



Sustainability Appraisal

Craven Local Plan

DRAFT SA / SEA Scoping Report

*Prepared by Craven District Council's
Planning Policy Team*

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Introduction

- 1.1 The spatial planning system has a fundamental role in delivering sustainable development. Indeed the presumption in favour of sustainable development is identified within the National Planning Policy Framework (2012) as the golden thread running through plan making and decision taking. As such an essential component of plan making is the consideration of the extent to which plans will achieve the three key elements which define sustainability i.e. social, environmental and economic objectives. This is undertaken through what is called a Sustainability Appraisal.
- 1.2 Sustainability Appraisal is not a separate activity from plan making but is rather an integral part of the preparation of the Local Plan for Craven (outside the Yorkshire Dales National Park). The Sustainability Appraisal methodology follows the guidelines set out in the Planning Advisory Service: Communities and Local Government (CLG) Plan Making Manual.
- 1.3 It is a legal requirement that when preparing the Local Plan, a Strategic Environmental Assessment must be carried out in accordance with the European Directive 2001/42/EC (SEA Directive). This Directive became legislation in England in July 2004 through the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations (SEA Regulations).
- 1.4 Whilst SEA and SA are separate processes there is significant overlap so SEA requirements are included under the approach to sustainability appraisal in this report. In accordance with the EU Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC, scoping for the requirement to undertake appropriate assessment will be covered under a separate report. The sustainability appraisal covers wider social and economic effects of plans, as well as the more environmentally-focused considerations in the SEA Directive. For the purposes of this document the combined SA and SEA are referred to as Sustainability Appraisal (SA).
- 1.5 The Government has set out a series of five steps in undertaking SA. Stage A which forms the basis of this Scoping Report involves gathering evidence and identifying SA objectives. Stage B will be undertaken subsequently following on from consultation on the Scoping Report and involves the appraisal with outcomes being recorded in the SA report at Stage C. Following statutory consultation which forms stage D, the SA appraisal framework may need to be updated to reflect consultation responses. Stage E involves on-going monitoring of significant effects.

Stage A: Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope
A1: Identifying other relevant policies, plans and programmes and sustainability objectives (contextual review) A2: Collecting baseline information A3: Identifying sustainability issues A4: Developing the sustainability framework and outlining what happens next A5: Consulting on the scope of the sustainability appraisal Output: Scoping Report
Stage B: Developing and refining the options and assessing the effects
B1: Testing the Local Plan objectives against the SA Framework B2: Developing options and alternatives for the Local Plan B3/B4: Predicting and evaluating the effects of the draft Local Plan B5: Considering ways of mitigating adverse effects and maximising beneficial effects B6: Proposing measures to monitor the significant effects of implementing the Local Plan
Stage C: Preparing the Sustainability Appraisal
C1: Preparing the Sustainability Appraisal report
Stage D: Consulting on the draft Local Plan and Sustainability Appraisal Report
D1: Public participation on the Sustainability Appraisal Report and draft Local Plan D2: Appraising significant changes Output production of Sustainability Appraisal Report
Stage E: Monitoring the significant effects of implementing the Local Plan
E1: Finalising aims and methods for monitoring E2: Responding to adverse effects Output: Information in the Annual Monitoring Report

1.6 This Scoping Report which has been prepared to follow Stage A above, has involved the following steps:

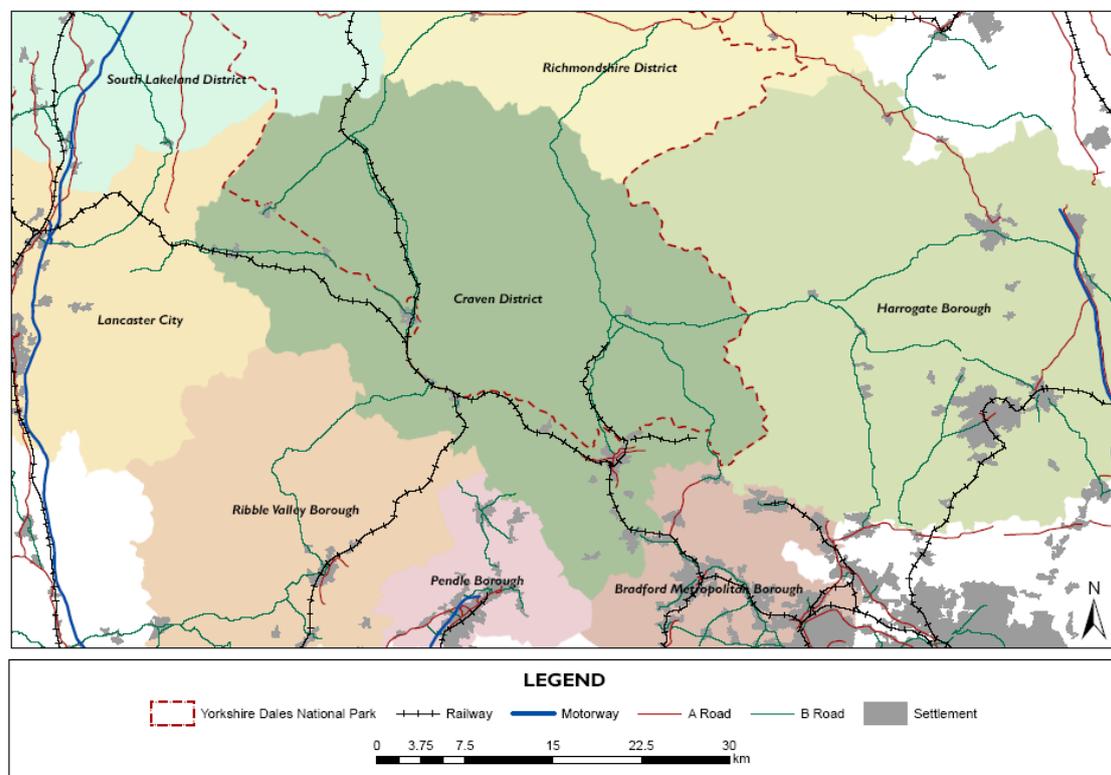
- A review of relevant plans, policies and programmes in identifying environmental, social and economic issues which are relevant to the Local Plan area.
- A review of baseline information for the environmental, social and economic context of the Plan area.
- Informing and shaping a framework for undertaking iterative sustainability appraisal testing of the emerging plan and alternative strategies, planning policies and sites. This testing framework including objectives, sub-criteria and monitoring indicators.

1.7 This Scoping Report provides an introduction to the remaining four stages of the sustainability appraisal which will be undertaken alongside the preparation of the Local Plan for Craven (outside the Yorkshire Dales National Park).

The Craven Plan Area

- 2.1 Craven District is situated in the Pennines in the county of North Yorkshire. The total area of Craven District is 1179 square kilometres (15% of North Yorkshire, England's largest county) although the area to which the emerging Local Plan relates (The Craven Plan area) comprises 370 square kilometres flanked by Lancashire immediately to its west. The remainder of the District (808 square kilometres) is within the Yorkshire Dales National Park which is a separate planning authority.
- 2.2 The Craven plan area adjoins Bradford Metropolitan District to the south-east, the Yorkshire Dales National Park to the north and east, Lancaster district to the north-west, Ribble Valley borough to the west, and Pendle district to the south and south-west.

Map 1: Geographical context of Craven District and the Craven Plan area.



- 2.3 The plan area contains Craven's four largest settlements, the market town of Skipton (the largest settlement by a considerable margin), the smaller market towns of Bentham in the far north of the plan area, Settle centrally located within the plan area and the village of Glusburn/Cross Hills in the south of the plan area.
- 2.4 The plan area includes part of the Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). Unlike National Parks (i.e. the Yorkshire Dales), AONB's do not form separate planning authorities. Some of the settlements within the plan area are bisected by the boundaries of the Yorkshire Dales National Park as identified in Table 1, meaning that some villages are only partly within the Craven Local Plan area with the remainder located within the plan area of the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority.

Table 1: Parishes partly in the Craven Plan area

Parish	All residents (2011 census)	% inside the Craven Plan area (outside National Park) (approximate)	Population in the Craven Plan area (outside National Park) (approximate)
Long Preston	742	16%	119
Austwick	463	22%	102
Langcliffe	333	26%	87
Bolton Abbey	111	34%	38
Thornton in Lonsdale	288	35%	101
Stirton with Thorlby	204	41%	84
Embsay with Eastby	1879	58%	1090
Clapham cum Newby	640	70%	448
Giggleswick	1270	80%	1016
Ingleton	2186	82%	1793
Lawkland	231	83%	192
Settle	2564	95%	2436
Hellifield	1426	98%	1397
Airton (including Otterburn)	228	0%	0
Gargrave	1755	100%	1755

Review of relevant plans, programmes and strategies

- 3.1 A review has been undertaken of plans, programmes and strategies of a broad range of organisations that influence the integration of strategic policies and programmes at local authority level. Documents which have been reviewed for the purpose of this scoping report are listed below, grouped by those produced at the International, National, Regional / Sub-Regional or local authority (Craven or other local planning authorities) level. There is a wide range of international and EU legislation, when transposed into national legislation sets requirements that need to be taken into account in sustainability appraisal of the emerging Craven Local Plan.

International plans, strategies and programmes	Organisation	Date
EU Environmental Impact Assessment Directive	European Commission	2011
Waste Framework Directive 2008/98/EC	European Commission	2008
EU Sustainable Development Strategy	European Commission	2006
Thematic Strategy for Soil Protection	European Commission	2006
European Landscape Convention or 'Florence Convention'	European Commission	2004
The Johannesburg Declaration of Sustainability Development	United Nations	2002
Environment 2010: Our Future, Our Choice, EU Sixth Environment Action Programme, 2001-2010	European Commission	2001
Directive to promote Electricity from Renewable Energy (Directive 2001/77/EC)	European Commission	2001
European Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (SEA) Directive	European Commission	2001
European Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive	European Commission	2001
European Landscape Convention	European Landscape Convention	2000
Water Framework Directive	European Commission	2000
The Landfill Directive 1999/31/EC	European Commission	1999
Kyoto Protocol on Climate Change	United Nations	1999/1997
Conservation of Natural Habitats and Wild Fauna and Flora (Directive 92/43/EC) (The Habitats Directive)	European Commission	1994
Habitats and Species Directive 92/43/EEC	European Commission	1992
Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive	European Commission	1991
Convention on archaeological heritage (Valetta Convention 1992)	Valetta Convention	1992
The Convention on Biological Diversity, Rio de Janeiro	United Nations	1992
Nitrates Directive 91/676/EC	European Commission	1991
Wild Birds Directive 79/409/EEC	European Commission	1979
Bern Convention on the conservation of European wildlife and natural habitats	Bern Convention	1979
Bonn Convention on Conservation of Migratory Species	United Nations	1979
EU Convention on the protection of archaeological heritage	European Commission	1972
UNESCO World Heritage Convention	UNESCO	1972
RAMSAR Convention on Wetlands of International importance, especially waterfowl habitats	RAMSAR Convention	1971
Directive on Ambient Air Quality and Management	European Commission	1966
Air Quality Framework Directive 96/62/EC	European Commission	1962

Table 2: International plans, strategies and programmes reviewed as part of the Craven Local Plan SA / SEA scoping.

National plans, strategies and programmes	Organisation	Date
Tracking peat usage in growing media production	UK Government (Defra)	2013
National Character Area Profiles	Natural England	2012
Community Rail Development Strategy (2012)	UK Government (Department of Transport)	2012
Agricultural land classification: Protecting the best and most versatile agricultural land	Natural England	2012
Getting the measure of fuel poverty: Final report of the fuel poverty review	John Hills	2012
Health and Social Care Act	UK Government	2012
National Planning Policy Framework	UK Government (DCLG)	2012
WRVS Loneliness amongst older people and the impact of family connections	WRVS	2012
The Localism Act	UK Government	2011
The future of food and farming: Challenges and Choices for Global Sustainability	UK Government	2011
Energy Act	UK Government	2011
Mainstreaming Sustainable Development	UK Government (Defra)	2011
AONB Management Plans: Uplands Policy Review	UK Government (Defra)	2011
Biodiversity 2020: A Strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services	UK Government (Defra)	2011
Mainstreaming Sustainable Development	UK Government (Defra)	2011
The Marmot Review: Implications for Spatial Planning	UCL Institute of Health Equality	2011
Laying the Foundations: A Housing Strategy for England	UK Government	2011
The Equality Act	UK Government	2010
Climate Change Act	UK Government	2008
The Energy Act	UK Government	2008
The Planning Act	UK Government	2008
The Wetland Vision for England	Environment Agency	2008
England biodiversity strategy climate change adaptation principles	UK Government (Defra)	2008
Safer Places: The Planning System and Crime Prevention	UK Government (ODPM)	2007
Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act	UK Government	2006
Securing the future: UK Sustainable Development Strategy	UK Government (ODPM)	2005
National Planning Policy Framework	UK Government (DCLG)	2012
Safeguarding our Soils: A Strategy for England	UK Government (Defra)	2009
Planning tomorrow's countryside	The Countryside Agency	2005
Housing Standards Review Consultation	UK Government (DCLG)	2013
Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act	UK Government	2004
Strategic Environmental Assessment and Biodiversity: Guidance for Practitioners	English Nature, RSPB, Environment Agency, Countryside Council for Wales	2004
Making the Connections: Final Report on Transport and Social Exclusion, report by the social exclusion unit	UK Government (ODPM)	2003
Strategy for sustainable farming and food	UK Government (Defra)	2002
Working with the grain of nature: A biodiversity strategy for England	UK Government (Defra)	2002
Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CRoW)	UK Government	2000
England Forestry Strategy	Forestry Commission	1999
Environment Act	UK Government	1995
UK Biodiversity Action Plan	UK Biodiversity Partnership and UK Government	1994
Wildlife and Countryside Act (as amended)	UK Government	1981
Geological Conservation Review	Joint Nature Conservation Committee	1977

Table 3 (above): National plans, strategies and programmes reviewed as part of the Craven Local Plan SA / SEA scoping.

Table 4 (over the page): Regional, County and sub-regional plans, strategies and programmes reviewed as part of the Craven Local Plan SA / SEA scoping.

Regional, County and sub-regional plans, strategies and programmes	Organisation	Date
Minerals and waste emerging joint plan under preparation	North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC), North York Moors Authority and City of York	Emerging plan
NHS Airedale, Wharfedale and Craven Clinical Commissioning Group prospectus 2013 / 2014	NHS Airedale, Wharfedale and Craven CCG	2013
York, North Yorkshire and East Riding LEP Draft version for submission	York, North Yorkshire and East Riding LEP	2013
Consultation to refresh the North Yorkshire Community Plan for 2014 - 2017	Local Government North Yorkshire and York and the Chief Executives Officers Group for North Yorkshire and York	2013
North Yorkshire Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2013 - 2018	Health and Wellbeing Board North Yorkshire	2013
Landscape Guidance for wind turbines up to 60m high in the south and West Pennines	Julie Martin Associates	2013
United Utilities revised draft water resources management plan	United Utilities	2013
Maximising value: A strategy to deliver extra care housing in North Yorkshire	NYCC / Housing Learning and Improvement Network (LIN)	2012
North Yorkshire Health and Wellbeing Board Joint Strategic Needs Assessment 2012	North Yorkshire Health and Wellbeing Board	2012
North Yorkshire Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA)	GVA planning and property consultants for North Yorkshire Strategic Housing Partnership	2011
North Yorkshire local Investment Plan	North Yorkshire Strategic Housing Partnership	2011
Local transport plan three (LTP3) Local Transport Plan 2011 – 2016	North Yorkshire County Council	2011
Realising the potential: The Leeds City Region Local Enterprise Partnership Plan	Leeds City Region Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP)	2011
Low Carbon and Renewable Energy Capacity in Yorkshire and Humber	Aecom	2011
Managing Landscape Change: RCLE Developments – A Sensitivity Framework for North Yorkshire & York	Aecom	2011
North Yorkshire's Children and Young People's Plan	North Yorkshire Children's Trust	2011
North West Yorkshire Level 1 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment	JBA Consulting for Harrogate, Craven and Richmondshire Councils	2010
Leeds City region Green Infrastructure Strategy	Leeds City Region LEP	2010
Aire Catchment Flood Management Plan Summary Report, December 2010	Environment Agency	2010
York and North Yorkshire Economic Assessment	York and North Yorkshire Partnership Unit	2010
North West River Basin Management Plan	Environment Agency	2009
River Basin Management Plan, Humber River Basin	Environment Agency	2009
York and North Yorkshire Cultural Partnership Strategy 2009 – 2014	York and North Yorkshire Cultural Partnership	2009
Waste Local Plan saved policies post May 2009	North Yorkshire County Council	2009
Your Dales Rock: Local Geodiversity Strategy	NY Geodiversity Partnership	2006
Transport and Sustainable Tourism Measures, Consultation Draft	North Yorkshire County Council	2005
Delivering Sustainable Energy in North Yorkshire: recommended Planning Guidance	Land Use Consultants and National Energy Foundation	2005
Minerals and Waste Development Framework: Core Strategies – Sustainability Appraisal, Consultation Draft Scoping Report	North Yorkshire County Council	2005
North Yorkshire Sub Regional Investment Plan 2004 - 2009	Yorks and North Yorkshire Partnership Unit	2005
Yorkshire Dales Local Plan Second Deposit Version	Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority	2003
Regional Economic Strategy	Yorkshire Forward	2003
Regional Housing Strategy	Government Office for Yorkshire and the Humber	2003

Plans, strategies and programmes of adjacent planning authorities	Organisation	Date
Bradford Core Strategy Further Engagement Draft	Bradford Metropolitan District Council	Oct 2011
Harrogate Core Strategy*	Harrogate Borough Council*	Adopted 2009
A landscape strategy for Lancashire (includes the Craven Plan area)	Lancashire County Council	2000
Lancaster City Council Core Strategy	Lancaster City Council	Adopted 2008
Lancaster City Council Land Allocations Development Plan Document	Lancaster City Council	Preferred Options 2012
Replacement Pendle Local Plan (2001 – 2006)	Pendle Borough Council	Adopted 2006
Ribble Valley Core Strategy Submission version	Ribble Valley Borough Council	2012
Richmonshire Local Plan Core Strategy 2012 – 2028*	Richmonshire District Council*	2012
South Lakeland Core Strategy*	South Lakeland District Council*	Adopted Oct 2010
South Lakeland Local Plan – Land Allocations document*	South Lakeland District Council*	2013
Yorkshire Dales Minerals and Waste Local Plan	Yorkshire Dales National Park	2007
Yorkshire Dales Local Plan	Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority	2006
Yorkshire Dales Housing Development Plan	Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority	2012

Table 5: Plans, strategies and programmes of adjoining planning authorities reviewed as part of the Craven Local Plan SA / SEA scoping. Those marked * adjoin Craven District but do not adjoin the Craven plan area.

Local plans, strategies and programmes	Organisation	Date
Craven District Council Plan 2013 - 2017	Craven District Council	Approved Feb 2013, Final Edit Apr 2013, Amended Jul 2013
Craven District Council Traveller Housing Needs Study	Opinion Research Services for Craven District Council	2013
Parish Profiles	Craven District Council	2012
Craven District population estimates and projections	Edge Analytics for Craven District Council	2012
Draft Craven Cultural Strategy	Craven District Council	2011
Contaminated Land Strategy	Craven District Council	2011
Economic Development Strategy for Craven District 2010 - 2016	Craven District Council	2010
Skipton Conservation Area Appraisal	Craven District Council	2008
Aiming High 2005-2008 Performance Indicators for Best Value Performance	Craven District Council	2005
Contaminated Land Strategy	Craven District Council	2011
Forest of Bowland AONB Management Plan	Forest of Bowland AONB	2009
Settle Conservation Area Appraisal	Craven District Council	2008
Giggleswick Conservation Area Appraisal	Craven District Council	2008
Craven Biodiversity Action Plan (outside the Yorkshire Dales National Park)	North Yorkshire County Council	2008
Giggleswick Conservation Area Appraisal	Craven District Council	2008
Craven District Landscape Appraisal (outside the Yorkshire Dales National Park and Forest of Bowland AONB)	Landscape Design Associates / Craven District Council	2002

Table 6: Local plans, strategies and programmes reviewed as part of the Craven Local Plan SA / SEA scoping.

Population

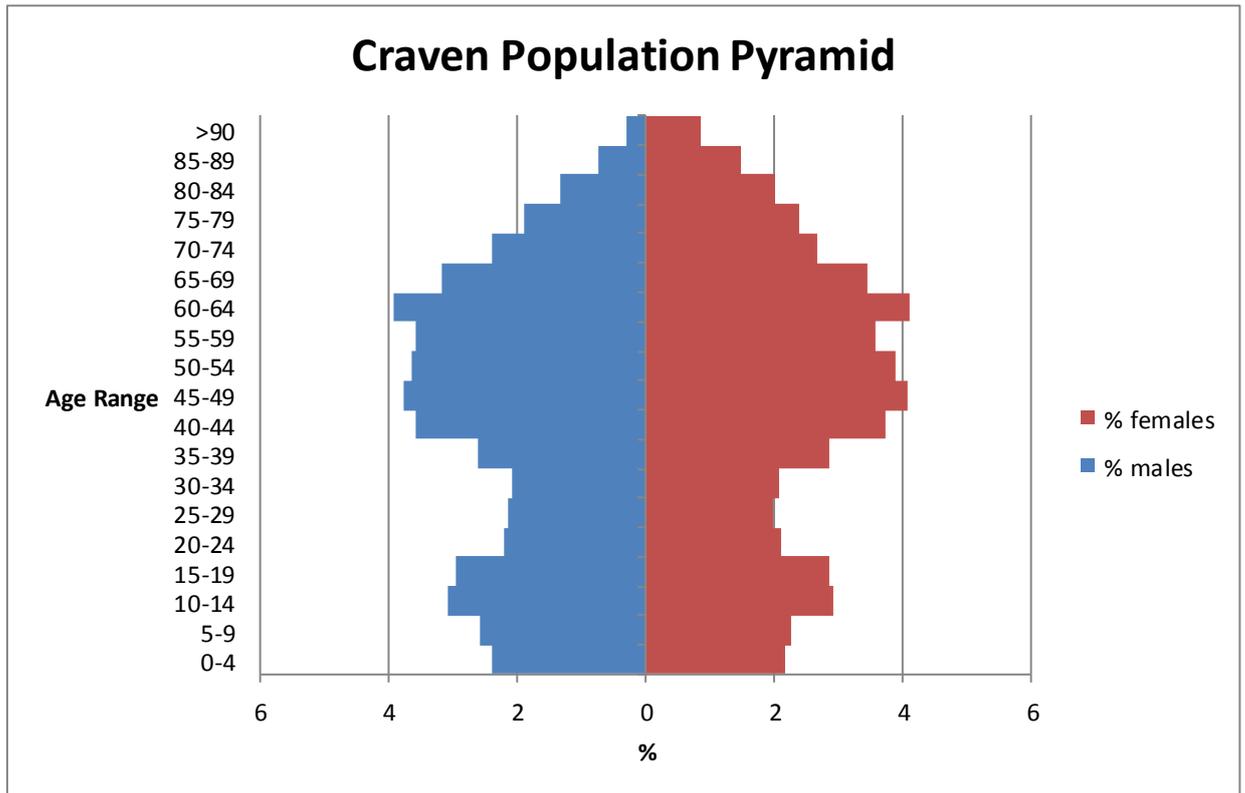
Sustainability context

Table 7: Key messages from plans and programmes review influencing preparation of the Local Plan

SA requirement	Source document(s)
Low population densities raise issues regarding communication, accessibility and infrastructure issues and future investment requirements.	York and North Yorkshire Economic Assessment (2010)
Over the plan period from 2013 / 2014 North Yorkshire will see a substantial increase in the elderly population, including those over 65 and in particular those aged over 80. This is driven by factors such as improved life expectancy and little out-migration from age groups over 30. The ageing population is therefore likely to be one of the greatest challenges affecting North Yorkshire in the coming years	North Yorkshire Strategic Housing Market Assessment (2011) ; North Yorkshire and York Economic Assessment (2010); Craven District population estimates and projections (2012).
There is outmigration of 16 – 30 age group and the overall population of working age (16 – 65) shows a declining trend. The result is a rising old age dependency ratio (the number of people above state retirement age as a proportion of the working age population).	North Yorkshire Strategic Housing Market Assessment (2011) ; North Yorkshire and York Economic Assessment (2010); Craven District population estimates and projections (2012).
Over the plan period North Yorkshire will see a prevalence of age-related conditions including obesity, diabetes, stroke and dementia and other long-term conditions. There is a huge challenge to find new ways of adequately meeting the resulting care and support needs of much higher numbers of older people with long-term needs in the County.	North Yorkshire Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2013 - 2018

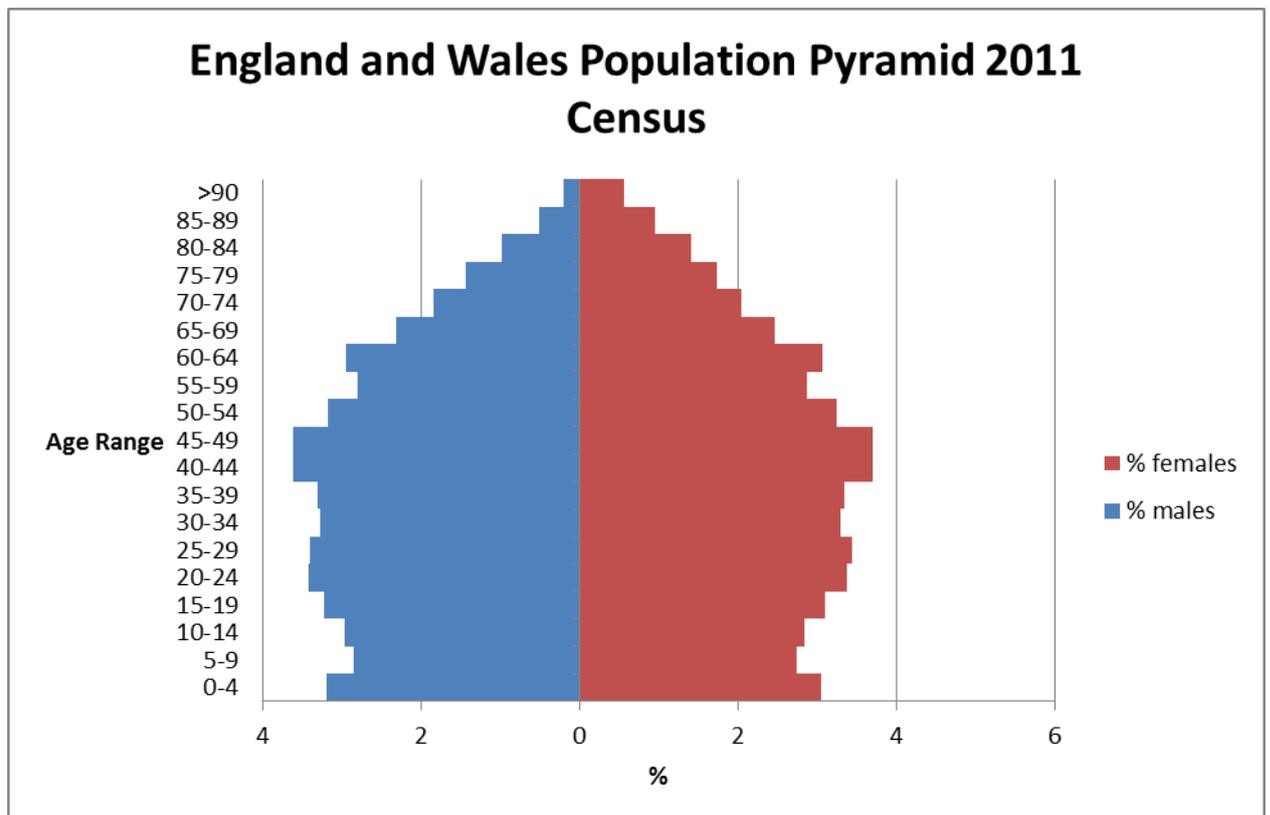
Sustainability baseline

- 4.1 The total population of Craven District is 55,459, (ONS 2012 Mid Year Estimate). Craven District with a population density of 47 people per square kilometre, is within the top ten most sparsely populated areas in England (the average for England and Wales is 245 people per sq. km). The Craven plan area population is approximately 45,476, equivalent to 82% of the District total. The population of Skipton is 14,677, approximately 32% of the plan area population.

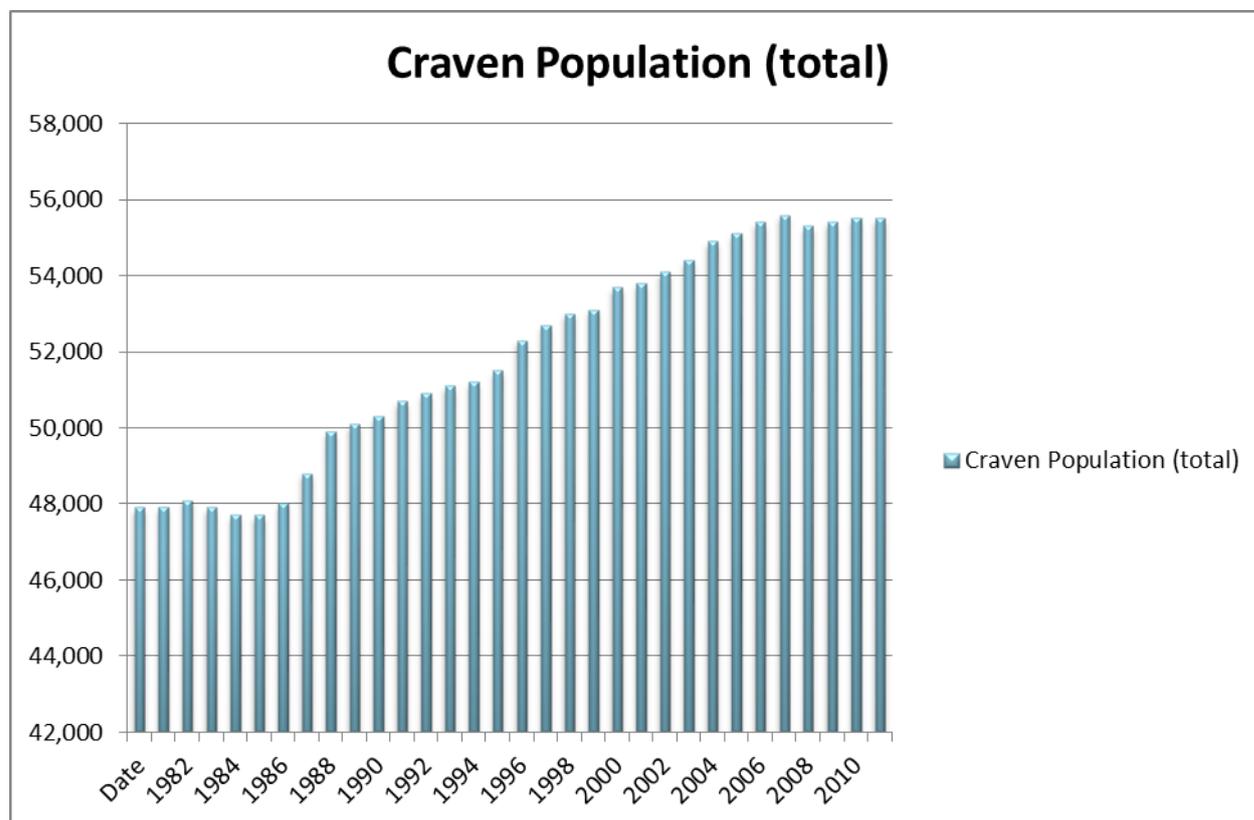


Graph 1: Craven's population pyramid (Source: 2011 Census, 2001 Mid-Year Population Estimates)

Graph 2: England and Wales population pyramid (Source: 2011 Census Mid-Year Population Estimates)



Graph 3: Total population change in Craven. Source - mid-year population estimates ONS
 Crown Copyright Reserved [from Nomis on 1 October 2013]



4.2 Both the 2011 North Yorkshire Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) and the 2012 Edge Analytics report examine population information for Craven from the Office of National Statistics (ONS) and other sources such as Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) sub-national household projections and the 2011 SHMA Household survey. Key findings on Population and Household Change in Craven since 2001 are:

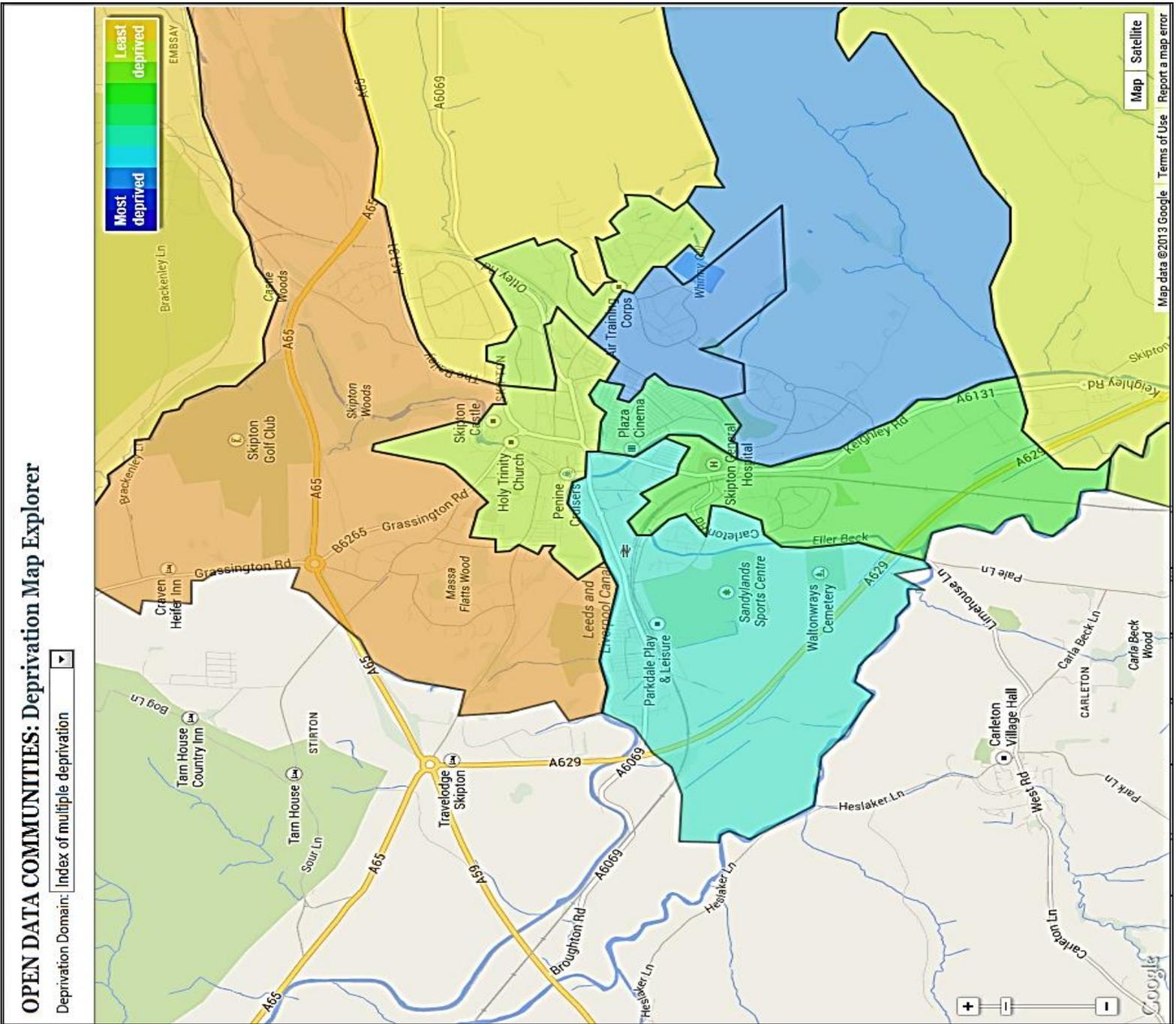
- Craven’s population has grown by just over 3% (1,780) and the number of households by about 8% (1,847). (I’m wondering if a % comparison here against UK would be useful).
- The main drivers of population growth for much of the decade were internal (UK) and international migration, with internal migration being the much more significant driver. However, in the last few years, there have been significant fluctuations in both these components of population change shifting from a positive net impact to a negative net impact.
- In respect of internal migration, the most significant annual net inflow of residents into Craven come from Bradford District, but there are also strong links with Leeds, Pendle and Lancaster Districts.
- Craven gained population through net migration across all age groups except for young adults (15-19 and 25-29). The outflow for the 15-19 age group, is by far the largest net change (-249) and can be attributed to a large number of young adults leaving the area to attend university.

- Natural change (i.e. the difference between births and deaths) has been responsible for a significant decline in Craven's population, contributing on average -163 people per year between 2001 and 2010.
- The population of Craven is ageing. There have been significant increases in older age groups and a reduction in young children under 10 and those in their twenties and early thirties. This trend has been much more pronounced in Craven than in North Yorkshire as a whole, suggesting that young adults and young families are leaving the District, potentially to seek employment opportunities elsewhere.
- The average household size in Craven is falling, from 2.30 persons in 2001 to 2.25 persons in 2011. This reflects the increase in the number of 'one person households' (+908) and households of couples with no children (+1,495) and a concurrent net decline of -68 in the number of family households with more than 2 dependent children. This is indicative of Craven's ageing population, with increasing amounts of people living alone.

4.3 Craven ranks 241 out of 326 local authorities in England in the 2010 Index of Multiple Deprivation with 326 being the least deprived authority (Department for Communities and Local Government, Indices of Deprivation 2010). Out of 21 local authorities in Yorkshire and the Humber region, Craven is the 5th least deprived. However, there are pockets of relative deprivation, including hidden rural deprivation. For the purpose of the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD), the district is divided into small areas called Lower Super Output Areas (LSOA's). Map 2 over the page shows that whilst parts of North Skipton are in the least deprived LSOA's national, LSOA's in South and West Skipton are more deprived.

4.4 The Office of National Statistics also measures deprivation by specific criteria. Whilst overall Craven's LSOA's are ranked as being less deprived than comparator areas, several parts of the Craven plan area are ranked in the 20% most deprived areas in two sub-domains. These are the 'living environment' and 'barriers to housing and services' sub-domains. The former relates to outside situation environments as well as inside housing environments including households without gas central heating. However, parts of the wards of Barden Fell, Gargrave and Malhamdale, Clapham and Ingleton, Penyghent and Settle and Ribblesdale ~~are~~ ranked within the worst 5% nationally, indicating particular disadvantage in the physical and financial accessibility of key local services.

Map 2: Relative deprived in and around Skipton measured by the Office of National Statistics Index Deprivation (IMD) by super output area.



Shaping a sustainability appraisal testing and checking framework for the emerging Craven Local Plan

- 4.5 The evidence reviewed supports the inclusion of the following objective(s) in the Local Plan SA testing framework:
- SA Objective SO2 – To inclusively meet the requirements of a changing population.
 - SA Objective SO3 – To provide sufficient housing of a suitable mix taking into account local housing need, affordability, deliverability, the needs of the district's economy, and travel patterns.
- 4.6 The evidence reviewed supports the inclusion of the following sub-criteria:
- Will the strategy, planning policy or potential development site contribute towards meeting the changing needs of a locally ageing population?
 - Will the strategy, planning policy or potential development site make a positive contribution towards balanced demographics and community cohesion?
- 4.7 The evidence reviewed supports the inclusion of the following monitoring indicators:
- Index of multiple deprivation and specific deprivation categories, in particular 'living environment' and 'barriers to housing and services'.

Economy

Sustainability context

Table 8: Key spatial economy messages from plans and programmes review influencing the preparation of the Craven Local Plan

SA requirement	Source document(s)
Support existing business sectors, taking account of where they are expanding, contracting and, where possible, identify and plan for new or emerging sectors likely to locate in their area. Policies should be flexible enough to accommodate needs not anticipated and allow a rapid response to changes in economic circumstances.	National Planning Policy Framework (March 2012)
Plan positively for the location, promotion and expansion of clusters or networks of knowledge driven, creative or high technology industries.	National Planning Policy Framework (March 2012)
Recognise town centres as the heart of communities and pursue policies to support their viability and vitality. Promote competitive town centres that provide customer choice and a diverse retail offer and which reflect the individuality of town centre. Where town centres are in decline, local planning authorities should plan positively for their future to encourage economic activity.	National Planning Policy Framework (March 2012)
Support the sustainable growth and expansion of all types of business and enterprise in rural areas, both through conversion of existing buildings and well-designed new buildings. Support the development and diversification of agricultural and other land-based rural businesses.	National Planning Policy Framework (March 2012)
Support sustainable rural tourism and leisure developments that benefit businesses in rural areas, communities and visitors, and which respect the character of the countryside. This should include supporting the provision and expansion of tourist and visitor facilities in rural service centres.	National Planning Policy Framework (March 2012)
Craven falls within the boundaries of two Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEP's), the Leeds City Region LEP and North Yorkshire LEP. This LEP document provides a strategy towards a more flexible, adaptable and inclusive economy, which enables and empowers businesses and individuals with the information, infrastructure and support required to capitalise on and to drive changes in markets.	Realising the potential 'The Leeds City Region LEP Plan'
Craven falls within the boundaries of two Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEP's), the Leeds City Region LEP and North Yorkshire LEP. This LEP document sets a vision to make the LEP area the best place in England to grow a small business, combining a quality business location with a great quality of life. The high proportion of self-employment and rich diversity of small and micro businesses but few medium to large ones means there must be a strong (but not exclusive) focus	York, North Yorkshire and East Riding LEP Economic and Investment Strategy, Draft Version for Submission (October 2013)

on these businesses across sectors, including tourism and farm based businesses. Quality of life and locational benefits of a North Yorkshire base and good access to Leeds result in a high demand from entrepreneurs to locate in the area.	
Yorkshire is home to some of the most successful town centres in the country in places such as Skipton and we must build on our successes to allow towns across the region to think as a business, to understand their place in the market and to invest to be successful and sustainable in the long term.	York, North Yorkshire and East Riding LEP Economic and Investment Strategy, Draft Version for Submission (October 2013)
The tourism industry employs thousands of people and we must ensure our plans for growth and change reflect changing customer expectations. If we want to tackle issues such as seasonality and to increase visitor spend and length of stay, we must be world class, not just on our assets, but by investing in skills and the use of technology to deliver a world class visitor experience.	York, North Yorkshire and East Riding LEP Economic and Investment Strategy, Draft Version for Submission (October 2013)
A Core Priority is “successful and distinctive places” – proposed core activities to strengthen economic links with neighbouring cities and business led investment in market towns.	York, North Yorkshire and East Riding LEP Economic and Investment Strategy, Draft Version for Submission (October 2013)
The Strategy sets out four key themes. These are: Enabling Business Growth – addressing business performance, whether encouraging business start-ups, expansion and reinvestments; providing the right “physical environment” such as sites and premises, technology and transport. Developing the Rural Economy – providing opportunities for rural communities to meet their own employment needs by supporting traditional and new industries; providing access to the necessary goods and services. Revitalising our Towns and Villages – enhancing the role of the local market towns as the economic hubs for goods and services by developing the retail offer and seeking to improve the physical environment. Capitalising on Education and Skills – ensuring with partners that a diverse range of training and educational opportunities are available to people and businesses to ensure a healthy labour market.	The Economic Strategy for Craven District 2010 - 2016

Sustainability baseline

- 5.1 The plan area has a diverse economy, which is characterised by a particular presence of the ‘distribution, hotels and restaurants’ sector and concentrations of manufacturing in South Craven and financial / business services in Skipton. The northern part of the plan area, including Settle and Bentham is characterised by a high reliance on self-employment and very small firms employing less than 4 people, agriculture, tourism and small scale manufacturing (York and North Yorkshire Economic Assessment, 2010). The high quality of the environment is critical for the economy. The upland nature of the area raises challenges for the agricultural sector in the future, such as the vulnerability of this sector and its importance in managing the landscape. The area is relatively self-

contained in terms of most people living in the area working in the area, although there is a net outflow of commuters particularly over the border to Lancashire / Cumbria and a balanced flow with other neighbouring areas.

- 5.2 The southern part of the Craven plan area that includes Skipton is defined in the York and North Yorkshire Economic Assessment (2010) as that part of North Yorkshire that has direct connections to the West Yorkshire economy. In particular this includes the connections between the Skipton area and Bradford. This 'West Yorkshire Connected' part of North Yorkshire experienced exceptionally high employment growth (43%) between 1991 and 2008 across most sectors, compared to a national figure of 25%, although there was a decrease in manufacturing employment. Unlike most of York and North Yorkshire, the 'West Yorkshire Connected' area continued to sustain employment growth during 2008 – 2010. The area has very high growth and dependence on finance and business services, the hospitality, retail and tourism sectors. The area has a highly skilled and qualified resident population as well as high levels of economic activity with relatively low levels of benefit claimants. At 13%, a higher proportion of jobs in the 'West Yorkshire Connected' area are in the manufacturing sector than other parts of the sub-region. There is a substantial manufacturing presence in South Craven.

Table 9: Location Quotients – concentration of industry sectors within local areas (source: IDBR, 2012 and LEP draft Economic and Investment Strategy, October 2013)

Industry	Craven	LEP Area of York, North Yorkshire and the East Riding of Yorkshire
Agriculture, forestry & fishing	4.6	3.4
Production	0.8	0.9
Construction	0.9	1.0
Motor trades	0.8	1.0
Wholesale	0.9	0.9
Retail	1.1	1.0
Transport & Storage	1.0	1.0
Accommodation & food services	1.2	1.3
Information & communication	0.5	0.5
Finance & insurance	0.5	0.7
Property	0.9	0.9
Professional, scientific & technical	0.6	0.7
Business admin & defence	0.9	0.8
Public admin & defence	2.2	2.1
Education	0.6	0.8
Health	0.7	0.8
Arts, entertainment & recreation	0.8	0.9

- 5.3 The level of economic activity in Skipton and surrounding parishes and South Craven is 71.3%, notably higher than the region, sub region and the Leeds City Region LEP area. 46% of residents are in higher level occupations. The spatial economy also sees significantly high levels of the working population with higher level qualifications. There is a significant level of out migration to work in the spatial area and some of these movements are very local, for example between South Craven and Keighley but there is also an important flow to the city centres of Bradford and Leeds. The Edge Analytics study (March 2012) and North Yorkshire Strategic Housing Market Assessment found that there is also significant in commuting from West Yorkshire and East Lancashire to the Craven South Sub Area (that is the part of the Craven plan area that is within the West Yorkshire Connected spatial geography).
- 5.4 The Craven Plan area benefits from a relatively stable economy with unemployment below regional and national levels. Craven has generally had a higher employment rate than county, regional or national levels and between October 2011 to September 2012, 76.6% aged 16-64 were in employment, 6% above the national average. Craven was badly hit by the recession in 2008 with a drop in employment on the previous year of 15.9%. However, this increased 16.7% in the following year, showing a strong return. In February 2013 there were 2,890 benefit claimants in Craven equivalent to 8.7% of the working age population, with only four local authorities in Yorkshire & The Humber with a lower percentage of claimants (Hambleton, Harrogate, Richmondshire and York).
- 5.5 Despite high levels of employment, the plan area is characterised by low wage levels relative to housing costs. A significant number of residents commute to West Yorkshire and East Lancashire, in many cases to better paid jobs. The average income of Craven residents is higher than the average wage of local jobs. The median earnings of people living in the district and working full time is below both regional and national levels at £451 per week (gross median pay) compared to £465.2 and £508 respectively. Good road and rail links between the south of the plan area and Leeds – Bradford as well as East Lancashire (road and bus links) and relatively higher house prices / rents and lower wage levels in the Craven Plan area contribute to high levels of commuting into and out of the south of the Plan area.

Shaping a sustainability appraisal testing and checking framework for the emerging Craven Local Plan

- 5.6 The data analysed supports the inclusion of the following objective(s) in the Local Plan SA testing framework:
- SA Objective SO7. Positively support the market town, rural and visitor economy.
 - SO8 - Positively support local businesses to grow.
- 5.7 The evidence reviewed supports the inclusion of the following sub-criteria:
- Will the strategy, planning policy or potential development site support village services?
 - Will the strategy, planning policy or potential development site support local people to move from lower paid to higher paid jobs.
 - Will the strategy, planning policy or potential development site safeguard shops and services in existing centres?
 - Will the strategy, planning policy or potential development site safeguard and improve the retail, leisure and service provision?

- Will the strategy, planning policy or potential development site help to support the tourism and visitor economy?
- Will the strategy, planning policy or potential development site provide a balanced choice of employment land?
- Will the strategy, planning policy or potential development site provide opportunities for the creation of new businesses and/or minimise the loss or displacement of existing businesses?

5.8 The evidence reviewed supports the inclusion of the following monitoring indicators:

- Retail vacancy rates.
- Visitor numbers and spend statistics.
- Loss of employment land and premises to non-employment uses.
- Take-up rate of employment land / amount of new employment floorspace developed.

Health and wellbeing

Sustainability context

Table 10: Key spatial health and wellbeing messages from plans and programmes review influencing preparation of the Craven Local Plan

SA requirement	Source document(s)
Local Authorities are expected to have an increasing and more holistic role in producing health outcomes. NYCC have a duty to improve the health of residents.	Health and Social Care Act 2012
Take account of and support local strategies to improve health, social and cultural wellbeing for all.	National Planning Policy Framework (March 2012)
Overwhelming evidence that health and environmental inequalities are inexorably linked and that poor environments contribute significantly to poor health and health inequalities. Fully integrate the planning, transport, housing, environmental and health systems to address the social determinants of health in each locality. Prioritise policies and interventions that both reduce health inequalities and mitigate climate change by: Improving active travel; improving open and green spaces; improving the quality of food in local areas; improving the energy efficiency of housing.	Marmott Review; Implications for Spatial Planning (2011)
Fuel poverty will not have been eradicated by 2016 however it is defined. The Government – not just DECC but also other Departments – should set out a renewed and ambitious strategy for tackling fuel poverty.	Getting the measure of fuel poverty – final report of the fuel poverty review.
Reduce health inequalities between the most affluent communities and those that suffer from high levels of deprivation.	North Yorkshire Community Plan 2014 – 2017
Over the 10 years from 2013 North Yorkshire will see a substantial increase in the elderly population, and in the prevalence of age-related conditions including obesity, diabetes, stroke and dementia and other long-term conditions. There is a huge challenge to find new ways of adequately meeting the resulting care and support needs of much higher numbers of elderly people with long-term needs in the County. There needs to be a shift in focus from sickness and cure to wellness. People should be enabled to stay healthier for longer.	North Yorkshire Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2013 - 2018

Sustainability baseline

- 6.1 Craven residents in general, benefit from a better level of overall health in comparison with the rate for England (1). People within the district generally live longer than those in England overall, with male life expectancy at 80.4 years and female life expectancy at 84.8 years (in comparison to the national average of 78.9 for males and 82.9 for females). However, whilst deprivation in the district is generally low differences exist between the life expectancy of those living in the poorest and the most affluent areas,

with a difference in female life expectancy of 5.8 years, being greater than North Yorkshire overall of 4.6 years, although it should be noted that the differences for males at 3.6 years is significantly lower than the North Yorkshire figure of 6.3 years..

- 6.2 Child obesity rates are lower than the overall average for England. Of those in year 6 in year 2011/2012, 12% were considered obese, compared to a national average of 19.2%. In respect of people's limitations on day to day activities, the figure for Craven's residents amongst those whose activities are limited a lot is lower than the national average, whilst those whose activities are limited a little is higher than the regional and national average.

	Craven	Yorkshire & Humber	England
Day to day activities limited a lot	7.8%	9.1%	8.3%
Day to day activities limited a little	10.1%	9.8%	9.3%
Day to day activities not limited	82%	81.2%	82%

- 6.3 Over the last 10 years, all-cause mortality rates have fallen. The early death rate from heart disease and stroke has fallen and is lower than the England average.
- 6.4 Craven has a higher road accident rate than comparator areas although recent years have seen significant reductions in young person car accidents and small reductions in all other groups apart from motorcyclists (Report to North Yorkshire County Council Craven Area Committee, 26th January 2012).
- 6.5 The district's high quality environment and outdoor recreational opportunities are an important factor in encouraging healthy lifestyles and their preservation and enhancement must be carefully balanced with new development.
- 6.6 Demand on healthcare is set to increase due to a growing population and an increasing elderly population. NHS Clinical Commissioning Group priorities for Craven include healthy ageing and reducing health inequalities in cardiovascular disease.

Shaping a sustainability appraisal testing and checking framework for the emerging Craven Local Plan

- 6.7 The data analysed supports the inclusion of the following objective(s) in the Local Plan SA testing framework:
- SA Objective SO1 - Enhance the health and wellbeing of residents and improve access to public open space and the countryside.
 - SA Objective S05 - Improve highway safety.
- 6.8 The evidence reviewed supports the inclusion of the following sub-criteria:
- Will the strategy, planning policy or potential development site enhance health, or access to health facilities?

- Will the strategy, planning policy or potential development site impact on the changing healthcare support needs of the locally ageing population?
- Will the strategy, planning policy or potential development site help to reduce inequalities including health inequalities between the most deprived and the least deprived neighbourhoods?
- Will the strategy, planning policy or potential development site help to deliver networks of green infrastructure?
- Will the strategy, planning policy or potential development site enhance access to public open space?
- Will the strategy, planning policy or potential development site impact on perceptions of personal safety and fear of crime and actual crime levels?

6.9 The evidence reviewed supports the inclusion of the following monitoring indicators:

- Proportion of population within proximity to area of public open space?
- Premature (persons under the age of 75) all cause standardised mortality ratios (SMRs).
- Crime and fear of crime statistics.
- Road accident statistics.

Accessibility and Communications Infrastructure

Sustainability context

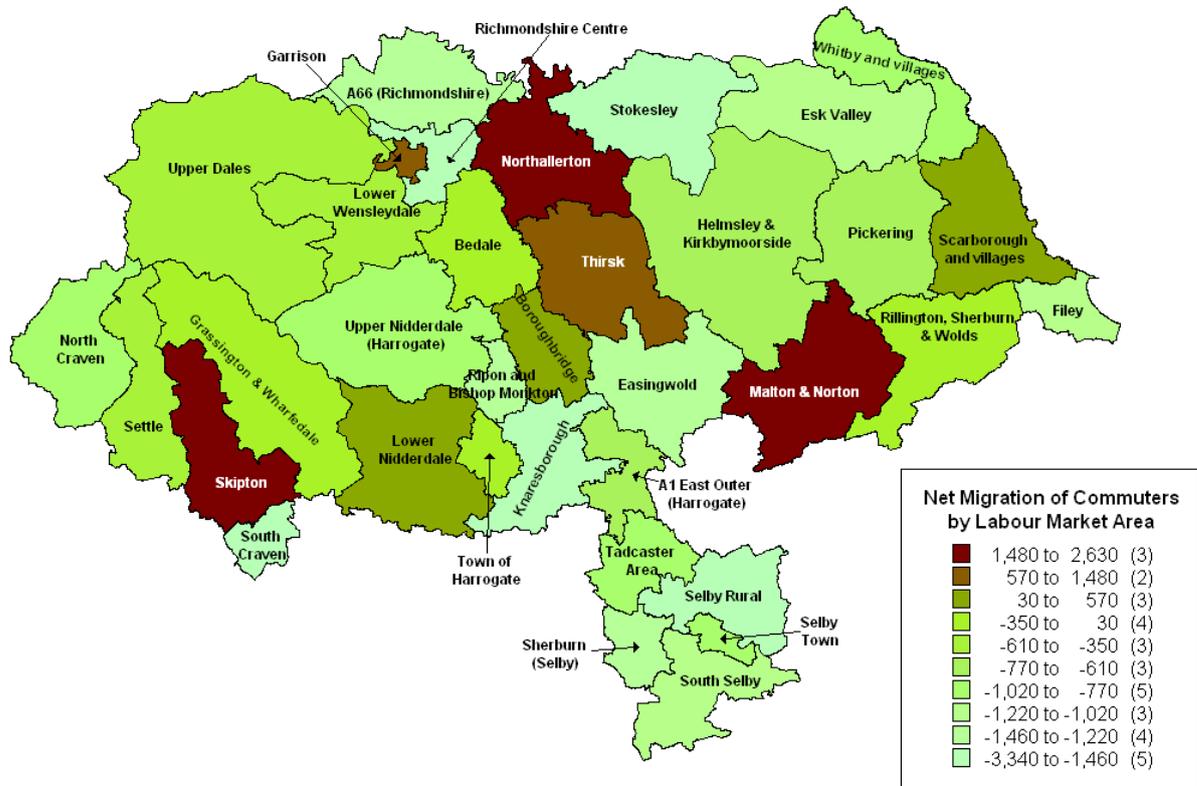
Table 11: Key spatial accessibility and communications messages from plans and programmes review influencing preparation of the Craven Local Plan

SA requirement	Source document(s)
Broadband connectivity is an issue for those wanting to run businesses from their home. Traffic calming and road maintenance are seen as priorities in many parishes. Unlike the south of the plan area, public transport (bus and rail) frequencies are a limitation to commuting into and out of the north of the plan area for work and study (Lancaster University).	Parish Profiles
Deliver sufficient community and cultural facilities and services to meet local needs. Assess the needs of open space, sports and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision. Identify priority areas for infrastructure provision. Promote the retention and development of local services and community facilities in villages, such as local shops, meeting places, sports venues, cultural buildings, public houses and places of worship.	National Planning Policy Framework (March 2012)
Support and enable communities to have greater capacity to shape and deliver the services they need and to enhance their resilience in a changing world. As well as the more traditional function of delivering services, the public sector will also rely more heavily on enabling communities to develop and deliver the service they need.	North Yorkshire Community Plan 2014 – 2017
Support needs of much higher numbers of old people should be provided as close to people's homes as possible so that people are enabled to live independently and maintain their quality of life for as long as possible within their local community. Rurality leads to challenges in delivering services efficiently in remote rural areas. The isolation people can experience from living in rural locations can impact on their emotional wellbeing and mental health. Lack of readily available community support and services can reduce vulnerable people's opportunities to live safely in their own homes.	North Yorkshire Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2013 - 2017
In the 'West Yorkshire Connected' part of North Yorkshire (that includes Skipton and the South of the Craven Plan Area), links to Leeds and Bradford are stronger than elsewhere in the LEP area, with more and faster road and rail connections and significant commuting flows.	York, North Yorkshire and East Riding LEP Economic and Investment Strategy, Draft Version for Submission (October 2013)
In October 2012 the Leeds-Morecambe line or 'Bentham line' was designated a community rail partnership.	Community Rail Development Strategy (2012)

Sustainability baseline

- 7.1 The Craven plan area is connected to the national road network by a number of strategic A roads. These provide good road connectivity through and to / from whole the plan area in the to / from the south east and northwest, and also between the southern part of the plan area to / from the east and southwest. Northeast and west of the plan area are the sparsely populated uplands of the Yorkshire Dales National Park and the Forest of Bowland so road connectivity is less rapid in these directions, relying on minor roads.
- 7.2 The A65 runs length of the plan area connecting the majority of the plan area connecting the 3 market towns and most of the larger villages with each other and Leeds to the southwest and the M6 to the northwest. The A629 runs from Skipton to Keighley, Halifax and South Yorkshire and the dual carriageway stretch between Cross Hills in South Craven and the boundary of Bradford district is the only trunk road in Craven. The A59 connects Skipton with the city of York to the east as well Harrogate and other North Yorkshire districts. West to Lancashire the principal routes are the A59 towards Preston and A56 that connects Craven with the M65 at Colne but also with the towns of Earby and Barnoldswick in Pendle district that are near to the Craven boundary. The A682 connects Settle and Hellifield with Lancashire.
- 7.3 In the northwest of the Craven plan area, the market town of Bentham is located 4 miles off the A65 via a winding section of the B6480. Road connectivity west of Bentham to Lancaster, 15 miles away, is on minor roads until joining the A683 8 miles east of Lancaster. The A687 connects the village of Ingleton through Burton in Lonsdale to Lancaster. Ingleton is also well connected to the M6 motorway via the A65 passing the nearby town of Kirkby Lonsdale in South Lakeland district, Cumbria.
- 7.4 Skipton and Cononley are served by regular commuter trains on the Airedale line to and from Leeds and Bradford (Forster Square station). A daily direct return train service to London Kings Cross operates from Skipton. There is no rail link east to Harrogate and York or southwest to East Lancashire, Preston and Manchester. However, the rail network provides extensive coverage of the plan area. Northwest of Skipton, the famously scenic Settle - Carlisle line and the Leeds - Morecambe line. Both lines serve Gargrave, Hellifield and Long Preston, while the line to Carlisle serves Settle and the line to Morecambe serves Giggleswick as well as Clapham and Bentham.
- 7.5 In terms of travel to work patterns, Skipton is the only Labour Market Area in Craven to have a net inflow of commuters (Map 3). Although commuting into the Skipton LMA is dominated by residents from the other Labour Market Areas in Craven District, a significant number of people travel in from Bradford (1,607 people) and Pendle (1,270 people).
- 7.6 Road traffic congestion occurs on both longer distance routes between settlements, within towns and some rural areas. The Local Transport Plan identifies Kildwick level crossing on the A6068 Skipton Road, Crosshills as one of 9 locations across North Yorkshire that experiences regular significant congestion issues.
- 7.7 One of the biggest infrastructure challenges facing the sub region is the quality of broadband and in many areas the lack of any service at all. Research undertaken on coverage across the sub region suggests that around 18% of households cannot receive a decent broadband connection (York and North Yorkshire Economic Assessment 2010).

Map 3: Net inflows / outflows of commuters in North Yorkshire (source: York and North Yorkshire Economic Assessment 2010)



Shaping a sustainability appraisal testing and checking framework for the emerging Craven Local Plan

7.8 The data analysed supports the inclusion of the following objective(s) in the Local Plan SA testing framework:

- SA Objective SO4 - Enhance access to employment, learning, social, active recreation, cultural and retail facilities.
- SA Objective SO6 - Promote walking, cycling and public transport.

7.9 The evidence reviewed supports the inclusion of the following sub-criteria:

- Will the strategy, planning policy or potential development site support equality in access to telecommunications connectivity?
- Will the strategy, planning policy or potential development site enhance or access to health facilities?
- Will the strategy, planning policy or potential development site enhance access to public open space?
- Will the strategy, planning policy or potential development site help to minimise the distance people travel for employment, education, recreation, shopping and other key services and facilities?

- Will the strategy, planning policy or potential development site provide improved opportunity for employment and engagement in educational, social, cultural and recreational activities for all?
- Will the strategy, planning policy or potential development site support equality in access to telecommunications infrastructure?
- Will the strategy, planning policy or potential development site make a positive contribution towards a pedestrian, cycling and highway safety?
- Will the strategy, planning policy or potential development site help to improve the quality of the pedestrian environment?
- Will the strategy, planning policy or potential development site support the use of public transport?
- Will the strategy, planning policy or potential development site the strategy, planning policy or potential development site support safe walking and cycling?
- Will the strategy, planning policy or potential development site minimise impacts on existing traffic congestion?
- Will the strategy, planning policy or potential development site improve the accessibility to goods and services without the need for using the car?
- How will the strategy, planning policy or potential development site impact on the level of travel to work by car in and out of the plan area.

7.10 The evidence reviewed supports the inclusion of the following monitoring indicators:

- The amount of development within a specified walking distance and cycling distance of town centres and/or located within proximity of a regularly served bus stop / or railway station.
- Proportion of population within proximity to area of public open space.
- The amount of development within a specified walking distance and cycling distance of town centres and/or located within proximity of a regularly served bus stop and/or railway station.
- Mode of transport used for travel to work and distance travelled.

Housing

Sustainability context

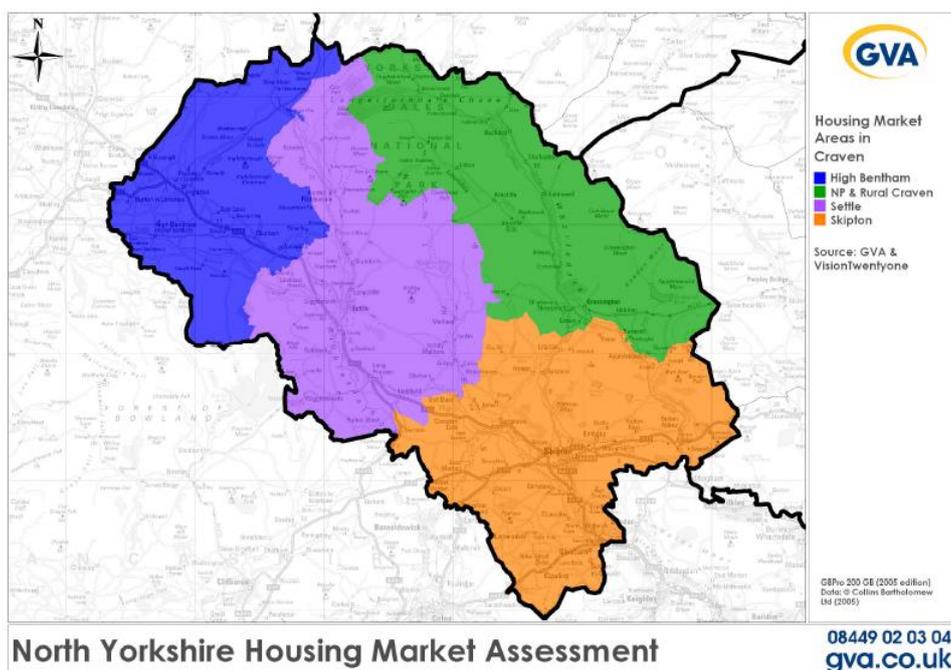
Table 12: Key spatial housing messages from plans and programmes review influencing preparation of the Craven Local Plan

SA requirement	Source document(s)
To boost significantly the supply of housing, local planning authorities should use their evidence base to ensure that their Local Plan meets the full, objectively assessed needs for market and affordable housing in the housing market area.	The National Planning Policy Framework (2012)
A delivery model to continue the development of 1,800 units of Extra Care Housing to be completed by 2020. This is an ambitious development programme and arguably one of the largest if not the largest development pipeline to deliver Extra Care Housing in the UK.	Maximising value: A strategy to deliver extra care housing in North Yorkshire (2012)

Sustainability baseline

Map 4: Distinct housing market sub-areas identified across Craven through analysis of house price data and migration trends available at postcode sector level (North Yorkshire Strategic Housing Market Assessment 2011)

Figure 2. 1: Craven District Sub Areas



8.1 Graph 4 illustrates the relatively high housing costs and low wages of the plan area compared to the England average.

Graph 4: Ratio of lower quartile house prices to lower quartile earnings in Craven District 1997-2012 (source: Office of National Statistics).

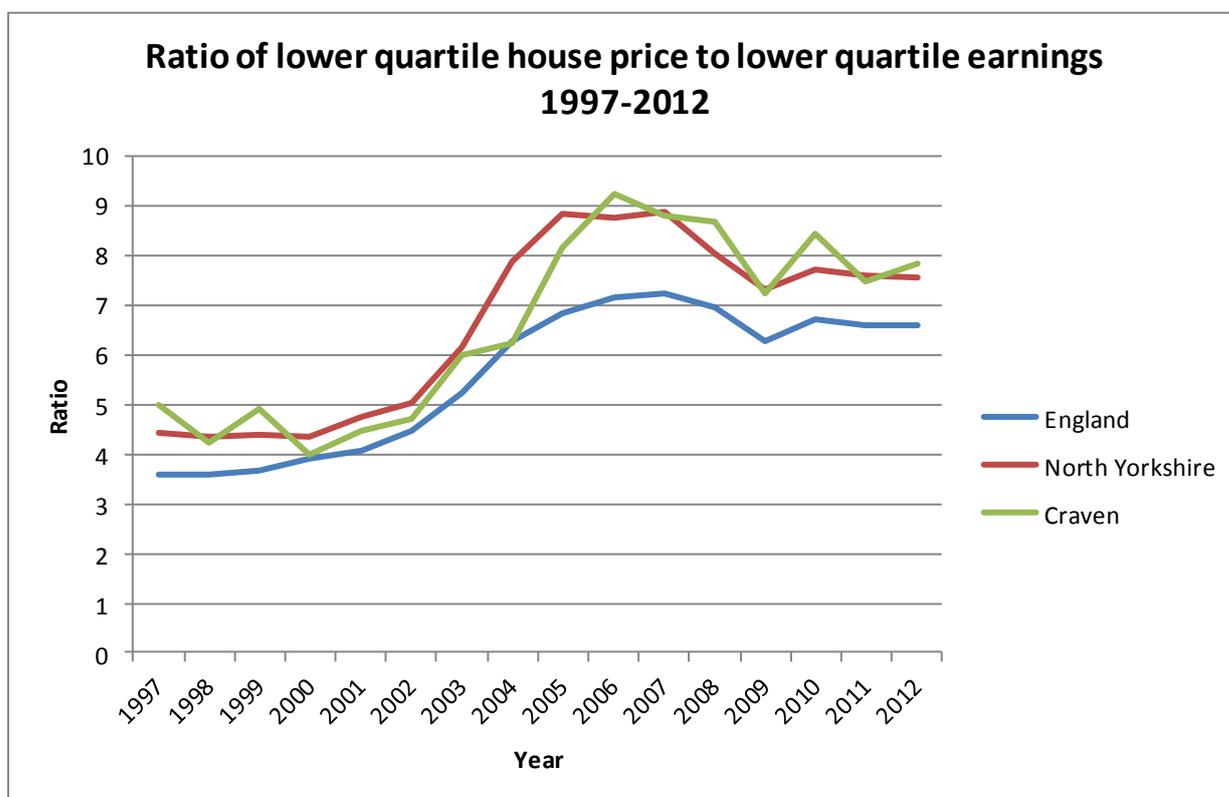


Table 13: Craven’s housing stock by council tax band

Band	% of properties within Council Tax Band (Craven)	% of properties within Council Tax Band (Yorkshire & The Humber)	% of properties within Council Tax Band (England)
Band A	15.71	43.94	24.84
Band B	22.23	19.95	19.58
Band C	22.01	16.59	21.76
Band D	15.43	9.28	15.31
Band E	11.9	5.76	9.44
Band F	7.41	2.77	4.99
Band G	4.89	1.58	3.51
Band H	0.41	0.14	0.57
Band I	0	0	0

8.2 Table 13 shows that Craven District contains a relatively low proportion of properties within the lowest Council Tax Band (Band A) but with a relatively high proportion of properties in bands B to G. According the 2011 North Yorkshire Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA), there is forecast future demand in Craven for affordable housing from newly formed households expected to be unable to afford market house prices and rents. The SHMA forecasts particularly high need for 1 and 2 bedroom affordable housing. In relation to market housing, it will be important for Local Plan

strategies to reflect the demand for an appropriate mix of house types including elderly and family housing.

Shaping a sustainability appraisal testing and checking framework for the emerging Craven Local Plan

8.4 The evidence reviewed supports the inclusion of the following objective(s) in the Local Plan SA testing framework:

- SA Objective SO3: Provide sufficient housing of a suitable mix taking into account local housing need, affordability, deliverability, the needs of the district's economy,

8.5 The evidence reviewed supports the inclusion of the following sub-criteria:

- Will the strategy, planning policy or potential development site impact on meeting identified local housing need?

8.6 The evidence reviewed supports the inclusion of the following monitoring indicators:

- Number of housing completions
- Number of affordable housing completions
- Number of extra care housing completions

Education

Sustainability context

Table 14: Key spatial housing messages from plans and programmes review influencing preparation of the Craven Local Plan

SA requirement	Source document(s)
Popularity of some primary schools in the south of the plan area realises potential capacity issues. Changing demographics in the north and west of the plan area have the opposite effect of declining school rolls and pressure on retaining rural schools.	Parish Profiles
Emphasises the importance of helping all children and young people to achieve their potential and maintain an effective workforce,	North Yorkshire Children and Young People's Plan (North Yorkshire Childrens Trust 2011)

Sustainability baseline

- 9.1 The contracting nature of the plan area's working age population serves to accentuate the importance of a well-educated and skilled labour force. Craven's schools consistently perform better than the national and regional average and made strong improvements between 2005 and 2012 to record figures of GCSE 5 A*-C Craven 94.6% compared to the figure for England of 84.6%.
- 9.2 The plan area contains some of the best schools in the country. According to the Telegraph searchable league table of the top 100 secondary schools in England based on GCSE results for summer 2012 published, Skipton Girls High School achieved the 6th best performance of any school in England. The quality of Craven's schools are a particular drawcard for the area as a place to live.
- 9.3 In 2012 87% and 90% of Craven Pupils achieved Level 4 or above in Maths and English respectively compared to 84% and 86% for England. The proportion of Craven residents with level 4 qualifications or above far exceeds the national and regional averages within Craven 31.8% having achieved a level 4 qualification or above.
- 9.4 Craven College in Skipton provides a wide range of further education including degrees awarded by University of Bradford, York St John and the University of Huddersfield.
- 9.5 Cross boundary issues are prevalent within secondary and further education, with pupils travelling into the district daily to attend schools and colleges in Skipton and the south of the plan area. In the north of the plan area there are a number of school children who travel to the schools within Lancashire and Cumbria.

Shaping a sustainability appraisal testing and checking framework for the emerging Craven Local Plan

- 9.4 The evidence reviewed supports the inclusion of the following objective(s) in the Local Plan SA testing framework:
- SA Objective SO4 - Enhance access to employment, learning, social, active recreation, cultural and retail facilities.
- 9.5 The evidence reviewed supports the inclusion of the following sub-criteria:
- Will the strategy, planning policy or potential development site support balanced primary and secondary school rolls?
- 9.6 The evidence reviewed supports the inclusion of the following monitoring indicators:
- School rolls and class sizes
 - School closures
 - GCSE and A level results

Biodiversity

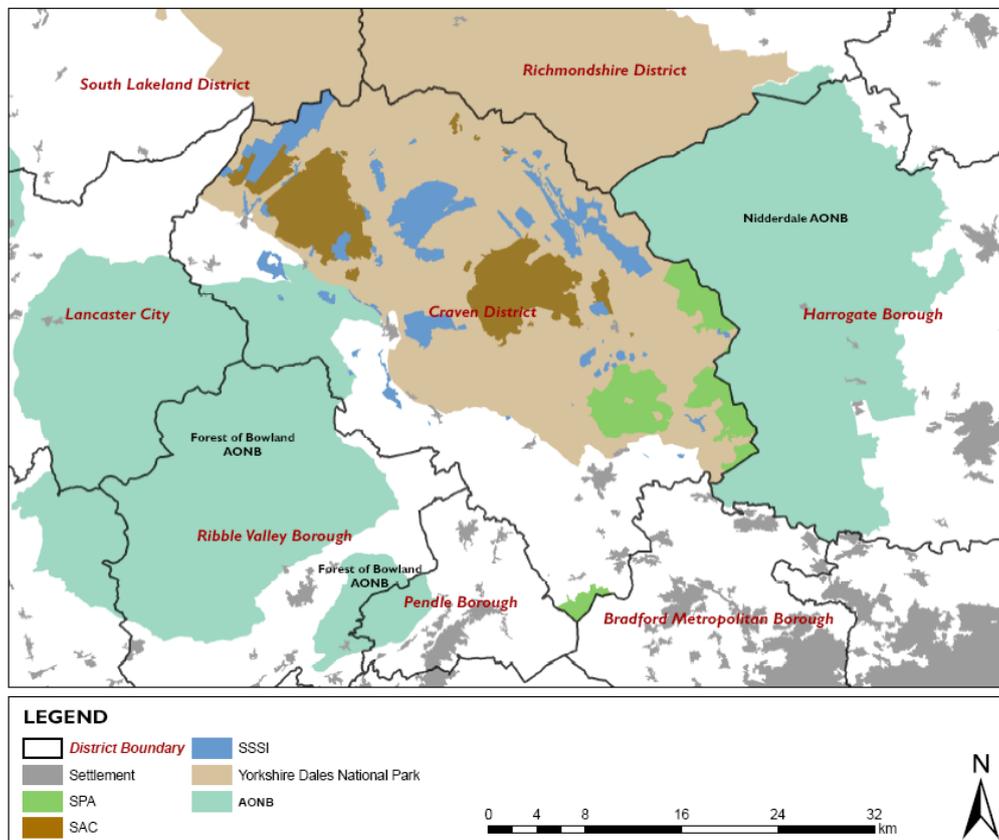
Sustainability context

Table 15: Key spatial housing messages from plans and programmes review influencing preparation of the Craven Local Plan

SA requirement	Source document(s)
In order to contribute to the Government's commitment to halt the overall decline in biodiversity, the NPPF states that the planning system should look to minimise impacts on biodiversity, with net gains in biodiversity to be provided wherever possible. It refers to the need to plan for biodiversity at a landscape-scale across local authority boundaries, identify the local ecological network and promote the preservation.	National Planning Policy Framework (UK Government 2012)
A plan for delivering biodiversity conservation at a local basis and to take action for local wildlife of local importance.	Craven Biodiversity Action Plan

Sustainability baseline

Map 4: Location of Environmental Designations within or in proximity to the Craven Plan area.



10.1 There are two Local Nature Partnerships covering the Plan Area. The whole of the plan area is covered by York and North Yorkshire LNP (covering the whole of North Yorkshire except from the Yorkshire Dales National Park which comes under the Northern Upland Chain LNP). There is an overlap of LNP's in the south of the plan

area around Cowling with the South Pennines LNP (Pennine Prospects). The South Pennines LNP have a specific interest in integrating the various local bodies in providing a coordinated response to the opportunities, benefits and pressures on the South Pennine landscape (the only significant upland landscape in northern England without AONB or National Park status).

- 10.2 The South Pennine Moors are covered by a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) designation as well as a (Special Protection Area) designation. There are no other SAC's or SPA's within the plan area. SPA's and SAC's are sites of European importance which are protected under European legislation (the Habitats Directive). In UK law these habitats and species are protected under the Conservation (Natural & Habitats) Regulations 1994. SAC's and SPA's are based on designated Sites of Scientific Special Interest. SPA's are designated for their bird interest and SAC's for their habitat and other wildlife interest.
- 10.3 The South Pennine Moors SPA covers extensive tracts of semi-natural moorland habitats including upland heath and blanket mire. The site is of European importance for several upland breeding species, including birds of prey and waders. Both Merlin (*Falco columbarius*) and Golden Plover (*Pluvialis apricaria*) spend some of their time feeding outside the SPA on adjacent areas of in-by land.
- 10.4 The most important biological and geological sites are notified as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI's) by Natural England, they are of national importance. There are over 4000 SSSI's in England covering approximately 8% of the land area. Within the Craven plan area there are eight biological SSSI's and four geological SSSI's. Nationally the condition of SSSI's has vastly improved since 2003, when less than two thirds of SSSI's were in favourable or recovering condition, by the end of 2010, this figure had risen to over 95%.

Table 16: SSSIs within Craven and their condition (source: Natural England / JNCC)

Name (Parish)	Size (ha)	% area favourable	% area unfavourable, recovering	% area unfavourable, no change	% area unfavourable, declining	% area destroyed/part destroyed
Austwick and Lawkland Mosses (Austwick/Lawkland)	83.76	44.08	34.67	21.25	0	0
Cocket Moss (Rathmell)	20.28	28.4	71.6	0	0	0
Hesley Moss (Rathmell)	10.96	0	52.23	47.77	0	0
Keasden Moor (Clapham cum Newby)	10.7	0	0	100	0	0
Newby Moor (Clapham cum Newby)	274.98	0	0	100	0	0
Pan Beck Fen (Hellifield)	2.54	0	100	0	0	0
River Ribble - (Long Preston Deeps (Long Preston/Rathmell/Settle)	158.94	6.81	93.19	0	0	0
South Pennine Moors (part) (Cowling)	515	1.13	94.66	4.21	0	0
Hambleton Quarry (Draughton)	12.5	100	0	0	0	0
Haw Crag Quarry (Gargrave)	9.56	100	0	0	0	0
Holywell Bridge (Halton East/Skipton)	1.5	100	0	0	0	0
Stonehead Beck (Gill Beck)	0.57	100	0	0	0	0

- 10.5 Long Preston Deepes SSSI has been held up by Natural England as an exemplar case study encouraging land owners to undertake restoration works on their land, reconnecting the river to the floodplain.
- 10.6 Following a review of UK BAP priority habitats occurring in the Craven Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) area, the following 11 Habitats of Conservation Concern were selected for the preparation:
- Woodland
 - Scrub
 - Parkland, ancient trees and pollard trees
 - Farmland and grassland
 - Hedgerows
 - Wet acidic grassland
 - Upland heath and blanket bog
 - Ponds
 - Fens
 - Lowland raised bog
 - Rivers and streams
- 10.7 Many key species in Craven are covered by the Habitat Action Plans associated with that species.
- 10.8 There are 678 Sites of Important Nature Conservation (SINCs) within Craven. SINC's are local Sites and are non-statutory areas of local importance for nature conservation that complement nationally and internationally designated geological and wildlife sites. In addition there are 186 sites of Ancient Woodland, including the recently designated Bannister Woodland at Cowling.

Shaping a sustainability appraisal testing and checking framework for the emerging Craven Local Plan

- 10.9 The evidence reviewed supports the inclusion of the following objective(s) in the Local Plan SA testing framework:
- SA Objective SO10 - Protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity and improve habitat connectivity.
- 10.10 The evidence reviewed supports the inclusion of the following sub-criteria:
- Will the strategy, planning policy or potential development site help to deliver the findings of the Appropriate Assessment?
 - Will the strategy, planning policy or potential development site protect and promote effective management of the District's sites of biodiversity and geodiversity importance?
 - Will the strategy, planning policy or potential development site provide opportunities for the enhancement and creation of habitats and to foster species conservation?
- 10.11 The evidence reviewed supports the inclusion of the following monitoring indicators:
- Planning permissions within and in close proximity to biodiversity and geodiversity designations.

Historic Places and distinct settlements

Sustainability context

Table 17: Key spatial ‘historic places and distinct settlements’ messages from plans and programmes review influencing preparation of the Craven Local Plan

SA requirement	Source document(s)
Recognition of human and cultural interactions with nature, and the fundamental need to preserve the balance between the two.	World Heritage Convention (1972)
The conservation and enhancement of the archaeological heritage. The investigation, preservation and recording of matters of archaeological or historical interest. 1990 Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act.	Valetta Convention
Local Plans should provide a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment including heritage assets most at risk. Local Authorities should recognise that heritage assets are an irreplaceable resource. The Local Plan should ensure the conservation, protection and enhancement of heritage assets including Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas and Scheduled Ancient Monuments and their settings.	National Planning Policy Framework (UK Government 2012)

Craven has a rich cultural heritage, with a large number of listed buildings, as identified in table 18. The majority of these are Grade II listed, with around 1.5% being Grade I.

Table 18: Designated Heritage Assets (source: Heritage Counts, English Heritage)

District	Craven Plan Area (outside National Park)	North Yorkshire	Yorkshire & The Humber
World Heritage Sites	0 (0)	1	2
Scheduled Monuments	167 (32)	1748	2,621
Listed Buildings Grade I	23 (13)	348	689
Listed Buildings Grade II*	48 (26)	705	1,515
Listed Buildings Grade II	1,505 (831)	12,743	29,227
Total Listed Buildings	1,601 (870)	13,796	31,431
Registered Parks and Gardens	3 (2)	44	119
Registered Battlefields	0 (0)	6	7
Protected shipwrecks	0 (0)	1	1
Conservation Areas	42 (29)	290	890

11.1 Of the Grade I listed buildings within Craven thirteen are located within the Plan area. Of these thirteen, six are either churches or chapels. There are seven non-

ecclesiastical buildings within the district listed Grade I, including Skipton Castle and outer gatehouse, Lawkland Hall, Broughton Hall and Farnhill Hall, the Folly at Settle and Kildwick Bridge. Outside of the Yorkshire Dales National Park area there are two registered historic parks and gardens (Broughton Hall and Gledstone Hall). There are a total of 32 Scheduled Ancient Monuments within the Plan area including the Park Hill earthwork (Civil War Battery in Skipton).

- 11.2 There is one designation on English Heritage's Heritage at Risk Programme within the Plan area, Dale End Mills in Lothersdale which is considered to be in poor condition (the second highest category of risk).
- 11.3 Whilst sites and monuments of national importance are afforded legal protection by placement on a list or schedule (sites being identified by English Heritage, with the Department for Culture, Media and Sport placing them on the list), there are sites which may be of importance to the quality of the local environment. At present the council does not maintain a list of local designations. Of the 29 conservation areas within the district, three currently have Character Appraisals published, these being Skipton, Settle and Giggleswick. These help to manage development within conservation areas in a sympathetic manner that enables their character to be preserved for future generations.
- 11.4 Archaeological remains and sites provide important information on the past. These remains are often fragile and are a non-renewable resource. The County Archaeologists provide advice on archaeological matters to the Council. The Historic Environment Record (HER) database is the main source of archaeological information for the area. It is now searchable online through the Heritage Gateway.

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- 11.5 The evidence reviewed supports the inclusion of the following objective in the Local Plan SA testing framework:
- SA Objective SO11 - Conserve or enhance the historic environment and its setting, cultural and archaeological heritage and character.
- 11.6 The evidence reviewed supports the inclusion of the following sub-criteria:
- Will the strategy, planning policy or potential development site ensure the continued protection and enhancement of physical sites and areas of importance to cultural and historical heritage, along with their settings?
 - Will the strategy, planning policy or potential development site protect and reinforce the character and appearance of the District's towns and villages and the cultural and historic elements that make them distinct?
 - Will the strategy, planning policy or potential development site protect and reinforce the Borough's landscapes, with the natural and cultural elements that make them distinct?
 - Will the strategy, planning policy or potential development site promote development on brownfield land?
- 11.7 The evidence reviewed supports the inclusion of the following monitoring indicators:
- Proportion or areas of historic buildings, sites and areas affected, whether in an adverse or beneficial way?

Landscape and farming

Sustainability context

Table 19: Key spatial landscape and farming messages from plans and programmes review influencing preparation of the Craven Local Plan

SA requirement	Source document(s)
Commits the UK to "recognise landscapes in law as an essential component of people's surroundings, an expression of the diversity of their shared cultural and natural heritage, and a foundation of their identity".	European Landscape Convention (2000)
Acknowledges farming's role in the creation of distinct rural landscapes and promotes "One Planet Farming" that reflects the need for us to live within the means of the planet, and farming which helps us live within the needs of the planet.	Strategy for sustainable farming and food (UK Government 2002)
States that the planning system should protect and enhance valued landscapes. Particular weight is given to "conserving landscape and scenic beauty". In designated areas, planning permission should be refused for major development, unless it can be "demonstrated they are in the public interest".	National Planning Policy Framework (UK Government 2012)
Supports the aims of the EU Thematic Strategy on Soil Protection but clearly demonstrates the value of national action to protect soils which is responsive to local circumstances. Supports the aims of the EU Thematic Strategy on Soil Protection but clearly demonstrates the value of national action to protect soils which is responsive to local circumstances.	Safeguarding our Soils: A Strategy for England (UK Government 2009)
Aims to understand, record and, where appropriate, conserve and / or make more accessible for everyone, geological heritage in the Yorkshire Dales. Aims to complete a Geodiversity Audit identifying sites that need documenting, protecting or conserving.	Your Dales Rocks (The North Yorkshire Geodiversity Partnership)
The plan area wide Landscape Character Assessment compartmentalises and profiles distinct areas of diverse landscape that make up the Craven plan area.	Craven District Landscape Appraisal outside the Yorkshire Dales National Park and Forest of Bowland AONB (Landscape Design Associates / Craven District Council, 2002)
Identify distinct and important local landscapes in the most populous parishes in the Craven plan area.	Parish Profiles (Craven District Council 2011 / 2012)

- 12.1 The Craven Plan area adjoins and encompasses part of the Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), covering approximately 75 square kilometres of the Plan area. AONB's alongside National Parks are afforded highest status of protection in relation to landscape and scenic beauty by the National Planning Policy Framework. The plan area adjoins the Yorkshire Dales National Park along the full

length of its northern boundary and a significant stretch of its eastern boundary. The District has a variety of inter-connected, high quality landscapes, such as parts of Ribblesdale, Airedale and Lonsdale.

- 12.2 Craven District contains a variety of high quality landscapes which have a distinct, in some cases unique, character; and many of which are of national and regional importance. Celebrated distinct limestone related scenery, exposed as pavements and dry valleys is less a characteristic of the Craven plan area than the part of the district within the Yorkshire Dales National Park (I'm not sure this makes sense). Sedimentary millstone grit underlays landscapes in the south and south east of the plan area (Craven District outside the Yorkshire Dales and Forest of Bowland AONB Landscape Appraisal, October 2002).
- 12.3 Although there is a small proportion of Grade 3 (Defra) agricultural land (good to moderate) in the plan area (mostly in the west), Grade 4 land makes up the majority of agricultural land contained within the plan area and is important for livestock farming and food production.
- 12.4 There are significant woodland areas within the privately owned Bolton Abbey estate near Skipton, including Strid Wood SSSI which has the largest remnant of acidic woodland in Yorkshire, and is important for its flora, particularly lichens. The Forest of Bowland is a Natural England 'Natural Area' with similar yet slightly different boundaries to the AONB, and there are many coniferous plantations. Within Skipton, Skipton Castle Woods is an attractive area of woodland of around 14.88ha managed by the Woodland Trust. The Plan area has a total of 1,440 Tree Preservation Orders, this includes individual trees, groups of trees and areas of woodland.
- 12.5 In terms of urban landscapes, there are some relatively large previously developed 'brownfield' sites, such as old mills and other industrial buildings that have redevelopment potential. By virtue of past operations on such sites it is likely that remediation of contaminated land would be necessary for redevelopment to take place.

Shaping a sustainability appraisal testing and checking framework for the emerging Craven Local Plan

- 12.6 The data analysed supports the inclusion of the following objective(s) in the Local Plan SA testing framework:
- SA Objective SO10 - Protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity and improve habitat connectivity.
 - SA Objective SO13 – To use soil and food growing or grazing land efficiently and safeguard or enhance their quality.
- 12.7 The evidence reviewed supports the inclusion of the following sub-criteria:
- Will the strategy, planning policy or potential development site ensure the retention of land of the highest agricultural value for food production and grazing?
 - Will the strategy, planning policy or potential development site encourage the improvement of land conditions for food production and grazing?
- 12.8 The evidence reviewed supports the inclusion of the following monitoring indicators:
- Proportion of new and converted dwellings built on previously developed land.
 - Proportion of employment floorspace completed on previously developed land.

Climate change, water and flood risk

Sustainability context

Table 20: Key spatial ‘climate change, water and flood risk’ messages from plans and programmes review influencing preparation of the Craven Local Plan

SA requirement	Source document(s)
The LEP strategy states that in order to invest in places and unlock growth a sustainable approach will seek high environmental standards in developments, including excellent energy ratings for new buildings, minimisation of carbon emissions and waste, and sustainable transport and water management policies. Climate change adaption needs (eg: flood risks) should also be factored into planning and development.	York, North Yorkshire and East Riding LEP Economic and Investment Strategy, Draft Version for Submission (October 2013)
The Climate Change Act (2008) sets a legally binding target for reducing UK Carbon Dioxide (CO ₂) emissions by at least 34% by 2020 and at least 80% by 2050 on 1990 levels. UK Government energy and climate change policy is evolving and uncertain and the Plan will need to accommodate flexibility in this regard.	Energy Act (2008), Climate Change Act (2008), Housing Standards Review Consultation (2013)

Sustainability baseline

- 13.1 Climate conditions for the Yorkshire and Humber region indicate that the Pennines along with the North York Moors have the coolest and wettest climate in the region (Source: a rural evidence base for Yorkshire and the Humber, Government Office for Yorkshire and the Humber (2005). Average rainfall ranges from between 929 mm and 2179 mm (1989 figures) to the west of the region. Changes in climate will result in mean annual temperatures rising leading to wetter winters and drier summers beyond the emerging Craven Local Plan period (ie: beyond 2027).
- 13.2 Noise levels in the plan area are largely associated with trunk road and minerals traffic movements to and from sites in the adjacent Yorkshire Dales National Park. Dark skies away from light pollution and tranquillity are important and special characteristics of parts of the plan area.
- 13.3 There are three principal watercourses that originate within or flow through the plan area. These are the Rivers Aire, Ribble and Wenning. Water quality within the plan area is categorised as ‘good or ‘very good’ and this is supported by data from the Environment Agency showing the percentage of rivers in the district with either good or fair chemical water quality to be over 90%.
- 13.6 There is a significant number of properties in the plan area that are not connected to the mains water supply, either relying on springs or private water supplies including boreholes.
- 13.8 Areas at most risk from flooding from rivers are sections of the Rivers Ribble, Aire, Wenning and their tributaries, as well as a small section of the River Greta. The Craven District Council landscape appraisal (2002) concluded that surrounding distinctive landscapes could be easily damaged by development, drainage or flood control measures. There is one reservoir within the plan area at Chelker, within close proximity of Draughton.
- 13.9 Environment Agency river modelling studies show that in the case of 1% flood events properties within a number of settlements to be at risk of flooding including in Low Bentham (56 properties) and High Bentham (22 properties) from the River Wenning and

in Settle (205 properties) from the River Ribble.

- 13.12 The main flood risk from the Aire and its tributaries is in Skipton and in agricultural areas. Previous concentrations of incidents from watercourses but also sewers and drains or surface water have been identified within Skipton, Glusburn and Sutton in Craven, Settle, Low and High Bentham. Skipton in particular is subject to surface water flooding issues from flow from Skipton Moor.
- 13.13 The extent of the floodplain is largest where the Aire is joined by tributaries including Eshton Beck and Ings Beck. In Skipton, Eller/ Embsay Beck and Waller Hill Beck join in the town centre. There is a history of flooding from these two becks and the flood zones in this area are around 100m wide. These becks join the Aire on the south western edge of Skipton, whilst the western edge of the flood zones between Skipton and Cononley are constrained by the railway line.
- 13.14 The Craven plan area includes some 'Critical Drainage Areas', including in Settle and Giggleswick where runoff associated with new development might increase flood risk from surface water drainage and / or sewer capacity. The main trunk sewer serving South Craven (not Skipton) from Marley Treatment Works near Keighley has capacity limitations in relation to serving an increase in households in Bradford District and the south of the Craven plan area (Bradford Core Strategy Further Engagement Draft 2012).

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- 13.15 The evidence reviewed supports the inclusion of the following objective(s) in the Local Plan SA testing framework:
- SA Objective SO9 - Minimise the need for car travel.
 - SA Objective SO14 - Conserve and enhance water quality and improve efficiency of water use.
 - SA Objective SO15 - Reduce carbon emissions and the use of finite resources.
 - SA Objective SO16 - Support climate change adaptation and reduce vulnerability to flooding.
 - SA Objective SO17 - Reduce air and noise pollution and protect tranquility.
- 13.16 The evidence reviewed supports the inclusion of the following objective(s) in the Local Plan SA testing framework:
- Will the strategy, planning policy or potential development site enhance local energy security?
 - Will the strategy, planning policy or potential development site support low carbon energy investment?
 - Will the strategy, planning policy or potential development site re-use brownfield land having regard its ecological value?
 - Will the strategy, planning policy or potential development site help to minimise energy use and promote energy efficiency?
 - Will the strategy, planning policy or potential development site lead to an increase in installed renewable and low carbon energy capacity
 - Will the strategy, planning policy or potential development site ensure that new development is in accessible locations in order to reduce the need for car use and/or encourage sustainable forms of transport?

- Will the strategy, planning policy or potential development site minimise impacts on local air quality?
- Will the strategy, planning policy or potential development site encourage increased levels of recycling?
- Will the strategy, planning policy or potential development site promote the efficient use of resources?
- Will the strategy, planning policy or potential development site protect, maintain and improve the quality of water resources?
- Will the strategy, planning policy or potential development site encourage water efficiency and demand management?
- Will the strategy, planning policy or potential development site help to protect tranquil areas?
- Will the strategy, planning policy or potential development site help to ensure uses are developed in compatible locations to reduce the impacts of noise pollution?

13.17 The evidence reviewed supports the inclusion of the following monitoring indicators:

- Proportion of new development on brownfield land.
- Quality standards for all water in terms of ecological status and potential.
- Number of planning applications granted contrary to the advice of the Environment Agency in respect of water quality?
- Frequency of parts of the plan area exceeding annual mean NO₂.
- Amount of renewable energy generation by installed capacity and type?

Contact Details:

Craven District Council

Planning Policy Team
1 Belle Vue Square
Broughton Road
SKIPTON
North Yorkshire
BD23 1FJ

Telephone: 01756 706472

Email: localplan@cravenc.gov.uk

Website: www.cravenc.gov.uk

