



LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK FOR CRAVEN
DISTRICT OUTSIDE THE YORKSHIRE DALES NATIONAL
PARK

Craven District Council

STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT/ SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL

Volume 3

CORE STRATEGY PREFERRED OPTION

Draft for Consultation

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**Prepared by Land Use Consultants on behalf of
Craven District Council April 2007**

Please note that consultation is taking place on volumes 3 and 3a only. Volumes 1, 1a and 2 are presented as background studies.

This is a working draft of the Strategic Environmental Assessment/Sustainability Appraisal only. The Planning Policy Team has identified gaps in the documents which will be addressed throughout the consultation period.

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I. INTRODUCTION

Introduction

- I.1. Craven District Council is reviewing the Craven District (Outside the Yorkshire Dales National Park) Local Plan, to be replaced by a Local Development Framework (LDF) incorporating Development Plan Documents (DPDs) and Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs). The DPDs and SPDs included in the LDF need to be subject to sustainability appraisal (SA), under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase act 2004. The SAs conducted must also meet the requirements for Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in accordance with European Directive 2001/42/EC (also known as the SEA Directive. This SA, incorporating SEA, was undertaken in line with ODPM Guidance. The objective of the SEA Directive is *'to provide for a high level of protection of the environment and contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans...with a view to promoting sustainable development'*. According to the Government's guidance, SA includes a wider range of considerations, extending to social and economic impacts of plans, whereas SEA is more focussed on environmental impacts. A key output of the SA process is this SA Report which describes the plan being appraised, how the appraisal has been conducted, and the likely significant sustainability effects of implementing the plan.

This report (**Volume 3** and **Volume 3a** supporting appendices) and the associated two volumes with supporting appendices have been written by Land Use Consultants and constitute the SEA and Sustainability Appraisal (SEA/SA) of Craven District Council's Core Strategy Preferred Options. Both sets of documents have been prepared in April 2007 and are due to be published for public consultation in June 2007. The SEA/SA includes an appraisal of sustainable spatial objectives relating to the spatial vision and preferred policies.

- I.2. This chapter outlines the background to Craven District Council's Core Strategy. It also describes the method of approach used in the appraisal of the objectives and policies and details a number of subjective judgements made in the appraisal process. A summary of the appraisal of both the objectives and preferred options is provided in Chapter 2, followed by conclusions and recommendations in Chapter 3 and proposals for implementation in Chapter 4. Detailed supporting matrices are included in Appendix 1 and 2 (**Volume 3a**).

Background

- I.3. Craven District Council's Core Strategy Preferred Options sets out the Council's proposed policy direction highlighting, where appropriate, alternatives which have been considered during the course of the development of the document.
- I.4. The current Preferred Options Document was preceded by the Issues and Options Review which had itself been the subject of extensive consultation with the local community and other stakeholders during June/July 2006. The "Shaping Places and

Spaces" Consultation Papers¹ were also subject to the SEA/SA processes (**Volume 2**) and the recommendations made from that part of the SEA/SA process were considered by the Council and incorporated in the current version of the Core Strategy Preferred Options. **Annex I** to this report provides details of how this set of documents complies with the SEA Directive.

Method of Approach

I.5. This SEA/SA has followed the standard methodology recommended by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister² and in more recent guidance published in November 2005.³ Each of the preferred policies presented in the Core Strategy has been examined against a set of SEA/SA objectives that was adopted in the Scoping Report (**Volume I**). The aim of the appraisal has been to identify any significant conflicts or synergies between the preferred policies and the SEA/SA objectives. Significant sustainability effects of the preferred policies have been assessed by predicting and weighing the consequent effect of the option in terms of its probability, duration, frequency and reversibility. In assessing the effects of the preferred policies against sustainability objectives, the following issues have been considered:

- **Timescale:** Are the potential effects short, medium or long term, and are they likely to be permanent or temporary? It is considered that such effects will take place during the plan period; up to 2021. Indicative timescales which have been referred to in this document are defined below:
 - **Short term effects: 1 to 5 years**
 - **Medium term: 5 to 10 years**
 - **Long term: 10 to 15 years**
- **Magnitude, scale and likelihood of occurrence:** What is the potential scale of the effect based on a scale of minor, moderate or major and considering the geographical area and size of population likely to be affected? In addition, how likely is it that the effect will actually occur?
- **Status of the effect:** Are the effects of the policy likely to be positive or negative?
- **Cumulative/secondary and synergistic effects:** Is it likely that development implemented in accordance with the policies of the plan will have cumulative,

¹ Consultation Paper 1: Vision, Strategic Objectives and Settlement Strategy, 2 Housing Strategy and Distribution, 3: Economic Strategy and Distribution, 4: Environment and Design and 5: Transport

² Sustainability of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents, Guidance for Regional Planning Bodies and Local Planning Authorities, ODPM, September 2005

³ Sustainability of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents, Guidance for Regional Planning Bodies and Local Planning Authorities, ODPM, November 2005

secondary and synergistic effects on the environment or on existing social or economic conditions?

- **Mitigation:** Can predicted adverse effects be avoided through introducing conditions or changes in the way in which policies are implemented? Options for introducing mitigation include considering revised, alternative or new policies or policy criteria to reduce the potential impacts.

The detailed findings of the appraisal process are contained in matrices in **Volume 3a**.

Assumptions and factors taken into account during the SEA/SA

I.6 The SEA/SA process is based on systematic review techniques. However, it also relies on an element of subjective judgement and predictions about how people's patterns of behaviour will change as a result of development, and the type and location of development which would be implemented. The following general assumptions and factors were taken into account when appraising the various components of the Core Strategy DPD.

- Whilst it is assumed that proposals seek to concentrate development on previously developed land, there will inevitably be some development on greenfield land and over the longer term it is uncertain what the environment effects on such sites will be.
- The effects of new development on travel patterns are not easy to determine, since this depends on a wide range of factors, many of which are outside the remit of the planning system. Of these factors perhaps the most significant is the cost of fuel. Although, the ease of driving between A and B is another factor which also needs to be considered. The Settlement Hierarchy seeks to concentrate development largely within Skipton (the Principal Service Centre), and the Local Service Centres of Settle (with Giggleswick), Glusburn/ Crosshills with Sutton in Craven and High Bentham, with limited development in the smaller Local Service Centres. This should make it easier to invest in and develop effective public transport systems. It should also lead to a reduction in vehicular trips between work and home for people based in the Service Centres.
- Whilst the decision to concentrate development in the service centres, and to constrain development outside the defined boundaries of settlements within Craven, should reduce wider environmental impacts in the open countryside and in small villages. It is assumed some negative environmental impacts may be sustained through the continued reliance on travel by car in the more remote areas.
- It is assumed that all new development will achieve high design and construction standards and adhere to sustainable principles. However, delivery of these aims is dependent on the commitment of developers and the skills of the design team as well as inputs from the planning authority.

Consideration of Individual Developments

- I.7 Development proposals will need to achieve a balance between competing SEA/SA objectives, for example balancing the need to protect and enhance environmental assets against social and economic strategic development considerations, such as housing and employment. This will only be achieved through the careful consideration of each development proposal and the monitoring of effects, including cumulative effects resulting from incremental development. In achieving such a balance it is essential that there should be a clear overall gain in sustainability and that there is no net deterioration in any one of the three pillars (social, environmental or economic) of sustainable development.

2. SUMMARY OF THE APPRAISAL OF PREFERRED OPTIONS FOR THE PLANNING STRATEGY

Introduction

2.1. The following paragraphs summarise the findings of the SEA/SA in three sections covering the appraisal of:

- Core Strategy Sustainable Spatial Objectives,
- Preferred Policies,
- General mitigation measures.

The overall conclusions and recommendations are set out in Chapter 3.

Relationship to work being undertaken at other levels in the Planning Framework

2.2. Under the new planning framework Local Development Frameworks are required to be in conformity with Regional Spatial Strategies.

2.3. The draft Regional Spatial Strategy for Yorkshire and Humber to 2021 was submitted to the Secretary of State in December 2006. Following the Examination in Public in late 2006 the Panel Report published their recommendations in May 2007. Further consultation on the modifications is expected in late 2007, with the intention that the document will be adopted early to mid 2008. Since the Regional Spatial Strategy is now a statutory development plan, all Local Development Documents should have full regard to it once the new Regional Spatial Strategy is issued.

2.4. The draft Regional Spatial Strategy's⁴ agreed vision or framework for the region, "Advancing Together" sets out to achieve a "world class region" improving economic, social and environmental well being. The Strategy seeks to attain a more concentrated form of development, well related to existing transport structure. The majority of development will be concentrated in regional and sub regional centres such as Leeds and Sheffield and principal service centres, including Skipton. The principal service centres will provide the main local focus for development for housing, employment and services across the region's rural areas. Elsewhere (rural and coastal areas) development will be limited to meeting local need in terms of housing and economic diversification, ensuring that the region's environmental character is protected and enhanced.

⁴ The Yorkshire and Humber Plan, Draft for Public Consultation, December 2006

- 2.5. The Regional Spatial Strategy splits the region into seven distinct sub areas, two of which cover Craven District; Leeds City Region to the south and Remoter Rural to the north. The Leeds City Region seeks to ensure that the advantages of different areas are promoted, balancing this against the need to achieve greater diversity. For Craven, the Plan specifically supports *“the development of the role of those towns such as Skipton that service a rural hinterland.”* Within the Remoter Rural region, Settle and Bentham are recognised as having strong links with the north west region, as well as acting as service centres for the sub area. The Regional Spatial Strategy advocates that the quality of this sub area should be safeguarded and supports the diversification of the local economy to achieve small scale enterprises, with limited housing provision.
- 2.6. The SA⁵ of the Regional Spatial Strategy was generally supportive, but does identify a number of issues, many of which need to be addressed at a national level, see **Box 3.1**. In terms of its assessment of the sub regions; the SA considers that for Leeds City Region the Regional Spatial Strategy *“gives a clear and focused policy response, by particularly promoting four areas of regeneration; and nicely recognises social inequalities and economic disparities”*. For the Remoter Rural region, the Strategy seeks to focus *“on maintaining the role of local services but, given current level of service provision, this is unlikely to adequately cater for local needs.”* In addition, this Policy did not adequately address accessibility. *“Increasing accessibility by sustainable means should be a priority, and is important in terms of services, transport and communication. Although the policy encourages innovative public transport initiatives, it is quite vague and ‘soft’ given the importance of these issues. More detail could be included on how accessibility should be encouraged through Local Development Frameworks and Local Transport Plans. Given the limited capacity for population growth through housing restrictions, the link between more efficient and viable public transport should be made with opportunities for economic development, such as tourism. This would help to build critical mass to support better public transport (with increased frequency and benefits for local people).”*
- 2.7. The SEA/SA of Craven's Core Strategy Preferred Options DPD, has taken such concerns into consideration in its review and reflects on some of the SA findings in Chapter 3..

Box 3.1 Extract from the SA Non Technical Summary:

The RSS is likely to have some significant negative impacts, notably:

- *Air travel* is the least sustainable form of transport, particularly in terms of climate change. Air travel in the region is expected to treble by 2030. Airport development is promoted by government, and local authorities in the region perceive airports as an opportunity for spin-off development. The RSS could challenge government policy and prevent further airport expansion, but does not do so.
- *Road development*: Traffic growth is a key sustainability issue in the region but several policies (e.g. C1, SY1, H1) still promote improvements to long-distance road links. However overall this aspect of the RSS has improved greatly over time.
- The *economy* chapter promotes an ‘old style’ approach that focuses on employment land rather than a holistic economic spatial strategy. It does not explain how the

⁵ Sustainability Appraisal (integrating strategic environmental assessment) of the Yorkshire and Humber draft RSS, December 2005, Levitt - Therivel

strategy can help to address economic disparities and social inequalities, and gives little direction on priorities. Development in the South Yorkshire and Humber sub-areas also seems to be promoted without clear links to its social benefits.

- *Climate change* targets are unlikely to be met under current trends, and the RSS does not go beyond national standards to deal with this problem.
- *Cumulative impacts on the Humber Estuary*: The RSS promotes port development along the Humber, transport infrastructure to support the port development, increased transport of freight by water, regeneration in Hull and Grimsby, and increased use of the E20 transport corridor and regional airports. Together with existing trends, particularly 'coastal squeeze' from climate change, these could have a significant effect on the biodiversity of the Humber Estuary.
- *Individual projects* listed in the draft RSS that could have significant impacts are: 'regionally significant development areas' at the Waverley-Orgreave AMP site and Robin Hood Airport, port development at the Humber including Port Logistics/Humber Bank, and the Spallation project near Selby.

Viii Even where it itself has positive impacts, the RSS will not always be able to counter some wider negative trends that are due to individuals' behaviour, government policies (notably on roads and air travel), and other factors like power stations' choice of fuel. Significant cumulative effects of the plan with these other plans/trends will be:

- increased travel by car and air
- increased greenhouse gas emissions
- increased water demand and decreased water provision
- increased waste generation and disposal to landfill
- landscape impacts, including light pollution and loss of tranquility

Likely positive cumulative impacts are reduced social inequalities and increased economic prosperity.

Like all RSSs, much of the draft RSS for Yorkshire and Humber will work only if many things outside its control are also done. The draft RSS makes a good attempt to identify these and the ways other organisations can be encouraged to implement them, but it has few teeth. Unless government intervenes vigorously, and empowers local authorities and other agencies to do so, this RSS (like other RSSs) will not do any more than slow some unsustainable trends.

Craven District's Local Development Framework

- 2.8. The new Local Development Framework for Craven will comprise of Local Development Documents, which will collectively deliver the spatial planning strategy for Craven. The Local Development Documents are set out in the Local Development Scheme⁶ (LDS), which also outlines the preparation of documents from 2007 to 2010. Documents include:

- Core Strategy DPD
- Site Allocations DPD

⁶ Local Development Framework for Craven District outside the Yorkshire Dales National Park – Revised Draft Local Development Scheme 2007-2010, Submission Draft, March 2007

- 2.9. To date Craven District Council has drafted their Core Strategy Preferred Options, March 2007. Separate SEA/SAs are being prepared for the Core Strategy and the Site Allocations DPD. This SEA/SA report sets out the findings of the appraisal of the Core Strategy DPD. The Statement of Community Involvement and Local Development Scheme do not need to be subject to sustainability appraisals. Additional LDDs could be brought into the programme at a later date and each will need to be accompanied by a SEA/SA.

Craven District Council's Core Strategy DPD

- 2.10. The Core Strategy Preferred Options report covers part of the District that lies outside the Yorkshire Dales National Park. During its development the Preferred Options report has been informed by the:

- Shaping Places and Spaces Conference, in June 2005
- Issues and Options Papers published for consultation in June-July 2006
- A feedback and workshop event in January 2007

The preparation of the Core Strategy Preferred Options report has also been informed by various background studies which have been completed or are currently in progress:

- Urban Potential Study
- Town Centres Study
- Housing Needs Survey
- Flood Risk Assessment
- Town Centre Car Parking Strategy
- Employment Land Review
- Landscape Appraisal
- Strategic Housing Market Assessment
- Strategic Housing and Employment Land Availability Appraisals
- OTHERS??

- 2.11. The emerging Core Strategy⁷ outlines a spatial vision for Craven in 2021, supported by 15 sustainable spatial objectives, which will form the basis for all LDF documents and thirty one strategic spatial policies. The vision seeks to support the Craven Community Strategy and the North Yorkshire Strategic Partnership Community Strategy 2005-2008. The settlement strategy sets out the broad approach to the location of future development in Craven based on scale, nature and accessibility of facilities settlements provide. The strategy seeks to encourage sustainable growth of larger settlements and restrict development to an appropriate scale in more remote and inaccessible rural areas to meet local need. This approach accords with higher level plans, particularly the draft Regional Spatial Strategy.

⁷ Preferred options Report, March 2007, Craven District Council

Appraisal of the Core Strategy Sustainable Spatial Objectives

- 2.12. The sustainable spatial objectives were reviewed against the SEA/SA objectives detailed in **Volume I** to determine any incompatibilities or inherent tensions. A summary of the findings is detailed below, with a more detailed breakdown in **Volume 3a, Appendix I**. The Appraisal has noted that:
- Some conflict may be anticipated between the different plan elements including employment land, housing, social infrastructure, community services and facilities and environmental priorities (natural, built, historic and cultural environment). The type and duration of impacts will vary depending on the nature of development and its requirements. For example renewable energy development such as wind turbines may not be in accessible locations and could have strong negative impacts on the environment and public perception.
 - Careful consideration needs to be given, when design briefs are prepared or individual planning applications are considered, as to how new development could alter the existing demographic make up of communities. In the context of the SA/SEA it is impossible to determine the mix of dwelling units which will come forward in relation to each site. It will be important at the design and planning stage to ensure that all socio economic groups and ages are catered for in order to help create balanced and sustainable communities. It is noted that preferred policy HO4 and HO5 covers housing size, mix and density.
 - Focusing future development in service centres and maximising the use of previously developed land is a strategy which is supported by the SEA/SA. However the success of this approach will depend upon the care taken to ensure that the value of sites for townscape character, nature conservation, geodiversity, heritage and culture are assessed and important features recognised and retained where possible.
 - In addition, a balance needs to be achieved between creating vibrant sustainable communities within higher level centres (principal, local and smaller centres and villages with facilities) with meeting the needs of communities in other rural villages and the open countryside. It has to be accepted that in such locations there will inevitably be a higher reliance on the private car despite improvements to reduce the need to travel through innovative travel solutions.

Appraisal of the Preferred Policies

- 2.13 Thirty one preferred policies detail the Council's overarching approach for development within Craven District. These policies have been assessed against the SEA/SA headline objectives and sub objectives, detailed in the Scoping Report, **Volume I** and using matrices detailed in **Appendix 2, Volume 3a**, which also includes a more detailed justification for some of the recommendations. Where the effects on all the SEA/SA sub objectives under the headline objectives are the same, one assessment symbol and commentary has been used. Please note that SEA/SA Objective 11, Promoting good governance is an over-arching objective which relates to all other objectives and should be addressed through effective participation and local decision making. A summary of the key sustainability issues are outlined below:

Preferred Policy INF1: Planning Obligations

- 2.13. This Policy seeks to ensure that deficiencies associated with new development are overcome through additional or improved community services and facilities. The Policy will positively support SEA/SA objectives 2, 5a, 6d, 7b, 8, 9 and objective 10; (protecting and improving air, water and soil quality and minimising noise pollution, maximising the use of previously developed land and buildings, encouraging sustainable distribution and communication systems, reduce levels and fear or crime, provide sufficient good quality housing, safeguard and improve access and achieve and promote high levels provision of sustainable transport modes) although recognition needs to be made to the fact that inequalities will still remain between urban and rural settlements. The policy should ensure that through developers' contributions there are opportunities to provide for community, social, educational and healthcare facilities as well as affordable housing.

- 2.14. Mixed effects will be generated on SEA/SA Objectives 6a to 6c; (developing a strong, diverse economic base). On the one hand, excessive planning obligations could have the potential to discourage economic development through increased costs to businesses; however, on the other, such obligations could improve the environment, thereby attracting further inward investment. Whilst planning obligations are likely to be required for all additional infrastructure, facilities, and environmental protection measures for sustainable development of employment land, the effects are uncertain and dependent on the scale, nature and location of development. In addition, mixed effects will be generated in relation to SEA/SA Objectives 1a and c; (landscape character and historic/cultural heritage). Whilst it is assumed that planning obligations should include appropriate measures to improve the natural and built form and respect heritage, through references to public art and public realm provision, further information could be included within the supporting text to substantiate these SEA/SA objectives. Consideration should also be given to the need to support energy conservation, promote renewable energy schemes and encourage developers to implement water saving measures.

- 2.15. The predicted timescale of this Policy to have an effect is medium to long term since this Policy relates to long-term sustainable development in planning and land management. The likelihood of this Policy having a positive effect on the SEA objectives is uncertain and will depend on the scale, nature and location of development and the extent of developer/landowner contributions.

Mitigation Measures:

Consider including specific reference to landscape works and the protection of cultural heritage in the list of matters covered by Planning Obligations in the supportive text.

The legal agreements could include obligations to provide energy efficiency and renewable energy measures in relation to large developments.

Preferred Policy INF 2: Community Infrastructure

- 2.16. Policy INF2 seeks to ensure the provision of community infrastructure. This Policy will have significant positive effects on SEA/SA Objective 9a, 9b and 9d; (safeguarding and improving access to particular facilities). It should have a positive effect on supporting key community services and facilities, especially within rural areas; creating sustainable rural communities. It is assumed that this Policy will reduce pressure on existing services and facilities by ensuring that such facilities/services are provided in new large scale developments. This policy should have a positive effect on SEA/SA objective 10; (achieving and promoting high level provision and use of sustainable transport modes) reducing vehicular trips, since it seeks to retain or site development in appropriate, accessible locations to meet the needs of the community, thereby reducing the need for vehicular trips. It will also have a positive effect on SEA/SA objective 7a; (improving access to and availability of health care facilities), as given the expected rise in the local elderly population, the Council will work closely with the primary care trusts and others to identify whether the provision of additional healthcare and other facilities may be needed in the District.
- 2.17. Uncertain effects are associated with SEA/SA Objective 6 and 5a; (Promoting a strong, diverse economic base and maximising the use of previously developed land and buildings). Whilst this Policy seeks to maintain the viability of existing facilities and services, it also accepts that where demand is low, it may be economically unviable to continue supporting a facility or service, resulting in the loss of the facilities and associated local employment. It is also uncertain whether development associated with community infrastructure will be constructed on previously developed land, although it is accepted that multi-use facilities may contribute positively to reducing land take.
- 2.18. The effect of this policy on many of the environmental SEA/SA Objectives 2, 3 and 4b,c and d; (protecting and improving air, water and soil quality and minimising noise pollution, minimising the consumption of natural resources, and developing a managed response to the effects of climate change) will be guided by other policies on the design and location of development, which will be covered elsewhere in the Core Strategy.
- 2.19. The predicted timescale within which this Policy will have an effect is short to long term and the likelihood of this policy having positive effects on the SEA/SA objectives will depend on other policies within the Core Strategy, emerging DPDs and the introduction and use of Supplementary Planning Documents where appropriate.

Mitigation Measures:

The text could refer to improving access to IT and broadband facilities, particularly in more remote areas.

Preferred Policy INF 3: Sustainable Transport

- 2.20. This Policy seeks to utilise and improve existing public transport and encourage a modal shift from the car to other forms of sustainable transport. Preferred policy

INF3 will have a significant positive effect on SEA/SA Objectives 2a and 10; (reducing air pollution and achieving and promoting high level provision and use of sustainable transport). This Policy seeks to widen the choice of travel, including walking and cycling. Alongside specific proposals, it should have a positive effect on SEA/SA Objective 9a to e; (improving accessibility for all) and SEASA 7a; (improving access and availability of facilities and services). The creation of an integrated, safe and efficient transportation and communications system is also likely to attract inward investment, market development and employment, increase the viability of larger settlements support existing businesses, SEA Objective 6a-d; (supporting a strong, diverse economy).

- 2.21. With reference to SEA/SA objective 4; (developing a managed response to Climate Change), this Policy is likely to contribute to a reduction in carbon emissions associated with transportation by encouraging public transport, walking and cycling. Directing the most travel intensive development to larger centres and improvements advocated through this Policy should assist in minimising the duration and number of car borne trips and reduce the consumption of natural resources.
- 2.22. Even though the policy seeks to promote innovative public transport solutions, it is considered that the effects of this Policy will not be as positive in rural areas, where a greater reliance will remain on travel by car. A modal switch in such locations would only be achievable if affordable and accessible public transport was provided between rural and urban areas, other community transport schemes were developed, flexible working was encouraged and improvements were made in IT and Broadband.
- 2.23. The predicted timescale of this Policy to have an effect is medium to long term since this Policy relates to proposals for the use and development of land. The likelihood of this Policy having positive effects on the SEA objectives will depend on other policies within the Core Strategy and more detailed generic development policies which are still in preparation, the introduction and use of SPDs and the implementation of works by developers.

Mitigation Measures:

Consider adding to the supplementary text a note stating that more innovative transport solutions could include encouraging more flexible working, live/work units and improvements in IT and Broadband.

In order to reduce vehicular trips, it is important to ensure that recycled and secondary materials are used in construction, local materials are sourced where appropriate and measures are taken to minimise environmental effects including impacts on water pollution, land contamination and landscape character.

Opportunities should be explored to reduce consumption through for example alternative fuel sources.

Preferred Policy INF 4: Kildwick Level Crossing and Cross Hills Railway Station

- 2.24. Preferred Policy INF seeks to safeguard land for a road bridge at Kildwick Level Crossing and enable the provision of a railway station at Cross Hills. This policy will have significant positive effects in the longer term on SEA/SA objective 10; (to achieve and promote high level provision and use of sustainable transport modes where possible) through improvements in road circulation and in the rail and bus network, focused on Cross Hills railway station, It should also support SEA/SA objectives 2a/d, 4a, 4c, 6d, and 9; (reduce air and noise pollution, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, achieve efficient use of energy, encourage sustainable distribution and communication systems and safeguarding and improving accessibility). The impact of this policy on SEA/SA Objectives 1b/1c, 2b/2c and 5a; (protecting biodiversity, flora and fauna and geological interests, conserving and enhancing the historic and cultural environment, maintaining and improving water and soil quality and maximising the use of previously developed land and buildings) will be dependent on the site chosen and whether it is greenfield or brownfield land.

- 2.25. Mixed effects are associated with SEA/SA Objective 6; (supporting a strong, diverse economy); whilst in the long term this Policy will facilitate access to the area with positive benefits for local economic development growth, recommendations that all development is expected to contribute to these schemes, may constrain the scale of development taking place in such settlements and developers willingness to invest in the area.

- 2.26. The predicted timescale within which this Policy will have an effect is long term since the proposal is dependent on funds from planning obligations associated with development within the Glusburn/Crosshills/Sutton area. The likelihood of this Policy having a positive effect on the SEA objectives is uncertain since it depends on the availability of funding and the phasing of new infrastructure works.

Mitigation Measures:

Further clarification is required in the Site Allocations DPD as to the obligations of developers, and the implications on the type of development which is likely to come forward within such locations if all development is to contribute to the road bridge, associated road works and provision of a railway station.

Policy INF 5: Skipton to Colne Railway Line – Safeguarding of Route

- 2.27. This Policy sees to safeguard the disused Skipton to Colne Railway and consider whether part of the route could be used to re-align short stretches of the A56. In the short term this policy could generate a number of positive effects on SEA/SA objective 7, 9, 10, 2a, 4a and 5a; (improving access to health, safeguarding and improving accessibility, achieving and promoting sustainable transport modes, reducing air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions and maximising the use of previously developed' land) through the creation of a footpath or cycle route.

However in the long term, as a result of safeguarding elements of the route relating the A56, the aim of creating a sustainable transport route may be displaced and as such the effect on the above SEA/SA objectives is uncertain. In addition, it is uncertain whether opportunities to maintain and enhance the natural and built environment will be affected by realignment proposals resulting in the loss of a wildlife corridor. Conversely road realignment may have a positive effect on SEA/SA objectives 6d; (encouraging sustainable distribution and communication systems) if the A56 was to be made into a strategic transport route and development sited close to it.

- 2.28. Whilst it is likely that the effects of these proposals to create a footpath/cycleway will be achievable in the short term, the effects associated with reopening of the Skipton Colne railway line will be long term. The likelihood of this Policy having a positive effect on the SEA objectives is high regarding the development of a footpath/cycle route, but uncertain regarding the reopening of the Skipton Colne railway line.

Mitigation Measures:
Further clarification is required as to whether through the realignment of the A56, there will be the resultant loss of sections of the disused railway line and whether this will have a long term impact on creating a viable route for cyclists and walkers.

Preferred Policy SS 1: Principal Service Centre & Policy SS 2: Local Service Centres

(Please note: The review of these policies has been amalgamated because of the similarities in the assessment)

- 2.29. These policies seek direct the district's development towards the Principal Service Centre of Skipton (SS1) and emphasises the role of Local Services Centres of Crosshills/Glusburn/ Sutton in Craven, Settle (with Giggleswick and High Bentham in the future development and provision of services (SS2)). Policy SS 1 and SS2 will have a number of positive effects on the SEA/SA headline objectives. By concentrating development within settlements and primarily in the principal service centre and local service centres, where "public transport and community services and facilities are available," more sustainable development should be achieved than by intensifying development where there are inadequate facilities, services and infrastructure to support them. By locating development primarily within Skipton; the "principal service centre" and "local service centres", the social and economic needs of the population (the majority of whom live within the larger settlements) will be addressed through the ability of such locations to draw in a wide diversity of economic opportunities and employment, SEA/SA objectives 6, 8a and 9; (developing a strong, diverse economic base, meet the demand for affordable housing and safeguard and improve accessibility). Increased investment and associated development should improve the vitality and viability of such centres and provide opportunities for improvements to townscape character; SEA/SA objective 1a-c; (maintaining and enhancing the natural and built environment). In addition, development will be able to draw on existing services and facilities, and where there

is pressure on such facilities, there is the potential capacity for further development. Development will also be sited in accessible locations close to public transport, walking and cycling routes, (SEA/SA objective 10a; to reduce the need for vehicular trips). The siting of such development should reduce vehicular trips, consumption of fossil fuels and consequently greenhouse gas emissions, SEA/SA objectives 3a and 4a.

- 2.30. The Policy seeks to prioritise the reuse of previously developed land, although it is accepted that some land is likely be greenfield to meet demand, SEA/SA objective 5a; (to maximise the use of previously developed land and buildings). This will have a positive effect on the efficient use of land, and should protect against the erosion of the surrounding countryside and associated environmental effects. Although not stated in this Policy, other policies should ensure that new building on previously developed land will be of good quality, carefully sited and designed to maintain and/or enhance the surrounding environment. Specific policies covering design and construction are covered elsewhere in the Core Strategy (Policy ED7). If carefully handled all these positive effects should improve communities' sense of well being, health, and overcome their fear of crime.
- 2.31. The predicted timescale within which this Policy will have an effect is medium to long term since this Policy relates to proposals for the use and development of land. The likelihood of this Policy having a positive effect on the SEA objectives is high.

Mitigation Measures:
No mitigation measures are suggested

Preferred Policy SS 3: Smaller Local Service Centres Policy & SS 4: Villages with Facilities

(Please note: The review of these policies has been amalgamated because of the similarities in the assessment)

- 2.32. Policy SS3 seeks to limit development within Smaller Local Services and Policy SS4, Villages with facilities recommends that development is small scale and aimed to meeting local need. These policies will generate positive effects on SEA/SA objective 9b; (improving access to the countryside, parks and open space) and potential positive effects on a number of other SEA/SA objectives. This policy will generate positive effects on SEA/SA 5a; (to maximise the use of previously developed land and buildings) protecting against the erosion of the surrounding countryside and associated environmental effects. However there will inevitably be some negative effects on habitats and species on previously developed land and some site's industrial heritage. Although proposals seek to concentrate development on brownfield sites, development will take place on greenfield land resulting in uncertain effects associated with SEA/SA objective 1b, 1c and 5a; (protect and enhance and improve biodiversity, flora and fauna and geological interests, conserve and enhance the historic and cultural environment and maximising the use of previously developed land and buildings).

- 2.33. Since these policies seek to locate most development within the settlement boundaries thereby creating sustainable communities, there should be positive effects on the effects of greenhouse gases; SEA/SA objective 4a; (to reduce greenhouse gas emissions). In smaller local service centres and villages with facilities, access to education, employment and services will still be heavily reliant on travel by car, unless a more accessible and frequent public transport network is available and/or innovative solutions to access services and facilities are explored (SEA/SA objectives 4a and 10a).
- 2.34. These Policies seek to direct development to meet a local need or where it will contribute towards the diversification of the rural economy. However it is uncertain from the Policy how the employment needs of the community will be assessed (SEA/SA Objective 6) and similarly the need for local facilities and services (SEA/SA objectives(7a, 7c and 9a).
- 2.35. A risk that needs to be considered in promoting a strategy which takes a hierarchical approach to settlement distribution is that this could exacerbate the disparities in living conditions between larger and more rural locations, resulting in higher levels of social isolation within some rural communities and increased levels of commuting. Although rural service centres will support rural communities and provide a level of services and facilities, other mechanisms which may be beneficial, need to be put in place to either help reduce vehicular trips or to help encourage a modal switch. As the Core Strategy is implemented it will be important to undertake regular assessment of travel to work patterns to and from the main settlements. In addition opportunities will need to be explored to reduce vehicular trips by other means such as encouraging flexible working, improvements in IT facilities including Broadband and the creation of homes in rural service centres which offer combined work space.
- 2.36. Whilst these policies aim to address some of the issues described above, the levels of investment in such areas will be significantly lower than in Skipton; the principal service centre and local service centres. In consequence, the Council may need to explore other ways of stimulating and sustaining the economy and minimising potential social inequalities in the remoter or less prosperous parts of the rural areas.
- 2.37. The predicted timescale within which this Policy will have an effect is medium to long term since this Policy relates to development in service centres and villages. The likelihood of this Policy having a positive effect on the SEA objectives is high.

Mitigation Measures:

Clarify how the needs of the community in terms of local employment, services and community facilities/infrastructure will be determined.

Accessible and frequent public transport provision between rural and service centres is needed, particularly for SS4 villages with facilities, to reduce car dependency as well as encourage more innovative community schemes, flexible working improvements in IT and Broadband.

Preferred Policy SS 5: Other Rural Villages and Open Countryside

- 2.38. This Policy, SS5 seeks to resist most development unless an exceptional justification can be demonstrated. Policy SS 5 will generate significant positive effects in terms of SEA/SA objective. 4b; (to promote the use of renewable energy). There will also be positive effects on a number of SEA/SA Objectives, particularly 8b and 5B; (sustainable construction and design and use of previously developed land and buildings).
- 2.39. Potential positive effects are associated with SEA/SA objective 1, 4c and 6; (to maintain and enhance the natural and built environment, energy conservation and supporting a diverse economy). In terms of SEA/SA objective 1; (maintain and enhance the natural and built environment) this Policy will have a positive effect on constraining development in smaller rural villages and the open countryside. When allowed, development will achieve the *“viable reuse an existing buildings and secure significant environmental improvements, and/or conservation of an important landscape feature”*. However, since the clause also seeks to make provision for the generation of renewable energy it is important that this Policy is read alongside Policy ED8 to ensure that environmental impacts are minimised.
- 2.40. It will also be important to ensure that the cumulative effect of development outside settlement boundaries is monitored and that the effects of any new development on the environment, local economy and community are minimised through an assessment of highway capacity, the economic viability of adjacent land uses and adjacent communities' quality of life (SEA/SA objective 6). Further clarification is required as to whether this policy will support the provision of small scale local facilities and services which will enhance community vitality in other rural villages. This is unclear from the text *“support the social... regeneration of the countryside by meeting the needs of farming, forestry, recreation and tourism”*; SEA/SA objectives 7a/9a, c, d and e; (to improve access and availability of health care facilities and safeguard access and improve accessibility to local services/ facilities, access to IT facilities, education and training, and basic needs).
- 2.41. The predicted timescale within which this Policy will have an effect is medium to long term due to the time it takes for planning proposals to come forward, construction to occur, and the planning system to influence changes in the current land use. The likelihood of this Policy having a positive effect on the SEA objectives is medium to high

Mitigation Measures:

Consider including within this policy a reference to the cumulative effect of incremental development outside settlement boundaries which needs to be carefully monitored.

Consider including criteria against which new development proposals are assessed. This could cover an assessment of highway capacity, impacts on the viability of adjacent land uses and adjacent communities' quality of life.

Clarify whether this Policy will support small scale local facilities/services in rural villages.



Preferred Policy HO 1: Overall Housing Provision

- 2.42. This policy seeks to define the general provision of additional dwellings in line with the Settlement Hierarchy. This Policy will generate positive effects on SEA/SA objective 8a; (meeting the demand for affordable housing). There are potentially positive effects on SEA/SA objective 6; (developing a strong, diverse economic base). Whilst this policy does not influence the location of development it is assumed that by concentrating development within key settlements, which accords with the settlement hierarchy, this policy should fulfil economic need and support locally generated need elsewhere. However, these factors are dependent on specific development proposals coming forward and, for smaller settlements, are based on an assessment of local need and previously developed land, albeit that figures of 55% are lower than that which is stipulated in the draft Regional Spatial Strategy.
- 2.43. Mixed effects are associated with SEA/SA objective 1; (maintaining and enhancing the natural and built environment) and SEA/SA objective 2; (protecting and improving air, water and minimising noise quality). Whilst this policy should accord with the settlement hierarchy, giving priority for development on previously developed land, generating positive effects in protecting the surrounding countryside and associated environmental assets, there could be some negative effects on habitats and species on previously developed land and on industrial heritage. Conversely there could be positive opportunities to maintain and enhance the existing environment through improvements to townscape character; SEA/SA objective 1.
- 2.44. Uncertain effects are associated with SEA/SA objective 1 and 2; (maintain and enhance the natural and built environment and protect and improve air, water and soil quality and minimise noise pollution) since in the long term there will be some development on greenfield land. The effect on SEA/SA objectives will be dependent on the site allocated, the size and nature of development.
- 2.45. The predicted timescale within which this Policy will have an effect is short to long term due to time taken for the preparation of development brief, proposals to come forward and construction to occur. The likelihood of this policy resulting in positive effects on the SEA/SA objectives will depend on other policies within the LDF, the introduction and use of Supplementary Planning Guidance and implementation by developers.

Mitigation Measures:

Where planning applications are submitted associated with the development of previously developed land, they should be accompanied by a remediation plan

Care should be taken to ensure that development is not sited on high grade agricultural land.

Preferred Policy HO 2: Housing Provision within Settlements

- 2.46. This policy seeks to apportion dwellings to each of the key settlements in accordance with Policy H01. It will positively support SEA/SA objective 5a; (promoting the use of previously developed land). Focusing housing development in service centres should contribute towards maximising the use of previously developed land. This policy is also likely to generate positive effects on SEA/SA objectives 9 and 10, through improvements in access to infrastructure, ensuring development is in sustainable locations, and providing convenient access to public transport and local services, thereby minimising the duration and number of car borne trips.
- 2.47. In terms of SEA/SA objective 6; (supporting a strong diverse economic base), it is assumed that by concentrating development within settlements, which accords with the settlement hierarchy, this policy should fulfil economic need within principal service towns, local service centres and villages with facilities. However all these factors very much depend on the specific development proposals which come forward. For other rural villages and the open countryside, development should be based on an assessment of local need.
- 2.48. Mixed effects will be generated in terms of greenhouse gas emissions (SEA/SA objective 4a). If car dependency is reduced it may also have a positive effect on greenhouse gas emissions. However, more isolated rural areas (small villages and open countryside) will still be heavily reliant on the car unless a more accessible and frequent public transport network is available and/or innovative solutions to access services and facilities are explored. Other mixed effects are associated with SEA/SA objective 1; (maintaining and enhancing the natural and built environment) and SEA/SA objective 2, (protecting and improving air, water and minimising noise quality). Whilst this policy should accord with the settlement hierarchy which seeks to concentrate development within key settlements giving priority for development on previously developed land generating positive effects in protecting the surrounding countryside and associated environmental assets, there will inevitably be some negative effects on habitats and species on previously developed land.
- 2.49. Mixed effects are associated with SEA/SA objective 1; (maintaining and enhancing the natural and built environment) and SEA/SA objective 2; (protecting and improving air, water and minimising noise quality). Whilst this policy should accord with the settlement hierarchy, giving priority for development on previously developed land, generating positive effects in protecting the surrounding countryside and associated environmental assets, there could be some negative effects on habitats and species on previously developed land and on industrial heritage. Conversely there could be positive opportunities to maintain and enhance the existing environment through improvements to townscape character; SEA/SA objective 1.
- 2.50. The predicted timescale within which this Policy will have an effect is short to long term due to the time taken for the preparation of development briefs proposals to come forward and construction to occur. The likelihood of this policy resulting in positive effects on the SEA/SA objectives will depend on other policies within the

LDF, the introduction and use of Supplementary Planning Guidance and implementation by developers.

Mitigation Measures:

Clarification is required in the supporting text as to what is considered under environmental capacity constraints.

Where planning applications are submitted in association with previously developed land, they should be accompanied by a Remediation Plan.

Care needs to be taken to ensure that development is not sited on high grade agricultural land.

Preferred Policy HO 3: Use of previously developed land

- 2.51. Preferred Policy HO3 seeks to ensure that all housing development makes full and effective use of previously developed land, providing 55% of dwellings on such land. This policy may generate positive effects on SEA/SA objective 5a, (previously developed land), however whilst this policy seeks to ensure that all development is required to make full and effective use of previously developed land. The targets set are below those recommended in the draft Regional Spatial Strategy (which advocates 70% as opposed to 55%), and the timescale of release of previously developed land is uncertain. It is considered that this policy may generate positive effects associated with SEA/SA objectives 4a-4c, 5b, 9, and 10; (develop a managed response to climate change, maximise the use of previously developed land and buildings, safeguard and improve accessibility and promote sustainable transport modes) albeit that this is dependent on the siting of development which, it is assumed, will align with the settlement hierarchy. There will inevitably be a higher level of investment for larger settlements.
- 2.52. Mixed effects will be generated relating to SEA/SA objective 1; (maintaining and enhancing the natural and built environment) and SEA/SA objective 2; (protecting and improving air, water and soil quality and minimising noise pollution). Whilst this policy will have a positive effect on protecting the surrounding countryside and its landscape and environmental quality, there will inevitably be some negative effects. Such effects include the loss of habitats and species of nature conservation interest which may have colonised such sites and the loss or erosion of the site's historic character. Through sensitive and appropriate safeguards, such effects can be minimised. Positive opportunities will also exist to maintain and enhance the existing environment through improvements to townscape character. In addition, where there is an increased concentration of development, air, water, soil and noise quality may deteriorate. The effects on air pollution in particular will be dependent on whether people are encouraged to make a modal switch.
- 2.53. Uncertain effects will be generated on SEA/SA objective 6a-c; (support a diverse economy). The SEA/SA considers that economic development will have to be balanced against the demand for housing within the larger settlements and principal

and local service centres to satisfy both market demands and labour needs of economic growth.

- 2.54. The predicted timescale within which this Policy will have an effect is medium to long term due to the time taken for development briefs to be prepared, proposals to come forward, construction to occur and the planning system to influence changes in current land use. The likelihood of this Policy having a positive effect on the SEA objectives is high.

Mitigation Measures:

Further clarification is needed of the terms 'environmental quality' and of the timescale and phasing of greenfield land to be released.

Preferred Policy HO4: Mix of Housing

- 2.55. This Policy seeks to ensure that proposals for new housing provide a suitable mix of dwelling types and sizes. The policy should generate significantly positive effects on SEA/SA objective 8b; (to promote the adoption of sustainable design and construction practices). It seeks to ensure that all new dwellings will be designed so that they provide flexibility for future adaptations to meet the needs of all sections of the community, in accordance with Lifetime Homes standards and the Code for Sustainable Homes.
- 2.56. The policy will seek to provide a suitable mix of dwelling types and sizes, to respond to what is predicted to be an increasing percentage of people over the age of 60, "by 2028 38.6% of the population will be over 60." Although not stated in the policy it is assumed that priority will be given to addressing a need for smaller sized homes to respond to lower occupancy rates. The Policy seeks to ensure that new development proposals accord with Lifetime Home standards and the Code for Sustainable Homes, thereby meeting SEA/SA objectives 2; (protecting and improving air, water and soil quality and minimising noise pollution), 3b, and c; (reducing water and water consumption), 4; (developing a managed response to the effects of climate change) and 8b; (prompting the adoption of sustainable construction practices). Since development will be primarily focused on larger settlements with the necessary infrastructure, services and facilities and employment areas, there should also be positive effects on SEA/SA objective 9; (safeguarding and improving accessibility' and 8a; (meeting the demand for affordable housing).
- 2.57. Uncertain effects are associated with 7b; (reducing levels and fear of crime). Although crime levels are low, care needs to be taken to ensure that the provision of dwellings and their design takes full account of concerns over housing density, resulting in potential overcrowding and anti social behaviour.
- 2.58. The predicted timescale within which this Policy will have an effect is medium to long term since this policy relates to the use and development of land. The likelihood of this policy having a positive effect on SEA/SA objectives will depend on other policies

within the Core Strategy, the Site Allocations DPD and the introduction and use of Supplementary Planning Guidance.

Mitigation Measures:

No mitigation measures are suggested.

Preferred Policy HO5: Housing Density

- 2.59. Preferred policy HO5 recommends that in the most sustainable locations there should be a dwelling density of between 30 to 50 dwellings per hectare, adopting a higher density Skipton and on previously developed land within Local Service Centres where appropriate. This policy will positively support SEA/SA objectives 5a and 10; (to achieve and promote sustainable land use and built development and to achieve and promote high level provision and use of sustainable transport modes). By adopting a higher housing density within the built up areas of established settlements where there is convenient access to public transport and local services, and a higher density on previously developed land, within the Local Service Centres, this policy should ensure that new development is located in the most sustainable locations. This Policy may also have positive effects on 4a; (reducing greenhouse gas emissions) through the siting of development in the most sustainable locations, and if people are encouraged to make a modal switch. It will improve access to health care facilities; SEA/SA objective 7a as well as safeguarding and improving accessibility, SEA/SA objective 9 subject to ensuring that connections between new and existing development are maintained. It will be important to ensure that the provision of facilities keeps pace with the phased scale of housing proposed, especially primary schools, health and community facilities and that necessary infrastructure is provided.
- 2.60. Mixed effects are associated with SEA/SA objective 1 and 2; (maintaining and enhancing the environment and protecting and improving air, water and soil quality and minimising noise levels.) By concentrating development in Skipton and local centres there will be positive effects on the surrounding countryside, however increasing densities may result in some negative effects for example on habitats and species and heritage. In addition, there will inevitably be some development on greenfield land and the longer term implications on such sites is uncertain. There will be mixed effects on SEA/SA objective 2; (protect and improve air, water and soil, quality and minimise noise pollution). The remediation of previously developed could improve soil quality and the siting development in the most sustainable locations should reduce vehicular trips and have a positive impact on air quality, however if development is sited on greenfield land or outside larger settlement boundaries where there is limited access to public transport the effects could be negative.
- 2.61. Uncertain effects are associated with SEA/SA objective 7b (to reduce levels and fear of crime) Although crime levels are low, care will need to be taken to ensure that the provision of dwellings and their design are balanced against concerns over housing density, resulting in potential overcrowding and anti social behaviour.

- 2.62. The predicted timescale within which this Policy will have an effect is medium to long term since this policy relate to the use and development of land. The likelihood of this policy having a positive effect on SEA/SA objectives will depend on other policies within the Core Strategy, the Site Allocations DPD and the introduction and use of Supplementary Planning Guidance.

Mitigation Measures:

It will be important to ensure that the provision of facilities, especially primary schools, health and community facilities, keeps pace with the phased scale of housing proposed, and that necessary infrastructure is provided.

Preferred Policy HO 6: Affordable Housing Requirements

- 2.63. Preferred Policy HO6 required at least 60% of housing on all residential and mixed use development. This Policy will generate significant positive effects on SEA/SA objective 8a: (meet the demand for affordable housing) The Core Strategy will require at least 60% of housing on all residential and mixed use development sites with the required tenure mix on any development site including 40% unrestricted market housing; 43% social rented housing and 17% intermediate tenure. This should contribute towards meeting the demand for type and quantity of affordable housing.
- 2.64. Preferred policy HO6 will also have a positive effect on the provision of affordable housing, supporting the creation of sustainable, mixed communities based on the settlement hierarchy. In order to create balanced communities, ensure the provision of affordable homes and meet identified need, this policy seeks to set a low threshold for housing. The target of at least *“60% of all residential and mixed use sites (including conversions)...., for developments of five dwellings or more, or residential sites of 0.1 hectares or more”* is above national guidelines in PPG3 and the 40% target set in the draft Regional Spatial Strategy, and is strongly supported in sustainability terms.
- 2.65. This Policy will also generate potentially positive effects on SEA/SA objective 6; (developing a strong, diverse economic base). The provision of a mix of tenures including 60% affordable housing could stimulate the economy by attracting essential workers into the area, to accommodate various sectors of the economy. It is assumed that this Policy will adhere to the settlement hierarchy and seek to concentrate development in Skipton, and smaller local service centres, where there is good access to services, facilities and sustainable modes of transport, thereby generating positive effects on SEA/SA objectives 7a/b, 9 and 10; (improve access and availability of health care facilities, safeguard and improve accessibility and achieve and promote high level provision and use of sustainable transport modes). It is important to ensure that affordable housing lies in close proximity to community facilities, services and infrastructure, with access to health, education facilities, IT, Broadband and public transport, thereby reducing vehicular trips. Through sensitive design and siting it is assumed that issues relating to crime and anti social behaviour will be overcome.

- 2.66. There are uncertain effects are associated with SEA/SA objective 5a; (maximise the use of previously developed land and buildings). It is assumed that this Policy will seek to site affordable housing on previously developed land and utilise existing buildings where possible.
- 2.67. The predicted timescale within which this Policy will have an effect is short to long term depending on sites coming available for development. The likelihood of this Policy having a positive effect on the SEA objectives is uncertain and will depend on other policies in the Core Strategy, the Site Allocations DPD and the introduction and use of Supplementary Planning Guidance.

Mitigation Measures:

Specific reference should be made either in the supporting text or the policy to the proximity of development to services/facilities and public transport infrastructure.

Preferred Policy HO7: Rural Exception Sites

- 2.68. This Policy states that small scale rural exception sites will only be acceptable where there is a proven local need for affordable housing. This policy could generate positive effects on SEA/SA objective 8a; (meet the demand for affordable housing). Providing affordable housing based on rural exemption sites, should generate positive effect on reducing commuting by workers forced to live elsewhere and readdress the demographic balance of communities. It is assumed that alongside the Craven Housing Needs Assessment, a local needs assessment will need to be undertaken to understand local housing conditions, incomes and property values as well as determine the households or individuals who would qualify under this Policy.
- 2.69. Uncertain effects are associated with SEA/SA objective 5, 7a, 9 and 10; (achieve and promote sustainable land use and built development, improve access and availability of health care facilities, safeguard and improve accessibility, achieve and promote high level provision and use of sustainable transport modes). The effect of this policy on the accessibility to facilities, services and use of public and sustainable transport modes would depend on where the development is sited. However it is assumed that exception sites will only be considered where they are in close proximity to a range of local facilities.
- 2.70. There are also uncertain effects on SEA/SA objectives 1, 2 and 4d; (maintain and enhance the natural and built environment, protect and improve air, water and soil quality and minimise noise pollution, ensure development is not at risk of flooding). By considering locations for housing development where new dwellings would not normally be permitted, there may be negative impacts on conserving and enhancing the natural, built and historic environments, air, water, soil and noise quality and on flood risks. However it is assumed that the same considerations regarding environmental assets will be given to this policy as they would for any other policy.
- 2.71. The predicted timescale within which this Policy will have an effect is medium to medium to long term since this Policy relates to proposals for the use and

development of land. The likelihood of this Policy having a positive effect on the SEA objectives is medium to high.

Mitigation Measures:

Consider including in this Policy or the supporting text specific reference to the need to undertake a Local Housing Needs Assessment, to inform those people who need or wish to remain a resident in the community, but are unable to gain access to affordable housing.

Consider clarifying either in the policy or the supporting text whether rural exemption sites will be well related to a range of local facilities i.e. within walking distance.

In considering possible rural exemption sites, it will be important to ensure that development does not impact on the viability of adjacent businesses.

Preferred Policy HO8: Gypsy and Traveller Sites

- 2.72. This policy seeks to set out a criteria based policy approach to determine planning applications in relation to proposed gypsy and traveller sites. Whilst it is assumed that this policy will result in potentially positive effects on SEA/SA Objective 1, 2 and 3b; (maintain and enhance the natural and built environment, protect and improve air, water and soil quality and minimise noise pollution and reduce waste generation and disposal) through the adoption of a criteria based approach, the actual impacts on the natural and built environment will be dependent on the size, type and location of any proposed sites. There is the potential for negative impacts in terms of pollution of water, soil contamination and waste generation (fly tipping and illegal dumping) if sites are not carefully designed, managed and located. It is also assumed that this policy should make a positive contribution towards meeting differing needs for housing, SEA objective 8a, however this is again dependent on the size, type and location of site selected.
- 2.73. Uncertain effects are associated with SEA/SA objective 5a; (maximising the use of previously developed land and buildings). The sustainability of locations and their appropriateness to settlement character will be dependent on the outcomes of the sub-regional study, and nature and location of the sites selected. Similarly the effects on SEA/SA objectives relating to accessibility/availability of health care facilities, other facilities and services, as well as open space and IT facilities, and sustainable transport modes (SEA/SA objective 7a, 9 and 10) will be dependent on where these sites are located. In terms of SEA/SA objective 6; (developing a strong, diverse economic base), careful consideration will need to be given to the siting of sites and their impact on adjacent businesses, as well as the quality of life of adjacent communities. In terms of SEA/SA objective 7b; (reduce levels and fear of crime) there is potential for concerns over crime and antisocial behaviour to be exacerbated. Such issues will need to be sensitively handled through the design and management of the site.
- 2.74. The predicted timescale within which this Policy will have an effect is medium to long term (informed through the sub regional study). The likelihood of this Policy having a positive effect on the SEA objectives is uncertain and is dependent on the nature, size and location of such sites.

Mitigation Measures:

No mitigation measures are suggested

Preferred Policy EC 1: Employment Land Provision

- 2.75. This policy states that provision for up to 37.5 hectares of employment land should be made available by 2021. This policy will generate positive effects on SEA/SA objective 9a, b and d;(promoting and safeguarding accessibility). The Policy states that the Core Strategy can make additional provision for other non-business class employment sectors, including public services, health, sport and leisure, tourism, cultural industries and education. The policy also supports SEA/SA objective 5a; (previously developed land) by stating that the provision of employment sites will take place on a variety of sites including urban brownfield sites. It is assumed that there will be a strong presumption in favour of appropriate development on brownfield sites.
- 2.76. A number of mixed effects will be generated. In terms of SEA/SA objective 6a, b and c; (supporting a diverse local economy), the SEA considers that whilst this Policy is generally supportive there are a number of issues in relation to employment uses. The ECOTEC Craven Business and Employment Needs Study (2005) states that current business base and employment structure is “*predominately distribution, hotels and restaurants and banking, finance and insurance*”, and that “*manufacturing and construction form a major part of the local economy*”. It goes on to suggest that “*the needs of small businesses such as these will need to be reflected the provision of future employment land and premises*”. Furthermore, the ELR predicts that tourism services and financial and business services will increase over the life of the plan, while manufacturing output is set to fall significantly. The Core Strategy states that provision of land should be based on the findings of the ELR and ECOTEC study and accordingly favours allocations narrowly across B1, B2 and B8 uses. However, this may reduce the potential for expansion in other traditional business areas such as professional and financial services.
- 2.77. There are further mixed effects on SEA/SA objectives 1a, b and c; (maintaining and enhancing the natural and built environment). There is the potential to improve the District's environment through the conversion of brownfield sites, provided such development is appropriate and of high quality, and respects industrial heritage and nature conservation interests. However new development on greenfield sites has the potential to generate negative effects, which it is assumed will be considered against the 'Environment and Design' Policy Framework in Section 8 of the Core Strategy.
- 2.78. Uncertainties are associated with whether this policy will encourage local supply chains and the siting of distribution and warehousing close to main transport networks (SEA/SA objective 6d). In terms of flood risk (SEA/SA objective 4d), the Core Strategy states that some employment land (e.g. around Skipton) which may be subject to flooding could potentially be developed. However, it is assumed that issues related to flooding and new business development will be resolved in

accordance with the recommendations of Policy ED2 and adhere to recommendations in the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment.

- 2.79. There may also be uncertainties on new businesses affecting air, water and noise pollution, SEA/SA objectives 2a, b, c and d, protect and improve air, water and soil quality and minimise noise pollution), however this will depend on the nature of development, its location and size. In addition, there is a potential contradiction between the provision of land for employment, and affordable housing. It should be noted that provision of both should be complimentary (SEA/SA objective 8a).
- 2.80. There are potential negative effects on SEA/SA objective 10; (promoting sustainable transport). The supporting text to the Core Strategy identifies demand for logistics and distribution in the area of South Craven. Such development is likely to increase the level of traffic along the main trunk roads. The level of impact will depend on the types of distribution and logistics activity and whether Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGV) will be used. Any increase in traffic would be likely to have an effect on road safety.
- 2.81. The predicted timescale within which this Policy will have an effect is short to long term, dependent on when proposals come forward, and the likelihood of this Policy having a positive effect on the SEA objectives is high.

Mitigation Measures:

No mitigation measures are suggested

Preferred Policy EC 2: Protecting Employment Land

- 2.82. This Policy seeks to protect against the loss of employment land. It will have a positive effect on SEA/SA objective 6; (develop a strong, diverse, economic base) maintaining economic development and employment as well as contributing to the provision of adequate premises to support the economy. It will ensure that the vitality of the area is retained, and where certain uses are no longer suitable, mixed use development is considered. There will also be positive effects associated with SEA/SA objective 9d; (skills development and access to education and training), through the retention of local industries. The policy supports development located in sustainable locations (SEA/SA objective 5b) and seeks to ensure that employment is not displaced to more unsustainable locations.
- 2.83. This policy will generate mixed effects on SEA/SA objective 1 and 2; (maintaining and enhancing the natural and built environment and protecting and improving air, water, soil and noise quality). The conversion of an existing employment site to a new use could potentially maintain or enhance air or worsen water and soil quality and noise levels, depending on the type and scale of both previous and planned use, and location. It is assumed that environmental considerations will be factored into any decision to protect any employment sites.
- 2.84. Uncertain effects are associated with SEASA/objective 10a, (promoting sustainable transport modes). Whilst this policy may reduce the need for local people to travel

to more distant settlements, by retaining employment opportunities, the potential effects on traffic of existing employment uses will be dependent on the type of employment uses, their location and proximity to more sustainable modes of transport. Uncertain effects are also associated with whether the demand for affordable housing will be met (SEA/SA objective 8a).

- 2.85. The predicted timescale of this Policy to have an effect is short to long term, dependent on when proposals come forward. The likelihood of this Policy having a positive effect on the SEA objectives is high.

Mitigation Measures:

No mitigation measures are suggested

Preferred Policy EC 3: Rural Diversification & Sustainable Rural Economy

- 2.86. Policy EC3 seeks to promote a strong and thriving rural economy, where agricultural businesses are supported and where local communities have a range of opportunities for entrepreneurship. The SEA considers this Policy will support SEA/SA objectives 6a, b and c; (to develop a strong and diverse economic base). It will support existing farming activity while encouraging the diversification of the rural economy, thereby contributing to the overall provision of employment opportunities. However due consideration needs to be given to the viability of existing businesses. This policy will also generate positive effects on SEA/SA objective 9d; (skills development and training), through training provided by small to medium enterprises, SEA/SA objective 6d; (encouraging sustainable distribution and communication systems), through the development of local supply chains and the provision and use of e-business and broadband associated with home working opportunities and rural diversification. It will also generate positive effects associated with SEA/SA objective 5a; (the use of previously developed land) through its flexible approach to change of use of rural and agricultural buildings whist not encouraging sporadic and unsustainable development in the open countryside. The policy will have positive effects on SEA/SA objective 1; (maintaining and enhancing the natural and built environment). The supporting text to this Policy emphasises that agriculture and the rural economy are important factors in maintaining the distinctive local character and high visual quality of the landscape.
- 2.87. Mixed effects are associated with SEA/SA objective 10; (sustainable transport). Whilst this Policy should have a positive impact on transport by providing local employment opportunities, thereby reducing the need for local people to commute long distances, if local affordable rural housing is not available, employees may have to commute to the rural areas from elsewhere. Furthermore, supporting agriculture and rural diversification may result in more traffic on rural roads owing to reliance on motorised transport for customers and supplies.
- 2.88. Other mixed effects are associated with SEA/SA objective 4; (developing a managed response to climate change). Agriculture is a significant producer of greenhouse gas emissions, especially Methane and Nitrous Oxides and this Policy may therefore have

a negative impact on this objective. However, farming and rural diversification could also promote the renewable energy use through biomass crop production, anaerobic digestion and other renewable energy technologies.

- 2.89. Potential negative effects are associated with SEA/SA objective 8a; (affordable housing), since this Policy may favour economic usage of rural buildings over conversion to housing. Impacts are expected to be minor however, because rural conversions are usually in a high price bracket.
- 2.90. The predicted timescale within which this Policy will have an effect is medium to long term since this policy relate to the use and development of land. The likelihood of this policy having a positive effect on SEA/SA objectives is high.

Mitigation Measures:

The Core Strategy should give greater encouragement to activities with synergies, particularly existing rural projects

Preferred Policy EC4: Sustainable Tourism

- 2.91. This Policy seeks to support Sustainable Tourism. It could generate positive effects in relation to SEA Objective 6; (to develop a strong diverse economy). It is likely that the provision of high quality facilities and accommodation, and associated infrastructure and opportunities should have a positive impact on the viability and vitality of urban and rural areas, attract a significant amount of investment and market development, and create employment opportunities. By encouraging tourism, this Policy will be highly supportive of existing businesses, especially those reliant on tourism.
- 2.92. It is assumed that this Policy will support SEA/SA Objective 5a; (to achieve and promote sustainable land use and built development), however further emphasis could be placed on the need to improve existing sites before developing on greenfield land and the reuse of existing buildings and concentrate development within a group of existing buildings.
- 2.93. Uncertain effects are associated with SEA/SA objective 1; (protecting and enhancing the natural and built environment). Whilst this Policy seeks to ensure that the intrinsic value and quality of the environment is recognised and respected, it is considered that this Policy will seek to balance environmental objectives against economic benefits.
- 2.94. The SEA/SA has assumed that whilst major tourism and visitor recreational development should be concentrated within or well related to the larger settlements, many facilities and sites will be in rural areas. Whilst potential positive effects will be generated associated with creating synergies with existing rural projects, such proposals need to be balanced against impacts on surrounding environment, communities' quality of life and existing businesses.

- 2.95. Potential negative effects are associated with SEA/SA objectives 2a and 10; (reducing noise levels and promoting sustainable transport). There needs to be a clear understanding of visitor numbers, predicted capacity and impacts on the road network. Uncertainties are also associated with whether this Policy seeks to extend the visitor season all year round and whether it will reduce vehicular trips and spread the effects of traffic congestion. Whilst it is assumed that major tourism and visitor recreational development will be sited close to principal and local service centres where a variety of modes of transport are available (helping to reduce emissions), a modal switch to more sustainable modes of transport will also need to be achieved. There could also be a potential conflict between the provision of land for tourism development and housing which will only be determined through the Site Allocations DPD (SEA/SA objective 8a). Although this policy does not contain measures to avoid flooding it will be crucial to locate new tourist facilities in areas that are safe from flooding. This should be addressed through the strategic flood risk assessment which will inform the Site Allocations DPD.

- 2.96. The predicted timescale of this Policy to have an effect is medium to long term since this Policy relates to the use and development of land. The likelihood of this Policy having a positive effect on the SEA objectives is high.

Mitigation Measures:

Consider exploring opportunities for all tourist developments to be supported by a travel assessment, considering the cumulative impacts of a number of developments in close proximity to each other.

As part of the planning application process a detailed assessment needs to be undertaken of tourism capacity levels to ensure that there is a sensitive balance between communities' needs and those of tourists, and where new enterprises are introduced consideration should be given to the potential negative cumulative effects on the viability of existing businesses.

Further emphasis could be placed on the need to improve existing sites before developing on greenfield land and the reuse of existing buildings and concentrate development within a group of existing buildings.

Preferred Policy EC 5: Maintaining and enhancing town centres

- 2.97. Policy EC5 seeks to protect and enhance the vitality and viability of the town and village centres in the District through a hierarchy of settlements, District, Local and neighbourhood Centres. This Policy will generate positive effects on SEA/SA objectives 1, 2a, 2b, 2c, 6 and 9c; (environment, air, water , and soil quality, developing a strong diverse economic base and increasing opportunities for training and skills development).

- 2.98. Uncertain effects are associated with Objective 5; (promoting sustainable land use and built development). It is assumed that there will be opportunities to develop retail facilities on previously developed sites, or through the conversion of existing

buildings outside Skipton and other centres, and access to a range of services will be retained and improved through retail development (SEA/SA objectives 9a, b, d and e).

- 2.99. This Policy may have potential negative effects on SEA/SA objective 2d; (noise) and SEA/SA objective 10; (promoting a high level provision and use of sustainable transport), resulting from an increase in traffic levels as a result of retail development, particularly on the edge of the District Centre routes. However, it is assumed that efforts will be made to link new retail development to more sustainable transport options, in line with Policy INF 3, and the appropriate infrastructure will be provided alongside the development. There may also be potential negative effects associated with the conflict between demand for affordable housing and potential land for retail (SEA/SA objective 8a).
- 2.100. The predicted timescale of this Policy to have an effect is short to long term, due to the time taken for proposals to come forward, construction to occur and the planning system to influence changes in the current land use. The likelihood of this Policy having a positive effect on the SEA objectives is medium to high.

Mitigation Measures:

Consider making reference to the use of previously developed buildings outside Skipton and local centres, in exceptional circumstances linking with policy SS5.

Preferred Policy ED1: Environmental Protection

- 2.101. Policy EO1 seeks to protect the environment outside defined settlement boundaries, control major development within AONB and ensure that if development takes place it is in keeping with landscape characteristics and maintains its local distinctiveness. This policy will have positive effects on environmental assets in the Craven District (SEA/SA objectives 1a to c). Landscape character, natural processes, geological features and biodiversity value will be given priority over other considerations. However it is uncertain from the text what is meant by "natural processes," and if this covers the protection and prioritisation of air, **soil** and water, as important aspects of the environment, alongside considerations of landscape, townscape and local distinctiveness. By prioritising the environment and landscape, and supporting the re-use of existing buildings, the use of previously developed land should be maximised.
- 2.102. This policy permits development that relates the diversification of the agricultural economy and rural diversification in general. Clarification is sought as to what exactly is covered by the term rural diversification and if this is in line with the identified need to develop the knowledge based/high quality economy in the District. Negative impacts may result through prioritisation of the landscape and environment potentially inhibiting development opportunities and economic vitality, SEA/SA objective 6, supporting a strong, diverse economic base.
- 2.103. The predicted timescale of this Policy to have an effect is medium to long term and the likelihood of this Policy having a positive effect on the SEA objectives is high.

Mitigation Measures:

Further clarification is required regarding the term “natural processes” and “other environmental assets” either within the policy or the supplementary text, and the policy should include reference to soil quality.

Consideration should be given to including a specific clause under this policy relating to Appropriate Assessment and a clause recognising the ecological and historic importance of brownfield land.

There is also a need to qualify what exactly is referred to under the term “rural diversification”, and if this is in line with the identified need to develop the knowledge based/high quality economy in the district.

Preferred Policy ED2 Flood Risk

- 2.104. Preferred policy ED2 seeks to ensure that new development respects the water environment and proposal avoid areas at risk from flooding within defined flood Zones 2 and 3. This Policy will generate significant positive effects on SEA/SA objective 4b; (reducing the vulnerability to flooding), through the appropriate siting of development, favouring low risk areas, or where higher risk areas are selected, mitigating any potential effects.
- 2.105. This Policy will generate positive effects on SEA/SA objective 1; (maintaining and enhancing the natural and built environment). It seeks to protect the water environment and therefore it is assumed will incorporate sensitive design solutions into flood mitigation works, respect the historic environment and protect important nature conservation sites and sites of geological interest. There will also be positive effects on SEA/SA objective 3c; (reducing water consumption) since this Policy requires new developments to incorporate water conservation and recycling systems which should reduce overall water consumption. There are also potential positive effects on SE/SA objectives 2b and 8b; (maintaining and improving water quality and sustainable design and construction).
- 2.106. In terms of SEA/SA objective 6; (supporting a diverse local economy), this policy could generate mixed effects. Whilst new development will be sited in the most sustainable locations and risks to businesses will be minimised, it may constrain opportunities for some businesses to expand.
- 2.107. Mixed effects are associated with SEA/SA objective 5b; (siting development in sustainable locations), since this policy should be beneficial if low flood risk zones are selected, however if higher risk zones are selected for economic purposes, this may be resource intensive (due to the mitigation measures required) and therefore would be less sustainable.
- 2.108. The predicted timescale of this Policy to have an effect is medium to long term and the likelihood of this Policy having a positive effect on the SEA objectives is high.

Mitigation Measures:
No mitigation measures are suggested

Preferred Policy ED3: Conservation of the Historic Environment

- 2.109. This policy seeks to protect the historic environment. The policy should have a positive effect on Objectives 1a and 1c; (environment) and development should be compatible with landscape character and distinctiveness, maintaining and enhancing street scene, scale and massing of existing buildings and the spaces between them, complying with principles of good design and providing hard and soft landscaping. However it may be more appropriate if references to the design, siting and scale of all new development were integrated under Policy ED4, 'improving the quality of new development', as elements of this policy repeat clauses under policy ED4.
- 2.110. Whilst this policy refers to the restoration and reuse of listed buildings and buildings in conservation areas and seeks to ensure that development contributes positively to the character and quality, it does not specifically refer to the protection of important archaeological sites or to historic parks and gardens.
- 2.111. There may be some mixed effects on SEA/SA objective 4, 6 and 8; (climate change, supporting a strong, diverse economy and providing sufficient good quality housing) if, due to restrictions, previously developed land/buildings cannot be utilised in the most effective and efficient way, and the use of some renewable energy technologies is not permitted. In addition, this policy may restrict opportunities to improve existing (or create new) infrastructure associated with public transport, SEA objective 10; (sustainable transport).
- 2.112. The predicted timescale of this Policy to have an effect is short to long term, dependent on development proposals arising. The likelihood of this Policy having a positive effect on the SEA objectives is unknown.

Mitigation Measures:
The Policy should be expanded to include specific reference to new development and improvements to existing structures within the setting or listed buildings, archaeological sites, conservation areas and historic parks and gardens.

The Policy should be refined to avoid repeating elements of Policy ED4. Ideally reference to design and access should be omitted from this policy and covered under Policy ED4.

Preferred Policy ED4: Improving the Quality of New Development

- 2.113. Preferred policy ED4 will generate a significant positive effect on SEASA objective 1a; (protecting, enhancing and improving local distinctiveness and townscape quality). It will also positively support SEA/SA Objectives 1c, 5b, 7b, 8b and 9b; (conserving and enhancing the cultural and historic environment, ensuring that new development is

located in the most sustainable locations that are appropriate to settlement character, reducing levels and fear of crime, promoting the adoption of sustainable design and construction practices in housing and improving access to the countryside, parks and open spaces. This policy should contribute to improving access to open spaces, through the provision of a network of high quality open spaces which meets the identified needs of the community. This should have further benefits with respect to biodiversity, flora and fauna in the vicinity of new developments. Proposals will also be based on a clear understanding of the local, physical context. All new developments are required to create and contribute to a sense of place both in the way they are integrated into their surroundings and the historic landscapes in which they are set and should respect, maintain and enhance the character, street scene, scale and hierarchy of existing buildings and the spaces between them. This policy should make a positive contribution to this promoting the adoption of sustainable design, through the requirement to utilise high quality and inclusive design, with the use of with the use of development briefs, design codes which is likely to have some positive effects on reducing the fear of crime through good design and creation of high quality spaces.

- 2.114. Under this policy, all new development is expected to optimise the potential of the site to accommodate development and contribute to suitable complementary facilities and uses. There is also a requirement for high quality inclusive design, as such it is assumed this will make a positive contribution to SEA/SA objective 6c; (provide a range of premises suitable to support the economy and utilise land effectively and efficiently) by encouraging schemes such as 'Living over the Shop' (as referred to in the supporting text) and a compatible mix of uses. It is also assumed, with regard to SEA/SA Objective 9a, (improve access and retention to schools, shops, post offices and GPs) that through determining the compatibility of their surroundings and providing an accessible environment, new proposals will achieve an element of connectivity between existing and proposed development.
- 2.115. The predicted timescale of this Policy to have an effect is medium to long term since the Policy relates to proposals for development. The likelihood of this policy having a positive effect on SEA/SA objectives is uncertain and will be dependent on the scale, nature and location of development.

<p>Mitigation Measures:</p> <p>No mitigation measures are suggested</p>
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Preferred Policy ED5: Open Space and Recreation

- 2.116. Preferred Policy ED5 seeks to protect, retain or enhance existing recreational and open space facilities, provide new facilities and access to such facilities. This policy will generate significant positive effects associated with SEA/SA objectives 9b; (to improve access to the countryside, parks and gardens). It will also positively support SEA/SA objectives 1a and 1c; (landscape and townscape quality and the District's historic and cultural environment). Development proposals and activities that protect, retain or enhance existing recreational and open space facilities will be

encouraged and all new development will be required to contribute to high quality public spaces, adding to townscape and landscape quality. Development of existing open spaces which are important elements of the local historic townscape character will not be allowed unless clearly justified by an appropriate Landscape/ Townscape Visual Assessment, to identify the impacts such development would have on the character of the settlement and its setting within the wider landscape. This Policy could also improve soil quality (SEA/SA objective 2c) through land remediation, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, by encouraging non-car modes of transport to access recreational and open space facilities (SEA/SA objective 4a) and reduce levels and fear of crime through sensitive design (SEA/SA objective 7b) as well through an increased surveillance/ presence. This policy also encourages non-car modes of transport to recreational and open space facilities, reducing the need for vehicular trips and thereby contributing to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and reducing air pollution (SEA/SA objectives 2a and 10a).

- 2.117. Uncertain effects are associated with SEA/SA objective 2a and 4d; (reduce air pollution and ensure that development is not at risk of flooding). Whilst conserving and enhancing open spaces should make a positive contribution towards protecting biodiversity, encouraging or making provision for more formal recreation on these sites may have a negative impact on flora and fauna and subsequently biodiversity. Further to this, it is important to ensure that through the creation of formal recreational facilities, flood risk is not increased.
- 2.118. The predicted timescale of this Policy to have an effect is short to long term, and will depend on other policies within the LDF, the introduction and use of Supplementary Planning Documents and implementation by developers. The likelihood of this Policy having a positive effect on the SEA objectives is high.

<p>Mitigation Measures:</p> <p>In determining the loss of open space, it is important to ensure that open space important for biodiversity and/or geodiversity is not lost.</p>
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Preferred Policy ED6: Tackling Crime through Design

- 2.119. Preferred policy ED6 seeks to take a proactive response to tackling crime through design measures. It will generate significant positive effects on Objective 7b; (crime). It will also have a positive effect on Objective 1a and 6; (townscape character and supporting a diverse, strong economy. The design of all developments will take account of the need to reduce the opportunities for crime, and overcome the fear of crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour, promoting safe living environments. In creating safe environments and spaces where a natural surveillance exists, among other measures, vandalism will be discouraged.
- 2.120. Uncertain effects are associated with Objectives 1b and 1c; (maintain and enhancing the natural and built environment) whereby proposals to improve design may need to be balanced against biodiversity objectives and restrictions placed on listed buildings.

2.121. The predicted timescale of this Policy to have an effect is long term, dependent on development proposals arising and the likelihood of this Policy having a positive effect on the SEA objectives high.

Mitigation Measures:
No mitigation measures are suggested

Preferred Policy ED7 Promoting Sustainable Construction

2.122. Policy ED7 seeks to ensure that all new development incorporates high quality design and sustainable forms of construction. This policy will generate significant positive effects associated with SEA/SA objective 8b; (to promote the adoption of sustainable design and construction practices in housing). It will also positively support SEA/SA objectives 1, 2, 3,4, and 8; (maintaining and enhancing the natural and built environment, protecting and improving air, water and soil quality and minimising noise pollution, minimising the consumption of natural resources, developing a managed response to the effects of climate change and providing sufficient good quality housing). Under this policy, all new developments will be required to incorporate high quality design and sustainable forms of construction in order to enhance the built environment and support economic, social and environmental objectives for achieving sustainable development. This should make a positive contribution towards improving/maintaining townscape and landscape quality. This policy also requires developments to incorporate pollution control measures in respect of air, water and noise making a positive contribution towards a reduction.

2.123. New development will also be required to make efficient and prudent use of water and maximise the re-use and recycling of waste materials. In addition, minimising energy demand, improving energy efficiency and promoting renewable energy technologies should result in this policy contributing positively to developing a managed response to climate change. Additionally, in addressing sustainability issues by reference to accredited assessment schemes such as 'Lifetime Homes Standards' any housing development planned should also meet differing needs.

2.124. This policy refers to making efficient and prudent use of natural resources and minimising the environmental consequences of waste production, which may have some impact on soil quality. However there is no specific mention of soil as a natural resource, and steps should be taken to protect high grade land and minimise soil contamination. Whilst this policy should minimise the consumption of natural resources, maximising opportunities, where practical and economically viable, to use recycled materials and materials from renewable sources in their construction, further consideration could be given to the storage of recycled materials. Consideration should also be given in relation to SEA/SA objective 10; (sustainable transport), and to the need to reduce vehicular trips during construction, adding a clause to ensure that building materials are sourced locally.

- 2.125. The predicted timescale of this Policy to have an effect is short to long term, in line with any development that occurs, and the likelihood of this Policy having a positive effect on the SEA objectives uncertain.

Mitigation Measures:

The text could refer specifically to soil as a natural resource, and ensure measures are in place to protect high grade land and minimise soil contamination.

Challenges may also arise when trying to provide development which incorporates sustainable construction and design measures, such as reuse of construction and demolition materials, the sourcing of local materials, water and energy efficiency measures, or providing storage for waste to be recycled and adequate recycling facilities.

Preferred Policy ED8: Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy

- 2.126. This policy seeks to promote and encourage the development of renewable energy generation to help meet regional and national targets. Preferred Policy ED7 will have a positive effect on SEA/SA objectives 4a, b and c; (developing a managed response to climate change).
- 2.127. This Policy should also have a positive effect on SEA/SA objectives 2a, 3a and 8b; (air pollution, safeguarding mineral reserves for future generations and supporting sustainable design and construction). The use of renewable energy technology should safeguard mineral reserves for future generations and, encouraging the use of 'cleaner' renewable forms of technology should have a positive impact on reducing air pollution. Further to this, encouraging the reduction of consumption in households and businesses through the implementation of energy efficiency measures, should result in a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, and generally make a positive contribution to developing a managed response to the effects of climate change. Promoting micro-generation may enable individuals/community to source their own energy and in the long term save on fuel bills.
- 2.128. Uncertain effects are associated with SEA/SA objectives 1, and 6; (maintain and enhance the natural and built environment and develop a strong, diverse economy) Careful consideration needs to be given to the impacts of the development of renewable energy sources such as biomass, hydro and photovoltaic which, may result in some limited adverse impacts on landscape quality and the natural and historic environment. The policy requires some clarification as to whether such sources are categorised as small and medium scale renewable energy sources (SEA/SA objective 1). Whilst this Policy may support the generation of employment opportunities related to the construction, operation and maintenance of renewable energy developments, whether these are high quality employment opportunities is uncertain. In addition, the siting of some developments may generate mixed effects, either attracting or detracting visitors (SEA/SA objective 6), depending on the nature of the source in question.
- 2.129. The predicted timescale of this Policy to have an effect is short to long term. The likelihood of this policy having positive effects on the SEA/SA objectives will depend

on other policies within the Core Strategy, emerging DPDs and the introduction and use of Supplementary Planning Documents.

Mitigation Measures:

For clarity this policy should be revised to ensure due consideration is given environmental impacts of other renewable sources, revising the clause to read: "In addition the Council will encourage the development of other renewable energy sources such as biomass, photovoltaic and wind turbines where appropriate. **Such** small and medium scale renewable energy proposals....."

3. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1. Craven District Council's Core Strategy strives to meet the range of SEA/SA Objectives identified in the SEA/SA and is a very comprehensive document. However, as discussed at the beginning of this report, there will inevitably be tensions between the SEA objectives when trying to balance competing SEA/SA objectives for example providing sufficient land and infrastructure to meet future development whilst protecting the District's environmental assets. The main conclusions and recommendations are outlined below.

Conclusions

- 3.2. Conflicts may occur between the different elements of the preferred policies, including employment land, housing, infrastructure, community services and facilities, leisure opportunities and environmental priorities (natural, built, historic environment). By concentrating development on previously developed land in the principal, local and smaller service centres, and in line with the settlement hierarchy, opportunities will be created to improve the provision of public transport, increase accessibility to services/facilities, natural, built, historic and cultural assets and reduce social exclusion. This therefore represents the most efficient use of land and is likely to increase access to employment and investment, new and affordable housing, and services and facilities in those areas. However, such an approach may be at the expense of more peripheral and remote areas, potentially creating inequalities, especially for those without access to transport.
- 3.3. Leading on from spatial planning, is the recurrent topic of accessibility. Deprivation due to poor geographical access to facilities and services is a key issue for the District, and one which will not be addressed alone through public transport. Whilst the Core Strategy does seek to *"promote innovative public and sustainable transport solutions to improve accessibility, especially in the more remote areas"* (Policy INF3), it does not expand on the Regional Spatial Strategy or respond to concerns raised by the SA of the Regional Spatial Strategy. The SA of the Regional Spatial Strategy specifically recommends that more detail could be included on how *"accessibility should be encouraged through Local Development Frameworks and the Local Transport Plan."* Consideration should be given to opportunities to promote live work units, encourage greater flexibility in home working and access to Broadband and IT facilities as some of the more innovative solutions which could be explored further.
- 3.4. The scale, duration and significance of potential impacts will depend on the timing, location and type of development as well as the mitigation measures used. It is also important to note that some mitigation measures will occur at different stages in the planning process, e.g. using the Site Allocations DPD to help determine decisions for planning applications or alternatively through development briefs.
- 3.5. There will inevitably be some environmental impacts associated with meeting housing and employment requirements and associated infrastructure. However, a certain amount of housing has been identified at a regional level as being necessary to meet the requirements of predicted increases in population, and provision of affordable

housing is a key priority for Craven. Whilst the Strategy seeks to ensure that all development is required to make full and effective use of previously developed land, the targets set are below those recommended in the draft Regional Spatial Strategy (which advocates 70%, as opposed to 55% in the Core Strategy). In addition, uncertainties exist over the phased release of previously developed / greenfield land. It is assumed that this will be addressed through the proposed review of the Urban Potential Study, 2003 to confirm not only the figure of 55% previously developed land but also the phased release of land.

- 3.6. The drafting of the Core Strategy makes it clear that the settlement hierarchy is unlikely to impact on the Forest of Bowland AONB, which is designated in part as either a SPA or SAC. This is a view based on information provided for the SEA/SA and it is considered that a screening decision, which forms the first stage of an Appropriate Assessment should be undertaken and discussed with Natural England to confirm that there is no need for an Appropriate Assessment.

Recommendations

- 3.7. Whilst a number of specific recommendations for changes were made, and outlined in **Table 3.1** below, some general issues also need to be considered:

- Alongside a Housing Needs Assessment, a local needs housing assessment should be undertaken to inform affordable housing provision.
- The Strategy would benefit from providing further information on the intended phased released of land for housing and employment use.
- Whilst the DPD refers to “natural processes”, “environmental quality”, “environmental capacity constraints” and “other environmental assets,” there are uncertainties as to the definition of such terms, which ideally should be qualified in the supporting text.
- No reference is made in the Core Strategy to soil quality, the importance of protecting high grade agricultural land, or to the need to remediate contaminated sites.
- Cumulative impacts outside settlement boundaries will need to be considered; particularly impacts associated with rural diversification schemes resulting in potentially negative effects on the viability of adjacent businesses and communities’ quality of life.
- Many of the specific policies under environment and design could be covered by the proposed Sustainable Design SPD requiring “*all new development proposals to incorporate sustainable design and construction objectives and to meet best practice standards*”. It is uncertain whether this document will explore in much more detail opportunities for dual use, and require through example planning conditions, the provision of a demolition plan associated with contaminated sites.
- New development on the periphery of the settlements should ensure that links are maintained to the wider countryside and to the settlement itself.

- It is important to ensure that proposals in the Plan do not affect the integrity of SPAs/SACs or other sites covered by the Habitats Directive. The SEA/SA considers that a screening decision should be undertaken and discussed with Natural England to confirm that there is no need for an Appropriate Assessment.
- Further consideration should be given to opportunities to promote live work units, encouraging greater flexibility in home working, access to Broadband and IT facilities are some of the more innovative transport solutions.

3.8. A number of mitigation measures have been recommended in the preceding chapter. These are summarised in **Table 3.1** below and outline where they support the SEA/SA objectives.

Table 3.1: Summary of mitigation measures and potential conflicts with other Core Strategy policies up to 2021.		
Relevant Policy	Compliance with SEA/SA objectives	Summary of mitigation measures
Policy INF 1: Planning Obligations	SEA/SA Objectives: 2, 4d, 5a, 6d, 7b, 8, 9a, 9b, 9d & 10 Note there are mixed effects (both positive and negative) associated with SEA/SA Objective 1, 4a, 4b, 4c, 6	Consider including specific reference to landscape works and the protection of cultural heritage in the list of matters covered by Planning Obligation in the supportive text. The legal agreements could include obligations to provide energy efficiency and renewable energy measures in relation to large developments.
Preferred Policy INF 2: Community Infrastructure	SEA/SA Objectives: 7a, 9a, 9b, 9d & 10a	The text could refer to improving access to IT and broadband facilities, particularly in more remote areas.
Policy INF 3: Sustainable Transport	SEA/SA Objectives: 2a, 2d, 4a, 5b, 6, 7a, 9 & 10 Note there are mixed effects (both positive and negative) associated with SEA/SA Sub-Objective 2b	Consider adding to the supplementary text a note stating that more innovative transport solutions could include encouraging more flexible working, live/work units and improvements in IT and Broadband. It is important to ensure that recycled and secondary materials are used in construction, local materials are sourced where possible and measures are taken to minimise environmental effects including impacts on water pollution, land contamination and landscape character. Opportunities should be explored to reduce consumption through for example alternative fuel sources.
Policy INF 4: Kildwick Level Crossing and Cross Hills Railway Station	SEA/SA Objectives: 10 Note there are mixed effects (both positive and negative) associated with SEA/SA Objective 6	Further clarification is required in the Site Allocations DPD as to the obligations of developers, the implications on the type of development which is likely to come forward within such locations and if all development is to contribute to the road bridge, associated road works and provision of a railway station.
Policy INF 5: Skipton to	SEA/SA Objectives:	Further clarification is required as to whether through

Table 3.1: Summary of mitigation measures and potential conflicts with other Core Strategy policies up to 2021.		
Relevant Policy	Compliance with SEA/SA objectives	Summary of mitigation measures
Colne Railway Line – Safeguarding of Route	None identified	the realignment of the A56, there will be the resultant loss of sections of the disused railway line and whether this will have a long term impact on creating a viable route.
Preferred Policy SS 1: Principal Service Centre & Policy SS 2: Local Service Centres <i>(NB: The review of these policies has been amalgamated because of the similarities in the assessment)</i>	SEA/SA Objectives: 4a, 4d, 5b, 6, 7a, 8a, 9, & 10a	No mitigation measures proposed.
Policy SS 3: Smaller Local Service Centres & Policy SS 4: Villages with Facilities <i>(Please note: The review of these policies has been amalgamated because of the similarities in the assessment).</i>	SEA/SA Objectives : 9b Note there are mixed effects (both positive and negative) associated with SEA/SA Objective 10	Clarify how the needs of the community in terms of local employment, services and community facilities/infrastructure will be determined. Accessible and frequent public transport provision between rural and service centres is needed, particularly for SS4 villages with facilities, to reduce car dependency as well as encourage more innovative community schemes, flexible working improvements in IT and Broadband.
Preferred Policy SS 5: Other Rural Villages and Open Countryside	SEA/SA Objectives: 4b & 8	Consider including within this policy a reference to the cumulative effect of incremental development outside settlement boundaries which needs to be carefully monitored. Consider including criteria against which new development proposals are assessed. This could cover an assessment of highway capacity, impacts on the viability of adjacent land uses and adjacent communities' quality of life. Clarify whether this Policy will support small scale local facilities/services in rural villages.
Policy HO 1: Overall Housing Provision	SEA/SA Objectives: 8a Note there are mixed effects (both positive and negative) associated with SEA/SA Objectives 1 & 2	Where planning applications are submitted associated with the development of previously developed land, they should be accompanied by a remediation plan and care should be taken to ensure that development is not sited on high grade agricultural land.
Policy HO 2: Housing Provision within Settlements	SEA/SA Objectives: 5 Note there are mixed effects (both positive and negative) associated with SEA/SA Objectives 1, 2 & 4a	Clarification is needed as to what is considered under environmental capacity constraints. Where planning applications are submitted in association with previously developed land, they should be accompanied by a Remediation Plan. Care needs to be taken to ensure that development is

Table 3.1: Summary of mitigation measures and potential conflicts with other Core Strategy policies up to 2021.		
Relevant Policy	Compliance with SEA/SA objectives	Summary of mitigation measures
		not sited on high grade agricultural land.
Preferred Policy : HO 3: Use of previously developed land	Note there are mixed effects (both positive and negative) associated with SEA/SA Objectives 1 & 2	Further clarification is needed of the terms 'environmental quality' and of the timescale and phasing of greenfield land to be released.
Preferred Policy HO4: Mix of Housing	SEA/SA Objectives: 2, 3b, 3c, 4, 6a, 8a, 8b & 9	No mitigation measures are suggested
Preferred Policy HO5: Housing Density	SEA/SA Objectives: 5 & 10 Note there are mixed effects (both positive and negative) associated with SEA/SA Objectives 1 & 2	It will be important to ensure that the provision of facilities, especially primary schools, health and community facilities, keeps pace with the phased scale of housing proposed, and that necessary infrastructure is provided.
Preferred Policy HO 6: Affordable Housing Requirements	SEA/SA Objectives: 8a	Specific reference should be made either in the supporting text or the policy to the proximity of development to services/facilities and public transport infrastructure.
Preferred Policy HO7: Rural Exception Sites	SEA/SA Objectives: None identified	Consider including in this Policy or the supporting text specific reference to the need to undertake a Local Housing Needs Assessment, to inform those people who need or wish to remain a resident in the community, but are unable to gain access to affordable housing. Consider clarifying either in the policy or the supporting text whether rural exemption sites will be well related to a range of local facilities i.e. within walking distance. In considering possible rural exemption sites, it will be important to ensure that development does not impact on the viability of adjacent businesses.
Preferred Policy HO8 : Gypsy and Traveller Sites	SEA/SA Objectives: None identified	No mitigation measures are suggested
Preferred Policy EC 1: Employment Land Provision	SEA/SA Objectives: 7a, 8a, 9a & 9d Note there are mixed effects (both positive and negative) associated with SEA/SA Objectives 1, 6a, 6b, 6c	No mitigation measures are suggested
Preferred Policy EC 2: Protecting Employment Land	SEA/SA Objectives: 5b, 6a, 6b, 6c, 9d Note there are mixed effects (both positive and	No mitigation measures are suggested

Table 3.1: Summary of mitigation measures and potential conflicts with other Core Strategy policies up to 2021.		
Relevant Policy	Compliance with SEA/SA objectives	Summary of mitigation measures
	negative) associated with SEA/SA Objectives 1 & 2	
Preferred Policy EC 3: Rural Diversification & Sustainable Rural Economy	SEA/SA Objectives: 1, 5a, 6 & 9d Note there are mixed effects (both positive and negative) associated with SEA/SA Objectives 4a, 4b & 10	The Core Strategy should give greater encouragement to activities with synergies, particularly existing rural projects
Preferred Policy EC4: Sustainable Tourism	SEA/SA Objectives: 9d	Consider exploring opportunities for all tourist developments to be supported by a travel assessment, considering the cumulative impacts of a number of developments in close proximity to each other. As part of the planning application process a detailed assessment needs to be undertaken of tourism capacity levels to ensure that there is a sensitive balance between communities' needs and those of tourists, and where new enterprises are introduced consideration should be given to the potential negative cumulative effects on the viability of existing businesses. Further emphasis could be placed on the need to improve existing sites before developing on greenfield land, reuse existing buildings and concentrate development within a group of existing buildings.
Preferred Policy EC 5: Maintaining and enhancing town centres	SEA/SA Objectives: 1, 2a, 2b, 2c, 6 & 9d	Consider making reference to the use of previously developed buildings outside Skipton and local centres, in exceptional circumstances linking with policy SS5.
Preferred Policy ED1: Environmental Protection	SEA/SA Objectives: 1b	Further clarification is required regarding the term "natural processes" and "other environmental assets" either within the policy or the supplementary text, and the policy should include reference to soil quality. Consideration should be given to including a specific clause under this policy relating to Appropriate Assessment and a clause recognising the ecological and historic importance of brownfield land. There is also a need to qualify what exactly is referred to under rural diversification, and if this is in line with the identified need to develop the knowledge based/high quality economy in the district.
Preferred Policy ED1: Flood Risk	SEA/SA Objectives: 3c, 4d, 6, 8b Note there are mixed effects (both positive and negative) associated with SEA/SA Objectives 5b	No mitigation measures are suggested
Preferred Policy ED3:	SEA/SA Objectives:	The Policy should be expanded to include specific

Table 3.1: Summary of mitigation measures and potential conflicts with other Core Strategy policies up to 2021.		
Relevant Policy	Compliance with SEA/SA objectives	Summary of mitigation measures
Conservation of the Historic Environment	None identified	reference to new development and improvements to existing structures within the setting or listed buildings, archaeological sites, conservation areas and historic parks and gardens. The Policy should be refined to avoid repeating elements of Policy ED4. Ideally reference to design and access should be omitted from this policy and covered under Policy ED4.
Preferred Policy ED4 : Improving the Quality of New Development	SEA/SA Objectives: 1a, 1c, 5b, 7b, 8b & 9b	No mitigation measures are suggested
Preferred Policy ED5: Open Space and Recreation	SEA/SA Objectives: 1a, 1c, 4a, 9b & 10a	In determining the loss of open space, it is important to ensure that open space important for biodiversity and/or geodiversity is not lost.
Preferred Policy ED6: Tackling Crime through Design	SEA/SA Objectives: 1a, 6a, 6b, 6c, & 7b	No mitigation measures are suggested
Preferred Policy ED7 Promoting Sustainable Construction	SEA/SA Objectives: 2a, 2b, 2d, 4, 8b	The text could refer specifically to soil as a natural resource, and ensure measures are in place to protect high grade land and minimise soil contamination. Challenges may also arise when trying to provide development which incorporates sustainable construction and design measures, such as reuse of construction and demolition materials, the sourcing of local materials, water and energy efficiency measures, or providing storage for waste to be recycled and adequate recycling facilities.
Preferred Policy ED8: Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy	SEA/SA Objectives: 2a, 3a, 4a, 4b, 4c, 8b	For clarity this policy should be revised to ensure due consideration is given environmental impacts of other renewable sources, revising the clause to read: "In addition the Council will encourage the development of other renewable energy sources such as biomass, photovoltaic and wind turbines where appropriate. Such small and medium scale renewable energy proposals....."

Note: Each Policy may result in a number of indirect positive effects; these have not been listed in the above table

4. IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING

- 4.1. The SEA Directive, (European Directive 2001/42/EC) “on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment” requires that the significant environmental effects of implementing a plan or programme should be monitored in order to identify at an early stage any unforeseen adverse effects, and to be able to undertake appropriate remedial action. SA monitoring will cover the significant sustainability effects as well as the environmental effects.
- 4.2. The appraisal of the Core Strategy indicates that there are a number of positive significant effects which relate to:
- SEA/SA Objective 1a *‘To protect, enhance and improve landscape and townscape quality’*
 - SEA/SA Objectives 2a *‘To reduce air pollution’*
 - SEA/SA Objective 4b *‘To promote the use of renewable energy exploring innovative techniques’*
 - SEA/SA Objective 7b *‘To reduce levels and fear of crime’*
 - SEA/SA Objective 8 *‘To provide sufficient good quality housing to meet all local needs’*
 - SEA/SA Objective 9a *‘To improve access to schools, shops, post offices and GPs’*
 - SEA/SA Objective 9b *‘To improve access to the countryside, parks and open spaces’*
 - SEA/SA Objective 9c *‘To support development of access to IT facilities including broadband’*
 - SEA/SA Objective 9d *‘To increase opportunities for skills development and access to education and training’*
 - SEA/SA Objective 10 *‘To achieve and promote high level provision and use of sustainable transport modes where possible’*

Please note that other Policies may have positive significant effects, if policies are expanded further and/or recommendations made during the course of this appraisal are included in final policy.

- 4.3. None of the negative or uncertain effects on the SEA/SA objectives relating to the Core Policies DPD were considered to be significant. However, of the effects identified or predicted through the appraisal, there are a number of risks to be considered. These include:
- Impacts on the natural, built and historic environment resulting from future development on greenfield sites; and

- Negative cumulative impacts associated with particular land uses and impacts on existing businesses and communities' quality of life.
- 4.4. It is recommended that the comprehensive guidance set out in Appendix I4 of ODPM's SA guidance,⁸ which suggests how local planning authorities should develop an SA monitoring framework, building on existing monitoring systems such as the Annual Monitoring Reports for the LDF is followed. The SA guidance also notes that SA monitoring could be "authority-wide", i.e. the same information collected through the monitoring system could be used to monitor the effects of several plans within the authority.
- 4.5. SA monitoring should involve measuring indicators which enable a causal link to be established between implementation of the Planning Strategy and the likely significant effect being monitored. The revised Sustainability Framework in the Scoping Report, **Volume I** (table 7.2), sets out the specific proposals for monitoring the sustainability effects of implementing the preferred options for the Core Strategy DPD. Potential indicators have been proposed in this Sustainability Framework for each of the SEA/SA sub-objectives, drawing from existing sources in order to ensure the recording of data for the indicator is already established (at a County, Regional or National level). These indicators should form the basis for developing the SA monitoring framework.
- 4.6. As stated in the SA guidance, information used in monitoring will, in many cases, be provided by outside bodies. This has already been evidenced by the additional baseline information provided by the statutory environmental consultees during consultation on the Scoping Report for this SEA/SA. It is therefore recommended that the Council continues the dialogue established with statutory environmental consultees and other stakeholders commenced as part of the SEA/SA process, in order to establish the relevant sustainability effects to be monitored and to obtain information that is appropriate, up to date and reliable. The following suggested monitoring regime should therefore utilise the sub objectives, criteria and possible indicators set out in the revised Sustainability Framework (Scoping Report, **Volume I**).

Suggested monitoring regime for the Craven SEA/SAs

- Determination of the scope of monitoring;
- Identification of the necessary information;
- Identification of existing sources of information;
 - Data at project level;
 - General environmental monitoring; and
 - Other data;

⁸ Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents, Guidance for Regional Planning Bodies and Local Planning Authorities, ODPM, November 2005

- Filling the gaps;
- Procedural integration of monitoring into the planning system; and
- Taking remedial action.

Sourced from: European Commission (2003)

Annex I

Compliance with the SEA Directive

Compliance with the SEA Directive/Regulations/Guidance

This SEA/SA has taken account of the full range of planning guidance and complies with the requirement of:

- The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004; and
- The Environmental Assessment Regulations 2004 for Plans and Programmes which incorporates European Directive 2001/42/EC (which came into effect in July 2004)

The SEA Directive requires the Environmental Report to identify, describe and evaluate “*the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme and reasonable alternatives*” (Article 5.1). The Environmental Report is also required to include information that may “*reasonably be required taking into account current knowledge and methods of assessment, the contents and level of detail in the plan or programme (and) its stage in the decision making process*” (Article 5.2). Information that is to be provided within the Environmental Report is detailed in **Table 2.1**, which also sign posts the relevant sections of the SEA/SA Reports which meet the SEA Directive requirements.

Table 1. Summary of the requirements of the SEA Directive and where these have been addressed in these SEA/SA Reports

SEA Directive Requirements	Where covered in SA Report
Preparation of an environmental report in which the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme, and reasonable alternatives taking into account the objectives and geographical scope of the plan or programme, are identified, described and evaluated. The information to be given is (Art. 5 and Annex I):	
a) An outline of the contents, main objectives of the plan or programme, and relationship with other relevant plans and programmes;	Volume 1 Chapter 4, Volume 1a, Appendix 2 and Volume 3, Chapter 2
b) The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme;	Volume 1: Chapter 4
c) The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected;	Volume 1: Chapter 4
d) Any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to Directives 79/409/EEC and 92/43/EEC.	Volume 1: Chapter 4
e) The environmental protection, objectives, established at international, Community or national level, which are relevant to the plan or programme and the way those objectives and any environmental, considerations have been taken into account during its preparation;	Volume 1 Chapter 4, Volume 1a: Appendix 2
f) The likely significant effects on the environment, including on issues such as biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above	Volume 3: Chapter 2 and 3 Volume 3a Appendices 1

SEA Directive Requirements	Where covered in SA Report
factors. (Footnote: These effects should include secondary, cumulative, synergistic, short, medium and long-term permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects);	& 2
g) The measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme;	Volume 3: Chapter 2 and 3 Volume 3a Appendices 1 & 2
h) An outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with, and a description of how the assessment was undertaken including any difficulties (such as technical deficiencies or lack of know-how) encountered in compiling the required information;	Volume 2 Chapters 1 & 3
i) a description of measures envisaged concerning monitoring in accordance with Art. 10;	Volume 3: Chapter 2 & 3
j) a non-technical summary of the information provided under the above headings	Non-Technical Summary
The report must include the information that may be reasonably required taking into account current knowledge and methods of assessment, the contents and level of detail in the plan or programme, its stage in the decision-making process and the extent to which certain matters are more appropriately assessed at different levels in that process to avoid duplication of the assessment (Art. 5.2)	Volume 3: Chapters 2, 3 & 4
<p>Consultation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • authorities with environmental responsibility, when deciding on the scope and level of detail of the information which must be included in the environmental report (Art. 5.4) 	Scoping Report August 2005 Volume 1a Appendix 5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • authorities with environmental responsibility and the public, shall be given an early and effective opportunity within appropriate time frames to express their opinion on the draft plan or programme and the accompanying environmental report before the adoption of the plan or programme (Art. 6.1, 6.2) 	Consultation on this SEA/SA Report
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • other EU Member States, where the implementation of the plan or programme is likely to have significant effects on the environment of that country (Art. 7). 	Not applicable
Taking the environmental report and the results of the consultations into account in decision-making (Art. 8)	To be addressed at a later date
<p>Provision of information on the decision:</p> <p>When the plan or programme is adopted, the public and any countries consulted under Art.7 must be informed and the following made available to those so informed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the plan or programme as adopted • a statement summarising how environmental considerations have been integrated into the plan or programme and how the environmental report of Article 5, the opinions expressed pursuant to Article 6 and the results of consultations entered into pursuant to Art. 7 have been taken into account in accordance with Art. 8, and the reasons for choosing the plan or programme as adopted, in the light of the other reasonable alternatives dealt with; and • the measures decided concerning monitoring (Art. 9) 	To be addressed at a later date
Monitoring of the significant environmental effects of the plan's or programme's implementation (Art. 10)	To be addressed at a

SEA Directive Requirements	Where covered in SA Report
	later date