will be supported where they underpin and support the primarily retail, leisure and community functions of these centres.

Does the policy or procedure have the potential to cause negative impact or discriminate against different groups in the community based on age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation?

Links to evidence: [National Planning Policy Framework](#), [Retail and Leisure Study \(2016\)](#)

Answer: No. The ultimate goal of the plan is to secure sustainable long term growth that responds to the distinct evolution and change of the retail economy. The centres in the retail hierarchy will be supported and enhanced by development which strengthens their resilience to economic, social and technological change.

Establishing relevance to equality

DRAFT POLICY EC5A: RESIDENTIAL USES IN TOWN AND VILLAGE CENTRES

Within the primary shopping area of Skipton, as identified on the proposals map, the primarily retail function of this area will be safeguarded and protected. Proposals for residential use at ground floor level will only be supported where it can be adequately demonstrated that the proposed residential use will not result in the loss of retail uses.

Proposals for standalone residential uses that require planning permission within the identified town centre area of Skipton and Settle will be supported where it can be adequately demonstrated that the proposed residential use will not result in the loss of retail, commercial, leisure accommodation or premises suitable for community uses.

Within the identified town centre area of Skipton and Settle, mixed use regeneration proposals that include an element of residential uses will be supported where the mix of uses underpins and enhances the vitality of centre.

Proposals for residential uses at ground floor level within Bentham, Crosshills and Ingleton will be supported where the retail, commercial and leisure function of the centre is not undermined.

First floor residential use

At first floor level, proposals for residential uses within the identified primary shopping area of Skipton, within the identified town centre boundaries of Skipton and Settle and the district/local centres of Bentham, Crosshills and Ingleton will be supported where it can be demonstrated that the proposal will not undermine the primarily retail function of the identified centre, supports and enhances the vitality of the centre and accords with other relevant plan policies.

Does the policy or procedure have the potential to cause negative impact or discriminate against different groups in the community based on age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation?

Links to evidence:

[National Planning Policy Framework](#), [Retail and Leisure Study \(2016\)](#)

Answer:

No. The ultimate goal of the plan is to secure sustainable long term growth that responds to the distinct evolution and change of the retail economy. The centres in the retail hierarchy will be supported and enhanced by development which strengthens their resilience to economic, social and technological change.

Establishing relevance to equality

DRAFT POLICY INF1: PLANNING OBLIGATIONS

Where necessary, planning obligations will help to mitigate the impact of Craven's growth, support the provision of local infrastructure, secure community benefits and achieve sustainable development. This will be done in the following ways.

- a) Planning obligations will be required where the form of development needs to be prescribed or where proposed development needs to be accompanied by new or improved infrastructure, facilities or services or by environmental improvements.
- b) Contributions secured through planning obligations may be required on-site or off-site or via the payment of funds. The provision or payment of contributions may be linked to the phasing of development and may be co-ordinated in partnership with infrastructure providers, service providers or other relevant bodies.
- c) Contributions secured through planning obligations may be pooled to address needs or cumulative impacts arising from more than one development proposal.¹
- d) Development proposals will be resisted if they are likely to have any relevant and significant adverse impact, including cumulative impact, that cannot be adequately mitigated by a planning obligation (or planning condition, if appropriate).
- e) Negotiations undertaken during pre-application discussions or during the planning application process will take account of scheme viability and site-specific circumstances.
- f) Individual planning obligations will be renegotiated where a relevant and significant change in circumstances has occurred and the obligation no longer serves a useful purpose. This will include changes in scheme viability where this can be supported by compelling viability evidence. Applications to remove or modify affordable housing obligations will be determined solely on the economic viability of meeting those obligations.
- g) Applicants will be expected to make adequate viability evidence available and to adopt a transparent and open-book approach to negotiations. Financial or other sensitive information, which may be made available during negotiations, will be treated as confidential, unless the applicant indicates otherwise.
- h) Planning obligations relating to financial contributions will specify a point in time at which the funds will be returned, if they have not already been used for their intended purpose.

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¹ No more than 5 planning obligations may be pooled together

i) Proposals for the development of starter-home exception sites will be exempt from planning obligations and planning conditions requiring the provision of affordable housing or tariff-style contributions.

Does the policy or procedure have the potential to cause negative impact or discriminate against different groups in the community based on age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation?

Links to evidence:

[National Planning Policy Framework](#)

Answer:

No. Planning obligations or “section 106 agreements” may be entered into by developers as part of the development process. They are sometimes needed to ensure that places and communities grow in a sustainable way and to help deliver the objectives, aspirations and strategy of the local plan. Where necessary, planning obligations will help to mitigate the impact of Craven’s growth, support the provision of local infrastructure, secure community benefits and achieve sustainable development.

Establishing relevance to equality

DRAFT POLICY INF2: COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND SOCIAL SPACES

Craven's community facilities will be improved, and new ones will be created, to meet the needs of the local community as it grows and changes over time. This will be achieved in the following ways:

Where new community facilities or improvements to existing community facilities are proposed and where it can be demonstrated that there is a local need for the facility, encouragement and support will be given to:

- a) Development proposals that are of a scale that is in keeping with the location, the proposed facilities or spaces are well-located and accessible, and there would be no significant adverse impact on residential amenity.**
- b) Innovative schemes for sustaining or improving community facilities, including opportunities to secure benefits from locating new community assets with or alongside other forms of development.**
- c) Development proposals for or including public realm enhancements that provide or improve places of recreation and social interaction;**

Existing community facilities and social spaces that are used and valued by local communities will be safeguarded wherever possible—particularly from unnecessary and avoidable loss. Development proposals that would result in the loss of such community facilities will need to be fully justified on grounds¹ that:

- d) The facility is not suitable or needed for any alternative community use;**
- e) The facility and its use are no longer viable in financial or functional terms and all reasonable efforts have been made to retain the facility and to continue its use;**
- f) Rigorous and realistic marketing of the facility has been carried out recently, but has been unsuccessful, with little or no genuine interest being shown;**
- g) The facility to be lost will be replaced by an equivalent facility of equal or greater value to the same local community and arrangements for this replacement will be secured by a planning obligation or other acceptable means.**

¹ Justification may need to be provided on grounds that cover more than one of the points at d) to g). The extent of justification required will depend on the circumstances of individual cases and should be discussed with the council.

Does the policy or procedure have the potential to cause negative impact or discriminate against different groups in the community based on age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation?

Links to evidence:

[National Planning Policy Framework](#)

Answer:

No. The policy aims to support the retention and improvement of existing community facilities and social spaces, and the provision of new ones, to help safeguard the social well-being of communities. The loss of facilities can reduce a community's ability to meet its day to day needs and can result in people travelling longer distances to access facilities, disadvantaging the less mobile. Facilities are places of social interaction and can help older people avoid isolation and loneliness.

Establishing relevance to equality

DRAFT POLICY INF3: SPORT, OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION FACILITIES
Craven's growth will promote health, wellbeing and equality by safeguarding and improving sport, open space and built sports facilities.

This will be achieved in the following ways.

- a) Supporting proposals for the provision of new sport, open space and built sports facilities, or for the improvement of existing sport, open space and built sports facilities, including facilities for temporary events, provided the proposals are of a scale in keeping with the location, are well located and accessible and accord with all relevant local plan policies and any relevant neighbourhood plan policies.
- b) Requiring all new housing and mixed-use developments of more than 5 dwellings, including those on sites allocated under local plan policies SP5 to SP11, to provide or contribute towards new or improved sport, open space and built sports facilities. Proposals for new residential development of 50 or more dwellings may be required to provide new open space on site; however this depends on the extent and nature of deficiencies identified across the plan area.
- c) Where a quantity deficiency exists in a location, the Council will seek, where possible, on-site provision of facilities and will expect appropriate arrangements to be made for their on-going maintenance. Where the locality has a deficiency in the quality of existing open space or sports facilities, the Council will require a contribution to be made to address that deficiency. Deficiencies are identified in the Playing Pitch Strategy, Open Space Assessment and Built Sports Facilities Strategy 2016 and any subsequent updates when compared against minimum standards. New provision or contributions towards improving existing spaces and facilities must cater for needs arising from the development, in accordance with the open space, sport and built sports facility standards set out in Appendix A and the specific recommendations and actions set out in the Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) and the Built Sports Facilities Strategy 2016 and subsequent updates. Financial contributions towards off-site provision of new or improved sport, open space and built sports facilities will be calculated according to the formula set out in Appendix A.

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- d) Safeguarding existing sport, open space and built sports facilities from unnecessary and avoidable loss. This means that development proposals involving the loss of sport, open space or built sports facilities will only be supported in the following limited circumstances.**
- 1. A surplus in the relevant type of sport, open space or built sports facility has been identified, in the locality, by the Playing Pitch Strategy, Open Space Assessment and Built Sports Facilities Strategy 2016 (or any subsequent updates), and the site cannot be reused or adapted to meet an identified deficit in another type or form of sport, open space or recreational facility.**
 - 2. An equivalent replacement sport, open space or built sports facility, the benefit of which will be at least equal to that being lost, is to be provided on the site or in an accessible location nearby.**
 - 3. Only part of the existing sport, open space or built sports facility is to be lost, development will enable improvements to be made to the remaining part and the proposed improvements will outweigh the loss.**

Does the policy or procedure have the potential to cause negative impact or discriminate against different groups in the community based on age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation?

Links to evidence:

[National Planning Policy Framework, Playing Pitch, Open Space and Built Facilities Study \(2016\)](#)

Answer:

No. In order to plan effectively for sport, open space and built sports opportunities, and to meet the NPPF requirement that policies relating to such facilities and spaces should be based on robust and up to date assessments of needs and opportunities for new provision, a Playing Pitch Strategy, Open Space Assessment and Built Sports Facility Strategy were prepared in 2016. This study makes an assessment of the quality, quantity and accessibility of existing provision and identifies areas of deficiency and surplus, making recommendations as to where facilities could be improved or redeveloped, or where new open spaces, pitches and facilities could be provided to address localised quantitative and accessibility deficiencies.

Establishing relevance to equality

DRAFT POLICY INF4: PARKING PROVISION

Parking provision and management for cars and other vehicles will be important in making decisions on new developments to minimise congestion, encourage sustainable transport modes and reduce conflict between road users. The following factors will be important:

- a) The provision of safe, secure, and convenient parking of an appropriate quantity including the need for parking or storage for cars, cycles and motor cycles, and where relevant, coaches and lorries.**
- b) The application of minimum parking standards for cars, motorised two wheel vehicles, disabled parking and operational service requirements as set out by the local highway authority, North Yorkshire County Council. The Council will adopt a flexible approach with each case being determined on its own merits, enabling good design solutions to be achieved.**
- c) In areas where anti-social parking is a recognised problem or potential exists for a problem to arise impacting on the quality of life or vitality of an area, the Council will work with developers to ensure existing problems are not made worse or new problems created.**
- d) In drawing up and determining proposals for new development, relevant consideration will be given to policies and objectives within the parking strategies of Craven District Council (for off street parking) and North Yorkshire County Council (for on street parking).**
- e) Encouragement will be given to the increased use of low emission vehicles, including where appropriate the provision of electric vehicle charging points.**
- f) The incorporation of sustainable drainage systems (SuDS), permeable surfacing materials and means of protecting water quality in drainage schemes for example through oil interceptors should be ensured.**

Does the policy or procedure have the potential to cause negative impact or discriminate against different groups in the community based on age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation?

Links to evidence:

[Interim Guidance on Transport Issues including Parking Standards and Advice on Transport Assessments and Travel Plans](#), [Craven District Council Parking Strategy 2014-2019](#), [North Yorkshire County Council Parking Strategy \(2011\)](#)

Answer:

No. Parking provision and management for cars and other vehicles in new developments, including residential, business/industrial, retail and town centre, is an important sustainability consideration in reducing congestion, supporting sustainable transport modes, promoting public safety, reducing conflict between road users and providing for different abilities and needs.

Establishing relevance to equality

DRAFT POLICY INF5: COMMUNICATIONS INFRASTRUCTURE

The expansion of communications infrastructure including Next Generation Access broadband will be supported. This will be achieved by:

- a) Supporting the expansion of communications networks which use existing infrastructure, including masts and structures;**
- b) Supporting the provision of new communications infrastructure where it can be demonstrated that using existing infrastructure or equipment would not be feasible and provided the proposal does not have a significant adverse impact on the character or appearance of the surrounding area. Where apparatus or associated infrastructure is proposed to be located on a building, the proposal will be supported provided the siting, scale and design of the apparatus or associated infrastructure does not have a significant adverse impact on the external appearance of the building.**
- c) Ensuring the location and design of proposals avoid harm to sensitive areas or buildings/structures and accord with local plan Policies ENV1: Countryside and Landscape, ENV2: Heritage, and ENV4 Biodiversity.**

Broadband Access in New Developments:

- d) All new development proposals will be required to demonstrate the anticipated connectivity requirements of the proposed use and how the development will contribute to, and be compatible with, Next Generation Access broadband.**
- e) All new development will be required to enable a Next Generation Access broadband connection where viable. Where it can be demonstrated that the provision of a Next Generation Access broadband connection is not viable, proposals should provide a minimum download connection of 10Mbps and incorporate suitable infrastructure to support delivery of Next Generation Access broadband at a future date.**
- f) Applicants proposing major development schemes should engage with communication providers and local broadband groups to explore how Next Generation Access broadband can be provided and how the development may contribute to and integrate with active broadband projects within the local area.**

Does the policy or procedure have the potential to cause negative impact or discriminate against different groups in the community based on age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation?

Links to evidence:

[European Commission Broadband Strategy and Policy](#), [Broadband Delivery UK](#)

Answer:

No. The expansion of communication infrastructure across Craven will be supported, particularly in areas where mobile and broadband connectivity is poor or non-existent. The provision of appropriate communications infrastructure within new development should balance the viability of a new development with that of the long term social and economic viability and vitality of Craven in terms of connectivity to high quality communications infrastructure and the benefits it provides to residents and businesses.

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If you would like to have this information in a way that's better for you, please telephone **01756 700600**.

