



## Shaping Places and Spaces

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

# Craven District Council

## Consultation Paper 1:

### VISION STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES & SETTLEMENT STRATEGY

*What are we seeking to achieve?*

**19<sup>th</sup> June – 31<sup>st</sup> July 2006**

**Colin Walker**  
**Director of Environmental & Planning Services**

**Craven District Council, Planning and Building Control, Council Offices,  
Granville Street, Skipton, BD23 1PS**

**Telephone Number 01756 706470 Email: [ldf@cravenc.gov.uk](mailto:ldf@cravenc.gov.uk)**

**Web: [www.cravenc.gov.uk](http://www.cravenc.gov.uk)**

## **INTRODUCTION**

The creation of a Core Strategy for the plan area will have to have regard to and be set within a context of planning policy at national and regional levels. In addition, the themes of The Craven District Community Strategy (as detailed within the Issues & Options Paper 1: Background & Context) have to be considered, as the LDF will represent the spatial expression of the land use related elements of The Community Strategy.

### **The Level of New Growth: What the Local Development Framework (LDF) can and cannot influence**

A key principle of both national and regional planning policy relating to the overall settlement strategy for the plan area is that decisions on development proposals should be firmly based on the principle of sustainability. Specifically the Regional Spatial Strategy for Yorkshire and the Humber identifies Skipton as a Principal Service Centre in addition to identifying functional sub areas that cross cut the plan area. In the case of the plan area, the functional sub areas in question are:

1. The Leeds City Region including Skipton and South Craven settlements and;
2. A Remoter Rural Sub area including remaining settlements that are located to the north of Skipton.

The emerging Regional Spatial Strategy identifies Skipton as having a dual role, firstly as a rural capital serving a wider hinterland and secondly as a component part of the Leeds City Region functional area.

Regional Spatial Strategy therefore is quite specific in respect of how new growth should be distributed: Skipton is identified as the only Principal Service Centre within the plan area and it is therefore given that a significant proportion of growth will be directed towards Skipton. This policy approach is not something that the Local Development Framework can influence.

In the next tier of settlements, below the Principal Service Centre, are the Local Service Centres. Regional Spatial Strategy does not name these, as it will be for the Local Development Framework to identify such settlements.

In terms of sub area approaches and in particular the Leeds City Region area, Regional Spatial Strategy identifies Airedale north of Bradford to Skipton as an Economic Corridor for growth whilst restraint is proposed for the rest of the plan area within the Leeds City Region sub area.

In contrast the Remoter Rural sub area, Regional Spatial Strategy proposes an overall strategy of restraint within the sub area with limited growth being directed towards Local Service Centres principally to meet local needs.

In summary therefore, and when translating Regional Spatial Strategy into the local context:

- A significant proportion of growth should be directed towards Skipton
- A lower level of growth will be directed towards Local Service Centres (to be identified)
- Growth should be focussed along Airedale from the West Yorkshire boundary to Skipton
- Elsewhere overall growth would be restrained with limited growth being directed towards Local Service Centres.

Consequently, the Options presented later within this paper take the above strategic context as aspects that cannot be significantly varied from within any emerging development strategy. In this respect therefore the available choices are about:

- The policy approach to delivering the overall strategy
- The function and role of the area’s key settlements
- How growth could be accommodated within the Principal Service Centre and potential Local Service Centres

Section 3 sets out further details of both the National and Regional Planning Policy Context, the evidence base for this paper and details of other relevant initiatives. The content of the LDF draws from a wide evidence base of studies, assessments and initiatives that have been carried out for the plan area. This evidence base helps to inform the technical content of LDF strategies and policies, and helps to determine the need for various levels of growth across the plan area.

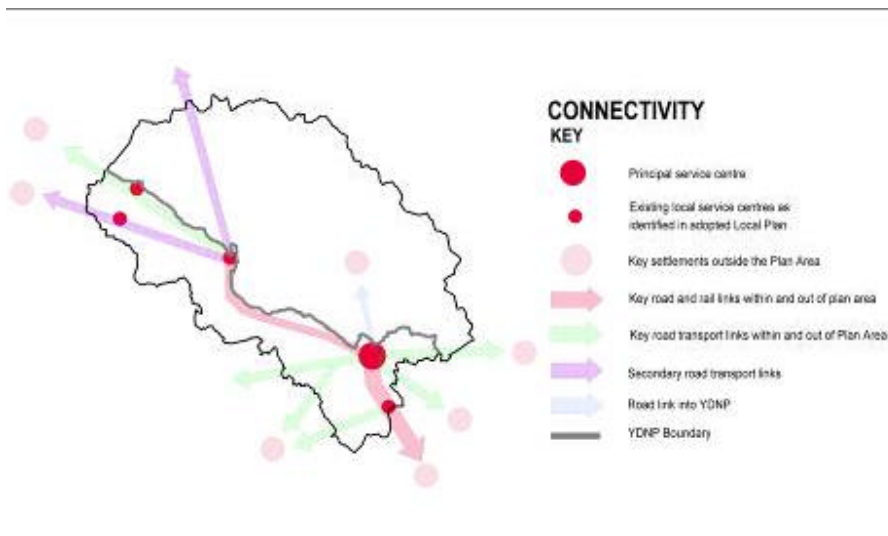
**Scenarios for a Settlement Strategy– How Could a Vision Be Expressed Spatially?**

In forming a Settlement Strategy for the plan area, account should be taken of:

- The strategic context set out in Regional Spatial Strategy;
- The roles that key settlements play within the plan area and;
- How a vision could be expressed spatially – on the ground

In this regard, a suitable starting point would be to consider the connectivity diagram set out at Figure 1.

Figure 1: Connectivity and Influences - Craven District outside the Yorkshire Dales National Park



The diagram illustrates:

- The key settlements currently identified in the existing settlement strategy, which is set out in the adopted Craven District (Outside the Yorkshire Dales National Park) Local Plan;
- The main settlements, located outside the plan area, that influence and have a functional relationship with the plan area; and
- The main transport links that exist between settlements within and outside the plan area, which affect those settlement's spatial relationships and degree of connectivity.

In terms of developing a spatial response due regard should be had to the relationship of the plan area both within the regional and national contexts. It is important to do this, as it is a functional reality that the plan area interacts with the wider world. Given that the Local Development Framework will make interventions into the operation of the "real world" to seek to deliver an overall strategy, it is necessary to gain an understanding of functional reality.

Appendix A sets out the current roles of existing key settlements in the plan area, providing a context for Figure 1 and also for the Settlement Strategy options that are set out within Section 2 of this paper.

**SECTION 1**

**VISION AND STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES**

**KEY ISSUES: Conference Outcomes**

Delegates of the “Shaping Places and Spaces” conference, held in June 2005, were asked to consider the importance of eight suggested objectives, which could form the basis of a **Vision** for the Local Development Framework (LDF). The suggested objectives were based around the following aims of The Community Strategy:

- A Prosperous Economy
- Sustainable Communities and Education & Skills For All
- Good Health and Social Well Being
- A Quality Environment

In response, delegates ranked the following objectives as the 5 most important in priority order:

<b>Ranking</b>	<b>Objective</b>	<b>Aim</b>
1	The need to conserve and enhance the high quality rural and urban environment.	A Quality Environment
2	To reduce the impact of society on the environment, for example by reducing waste, pollution and energy consumption and by promoting the use of renewable energy and the conservation of water supplies.	A Quality Environment
3	To develop vibrant and prosperous market towns with a range of good quality jobs, business and retail opportunities that meets the needs of local people.	A Prosperous Economy
4	To improve the quality of design of the built environment to make our settlements more attractive and safe places in which to live and work and that are accessible to everyone.	A Quality Environment
5	To build sustainable communities where people have access to employment opportunities, a range of housing of varying sizes and prices, training, healthcare, recreational and other services and facilities.	Sustainable Communities and Education & Skills For All

The objectives ranked the 5 most important relate to each of the 4 aims of the Community Strategy

In light of the above, delegates were also asked to consider how a vision might be formed or tailored specifically for the LDF. In response, delegates indicated that the **LDF Vision** should:

- Be locally specific
- Account for local distinctiveness and diversity within the area
- Address issues of connectivity and overall sustainability

### **Forming a Vision for the LDF**

The aims and objectives of the Community Strategy, as refined through the “Shaping Places and Spaces” conference, together with the issues identified at the conference relating to the LDF, could form the basis of an LDF Vision. The response form attached to this consultation paper therefore asks the question:

“DO YOU AGREE THAT THE LDF VISION SHOULD BE BASED ON THE AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE COMMUNITY STRATEGY, TOGETHER WITH THE ISSUES IDENTIFIED AT THE CONFERENCE RELATING TO THE LDF AS SET OUT ABOVE?”

and, if not,

“WHAT NEEDS TO BE DIFFERENT?”

### **Expressing a Vision: Possible Spatial Responses**

The agreed vision for the area will have a direct influence upon the overall strategy for how the area’s settlements should or should not be developed (the “Settlement Strategy”) and will influence:

- The way in which policies are written;
- The identification of settlements or locations where new growth could be focussed; and
- The identification of settlements or areas where growth could be restrained.

A series of possible Settlement Strategy options are presented within the next section of this paper: each illustrates possible variations resulting from the implementation of a vision with a particular emphasis on economic, environmental or social considerations or a combined approach, which gives equal or varying weight to all three.

Options for a Settlement Strategy are presented on the basis of these illustrative scenarios and include a ‘do nothing’ approach, which would retain the existing settlement strategy set out in the adopted Craven District (Outside the Yorkshire Dales National Park) Local Plan; and an option for ‘another way’, which provides an opportunity to suggest a settlement strategy that is completely different to any of those presented.

## **SECTION 2**

### **SETTLEMENT STRATEGY – Accommodating New Growth**

#### **KEY ISSUES: Conference Outcomes**

During the Shaping Places & Spaces conference delegates were asked to consider the following questions. Key responses are set out below each question:

- What strategy for future development should be adopted?
  - Future development should ensure that new development is concentrated within the existing built environment;
  - Prioritise the re-use of brownfield land;
  - Respect physical and environmental constraints;
  - Disperse development across more settlements matching needs and capacity within each settlement;
  - Restrict development outside settlement development limits;
  - Prioritise the provision of affordable housing, particularly in smaller centres;
  - The need for future growth to be located within sustainable locations, close to existing transport links;
  - The need for investment in rail and road.
- Which towns and villages should be selected for further development?

Settlements that have:

- a range of existing community facilities;
- good public transport links to a market town; and
- a wide range of employment opportunities.

Additional issues raised:

- The need to improve the quality of life within existing settlements without encroaching into the open countryside.
- In respect of groups of smaller settlements (villages that currently share facilities and services) new development should contribute towards achieving sustainable communities. There should be sustainable growth for sustainable communities, balancing both housing and employment growth in locations that provide sustainable transport links and support community viability.



## SETTLEMENT STRATEGY OPTIONS

### Moving towards a New Settlement Strategy

In forming a new settlement strategy for the plan area, a key issue to consider is whether the existing strategy within the adopted Local Plan should continue or whether to start anew. It is clear that although circumstances have changed since the existing settlement strategy was adopted in 1999, the overall approach remains sound. However, when taking account of the changes in circumstances there is now an opportunity to revisit the overall settlement strategy and to take account of new circumstances and changes in national and regional policy. The issue of sustainability underpins planning policy at all levels, thus any new settlement strategy for the LDF should reflect the 3 pillars of sustainability, these being economic, environmental and social sustainability. Moreover there is the opportunity to agree a settlement strategy that reflects the agreed Local Development Framework vision as referred to within this paper.

However, in moving towards a new settlement strategy it is useful to consider how such a strategy could look, should certain policy approaches be taken for delivery. For these purposes options are presented for consideration. The first option sets out a do nothing approach (i.e. retain the existing settlement strategy in the adopted Local Plan). Options 2 – 4 place an emphasis on one specific pillar of sustainability i.e., allowing economic, environmental or social objectives to take the lead in achieving sustainable development. Whilst one specific pillar of sustainability can take the lead, it must be stressed that in accordance with the fundamental concept of sustainability all three pillars need to be properly represented. The fifth option aims to achieve sustainable development by placing equal emphasis on all 3 pillars of sustainability; or gives you the opportunity to combine varying aspects of sustainability; or allows you to start afresh. Each option also provides an indication as to how one approach may vary from another in terms of resulting settlement hierarchies.

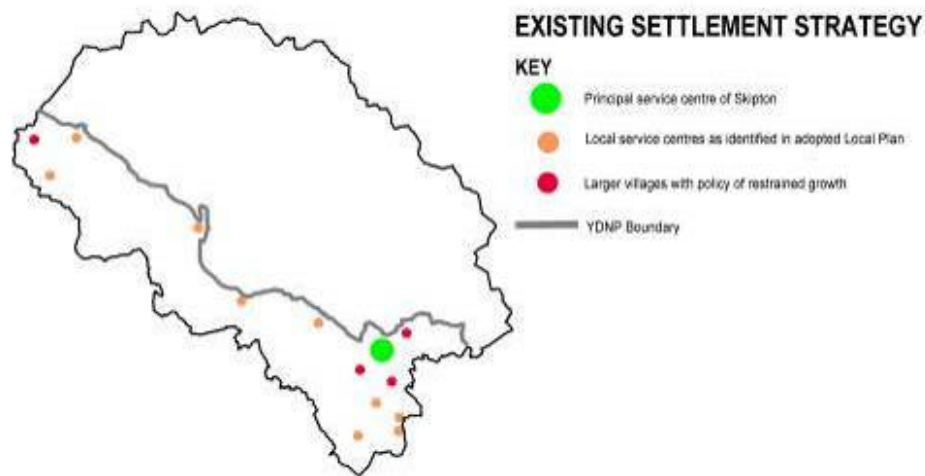
In relation to the existing national and regional strategic planning context as set out within the introduction to this paper (which cannot be significantly varied), the following Settlement Strategy Options are therefore presented for consideration (see overleaf).

### OPTION 1: Do Nothing Approach – Retain Existing Local Plan Strategy

The existing settlement strategy is contained within the adopted Craven District Local Plan and is set out below. As well as providing an option in itself, it provides a useful benchmark for presenting other spatial scenarios and policy approaches to deliver a new vision for the area.

Option 1 (or the “Do Nothing” option) would be to carry-on with the local plan approach and to adopt the existing settlement strategy and resulting settlement hierarchy described below.

**Figure 1 - Existing Settlement Strategy**



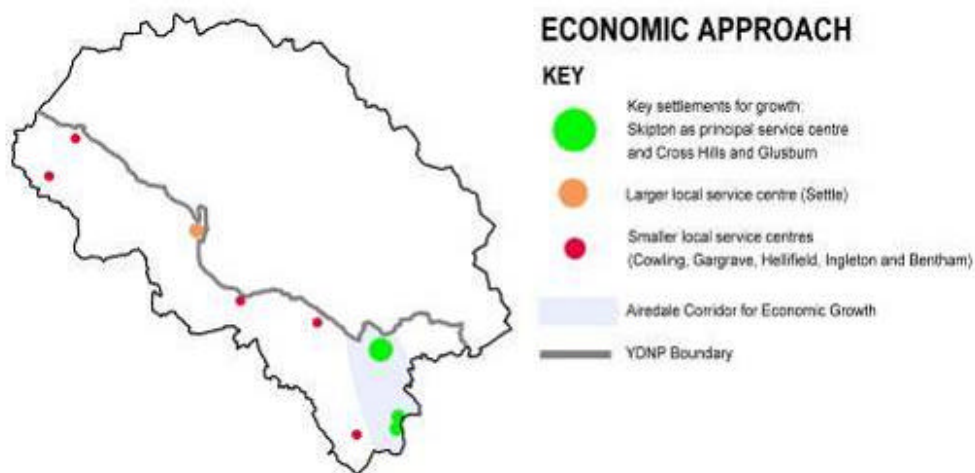
- Focuses:
  - The majority of new development in or around the district centre of Skipton;
  - A lower level of development in or around the market towns and service villages of Settle, Giggleswick, Hellifield, Ingleton, High Bentham, Gargrave, Cononley, Glusburn/Cross Hills, Sutton-in-Craven and Cowling.
- Restrains:
  - Growth in the larger villages of Bradley, Burton-in-Lonsdale, Carleton and Embsay specifically, and
  - All development in other/smaller villages.
- Restricts:
  - All development in the open countryside;
  - Especially in the Forest of Bowland AONB.

## OPTION 2: Emphasis on Developing Existing Economic Strengths

- Prioritising the needs of economic markets and matching those needs with opportunities.
- Making economic markets the dominating factor in creating and sustaining communities.
- Supporting economic prosperity by providing access to a range of employment opportunities both within the area and the Leeds City Region, where it is economically advantageous to do so.
- Accepting the use of environmental assets as economic assets in order to sustain further growth.
- Preserving and enhancing the vitality and viability of market towns and service centres.

The following Option is based on an **economic approach** to a settlement strategy:

**Figure 2:**



This Option would result in the following settlement hierarchy:

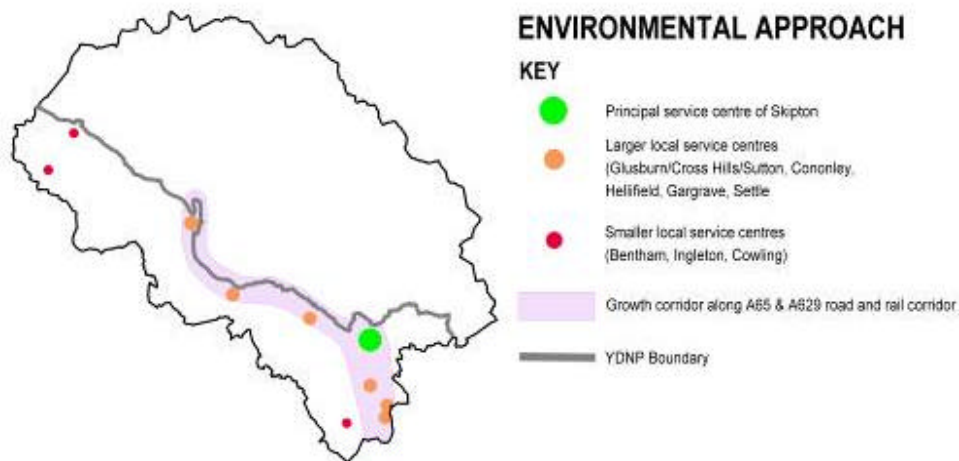
- Focus most growth within the Skipton and South Craven area and potentially at settlements along the “Airedale Corridor”, which is identified in the Regional Spatial Strategy as a key area for economic growth.
- Allow a level of growth at Settle sufficient to maintain and enhance the settlement as a local employment and service centre.
- Limit growth elsewhere to small scale development, which would ensure that economic development is focussed within the larger market towns and service centres of Skipton, South Craven and Settle.

### OPTION 3: Emphasis on Protecting and Enhancing The Environment

- Focussing the majority of new growth in locations that are:
  - Accessible by a choice of transport modes;
  - Offer a range of services; and
  - Have a supply of previously developed land to bring forward for regeneration.
- Recognising and celebrating local distinctiveness, diversity and the characteristics that give localities a discrete identity.
- Matching the needs of communities in Craven with opportunity, only where it is environmentally sustainable to do so.
- Prioritising the protection of existing environmental assets over and above social and economic considerations.

The following Option is based on an **environmental approach** to a settlement strategy:

**Figure 3:**



This Option would result in the following settlement hierarchy:

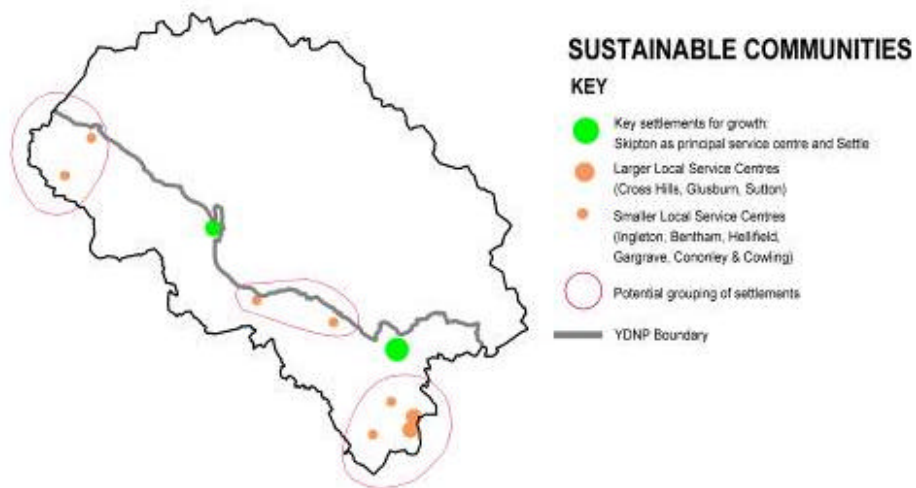
- Focus most growth in Skipton – the most sustainable location.
- Distribute some growth at service centres along the A65 and A629 road and rail corridors, taking advantage of existing public transport links and the supply of previously developed land. This level of growth would be at Settle, Giggleswick, Hellifield, Gargrave, Cononley, Glusburn/Cross Hills.
- Restrict development outside of the main transport corridors and service centres, where locations are less environmentally sustainable (e.g. Ingleton, Bentham and Cowling).

**OPTION 4: Emphasis on Sustainable Communities**

- Prioritising the needs of all sections of communities in Craven and matching those needs with opportunities.
- Creating and sustaining mixed and balanced communities across the area.
- Enhancing the roles of larger service centres by focussing growth towards them.
- Restraining the role of the market by directing growth to match needs and to support community sustainability.
- Reviewing the roles of smaller service centres; identifying any groups in which smaller service centres have complementary roles; and exploring the potential for developing those roles and/or groups.

The following Option is based on a **sustainable communities approach** to a settlement strategy:

**Figure 4:**



This Option would result in the following settlement hierarchy:

- Focus growth towards the market towns of Skipton and Settle, which provide a range of services to their population and wider communities.
- Identify clusters of smaller settlements that act as a community providing complementary support and services and enhance their roles where possible. An example of one way in which settlements within the plan area could be clustered is illustrated at Figure 4 above. Other ways of clustering settlements may exist.

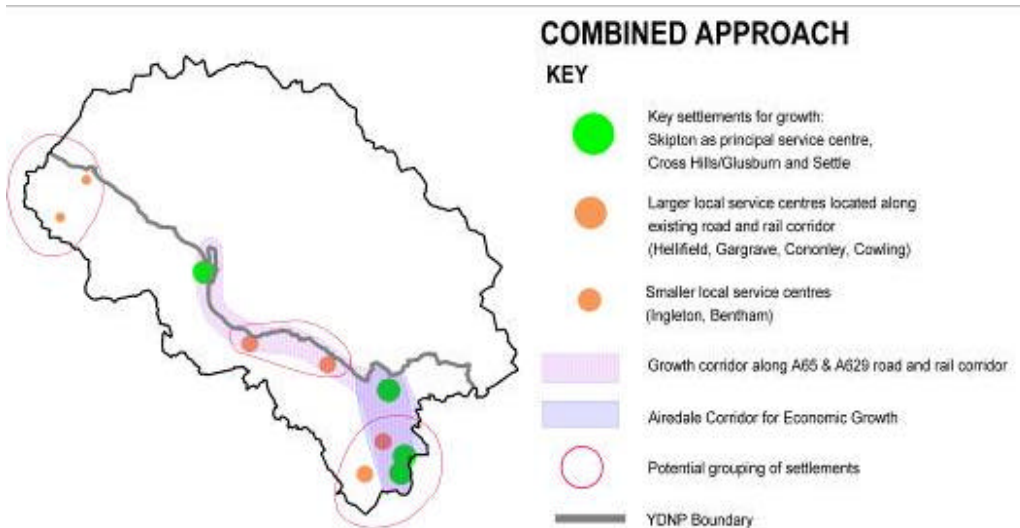
Clusters should be spatially as well as functionally realistic; therefore a variety of possible options for clusters could exist. This option provides you with the opportunity to cluster the smaller villages in the plan area in order to draw out the different links that may exist between different settlements.

**OPTION 5: A Combined Approach**

- A A combined approach in which equal emphasis is placed on all three pillars of sustainability (as set out in Options 2 – 4 above):
- o Focussing most growth towards market towns and larger service centres and maintaining their vitality and viability;
  - o Distributing some growth to other settlements along the A65 and A629 public transport corridors, where previously developed land exists;
  - o Identifying clusters of smaller settlements that provide complementary support and services, enhancing their roles where possible.

The following Option is based on a **combined approach** to a settlement strategy with equal emphasis on all three pillars of sustainability:

**Figure 5:**



This Option would result in the following settlement hierarchy:

- Focus growth towards Skipton, Cross Hills/Glusburn and Settle in the interests of achieving economic objectives.
- Allow some growth in other settlements along the A65 and A629 road and rail corridors in the interests of achieving environmental objectives. This would include Hellifield, Gargrave, Cononley and Cowling.
- Review the roles of smaller settlements, identify clusters that act as communities and allow some growth to enhance their roles where possible, in the interests of achieving sustainable communities.

This is your opportunity to suggest a different settlement strategy. There are various combinations of Options 2 – 4 to consider; the one set out above illustrates only one combination. Alternatively you can come up with a completely new approach, i.e.:

- B. A combined approach in which equal emphasis is placed on two of the three pillars of sustainability; or
- C. Another Way? – A completely different approach – start afresh.

### **Translating Options into Settlement Strategy**

The above Options provide an indication of how a significant emphasis upon one aspect of sustainability, or achieving a combined approach that places equal or varying emphases on all three aspects of sustainability, could inform the spatial distribution of new growth. Given that the role of the Local Development Framework is to represent all three strands of sustainability, in reaching the right balance account should be taken of:

- National Planning Policy and emerging Regional Spatial Strategy;
- Differences within the plan area in terms of needs and circumstances; and
- The current roles of settlements and whether reinforcement or changes to these roles are sought.

In considering the Options for the Settlement Strategy it is useful to consider the following questions:

- Should a significant emphasis be placed upon securing one aspect of sustainability?
- If not, which aspects of each strand of sustainability should be taken forward into a Settlement Strategy?
- With regard to a future role for Skipton, in which overall direction should the town go in respect of achieving long term prosperity?
- Elsewhere, how might the long term viability of key settlements be achieved?
- Should directing growth towards settlements where long term viability may be an issue e.g., Cross Hills and Settle be an appropriate response to achieving long term viability?
- Should the distinct roles of key settlements be enhanced or should the Local Development Framework seek to change the role of settlements? Or should the Local Development Framework accept that some centres may decline over the period of the Local Development Framework?



## **SECTION 3**

### **Influences: National and Regional Planning Policy Context**

#### **Government Policy Guidance and Statements**

Planning Policy Guidance Notes (PPGs) set out the Government's national land use planning policies for England. As PPGs are reviewed they will be replaced with Planning Policy Statements (PPSs), which will be shorter and more focused statements of national planning policies. The following national and regional planning policy guidance will specifically inform the overall LDF Vision:

Planning Policy Statement 1 (PPS1): Delivering Sustainable Development aims to enable the provision of homes and buildings, investment and jobs in a way which is consistent with the principles of sustainable development.

PPS1 sets out the Government's vision for planning and the key policies and principles for the planning system, which are built on the three themes of:

- Sustainable development – the purpose of the planning system
- The spatial planning approach
- Community involvement in planning

Planning Policy Statement 11 (PPS11): Regional Spatial Strategies deals with Government Policy and guidance on preparing Regional Spatial Strategies.

Planning Policy Statement 12: Local Development Frameworks and its Companion Guide spell out Government policy and guidance on preparing LDFs.

Planning Policy Statement 7 (PPS7): Sustainable Development In Rural Areas sets out the key principle that decisions on development proposals should be firmly based on sustainable development principles and that the countryside should be safeguarded for its own sake. The guidance states that new development should respect, and where possible enhance the environment in its location, scale and design.

#### **New Regional Spatial Strategy**

New Regional Spatial Strategy as an emerging part of the development plan provides a regional planning strategy that takes account of National Planning Policy and sets it within a Regional Context. Consistent with Central Government thinking the principles of Sustainability are embedded within the document. Consequently Regional Spatial Strategy will provide a regional framework for tackling issues such as:

- Economic regeneration and growth;
- Social inclusion;



- Urban and rural renaissance;
- Energy and;
- Climate Change

Being part of the statutory development plan for the area, Regional Spatial Strategy will have a direct influence upon the emerging Local Development Framework. Strategic land requirements for issues such as housing and employment and overall direction of travel for the area will be determined via the Regional Spatial Strategy process. Consequently Regional Spatial Strategy will be influential in the composition of a Spatial Vision for the area.

The existing Regional Spatial Strategy sets out a spatial development pattern for the Yorkshire and Humber Region for the period to 2016. Within Regional Spatial Strategy Skipton is identified as the sole Principal Service Centre within Craven District and the LDF area. This is continued within emerging Regional Spatial Strategy .

Draft Regional Settlement Strategy identifies functional sub-areas within the region. The Planning area, lies within two such sub-areas:

- The Leeds City Region and
- A Remoter Rural Sub-Area.

There are distinct differences in approach to planning in each respective area.

Within the Leeds City Region Area as a whole, the spatial approach gives greater weight to growth and investment with a view to enhancing economic success within the sub area, together with associated transport and addressing housing issues.

Within the Remoter Rural sub area, greater emphasis is placed upon the restraint of market growth in order to support the wider regional aim of urban regeneration and in recognition of the environmental quality that pervades across the sub area. Nonetheless, the issue of creating and maintaining sustainable communities is also central to the overall approach within the sub area.

Clearly the identification of Skipton as a principal centre within Regional Spatial Strategy will influence an emerging strategy as part of the Local Development Framework. The sub regional role of Skipton should be taken into account when looking at Settlement Strategy options for the plan area, particularly as emerging RSS will form part of the statutory development plan for the area. It should be noted however that it will be for the Local Development Framework to establish the respective roles of settlements within the plan area that have a more localised role as opposed to the sub regional role of Skipton.

## North Yorkshire County Council Local Transport Plan

In July 2000 North Yorkshire County Council produced its first Local Transport Plan (LTP), covering the period 2001 to 2006. The plan sets out the key aims, objectives and policies for transport in North Yorkshire and has so far secured over £125 million of funding for transport improvements across the County. The focus of the first LTP was to move towards a vision of “a sustainable transport system which will not only meet the social and economic needs of local communities but also safeguard the environment.” The County Council must produce a second LTP which will cover the period 1st April 2006 to 31st March 2011. During the preparation of the LTP the Council will consult with numerous organisations including District and Parish Councils, transport providers, community groups, local businesses and residents and travellers in North Yorkshire. The second Draft LTP was submitted to the Government in July 2005. The final version of the second LTP will be submitted to the Department for Transport in March 2006.

### Evidence Base

#### **Technical Study: Retail Analyses & Town Centre Health Check Work**

Retail Analyses and Town Centre Health Checks have been undertaken for the settlements of Skipton, Settle, Ingleton, Bentham and Crosshills. The key objectives of the studies were to provide a comprehensive analysis of the condition of the vitality and viability of each named centre.

A summary of the conclusions for each centre is set out below:

**BENTHAM** is a small centre providing a valuable service role for its residents and surrounding area. It performs the role of a local centre reasonably well, but is unlikely to grow in the foreseeable future.

**CROSSHILLS** serves its local community very well in respect of top-up shopping and caters for many basic comparison needs. It is likely however that given the retirement of some proprietors in the coming years together with the proximity of Skipton and Keighley the centre of Crosshills does not have significant potential for growth.

**INGLETON** is considered to be a healthy centre which benefits considerably from the tourism trade. The village requires this expenditure as without it the centre would suffer in terms of retail and service facilities to cater for Ingleton's residents. The centre is unlikely to expand its retail offer and remain static over time unless there is a sufficient influx of population.

**SETTLE** benefits from a wide range of services catering for the community, as well as a retail offer to satisfy day to day needs made up of a number of both established independent and commercial shops. Settle however lacks provision in the fashion sector.

**SKIPTON** is a healthy and vibrant town which performs several interrelated distinct roles. The town has a substantive, wide ranging mix of retailers. There is evidence to suggest that there have been significant requirements from

multiple retailers wanting to locate in the town centre. Because of the historic nature of the town, however many of the unit shops are not suited to a modern retailer in terms of size, configuration and quality of units. This is therefore a key problem that exists within the District centre of Skipton.

### **Employment Demand & Needs Study**

The aim of this study was to undertake research into business and employment needs in the district in order to develop pro-active interventions within the local economy and to inform current and future demand for sites and premises within the district.

The study has concluded that there is a lack of supply of employment land and a need to identify more land for employment purposes.

The study sets out the following recommendations that relate specifically to the overall settlement strategy:

- In the region of 25-30ha of employment land be allocated in the forthcoming Local Development Framework;
- The majority of land to be allocated should fall within the areas of key demand – Skipton, South Craven and parts of Settle;
- Land should look to be allocated where it is easily accessible to major road networks;
- Provision should be made to allocate land and premises to accommodate varying and existing and future size requirements;

It is important to note that these are only recommendations made to the Council at this stage for consideration and they form part of the LDF evidence base.

### **District Wide Housing Needs Assessment**

A summary of the content and results of this study is set out in the Housing options paper

### **Urban Potential Study For Craven Outside the Yorkshire Dales National Park 2003**

This study represents a comprehensive and rigorous assessment of the amount of land that could potentially come forward for residential development up to 2016. The Study identifies a range of sites throughout the plan area with an estimated capacity of 1854 dwellings for the period 2002-2016. The location of this urban potential will therefore be key in terms of informing the settlement housing strategy.

Further details of this study are set out within The Housing Options paper.

## **Other Relevant Initiatives**

### **Skipton Market Town Renaissance Initiative**

Skipton Renaissance was launched in April 2003, with Craven District Council and North Yorkshire County Council as partners. The Skipton Renaissance Team was formed in February 2004 and leads a co-ordinated approach to the future developments in Skipton. The Town Team is made up of representatives from the Town, District and County councils together with representatives from businesses, colleges, voluntary groups and interest groups. The Renaissance Team has developed an initial plan setting out the overall vision, objectives and then projects that will help to deliver the vision. The Team's strategic vision is:

*"We will maintain and enhance Skipton as a bustling, high quality and dynamic market town and gateway to and from the Yorkshire Dales: a place which can adapt and grow in response to the future needs of its residents, business and visitors, while maintaining its unique heritage, beauty and character."*

From this strategic vision a number of projects have been identified to help to deliver the overall vision for Skipton. The majority of opportunities and projects identified in the original Renaissance Vision were ones that would use Craven District Council owned sites. The Council has therefore developed proposals using Council assets as a separate strand of the Renaissance Market Town Initiative for Skipton.

The first round of public consultation on the Council owned sites was held in November 2004. As a result of this consultation the Council has reconsidered the options and reworked the proposals for a second round of consultation held in July-August 2005.

### **Settle Renaissance Market Towns Initiative**

In December 2005 a business plan for the Settle Renaissance Market Town Team set out the vision

*"To promote Settle as a "Rural Capital" for it's hinterland by improving services & infrastructure and to create a thriving economy through tourism, culture, creative innovation and entrepreneurship within all Settle's communities."*

To achieve this vision the following objectives will be pursued:

1. Provide economic opportunities for the people of Settle though the work of StART and with support from Yorkshire Forward, Craven District Council, North Yorkshire County Council and other partners.
2. Build on Settle's position as a rural capital in the centre of a landscape of international importance through, improved services and infrastructure.

3. To develop and enhance Settle's physical and cultural assets for the benefit of the local community, economy and environment.

Key projects within the business plan include:

- One Stop Shop and Information Hub
- Business Development Centre
- Kings Mill Depot - Architect's competition
- Sports Centre
- Improving Settle's Public Realm
- International College of the Arts and the Living Landscape
- Riverside Project – routes and enhancement.
- Show Ground
- The Victoria Centre
- Creative Industries at the Victoria Centre
- Langcliffe Quarry

The LDF has a major role to play in delivering the Renaissance Market Towns Initiative vision for Skipton and Settle. Where appropriate the final proposals that emerge relating to future development within Skipton and Settle will be tested through the LDF process.

### **Leeds City Region Development Programme - Summary**

**Introduction:** This City Region Development Programme (CRDP) sets out the key interventions that will be required to enable the Leeds City Region to contribute towards closing the national productivity gap between the North and the rest of the UK. To close the gap, the Leeds City Region Partnership has put forward an enhanced growth scenario to deliver growth of 3.5% per annum in GVA per capita. This CRDP represents the view of the Partnership of those key assets and opportunities which will contribute most significantly to this level of GVA growth.

**Vision for the Leeds City Region:** The Leeds City Region partners have joined forces to deliver a dynamic, successful and prosperous city region that supports innovation and enterprise and is capable of competing with the best that Europe has to offer.

Our shared vision for the Leeds City Region is to:

“Work together differently: to develop an internationally recognised city-region; to raise our economic performance; to spread prosperity across the whole of our city region, and to promote a better quality of life for all of those who live and work here.”

**The Critical Growth Interventions:** In order to enable our growth sectors to flourish and to boost economic growth in the city region, our actions will centre on in the following six thematic areas:

- Connectivity
- Innovation, Enterprise and Science
- Skills and Labour Supply
- Business Infrastructure and Support
- Quality of Life and Quality of Place, Culture, Marketing and Image
- Sustainable Communities
- Growth Sectors and Niche Clusters

## **SECTION 4**

### **HOW TO PARTICIPATE**

The options contained within this document are set out on the Vision, Strategic Objectives and Settlement Strategy Response Form, which is attached.

Please send your comments and responses to the Council by **Monday 31<sup>st</sup> July 2006**.

- It would be helpful to the Council if you could complete the attached Response Form and send it in the prepaid envelope to:

Planning Policy  
Craven District Council  
Council Offices  
Granville Street  
Skipton  
North Yorkshire  
BD23 1PS

- Alternatively the response form can be completed online via the Council's website [www.cravencd.gov.uk](http://www.cravencd.gov.uk)
- Whilst the use of the response form is encouraged, the Council will also accept comments sent by Email to [\*\*ldf@cravencd.gov.uk\*\*](mailto:ldf@cravencd.gov.uk)

All responses will be recorded and then considered by the Council in moving to the preferred options stage of preparing the Core Strategy Document.

## APPENDIX A

### Key Settlements

Any spatial response to a vision that will emerge as part of the consultation process, is likely to be expressed in terms of the role of individual settlements. In this respect, the current roles and circumstances of key settlements are set out below.

#### **Skipton**

The role of Skipton as a Principle Service Centre and a rural capital is clearly set out within existing and emerging Regional Spatial Strategy. Skipton is the only Principal Service Centre identified within the District serving both a local and sub regional role.

Skipton is the largest centre of population (circa 14,313 in 2001), in the District, offering the greatest variety of job opportunities, services and facilities within the plan area, fulfilling the role of a traditional market town serving a wider rural hinterland. Within emerging Regional Spatial Strategy, the Skipton and South Craven area is identified as being part of the Leeds City Region, whilst elsewhere is identified as being part of a “Remoter Rural” sub area. In terms of connectivity, Skipton has good links with other areas, in particular to West Yorkshire, offering good road and rail connectivity. Skipton is therefore a key transport hub and interchange. As this is the case, Skipton performs two roles:

- Firstly as a District Centre and “Capital” for a wider rural hinterland and;
- Secondly, as component part of the Leeds City Region (LCR) and centre for economic activity.

In addition Skipton is also a centre for tourism both in its own right and as a “Gateway to the Dales”.

#### **Settle**

Settle, when combined with Giggleswick is a substantial centre of population within the context of Craven (3,828 population in 2001 for both Settle and Giggleswick), offering a range of services and employment opportunities to serve a wider rural hinterland. Settle is well connected by road and rail however given the physical remoteness from substantial population centres (such as West Yorkshire) the role of Settle is more localised in nature acting as an economic and transport hub for the wider rural area.

In addition tourism activity also defines the role of Settle as a tourism centre. It is the tourism role that serves to underpin the range of services provided within Settle. Consequently, the range of services provided belies the population of the Settle and Giggleswick area.



### South Craven Settlements

The roles of settlements within South Craven are quite distinct when compared with the roles of Skipton and Settle. When taken together, the settlements of Glusburn/Crosshills and Sutton form the second largest centre of population within the plan area (7,382 at the 2001 Census). Other service settlements within the South Craven area are:

- Cowling (Population 2096)
- Cononley (Population 1074)
- Bradley (Population 1160)

The proximity of Skipton and principal service centres within West Yorkshire clearly influence the role of South Craven settlements in terms of range of service offered. The main centre for services is Glusburn/Crosshills, where a range of local services and variety of employment opportunities are offered.

### North Craven Settlements

Within the North Craven area, there are 3 settlements that perform distinct roles within the area. The settlements are:

- High Bentham (population 2994 in 2001)
- Ingleton (population 2045 in 2001) and
- Burton in Lonsdale (population 579 in 2001)

High Bentham has the role of a local service and employment centre whilst tourism is more significant in Ingleton in terms of the range of services provided. In contrast, Burton in Lonsdale contains a more limited range of services principally serving locally generated needs. Falling within a "Remoter Rural" functional sub area within emerging Regional Spatial Strategy, the nature of this part of the plan area in terms of dispersed settlement pattern and population indicates that the services offered by the settlements serve a wider local rural hinterland.

The settlements of Lancaster and Kendal (that lie outside of the District and Region) as principal service centres clearly influence the roles of North Craven Settlements and there are direct transport links by both road and rail.

### Settlements in the A65 Road/Rail Corridor

The A65 is a key transport corridor within the area. The service settlements of Gargrave and Hellifield are situated within the corridor, located between Skipton and Settle. Both settlements offer a range of services to meet local needs, and their respective roles are as local service centres. In terms of population Gargrave had a population of 1764 at the 2001 Census, whilst Hellifield had a population of 1063.

In terms of wider service provision, both settlements tend to look towards both Settle and Skipton or beyond for a wider range of services and employment opportunities. In terms of connectivity, both settlements are well related to the A65 (both settlements sit astride it) and each settlement is well connected by rail

to Skipton and to settlements outside of the District such as Leeds and Lancaster.

In terms of roles for each settlement, Hellifield and Gargrave offer services to meet local needs whilst looking towards other settlements (such as Skipton and Settle) for higher order service requirements.

### **Challenges for Key Settlements**

A challenge for each settlement identified above is to seek to assure their long term sustainability in economic, environmental and community terms. In this regard, recent technical studies raise questions in respect of the long term sustainability of some settlements within the plan area<sup>1</sup> for example Settle and Crosshills. The taking forward of Renaissance Market Towns (RMT) initiatives and proposals within Skipton and Settle may assist in securing the longer term sustainability of these respective settlements. However the challenges remain for the key settlements that do not benefit from such initiatives.

With regard to Skipton, a number of key challenges lie ahead particularly in terms of seeking to secure the longer term viability of the town. As a Principal Service Centre, it is likely that a significant proportion of new growth will be directed towards the town. Such an approach would underpin the role of Skipton as a key centre of population. Nonetheless, the accommodation of the rates of growth as set out in draft Regional Spatial Strategy may be particularly challenging.

A key task for the Local Development Framework to bring forward and test proposals that would seek to assure the long term sustainability of settlements and seek to influence future roles and function.

---

<sup>1</sup> See Town Centre Health checks for Skipton, Settle, Bentham, Ingleton and Crosshills completed in 2004