12 October 2007

To: All Councillors

As a Member or Substitute of the Local Development Framework Advisory Committee, please treat this as your summons to attend the meeting on Monday, 22nd October 2007 at 6.00 pm in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Matlock.

Yours sincerely

[Signature]

Miss C M Leddy
Head of Corporate Services

AGENDA

1. APOLOGIES/SUBSTITUTES

Please advise Christine Laver on 01629 761300 or e-mail committee@derbyshiredales.gov.uk of any apologies for absence and substitute arrangements.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

3 September 2007

3. INTERESTS

To enable members to declare any personal and/or prejudicial interests they have in subsequent Agenda items. Interests that become apparent at a later stage in the proceedings may be declared at that time.
4. DERBYSHIRE DALES CORE STRATEGY ISSUES AND OPTIONS – HEALTH, LEISURE AND CRIME WORKSHOP FEEDBACK

To summarise the discussions held at workshops with stakeholders about the issues and options available to the District Council in taking forward health, leisure and crime for inclusion in the Derbyshire Dales Core Strategy.

5. DERBYSHIRE DALES CORE STRATEGY ISSUES AND OPTIONS – ENVIRONMENT TOPIC PAPER COVERING CLIMATE CHANGE, FLOOD RISK, NATURAL AND HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT

To consider two topic papers on Climate Change and the Natural and Historic Environment, each examining the characteristics of the local planning authority area and discussing the issues for inclusion in the Derbyshire Dales Core Strategy, provide Members with an opportunity to suggest alternative approaches and seek approval for an informal period of consultation with stakeholders.

APPENDIX 1

Members of the Committee: Councillors Ian Bates, Ken Bull, Charles Duncan, David Fearn, Steve Flitter, David Hoskin, Irene Ratcliffe, Lewis Rose OBE, Tony Rosser, Geoff Stevens, Carol Valentine, Carol Walker.

Substitutes: Councillors James Bentley, Jacque Bevan, Sue Burfoot, David Burton, Shirley Buckingham, Tracy Critchlow, Barry Hopkinson, Cate Hunt, John Moseley.
DERBYSHIRE DALES CORE STRATEGY ISSUES AND OPTIONS – HEALTH, LEISURE AND CRIME WORKSHOP FEEDBACK

SUMMARY

This report summarises the discussions held with stakeholders at a workshop on 12 September 2007 and about the issues and options available to the District Council in taking forward health, leisure and crime for inclusion in the Derbyshire Dales Core Strategy.

RECOMMENDATION

That the discussions held with stakeholders at the workshops be noted.

WARDS AFFECTED

All Wards outside the Peak District National Park

STRATEGIC LINK

The Core Strategy is a Development Plan Document that must be prepared by the Council as part of its Local Development Framework. The Core Strategy will set out the spatial vision and strategic planning objectives for the District. Once adopted all other Development Plan Documents must be in conformity with it.

1 REPORT

1.1 Members will recall that at the meeting held on the 3 September 2007 it was resolved that the Health, Leisure and Crime Topic Papers be approved as a basis for discussion at workshops with stakeholders (Minute 58/07). Following consideration of all relevant issues by this Committee, consultation was undertaken with stakeholders in order to explore whether all relevant issues and options had been identified.

1.2 The Health, Leisure and Crime Topic Papers approved by this Committee on 3 September 2007 formed the basis of discussion with stakeholders at a workshop on 12 September. The workshop included a presentation on the data collected about the District, and an outline of the main issues and options identified so far in relations to health, leisure and crime. A total of 20 delegates attended the stakeholder workshop.

1.3 The following is a summary of the main points raised at the workshops:
2 Work Group Exercise

2.1 Does the evidence collected reflect stakeholders understanding of the District’s characteristics? The list below provides some suggestions from stakeholders about additional information that the District Council might wish collect to help develop a better understanding of the District’s health, leisure and crime characteristics.

**Health**
- Quality and availability of Housing;
- Accessibility to services and facilities;
- Suicide rates in farming and rural communities;
- Rural isolation;
- Definitions of health indicators and descriptions of health profiling;
- Socio economic analysis of health indicators.

**Leisure**
- Outdoor leisure i.e. informal recreation, green gyms and how people use their time;
- Informal recreation resources such as canals;
- Tourism aspect and further justification on statistics in particular how much local people use facilities
- Cultural activities such as museums and galleries
- Assessment of indoor child play facilities, use and role of village halls
- Adult education programmes and volunteering networks;
- Quality of leisure centres
- Accessibility to leisure / recreation in rural area

**Crime**
- Sub ward level crime statistics;
- Drug, alcohol related crimes;
- Times of day crimes occur;
- Seasonality trends;
- CCTV coverage and whether this has reduced crime;
- Need to analyse the perceptions of crime amongst different groups;
- Fear of crime is high amongst the elderly;
- The economic effects on crime;
- The impact of public houses on crime.

2.2 Have we omitted any information that you feel is relevant to understanding health, leisure and crime? The list below provides some additional thoughts from stakeholders that the District Council might wish to include in the Core Strategy:

**Health**
- Impact upon different ethnic groups;
- Malnutrition especially amongst the young and vulnerable;
- Access to health improvement initiatives including early learning and “looked after” initiatives;
- Mental health issues;
- The proportion of health carers including young carers;
- Impact on the increase in drinking, taking drugs and crime;
- Accessibility to services.
• The relationship between income and health
• Adequacy of health care facilities to deal with ageing population

Leisure
• Definition of leisure and recreation;
• Details on allotments and waiting lists, community halls and their role to provide a facility for informal recreation;
• Use of facilities in neighbouring authorities;
• Use of facilities by ethnicity;
• Informal recreation figures;

Crime
• Drug and alcohol statistics;
• Analysis who is committing the crimes: travelling criminals?
• Environmental crime issues;
• Traffic crime;
• Fly tipping;
• Noise levels and impacts;
• Links with other topics including health, leisure, culture and accessibility;
• Details of crime hotspots within the District;
• Community and safety neighbourhood schemes;
• Alcohol related crimes;
• Look at correlations between health, socio economic characteristics and crime.

2.3 Are there any other plans and strategies that should be considered? The list below provides additional documents that the District Council might wish to include in the Development Strategy:

Health
• Health White Paper “Your Health, Your Care, Your Say”;
• “Every Child Matters”;
• Crime and Disorder Strategy;
• Derbyshire County Council Local Transport Plan Health Initiatives;
• Affordable Warmth Strategy;
• Primary Care Trust Mental Health Strategy;
• Healthy Schools Programme.

Leisure
• Safeguarding Children;
• Derbyshire County Council Arts Strategy;
• Derbyshire County Council and the Local Transport Plan in relation to accessibility to services;
• Derbyshire County Council, Countryside Recreation Strategy;
• Information on Public Rights of Way.

Crime
• Derbyshire County Council Alcohol Strategy;
• Derbyshire County Council Domestic Abuse Strategy;
• Youth Strategy;
• Derbyshire County Council Community Safety Agreement;
• Reinforcing the success of community policing.
• Derbyshire County Council Probation Strategy

2.4 **What do you consider to be the main issues / needs relating to health, leisure and crime?** Stakeholder comments were as follows:

*Health*
- Decentralisation of services
- Accessibility to services
- Changing characteristics of population
- Access to and impact of adult education
- The level of mental health
- Issues with economics of heating, maintaining and adaptations for elderly and those on the poverty line
- Incidence of drug use
- Provision of community facilities and space for community wellbeing

*Leisure*
- Important to have a complete list of provision of outdoor and indoor leisure provision
- Need to make more use of the natural environment
- Need to promote the use of green space
- Understand the relationships between the different strategies and what they are trying to achieve
- The issue of indoor facilities especially for school
- Accessibility to leisure services

*Crime*
- Alcohol related crime, criminal damage and car crime
- Burglary hotspots
- Need to reduce the fear of crime
- Reduce the opportunities to commit crime
- Seasonality of crime
- Designing out crime

2.5 **What are our options in dealing with health, leisure and crime through the Core Strategy?** Stakeholders comments on the options included:

*Health*
- Identify the key “Health” stakeholders
- Involvement with the Primary Care Trust in the Local Development Framework Process.
- Promoting active citizenship in communities
- Health and the linkages to the countryside
- Building upon health benefits of 2012 Olympics

*Leisure*
- Existing facilities that surround the District
- Sustainable funding of leisure facilities throughout the District
- Local Area Agreements? How does it link into leisure?
- Ensure facilities /services are right for age of population
Crime
- Control crime through development patterns such as mixed use development
- Develop community cohesion with relevant partners
- Focus on crime hotspots
- Planning links with night time economy: licence and alcohol issues

2.6 In relation to health, leisure and crime what through the Core Strategy can we do to make all communities sustainable?

Leisure
- Leisure is a key component of the sustainable community package
- Greater use of parish community halls
- Greater use of the natural environment
- Development of Greenways linking villages to market towns
- Development of Green Infrastructure

Crime
- Better education
- Support other groups and partners in reducing crime: access to support services
- Establish and make people aware of community networks
- New developments and facilities in smaller settlements and encourage mixed use developments
- Support safer neighbourhood team concept
- Funding need to support schemes

3 RISK ASSESSMENT

3.1 Legal
As set out in the report

3.2 Financial
The costs of the stakeholder events and publishing the topic papers can be contained within existing budgets

3.3 Corporate Risk

3.4 The Core Strategy is a pivotal document in the Local Development Framework and will guide development to 2026. It is essential that the Core Strategy is brought forward in accordance with the timetable set out in the Local Development Scheme, otherwise there is a potential for a policy vacuum to emerge after 2011 that would weaken the District Council’s position in respect of its decision making ability on planning applications.

4 OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has also been considered: prevention of crime and disorder, equality of opportunity, environmental, health, legal and human rights, financial, personnel and property considerations.
5 CONTACT INFORMATION

Mike Hase
Planning Policy Manager
Telephone: 01629 761251
e-mail: mike.hase@derbyshiredales.gov.uk

6 BACKGROUND PAPERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>File</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Core Strategy Issues and Options Topic Paper 5 Environment: Climate Change and Flood Risk</td>
<td>2007</td>
<td>G/5/P29(i)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Core Strategy Issues and Options Topic Paper 6: Environment: Natural, Historic and Built Environment</td>
<td>2007</td>
<td>G/5/P29(i)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Planning Policy statement 12: Local Development Frameworks</td>
<td>2004</td>
<td>G/5/P29(i)</td>
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DERBYSHIRE DALES CORE STRATEGY ISSUES AND OPTIONS – ENVIRONMENT TOPIC PAPER COVERING CLIMATE CHANGE, FLOODRISK, NATURAL AND HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT

SUMMARY

This report presents Members with two topic papers on: firstly climate change (including flood risk) and secondly the natural and historic environment. Both examine the characteristics of the local planning authority area and discuss the issues for inclusion in the Derbyshire Dales Core Strategy. The report provides Members with an opportunity to suggest alternative approaches and seeks approval for an informal period of consultation with stakeholders.

RECOMMENDATION

That the climate change and natural and historic environment Topic Papers attached as Appendix 1, subject to any alternative issues and options proposed by Members, be approved as a basis for discussion with stakeholders.

WARDS AFFECTED

All wards outside the Peak District National Park.

STRATEGIC LINK

The Core Strategy is a Development Plan Document that must be prepared by the Council as part of its Local Development Framework. The Core Strategy will set out the spatial vision and strategic planning objectives for the District. Once adopted all other Development Plan Documents must be in conformity with it.

1 REPORT

1.1 Background

The new planning system as introduced by the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires local planning authorities adopt a broader approach to planning known as spatial planning, with the Core Strategy at the centre of this approach. Planning Policy Statement 12 (Local Development Frameworks) sets out:

“Spatial Planning goes beyond traditional landuse planning to bring together and integrate policies for the development and use of land with other policies and programmes which influence the nature of places and how they function”
In line with the advice in Planning Policy Statement 12 work has commenced on the preparation of the Derbyshire Dales Core Strategy. This will, once adopted set the strategic planning framework for Derbyshire Dales up to 2026. It will also play a key part in the delivery of the Derbyshire Dales and High Peak Community Strategy 2006-2009.

The Core Strategy is a pivotal document in the Local Development Framework as it will set strategic context for all other Development Plan Documents and will include the following:

- **A vision and set of strategic objectives** for the development of District for the period up to 2026. This will provide a clear and concise statement of intentions for the future development of the area, supported by clear objectives to help realise the vision. The vision will be developed through public and stakeholder involvement and should capture the characteristics of the District, to distinguish it from other places and reflect specific local elements.

- **Include a Spatial Strategy** This will bring together the vision, objectives and policy into a coherent whole that provides a strategy for the area and individual locations which will be developed by the evidence base.

- **Core Policies** The Core Strategy will contain clear and concise policies for delivering the spatial strategy and set out the broad locations for delivering the housing and other strategic needs such as retail, leisure, community, essential public services and transport development.

- Set out an implementation and monitoring framework to ensure delivery of these policies.

The Core Strategy is of strategic importance to the Local Planning Authority, particularly given the emphasis expressed in Government advice that a robust evidence base should support such strategies. In order to ensure that all relevant issues are sufficiently addressed, topic papers on climate change, natural and historic environment have been prepared for consideration by this Committee and to be used as the basis for informal consultation with key stakeholders.

The Core Strategy will help deliver the Derbyshire Dales and High Peak Community Strategy by setting out its spatial aspects where appropriate, a long term spatial vision and express those elements that relate to the development and use of land. The topic papers have been prepared to consider how the Core Strategy can set the spatial planning framework for the Derbyshire Dales and High Peak Community Strategy themes on the environment; in particular reducing greenhouse gas emissions to help reduce the impacts of climate change.

A key component of the Core Strategy is to facilitate positive improvements to the District’s environment and will eventually support the achievement of the Derbyshire Dales Core Strategy vision.

### 1.2 Climate Change, Natural and Historic Environment – General Background

Climate Change has been recognised as one of the greatest threats of the 21st Century and is the key driver for a raft of international, European and national policy aimed at reducing carbon emissions and improving energy efficiency. The quality of
the local planning authority’s environment needs to be put in context of a wider global picture. Worldwide human activities are increasing the amount of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases that are entering the atmosphere. This is leading to a warming of the planet and changes to our climate. The Core Strategy has an important role to play in responding to climate change in particular helping to achieve progress against national emission targets and the effects of climate change.

Of particular relevance to the local planning authority area is that domestic homes contribute about one third of the United Kingdom's total carbon dioxide emissions and when other buildings are considered, the figure is closer to one half. If the Core Strategy is going to meet the challenges of rising demand for housing and reduce greenhouse gas emission there is need to move towards an environment that demands less energy and that is supplied with sustainable energy sources.

The likely effects of climate change within the local planning authority area may be significant and amongst other effects may include increased rainfall and areas of river flooding. The Core Strategy will need to address this by making communities resilient to climate change by taking steps to defend existing properties from risk and direct new growth to areas with little or no risk of flooding.

The quality of the Derbyshire Dales natural environment and historic environment makes it an attractive place to live, work and visit and the quality of life for residents and visitors is determined in a large part by the condition of our surrounding environment. Protecting and enhancing the natural and built heritage of the local planning authority area is important because of the high proportion of sites protected by international, national and regional legislation.

The *East Midlands Regional Plan (Draft Regional Spatial Strategy)* contains high level policies to which the Core Strategy must generally conform, these seek to protect and enhance all aspects of the built and natural environment including, biodiversity, woodlands, landscape character, the historic environment, green infrastructure, strategic river corridors, flooding and climate change.

The two Topic Papers on Climate Change and the Natural and Historic Environment are set out in Appendix 1 provide an outline of the characteristics of the local planning authority area, the main messages from relevant strategies followed by the issues that the Core Strategy will need to deal with. Both papers are structured into three sections that attempt to present an assessment of following:

1.3 A Review of National, Regional and Local Polices

Advice in PPS12 (Local Development Frameworks) requires the Core Strategy to draw on any other strategies of the District Council and other organisations that has implications for the development and use of land within the District. The Core Strategy should become the implementation mechanism for aspects of these other strategies. For example in relation to the natural environment it should include policies that assist in the delivery of the Regional Environment Strategy and the Derbyshire Landscape Character Assessment.

Whilst there are others, the following documents set out the main national, regional and local guidance on climate change, flood risk, natural and historic environment:
Climate Change and Flood Risk

The 2005 UK Government Sustainable Development Strategy identifies climate change and energy as one of the four priority areas for immediate action. The recent Planning Policy Statement on Climate Change (supplement to PPS1) and Planning Policy Statement 25 on development and Flood Risk puts flood risk and climate change right at the heart of the planning process.

Draft PPS1 Planning and Climate Change sets out spatial planning should contribute to reducing emissions and stabilising climate change (mitigation) and take into account the unavoidable consequences (adaptation). In particular draft PPS1 aims to ensure that development being brought forward take proper account of carbon considerations through their location, their physical form and layout and the use of renewable and low carbon energy.

Draft PPS1 is part of a wider package of action being taken by the Government to help deliver their ambition of achieving zero carbon development. This includes the Code for Sustainable Homes and a consultation document, Building a Greener Future which sets out how planning, building regulations and the Code for Sustainable Homes can drive change and deliver improvements to the environment.

Planning Policy Statement 25 (Development and Flood Risk) sets the Governments aim to ensure that flood risk is taken into account at all stages in the planning process to avoid inappropriate development in areas of flood risk through applying a sequential test and if necessary the exception test. To assist with this process the District Council is required to publish a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment.

Addressing climate change is central to the East Midlands Regional Plan (Draft Regional Spatial Strategy). This aims to reduce the causes of climate change through maximising resource efficiency and the level of renewable energy generation, promoting sustainable design and construction. The draft strategy also aims to reduce the impacts of climate change in particular the risk of damage to life and property from flooding through the location and design and construction of new development.

Natural and Historic Environment

National and regional planning policy expects development and growth in the local planning authority area to preserve and enhance a variety of environmental and historic assets and to protect the carrying capacity and quality of both the local and global environment.

The 2005 UK Government Sustainable Development Strategy identifies protection and enhancement of the environment is vital to achieving sustainable development and ensuring a better quality life for everyone. It sets out that: a better understanding of environmental limits is needed to prevent unacceptable to irreversible change; the need for environmental enhancement and to pursue a precautionary principle approach.

Planning Policy Statement 7 (Sustainable Development in Rural Areas) sets out the Governments objective’s to maintain or enhance the character of the countryside and conserve its natural resources including safeguarding the distinctiveness of its landscape, its beauty, the diversity of its wildlife, the quality of rural towns and villages, its historic and archaeological interest and best agricultural land. These messages
are also reflected in Planning Policy Statement 9 (Biodiversity and Geological Conservation) and Planning Guidance Note 15 (Planning and the Historic Environment)

Addressing the natural and historic environment is also central to the *East Midlands Regional Plan (Draft Regional Spatial Strategy)* which sets out core objectives, which are intended to translate into the broader policy context to help deliver sustainable development which include measures to protect and enhance the environmental quality of rural areas and sensitive management of the natural and historic assets. There is an emphasis to achieve a step change increase in the level of biodiversity.

1.4 **Key Characteristics of the Core Strategy Area**

An objective assessment of the District’s environment has been undertaken to help identify the issues that need to be developed in the Core Strategy. To assist this process a whole series of data has been collected on:

**Climate Change**

- An assessment of national and regional scientific reports on atmospheric concentrations of the major greenhouse gases has been undertaken in the local planning authority area for estimates on carbon footprints to determine energy baseline consumption;

- A review of commissioned reports at a regional level to examine the effects of climate change and likely climate change scenarios;

- An overview of the recent history of flooding incidences within the local planning authority area;

- An assessment of the household composition within the local planning authority area including, number of household types, tenure, family composition and total number of bedroom per household.


**Natural Environment**

- An assessment of the local planning authority area’s natural features has been undertaken on: geological bedrock, drift geology distribution, landscape character, landscape character type, landscape character areas, sites of special scientific interest, special areas of conservation, Derbyshire wildlife sites, ancient woodlands, protected trees, agricultural land, rivers courses and water bodies, and regionally important geological sites.

**Historic Environment**

- An assessment of the local planning authority area’s historic features has been undertaken on Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site, conservation areas, historic parks and gardens, and scheduled ancient monuments,
1.5 Identification of Issues, Strategies, Options and Objectives

The climate change and flood risk topic paper includes the following:

- A discussion on the uncertainties of climate change and what the possible direct and indirect consequences of the environmental hazards resulting from changes may be experienced locally.

- An examination of some of the key principles that need to be taken into consideration when formulating spatial objectives and specific strategies on climate change.

- An assessment of how the Core Strategy can respond to mitigation and adaptation to reduce emissions and take into account unavoidable consequences of climate change as follows:

  Mitigation: promoting a sustainable built environment, sustainable use of resources, sustainable transport and accessibility and promoting energy efficiency and sustainable energy.

  Adaptation: Guiding development to locations with greater protection from flooding, identifying and responding to changes in flood risk through flood risk management, positively managing the environment, promoting higher standards of design and sustainable construction,

- The topic paper puts forward 7 options as possible future policy for renewable energy schemes for development within the Core Strategy Area. The suggested options are:

  A Introduce a “Merton” style policy of a 10% on site renewable energy target.

  B A policy which requires the proportion of on-site renewable energy generation according to the type or size of development as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Development Type</th>
<th>Requirement 2007 - 2013</th>
<th>Requirement 2013 to 2026</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Housing (1-9 dwellings)</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing (10+dwellings)</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Industry, offices, schools and warehouses</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retail</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

  C All applications for new build be required to demonstrate that the buildings are carbon neutral

  D Introduce a requirement for all application for planning permission including new build and change of use buildings to low or zero carbon emission

  E Introduce an incremental low / zero carbon requirement for all planning applications but only for buildings over 1000m²
F Require all new development to meet the following targets:

1 to 9 dwellings and non-residential buildings of less than 1000m² - a reduction of 15% of the possible estimated total annual energy requirement, (to be calculated by means of CO₂ emissions, for each dwelling)

Over 10 dwellings and non-residential buildings with total floorspace of more than 1000m² - a reduction of 25% of the possible estimated total annual energy requirement, (to be calculated by means of CO₂ emissions)

G Require Level 6 of the Government’s nationally recognised Code for Sustainable Homes which is for Carbon Neutral Developments and BREEAM standards of ‘excellent’ for all new developments, including schools, industrial units, retail developments, hospitals and homes.

The natural and historic environment topic paper does not put forward any options but includes the following:

- Suggested draft strategic objectives, based on the messages from other strategies and issues;
- Identification of the wider environmental issues within the District;
- A number of specific question promoting discussion about how the Core Strategy can address the issues of the other relevant strategies.

Through the stakeholder involvement at the workshops we anticipate that discussions will help generate options for further consideration

2 NEXT STEPS

It is proposed that the issues set out in the Climate Change and the Natural and Historic Environment topic papers form the basis of discussion with stakeholders at a workshop on 30th October. The workshop will include a presentation on the evidence collected about the District, and an outline of the main issues identified so far in relation to climate change, flood risk, natural and historic environment. Work group exercises led by a facilitator will be used to develop a better understanding of the issues that need to be addressed and options available.

3 RISK ASSESSMENT

3.1 Legal

As set out in the report

3.2 Financial

The costs of the stakeholder events and publishing the topic papers can be contained within existing budgets
3.3 **Corporate Risk**

The Core Strategy is a pivotal document in the Local Development Framework and will guide development to 2026. It is essential that the Core Strategy is brought forward in accordance with the timetable set out in the Local Development Scheme, otherwise there is a potential for a policy vacuum to emerge, after 2011 that would thereby weaken the District Council’s position in respect of its decision making ability on planning applications.

4 **OTHER CONSIDERATIONS**

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has also been considered: prevention of crime and disorder, equality of opportunity, environmental, health, legal and human rights, financial, personnel and property considerations.

5 **CONTACT INFORMATION**

Mike Hase
Planning Policy Manager
Telephone: 01629 761251
e-mail: mike.hase@derbyshiredales.gov.uk

6 **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

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<tr>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Planning Policy Statement 12: Local Development Frameworks and Other Planning Policy Statements</td>
<td>Various</td>
<td>G/5/P2(i)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Core Strategy Issues and Options Topic Paper 5 – Climate Change and Floodrisk</td>
<td>2007</td>
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<td>Core Strategy Issues and Options Topic Paper 6 – Natural and Historic Environment</td>
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</table>
Topic Paper 5: Environment: Climate Change and Flood Risk

Core Strategy
Issues and Options

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Maps

Map 1  Location of the Derbyshire Dales Settlements
Map 2  Location of Flood Risk Zones
Purpose

Work has commenced on the District Council’s Core Strategy, a key document in the Local Development Framework (LDF), that when adopted will provide the central policies for delivering the District Council’s spatial vision and objectives. It will guide the broad patterns of development over the next twenty years which will be based on a thorough understanding of the District’s local identity and distinctiveness. The District Council’s Core Strategy will only cover that part of the Derbyshire Dales outside the Peak District National Park.

The new planning system requires the District Council to think in strategic terms and reflect a spatial planning approach when developing the Core Strategy. Planning Policy Statement 12 (Local Development Frameworks) says:

“Spatial Planning goes beyond traditional land use planning to bring together and integrate policies for the development and use of land with other policies and programmes which influence the nature of places and how they function”

The District is required to go beyond the methods of traditional land use planning and move towards spatial planning which moves the focus on regulation and control of land, to a wider more far ranging approach that aims to ensure the best use of land is delivered through a vision and overarching strategy for the District. At the heart of the Core Strategy will be the concept of sustainable development and sustainable communities. These have to be translated into a framework that will guide decisions on the:

- scale and distribution of growth and regeneration; and
- strategic policy and targets for housing, employment and retailing

This is reflected in PPS1: Delivering Sustainable Development which says:

“Planning shapes the places where people live and work and the country we live in. It plays a key role in supporting the Government’s wider social, environmental and economic objectives and for sustainable communities”

The new planning system is challenging because the process involves:

- Early engagement with key stakeholders and the community before any key decisions are made;
- Bringing out issues and options;
- Sharing information;
- Gathering evidence;
- Carrying out a thorough self assessment; and
- Being prepared to take difficult decisions

This is the first of a series of discussion papers that will be prepared by the District Council to help stimulate debate and discussion about the future direction of the District Council’s planning policies. This will provide valuable information in addressing the important strategic issues and developing the Core Strategy’s vision and strategy.
The Core Strategy must be prepared in a way that allows early involvement with the community.

This consultation will help the District Council seek stakeholder aspirations where the workshops will provide an opportunity to discuss the evidence about the approach taken so far and to help us “fine tune” an Issues and Option” document which will be subject to wider public consultation in September 2008.

In establishing our evidence base we need to include an assessment of:

- How the District works in spatial terms and how it deals with places and their relationships with each other;
- The main issues, problems and opportunities;
- Local distinctiveness of the area that addresses local issues;
- The changes that are likely to affect the area over at least the next 10 years or more.
- All the relevant national and regional policies and proposals that have a bearing on the use of space within the District.

The structure of this paper is twofold:

- Identify key messages from national and regional policy; and
- Present baseline information to help inform what issues and options are available in addressing climate change and how they can be addressed over the next 20 years.

The following questions have been asked about the approach taken and on the interpretation of the evidence presented:

- Do you think the correct issues have been identified?
- Are there any significant omissions?
- Are there any omissions in the key statistics?
- How can the Core Strategy address the issues of Climate Change?
- What approach to climate change and flood risk should the Core Strategy be based on?
- What approach does the Core Strategy need to take to deal with the issues of climate change?
- Do you agree with the objectives of policy which are being suggested?
- What indicators do we need to use when assessing the sustainability of a location?
1 Introduction: The new planning system

1.1 In September 2004 the Government introduced new legislation, which changed the way in which local Councils plan for the future development needs of their communities. The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act replaced the old system of local plans and structure plans with a system of ‘Local Development Frameworks’ (LDF). The new system sees local planning policy split across a number of different documents, which can be created, reviewed and replaced to different timescales, in order to speed up the planning system and allow greater flexibility. Therefore, instead of reviewing the Derbyshire Dales Local Plan that was adopted in November 2005, the District Council is now preparing the documents that will make up Derbyshire Dales LDF.

Derbyshire Dales LDF consists of the following documents:

- **Local Development Scheme (LDS)** is a timetable, which sets out when the District Council will produce each document of the LDF (last reviewed 15 June 2007).

- **Statement of Community Involvement (SCI)** sets out how people will be consulted in the production of the documents that make up the LDF and on planning applications (Adopted February 2007).

- **Core Strategy** (this Document) is the overarching policy document that sets the broad policy framework for all the other documents in the LDF.

- **Affordable Housing Development Plan Document** This document will provide policies for the delivery of affordable housing and will draw on the recently published Housing Needs Survey and Housing Market Assessment.

- **Matlock Master Plan Area Action Plan** will set out policies for the regeneration of Matlock town centre

- **Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD)** The District Council has adopted SPDs on Shopfront Design Guidance, Farm Buildings Design Guidance, Affordable Housing with adoption of a Landscape Character and Design Guidance anticipated this September.

- **Housing and Employment Allocations Development Plan Document** will develop site specific locations for employment and housing and will take into account evidence from the employment land review (to be completed by December 2007), Housing Market Assessment and Housing Land Availability Assessment.
LDF Preparation

1.2 As set out in the District Council’s latest Local Development Scheme (June 2007) the production of the Core Strategy will be prepared to the following timetable:

1) Start of Preparation Process October 2006
2) Start of Issues and Options Consultation September 2008
3) Start of Public Participation on Preferred Options October 2008
4) Submission to Secretary of State September 2009
5) Pre Examination Meeting November 2009
6) Examination May 2010
7) Receipt of Inspector’s Report May 2010
8) Adoption July 2010

The Core Strategy

1.3 The Core Strategy is the key document in the LDF which sets the strategic context for other development plan documents to conform with. The Core Strategy will contain the strategic policies that will guide the sustainable development of the Derbyshire Dales for at least 10 years from when it was adopted and will be integrated with other strategies to provide an effective basis for achieving change.

The Core Strategy should comprise of:

- **A vision and objectives**
  
  A vision should be a clear and concise statement of intentions for the future of the area. These should be supported by clear objectives to help realise the vision. The vision should be developed through public involvement and should capture the characteristics of the place, to distinguish it from other places and reflect specific local elements.

- **A spatial strategy**
  
  This will bring together the vision, objectives and policy into a coherent whole that provides a strategy for the area and individual locations. The strategy should relate to the geography of the area and be founded on its physical and demographic characteristics, internal and external links, and relationships with neighbouring areas.

- **Core policies**
  
  The Core Strategy should contain clear concise policies for delivering the spatial strategy. It should set out broad locations for delivering the housing and other strategic needs such as employment, retail, leisure, community, essential public services and transport development. The core policies should be integrated, coherent and based on a clear understanding of the economic, social and environmental needs and opportunities of the area, and any constraints on meeting those needs.

- **A monitoring and implementation framework**
  
  To ensure delivery of these policies to ensure delivery of these policies.
2 Background: Climate Change and Flood Risk

Climate Change

2.1 This Topic Paper makes a start of how the District Council can address through the emerging Derbyshire Dales Core Strategy the increasing challenge of the causes and consequences of climate change. The Core Strategy will introduce a spatial planning policy framework for the District Council to achieve its goals of reducing carbon dioxide emissions and ensure steps are taken towards adapting to the impacts of climate change. The District Council acknowledge that climate change is a “multi dimensional” subject area and that the Core Strategy will not be able to deal with all the sources that contribute to climate change. Effective spatial planning is one of many elements required in a successful response to climate change. This Topic Paper will discuss and set out the main areas where the effects of climate change can be mitigated against and where any adaptation can be made through the Derbyshire Dales Core Strategy. In particular the Core Strategy should help shape places with lower carbon emissions for new homes, jobs and infrastructure needed by communities.

2.2 The greenhouse effect is a process through which greenhouse gases (including methane, nitrous oxide, and in particular, carbon dioxide ($CO_2$)) trap the radiation emitted by the Earth’s surface, resulting in global warming. However, assessments carried out for the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change show that temperature rises in the last 100 years outstrip any naturally occurring variability experienced in the last 1,000 years. There is a growing view based on the extensive body of evidence that the increase in greenhouse gases, caused by human activity, is the principal reason for the increases in global temperatures, and consequent climate change. Greenhouse gases are now higher than in the last 650,000 years.

2.3 The quality of the District’s local environment needs to be framed within a wider global picture. Globally we are consuming our natural resources and altering our environment at an unprecedented rate and scale. Human activities around the world are increasing the amount of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases that are entering the atmosphere. This is leading to a warming of the planet and changes to our climate. Climate change is a major issue facing the world, and Derbyshire Dales must take steps to reduce the causes of carbon dioxide emission and make plans to respond to the effects.

2.4 Basic physics demonstrates that some gases in the Earth’s atmosphere act like a blanket and trap heat near the surface. This ‘greenhouse effect’ keeps surface temperatures approximately $30^\circ$C higher than they would be if the major greenhouse gases were not present. These gases include water vapour, carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, ozone and several other trace gases. The release of additional greenhouse gases from changes in land use, burning fossil fuels and various industrial processes adds to the blanket, making it more efficient at trapping the sun’s energy and leading to rising global average temperatures.

2.5 Climate Change has been recognised as one of the greatest threats of the 21st Century and is the key driver for a raft of international, European and national policy aimed at reducing carbon emissions and improving energy efficiency. Department for Food and Rural Affairs summarise it as follows:
Climate change is the greatest environmental challenge facing the world today. Rising global temperatures will bring changes in weather patterns, rising sea levels and increased frequency and intensity of extreme weather events. The effects will be felt here in the UK and internationally there may be severe problems for people in regions that are particularly vulnerable to change. (2007).

The main human influence on global climate is emissions of the key greenhouse gases - carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane and nitrous oxide. The accumulation of these gases in the atmosphere strengthens the greenhouse effect. At present, just over 7 billion tonnes of CO₂ is emitted globally each year through fossil fuel use, and an additional 1.6 billion tonnes are emitted by land use change, largely by deforestation. The concentrations of these gases in the atmosphere have now reached levels unprecedented for tens of thousands of years.

The most important greenhouse gases are carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons and sulphur hexafluoride.

2.6 Domestic homes contribute about one third of the UK total carbon dioxide emissions and when other buildings are considered, the figure is closer to one half as is illustrated in Figures 1 and 2. If we are to meet the challenges of rising demand for housing and reduce our green house gas emissions there is a need to move towards an environment that demands less energy and that is supplied with sustainable energy sources. It is this sector where the Core Strategy will be able to contribute in helping to reduce carbon dioxide emissions.

Figure 1 : Carbon Dioxide Emissions By End User In The UK, 2004 (Million Tonnes Of Carbon)

![Figure 1: Carbon Dioxide Emissions By End User In The UK, 2004](image)

Source: DTI, 2005

Figure 2 : Residential Carbon Dioxide Emissions, 2003

![Figure 2: Residential Carbon Dioxide Emissions, 2003](image)

Source: Derby, The 2000 Climate Change Programme

2.7 National and regional planning policy expects development / growth in the Derbyshire Dales to preserve and enhance a variety of environmental assets and to protect the carrying capacity and qualities of both the local and global environment. This is about enabling the District to be passed on to future generations in a state which they too can enjoy and benefit from. The Core Strategy can have a significant role in helping to:
Secure progress against UK’s emission targets, by direct use on energy and emissions;
Deliver the Government’s ambition of zero carbon development;
Shape sustainable communities that are resilient to the climate change;
Create an environment for innovation and for the private sector to bring forward investment in renewable energy and low carbon technologies and supporting infrastructure.

2.8 The Core Strategy can plan for development that will help slow down the rate of climate change in particular for the domestic sector. In this respect the Core Strategy will through policy be able to help:

Reduce consumption of natural and non renewable resources;
Reduce pollution;
Help improve air quality;
Reduce contributions, and adapt to climate change; and
Reduce the use on non renewable energy, and promote renewable energy.

Flood Risk

2.9 Climate change and the incidence and severity of flooding events over the past few years has led to the Government giving flood risk issues a higher profile.

2.10 It is acknowledged that climate change is happening now and that human activity is a cause of change. For the District this means responses to expected higher temperatures, wetter winters and more extreme weather events. Climate change will challenge the resilience of land, buildings, wildlife and communities to respond to those changes. The likely effects of climate change on the Core Strategy area may be significant and extensive. They range from the increased areas of high flood risk and impacts on the functioning of businesses, infrastructure and communities, to the suitability and adaptability of buildings and public spaces. Whilst many of the larger towns within the District lie behind maintained flood defences where the risk of flooding is reduced, the probability of a breach or overtopping cannot be is increased and cannot discounted given the evidence on climate change.

2.11 Flood risk is a reality. It has happened in the past in Derbyshire Dales and will occur again. The impacts of flooding can be severe and can range from damage to property and the associated distress injury or at the worst extreme, loss of life. The effect on infrastructure and services is also significant and can have a social and economic impact well beyond the floodplain and could possibly the main environmental hazard of the Core Strategy area.
3 Messages from National, Regional and Local Policies and Strategies

3.1 The District Council is required to take account of the principles and characteristics of other relevant strategies when preparing the Core Strategy. It must be consistent with national policy and conform generally with the Emerging East Midlands Regional Plan. National and regional issues set the context for the Core Strategy, but it should also take into account local circumstances as revealed by community involvement and evidence gathering. The District Council will need to consult closely with the bodies responsible for those strategies to ensure effective integration.

3.2 PPS12 (Local Development Frameworks) requires the Core Strategy to draw on any other strategies of the local authority and other organisations that have implications for the development and use of land in the area. Where appropriate the Core Strategy should become the implementation mechanism for aspects of these other strategies.

3.3 Figure 3 below lists the main documents that the District Council consider should be taken into account when considering future patterns of development.

**Figure 3 Strategy and Policy Documents**

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<tr>
<th>International / National</th>
<th>Regional</th>
<th>Sub Regional</th>
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<td>Convention on Climate Change</td>
<td>The Draft East Midlands Regional Plan</td>
<td>Derby and Derbyshire Structure Plan</td>
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<td>Kyoto Protocol</td>
<td>East Midlands Regional Environment Strategy</td>
<td>Derbyshire Dales Local Plan (Adopted 2005)</td>
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<td>The UK’s Climate Change Programme</td>
<td>East Midlands Regional Energy Strategy</td>
<td>Derbyshire Dales Corporate Plan 2007</td>
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<td>The Energy Challenge</td>
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<td>Draft Climate Change Bill</td>
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<td>Draft Planning Policy Statement: Planning and Climate Change Supplement to Planning Policy Statement 1</td>
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<td>Development and Flood Risk</td>
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3.4 The key issues/messages that emerge from these documents is presented below:

**Overview**

3.5 The Government has reviewed the delivery of national energy policy and has recognised that the two major long term challenges are tackling climate change and delivering secure, clean energy at an affordable price (The Energy Challenge, 2006). The 2002 Energy White Paper includes a goal of putting the UK onto a path to cut UK carbon dioxide emissions by some 60% by 2050, with real progress by 2020. The UK also has a binding target under the Kyoto Protocol to reduce emissions of six greenhouse gases by 12.5% from 1990 levels in the period 2008-2012. The Government has an additional goal of a reduction of 20% in emissions of carbon dioxide emissions from 1990 levels by 2010 and has signalled a policy and legislative move towards ‘carbon neutral’ development, with strong support for incorporating renewable energy technologies at the building and development scale. The Government is committed to ensuring that low carbon energy generation, including renewable technologies, makes an increasing contribution to UK energy supplies. It has set a target of 10% of UK electricity from renewable sources by 2010 and 20% by 2020.

3.6 The Government has made clear that formulating appropriate responses to climate change is at the top of its agenda. Its primary focus is on reducing the causes of global warming that arise from human activity by reducing the production of greenhouse gases.

3.7 Government policy towards climate change is evolving, promoting a faster and stronger move towards responding to climate change. It has published significant new guidance on climate change and on development and flood risk.

**International**

3.8 The international context continues to evolve with ambitious targets that will require stronger measures. These will impact on Derbyshire Dales, making a greater response to climate change more urgent. EU Heads of Government at the Spring European Council in March 2007 agreed an independent binding target to reduce Europe’s greenhouse gas emissions by at least 20% by 2020 (compared to 1990 levels) and increase this commitment to a 30% reduction as part of an international agreement. The EU objective is to limit global warming to no more than 2°C, compared to pre-industrialisation. They also decided to:

- increase the use of renewable energy sources so that they make up 20% of EU energy consumption;
- consumption by 2020, with differentiated overall targets for Member States;
- ensure that a minimum of 10% of EU transport petrol and diesel consumption comes from bio-fuels by 2020;
- promote energy efficiency by reducing overall EU energy consumption by 20% by 2020;
- stimulate the use of new technology on clean coal power stations, with the aim of
• bringing environmentally safe carbon capture and sequestration to deployment with new fossil-fuel power plants, if possible by 2020.

3.9 There are also a number of European Directives related to energy efficiency and renewable energy which the Government has transposed in UK legislation; the foremost of these Directives are:


3.10 This Directive requires construction works and their heating, cooling and ventilation installations to be designed and built in such a way that the amount of energy required in use will be low, having regard to the climatic conditions of the location and the occupants.

**EU Directive 93/76/EEC Energy Efficiency**

3.11 The purpose of this Directive is to limit carbon dioxide emissions through the SAVE programme (Specific Actions for Vigorous Energy Efficiency) dedicated to promoting energy efficiency and encouraging energy-saving behaviour in industry, commerce and the domestic sector. EU Directive 96/57/EC Energy Efficiency. This directive establishes a framework for the setting of energy efficient design requirements for energy-using household refrigerators, freezers and combinations thereof.

**EU Directive 2001/77/EC Renewable Energy**

3.12 This Directive requires member states to set targets to achieve the global objective of 12% of gross national energy consumption to be produced from renewable energy sources by 2010, and in particular for 22.1% of electricity for their internal market to be produced from renewable energy sources by 2010.


3.13 This directive requires new buildings should meet minimum energy performance requirements tailored to the local climate, and for the renovation of existing buildings to be regarded as an opportunity to take cost effective measures to enhance energy performance.


3.14 The Kyoto Protocol is an international agreement setting targets for industrialised countries to cut their greenhouse gas emissions. These gases are considered at least partly responsible for global warming - the rise in global temperature which may have catastrophic consequences for life on Earth. The protocol was agreed in 1997, based on principles set out in a framework convention signed in 1992. The UK’s Climate Change Programme (2006) sets out how the UK is to deliver its Kyoto target of cutting its greenhouse gas emission by 12.5% and its domestic goals of 20% below 1990 levels by 2010.
3.15 The UK Government transposes EU Directives into UK law through Parliamentary legislation; the Acts of Parliament, or Primary Legislation, relating to sustainable energy are:

**Home Energy Conservation Act 1995 c. 10 Energy Efficiency**

3.16 This Act (HECA) requires every UK local authority with housing responsibilities to produce an energy conservation report identifying cost-effective ways to improve the energy efficiency of the residential accommodation in their area, and report on progress in the implementation of those measures. (see below)

**Energy Conservation Act 1996 c. 38 Energy Efficiency**

3.17 Makes amendments to the Home Energy Conservation Act 1995 by extending the definition of residential accommodation in the 1995 Act to include houses in multiple occupation (HMOs)

**Warm Homes and Energy Conservation Act 2000 c.31 Fuel Poverty**

3.18 An Act requiring the government to implement a strategy for reducing fuel poverty.

**Sustainable Energy Act 2003 c. 30 Energy Efficiency**

3.19 Provides for the development and promotion of a policy on the energy efficiency of residential accommodation, and the setting of combined heat and power (CHP) targets.

**Energy Act 2004 c. 20 Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy**

3.20 Requires the Government to prepare a strategy for the promotion of small scale electricity and heat generation from low carbon sources to cut emissions of greenhouse gases, reduce the number of people living in fuel poverty, reduce demands on energy distribution systems and enhance the availability of electricity and heat to consumers.

**Climate Change and Sustainable Energy Act 2006 c. 19 Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy**

3.21 Places a duty on local authorities to seek ways in which to improve energy efficiency, increase microgeneration, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and alleviate fuel poverty

**HM Treasury, Stern Review: (2005) The Economics of Climate Change**

3.22 A wide-ranging review of the economics of climate change was announced by HM Treasury in July 2005. The Stern review, headed by Sir Nicholas Stern, is based upon extensive and wide-ranging consultation using existing and specially commissioned research, and was published on 30 October 20062. The terms of reference included a requirement to examine the evidence on the economic
The central conclusion of the Stern Review is that the benefits of strong and early action far outweigh the economic costs of not acting. The Review estimates that if actions are not taken to combat climate change, the overall costs and risks from climate change impacts will be equivalent to losing at least five per cent of global GDP each year, now and for the foreseeable future. If a wider range of risks and impacts is taken into account, the estimates of damage could rise to 20 per cent of GDP or more. In contrast, the costs of the action required to reduce emissions to a level which would avoid the worst impacts of climate change can be limited to around 1 per cent of global GDP each year.

The Review notes that the costs of taking the necessary action could be even lower than this if there are major gains in efficiency, or if strong co-benefits are measured. Action on climate change will also create significant business opportunities, as new markets are created in low-carbon energy technologies and other low-carbon goods and services. The costs will be higher if innovation in low-carbon technologies is slower than expected, or if cost-effective policy making is not forthcoming. A key message of the Stern Review is that “the costs of stabilising the climate are significant but manageable and that delay would be dangerous and much more costly”.


The UK Climate Change Programme, published by the Government in March 2006, sets out actions that the Government is taking or proposing to reduce the UK’s contribution to climate change, and to adapt to its effects.

The programme acknowledges that climate change is the greatest long term challenge facing the world today. Addressing climate change is therefore the Governments principal concern for sustainable development.

The Climate Change Programme is designed to deliver the UK’s Kyoto Protocol target of reducing emissions of the basket of six greenhouse gases by 12.5 per cent below base year levels over the commitment period 2008-2012, and move the UK close to the domestic goal to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 20 per cent below 1990 levels by 2010. It also aims to put the UK on a path to cutting carbon dioxide emissions by some 60 per cent by about 2050, with real progress by 2020.

The Climate Change Programme proposes the following objectives to:

- Improve business’ use of energy,
- stimulate investment and cut costs;
- Stimulate new, more efficient sources of power generation;
- Cut emissions from the transport sector;
- Promote better energy efficiency in the domestic sector, saving householders money;
- Improve the energy efficiency requirements of the Building Regulations;
- Continue cutting emissions from agriculture;
- and
- Ensure the public sector takes a leading role.
3.29 The Programme sets out a package of existing and new policy measures to reduce carbon dioxide emissions within the sectors of energy supply, business, transport, domestic, agriculture and public sector. Of particular relevance to the Core Strategy are those relating to reduction in the domestic market by tackling household energy usage will be delivered by:

- the Code for Sustainable Homes which has minimum standards for energy and water efficiency at every level of the Code, with the lowest levels raised above the level of mandatory building regulations;
- the update to the Building Regulations in April 2006 to raise energy standards of new build and refurbished buildings.
- continuing to tackle fuel poverty through the Warm Front and Decent Homes programme.


3.30 The Energy Review, concluded by the Government in July 2006, announced a far-reaching range of proposals designed to reinforce the UK’s long term policy for addressing the challenge of climate change and energy security issues. The Energy Review contains a series of measures to promote the growth of renewable energy and to bring about more decentralised energy generation. It also made a commitment to aggressive implementation of the Government’s Microgeneration Strategy to remove barriers to household renewables.

HM Government, (March 2007) Draft Climate Change Bill

3.31 The draft Climate Change Bill will create a new legal framework for the UK achieving, through domestic and international action, at least a 60% reduction in carbon dioxide emissions by 2050, and a 26-32% reduction by 2020, against a 1990 baseline. The Government will be required to set five-year carbon budgets, placing binding limits on aggregate carbon dioxide emissions. There is provision in the draft Bill for the targets to be amended in light of significant developments in climate science or in international law or policy.

3.32 The Government is looking to achieve “real progress” by 2020 towards the long-term goal within a new legal carbon management framework. It is consulting on a Climate Change Bill that will provide that legal framework. The Climate Bill makes clear the Government’s commitment to moving towards a low carbon UK economy over time. A further UK target of all new housing developments being ‘zero carbon’ by 2016 is proposed (i.e. net carbon emissions from energy use in the home would be zero) through major step changes by 2010, 2013 and 2016 by raising building regulation standards.

3.33 Other major policy responses to climate change implemented by the Government include:

- incentivising end user energy efficiency through the Climate Change Levy and Climate Change Agreements;
- measures to reduce carbon emissions from the electricity sector, including the Renewable Obligations;
- industrial, commercial and domestic energy efficiency initiatives, including the Building Regulations, Enhanced Capital Allowances, the Energy Savings Trust, the Carbon Trust,
- the Energy Efficiency Commitment and the Warm Front and Decent Homes schemes to deliver energy efficiency measures in low income households;
- introduction of the EU Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS);
- transport policy, including the use of fiscal instruments such as the Vehicle Excise Duty,
- the Air Passenger Duty and fuel taxes, and the promotion of public transport, walking
- and cycling; and
- eco-labeling and energy efficiency standards for a range of consumer products.


3.34 The White Paper, published May 2007, sets out the Government’s international and domestic energy strategy to respond to these changing circumstances, address the long term energy challenges we face and deliver our four energy policy goals:

- to put ourselves on a path to cutting CO₂ emissions by some 60% by about 2050, with real progress by 2020;
- to maintain the reliability of energy supplies;
- to promote competitive markets in the UK and beyond; and
- to ensure that every home is adequately and affordably heated.

3.35 It shows how the Government are implementing the measures set out in the Energy Review Report in 2006, as well as those announced since, including in the Pre-Budget Report in 2006 and the Budget in 2007.

3.36 The Energy White Paper 2003 gave a commitment for setting a UK target of reducing carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions by 60% on 1990 levels by 2050 (consistent with stabilising CO₂ in the atmosphere at 550 parts per million (ppm) ). Carbon dioxide is the chief greenhouse gas in the atmosphere produced by human activity.

3.37 The measures in this White Paper build on existing policies introduced to tackle carbon emissions. The continuation of these policies is expected to deliver an annual saving of around 25MtC in 2020.

3.38 The White Paper also sets out the measures to help us all become more energy efficient, showing consumers how they can cut their energy use, making big organisations like supermarkets limit their emissions and setting tougher standards for the homes we build and the products we buy.

3.39 The Government also want to mobilise the enthusiasm and potential of individuals and communities to generate their own energy locally, through solar panels and wind turbines for example and are therefore bringing forward a range of measures to support more distributed forms of energy.
Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (2005) *Securing the Future*

3.40 The 2005 UK Government Sustainable Development Strategy identifies Climate Change and Energy as one of the four priority areas for immediate action.

3.41 The UK Government’s revised Sustainable Development Strategy “*Securing the Future: Delivering UK Sustainable Development Strategy*” was published in March 2005. It is based on five “Guiding Principles” and four “Shared Priorities for UK Action”: In the 2005 version of its sustainable development strategy, the Government states that:

‘The goal of sustainable development is to enable all people throughout the world to satisfy their basic needs and enjoy a better quality of life, without compromising the quality of life of future generations’.

3.42 The Strategy presents 5 guiding principles that will form the basis for future policy in the UK. For a policy to be sustainable it must respect all five of these principles. Where a policy places more emphasis on certain principles then any trade-off must be made in an explicit and transparent way.

Guiding Principles:

- Living within Environmental Limits
- Ensuring a Strong, Healthy and Just Society
- Achieving a Sustainable Economy
- Promoting Good Governance
- Using Sound Science Responsibly

3.43 The Government identifies the priority areas for immediate action as:

Shared Priorities:

- Sustainable Consumption and Production
- Climate Change and Energy
- Natural Resource Protection and Environmental Enhancement
- Sustainable Communities

3.44 The protection and enhancement of the environment is vital to achieving sustainable development and ensuring a better quality of life for everyone. The key messages from the Strategy include:

- better understanding of environmental limits – understanding the level at which the environment is unable to accommodate a particular activity or rate activities without sustaining unacceptable or irreversible change.
- the need for environmental enhancement for everyone
- Precautionary principle approach
- Integrated approach to policy development

3.45 Climate Change and Energy

- Reduce green house gas emission
- Energy supply
Business commitment to tackle climate change
Transport
Households and Energy efficiency
Adaptation to climate change

Department for Communities and Local Government (2005) *PPS1 Delivering Sustainable Development*

3.46 Planning Policy Statement 1 (PPS1) – *Delivering Sustainable Development* sets out sustainable development as the core principle underlying planning. Based on the 1999 Sustainable Development Strategy, the four aims for sustainable development were identified as:

- Social progress which recognises the needs of everyone;
- Effective protection of the environment;
- The prudent use of natural resources;
- The maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment.

3.47 Whilst the 2005 UK strategy has moved forward from those 4 aims the spatial vision and strategic objectives of Core Strategy should take into account the principles and objectives from the UK strategy and PPS1, seeking to provide a local interpretation of sustainable development that is specific to the circumstances of Derbyshire Dales.

3.48 PPS1 also sets out the aim of getting the right development, in the right place at the right time. Integrated sustainable development is a core principle underpinning these objectives and with planning facilitating and promoting sustainable and inclusive patterns of development by:

- Making suitable land available for development in line with economic, social and environmental objectives to improve peoples quality of life
- Contributing to sustainable economic development
- Protecting and enhancing the natural and historic environment, the quality and character of the countryside, and existing communities;
- Ensuring high quality development through good and inclusive design, and the efficient use of resources; and
- Ensuring the development supports existing communities and contributes to safe, sustainable, liveable and mixed communities with good access to jobs and key services for all members of the community.


3.49 *Planning and Climate Change* sets out how spatial planning should contribute to reducing emissions and stabilising climate change (mitigation) and take into account the unavoidable consequences (adaptation). The consultation forms part of a wider
package of action being taken forward by Communities and Local Government to help deliver the Government’s ambition of achieving zero carbon development. This includes the ‘Code for Sustainable Homes’ and a consultation document, ‘Building a Greener Future’, which sets out how planning, building regulations and the Code for Sustainable Homes can drive change, innovation and deliver improvements to the environment. (See below)

3.50 ‘Planning and Climate Change’ is intended to focus, reinforce and clarify the role of the spatial planning system in meeting the objectives of the UK Government’s Climate Change Programme and energy policies. In particular, the PPS aims to ensure that developments being brought forward take proper account of carbon considerations through their location, their physical form and layout and the use of renewable and low-carbon energy. The PPS also aims to ensure that spatial planning shapes sustainable communities resilient to the climate change now accepted as inevitable, including more extreme weather events such as hotter and drier summers, flooding and rising sea levels leading to coastal realignment.

3.51 PPS1 establishes a number of key planning objectives which Local Planning Authorities should have regard to in preparing spatial strategies. These objectives include enabling the provision of new homes, jobs, services and infrastructure which secure the highest viable standards of resource and energy efficiency and reduction in carbon emissions; deliver patterns of urban growth that help secure the fullest possible use of sustainable transport and reducing the need to travel, especially by car; securing new development and shaping places that are resilient to the effects of climate change; sustaining biodiversity; reflecting the development needs and interests of communities and enable them to contribute effectively to tackling climate change; and responding to the concerns of business.

3.52 PPS1 encourages Local Planning Authorities to assess their area’s potential for accommodating renewable and low-carbon technologies, including for micro-renewable to be secured in new residential, commercial or industrial development and to set out in a development plan document, their policy for a significant proportion (suggested 10%) of the energy supply of substantial new development to be gained on-site and renewably.

3.53 PPS1 makes clear that spatial planning has a significant role in helping to secure enduring progress against our national emissions targets. In particular, the draft PPS expects that all planning authorities should prepare and deliver spatial strategies that:

- make a full contribution to delivering the Government’s Climate Change Programme and energy policies, and in doing so contribute to global sustainability;
- in enabling the provision of new homes, jobs, services and infrastructure and shaping the places where people live and work, secure the highest viable standards of resource and energy efficiency and reduction in carbon emissions;
- deliver patterns of urban growth that help secure the fullest possible use of sustainable transport for moving freight, public transport, cycling and walking; and, overall, reduce the need to travel, especially by car;
- secure new development and shape places resilient to the effects of climate change in ways consistent with social cohesion and inclusion;
sustain biodiversity, and in doing so recognize that the distribution of habitats and species will be affected by climate change; reflect the development needs and interests of communities and enable them to contribute effectively to tackling climate change; and respond to the concerns of business and encourage competitiveness and technological innovation.

3.54 In addition Local Planning Authorities should adhere to the following principles when preparing and delivering their spatial strategies:

- planned provision for new development should contribute to mitigating climate change through improvements in carbon performance
- new development should be located and designed to optimize its carbon performance and limit its likely contribution to carbon emissions.
- New development should be located and designed for the climate
- Climate change considerations should be integrated into all spatial planning concerns
- Mitigation and adaptation should not be considered in isolation of each other
- Sustainability Appraisals should be applied so as to shape planning strategies

**Department for Communities and Local Government, Planning Policy Statement 3 Housing**

3.55 PPS3 sets out the Governments policy on delivering housing, which places an emphasis on achieving high quality housing which will contribute to the creation of sustainable, mixed communities. Amongst others, matters that should be considering when assessing design quality include the efficient use of resources, during construction and in use, and seeks to adapt to and reduce the impact of, and on, climate change. The Statement also encourages applicant to bring forward sustainable and environmentally new housing development and should reflect PPS 1 on climate change and the Code for Sustainable Homes.

**Department for Communities and Local Government (2006), Planning Policy Statement 25 Development and Flood Risk**

3.56 The latest scenarios indicate the probability that climate change will increase the extent of areas at higher flood risk.

3.57 PPS25 sets the Government’s aim to ensure that flood risk is taken into account at all stages in the planning process to avoid inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding, and to direct development away from areas at highest risk. Where new development is, exceptionally, necessary in such areas, policy aims to make it safe without increasing the flood risk elsewhere and where possible, reducing flood risk overall. This can be mitigated through planning new development in a way that manages the risk by applying the Sequential test and if necessary the Exception test. This avoids building in high risk areas unless there are no other reasonable options and development is necessary. It allows for natural flooding, and for improving existing or creating new flood management scheme. To achieve this aim Local Planning Authorities are advised that they should prepare and implement planning strategies that help deliver sustainable development by:
- Appraising risk through the identification of land at risk and the degree of risk, and through the preparation of Strategic Flood Risk Assessments (SFRAs).
- Managing risk through framing policies on the location of development which avoid risk to people and property where possible and by only permitting development in areas of flood risk when there are no reasonably available sites in areas of lower flood risk.
- Reducing risk through safeguarding land that is required for current and future flood management, through well conceived location, layout and design, incorporating sustainable drainage systems (SUDS), and by using opportunities offered by new development to reduce the causes and impacts of flooding.
- A partnership approach through working with the Environment Agency and other operating authorities to ensure best use is made of expertise and information and by ensuring spatial planning takes flood risk management policies and plans into account.

3.58 PPS25 states that Local Development Documents (LDDs) should set out policies for the allocation of sites and the control of development which avoid flood risk to people and property where possible and manage it elsewhere.

3.59 PPS25 requires the adoption of a risk-based approach at all levels of planning. As part of this approach it states that LPAs should carry out a SFRA to inform the preparation of its LDDs. The SFRA will provide the information needed to apply the sequential approach. This sequential risk-based approach to determining the suitability of land for development in flood risk areas is central to the policy statement. It aims to steer new development to areas at the lowest probability of flooding and its application at all levels of the planning process is required, particularly in relation to the identification of land for development.

The aim of a SFRA is to assess the different levels of flood risk (high, medium or low) and provide risk maps that should be used to inform the forward planning process. Unlike the Environment Agency’s Flood Zone maps, the maps produced via the SFRA take into account the presence of infrastructure and flood defences and whether or not an area is likely to be in the rapid inundation zone. Therefore the SFRA risk maps give a more refined indication of actual risk for the developments which lie behind flood defences, breaking down the Environment Agency’s Flood Zones into High, Medium and Low risk subcategories.

3.60 An exception test is introduced for situations where the sequential test has shown that it is not possible for the development to be located in zones of lower probability of flooding.

3.61 PPS25 reaffirms that LPAs should consult the Environment Agency and other relevant bodies (including adjacent LPAs) when preparing policies in their LDDs on flood risk management and in relation to areas potentially identified as at risk of flooding. Sustainability appraisals, land allocations and development control policies should all be informed by a SFRA carried out in liaison with the Environment Agency.

3.62 PPS25 also highlighted the need to identify the functional floodplain. The floodplains are the key areas where water is stored and through which water flows in times of flooding from rivers and watercourses. They are part of the natural mechanism for
managing floods during extreme rainfall. They may be natural or have been altered by intervention to improve their storage and flow capacity or their extent and location. Identifying whether development proposals are part of the functional floodplain is part of the Sequential Test in PPS25.

**Other Planning Policy Guidance Notes and Statements**

3.63 The Government has implemented a variety of planning policies that address climate change issues. A summary of the key messages is given below:

**Department for Communities and Local Government, PPG 4: Industrial, commercial development and small firms**
- Reduce the need to travel.
- Location of development.

**Department for Communities and Local Government, PPS6, Planning for Town Centres**
- Reduce the need to travel.
- Encourage use of public/alternative transport.
- Facilitate multi-purpose journeys.

**Department for Communities and Local Government, PPS7: Sustainable Development in Rural Areas.**
- Planning applications should recognise the need to protect natural resources
- Provide for sensitive exploitation of renewable energy sources.

**Department for Communities and Local Government, PPS9: Biodiversity and Geological**
- Account for climate change on distribution of habitats
- Conservation and species and geomorphologic processes and features

**Department for Communities and Local Government, PPS12: Local Development Frameworks**
- Act on a precautionary basis to reduce the emissions that cause climate change and to prepare for its impacts.

**Department for Communities and Local Government, PPG13: Transport**
- Reduce the need for travel, especially by car, by influencing the location of development, fostering development which encourages walking, cycling or public transport etc.

**Department for Communities and Local Government, PPS22: Renewable Energy**
- Increased development of renewable energy resources through regional spatial strategies and local development documents.
Planning should reduce greenhouse gas emissions and take account of potential effects of climate change where possible.

In response to the Government’s house building programme to tackle affordability, this document sets out a package of measure to achieve a target for moving to zero carbon housing by 2016, which will be delivered through three sources:

- the planning system,
- the Code for Sustainable Homes and
- Building Regulations.

The Government recognise that domestic emission of carbon dioxide is about 30% of total emissions (152MtC), mainly from the housing sector.

The Code for Sustainable Homes is a new national standard for sustainable design and construction of new homes and will set out voluntary standards beyond those required by Building Regulations and further contribute to decreasing the environmental impact of housing growth. The aim of the Code is to increase environmental sustainability of homes and give homeowners better information about running costs of their homes.

The Code measure the sustainability of a new home against categories of sustainable design, rating the “whole home” as a complete package. The code uses a 1 to 6 star rating system to communicate the overall sustainability performance of a new home. The Code sets minimum standards for energy and water use as each level and, within England, replaces the EcoHomes, developed by the Building Research Establishment (BRE).

To encourage on site energy generation, new homes that use micro-renewable technology such as wind turbines will gain extra Code points. There are proposals to make rating against the Code for Sustainable Homes mandatory at progressively lower levels of the Code over time.
3.69 There is a requirement for the Core Strategy to conform with the relevant Regional Spatial strategy, which for Derbyshire Dales is the East Midlands Strategy.

3.70 For the purposes of informing the current preparation of the Core Strategy, the District Council is relying on the review of East Midlands Plan which was published in 2005, and is formally a draft ‘Regional Spatial Strategy’ (RSS) which, once finalised, will provide the statutory strategic framework for the preparation of the Council’s LDDs. This document sets out the strategic approach for guiding the broad future level and distribution of growth in the District.

3.71 Addressing climate change is central to the draft Regional Spatial Strategy which aims to reduce the causes of climate change through maximising resource efficiency and the level of renewable energy generation, promoting sustainable design and construction and encouraging patterns of new development that reduce the need to travel. The Strategy also aims to reduce the impacts of climate change in particular the risk of damage to life and property from flooding through the location and design and construction of new development.

3.72 Regional policies have been informed by the Regional Energy Strategy on energy are underpinned by the following the ‘energy hierarchy’:

- to reduce the need for energy
- to use energy more efficiently
- to use renewable energy
- any continuing use of fossil fuels to be clean and efficient for heating and co-generation

3.73 Two recent studies have been undertaken by the Regional Planning Board “Determining Baseline Energy Consumption Data” and “Regional Targets and Scenarios for Renewable Energy, which present a comprehensive assessment of the patterns of energy consumption and CO\textsubscript{2} emission across the East Midlands which highlighted amongst other the need for:

- planning policies to reduce the need for energy at the regional level;
- minimum regional targets for renewable energy generation for 2010 and 2020, emphasising the role of micro-generation; and
- planning policies to enable a significant increase in renewable energy micro-generation, and to achieve “carbon neutral” development and regeneration.

3.74 The draft East Midlands Regional Plan contains policies that address the above in particular Policy 38 (Regional Priorities for Energy Reduction and Efficiency) which promotes the need to reduce energy usage (in line with the Energy hierarchy), develop policies to secure a reduction in the need for energy through the location of development, site layout and building design and develop policies that contribute to a reduction in energy demand in new development and promotes operation “carbon neutrality”
Policy 39 (Regional Priorities for Low Carbon Energy Generation) is in response to Government initiatives such as the Renewables Obligation to encourage low carbon generation within the region as part of the energy mix and sets a regional target of 20% by 2020. The draft plan acknowledges that much of the region could be suitable for the location of wind turbines subject to visual impact and any policy should establish the criteria which guide and inform wind energy projects.

The policy amongst other items establishes criteria for onshore wind, in particular on the landscape and visual impact, natural and cultural environments.

Policy 35 (A Regional Approach to Manage Flooding) sets out amongst other items the need for Local Planning Authorities to be informed by Strategic Flood Risk Assessments to evaluate actual flood risk and to include policies which would prevent inappropriate development on floodplains.


The Integrated Regional Strategy (IRS) seeks to integrate economic, environmental, social and spatial objectives in plan making and decision making. It sets out the following:

**The spatial sustainability objectives of the IRS are:**
- To ensure that the location of development makes efficient use of existing physical infrastructure and helps to reduce the need to travel;
- To promote and ensure high standards of sustainable design and construction, optimising the use of previously developed land and buildings;
- To minimise waste and to increase the re-use and recycling of waste materials; and
- To improve accessibility to jobs and services by increasing the use of public transport, cycling and walking, and reducing traffic growth and congestion.

**The social sustainability objectives of the IRS are:**
- To ensure that the existing and future housing stock meets the housing needs of all communities in the region;
- To improve health and reduce health inequalities by promoting healthy lifestyles, protecting health and providing health services;
- To provide better opportunities for people to value and enjoy the region’s heritage and participate in cultural and recreational activities;
- To improve community safety, reduce crime and the fear of crime;
- To promote and support the development and growth of social capital across the communities of the region.

**The environmental sustainability objectives of the IRS are:**
- To protect, enhance and manage the rich diversity of the natural, cultural and built environmental and archaeological assets of the region;
- To enhance and conserve the environmental quality of the region by increasing the environmental infrastructure;
- To manage prudently the natural resources of the region including water, air quality, soil and minerals;
To minimise energy usage and to develop the region’s renewable energy resource, reducing dependency on non-renewable resources;
To involve people, through changes to lifestyle and at work, in preventing and minimising adverse local, regional and global environmental impacts;

3.79 The strategy also places emphasis on the use natural resources more efficiently and reduce the impacts on climate change by:

- Reducing energy consumption including fossil fuel through travel
- Increasing the amount of energy generated from renewable sources
- Reducing the amount of waste generated
- Reducing the impacts of climate change and stabilising emissions of greenhouse gases to avoid dangerous levels of disruption to our climate.

*East Midlands Regional Assembly, East Midlands Regional Environment Strategy (2002)*

3.80 This Strategy sets out policies and objectives and suggests actions on environmental issues:

3.81 The key objectives of the Environment Strategy are:

- To protect, improve and manage the rich diversity of the natural, cultural and built environmental and archaeological assets of the region.
- To manage change by enhancing and conserving the environmental quality of the region including high standards of design and to maximise the re-use of previously used land and buildings.
- To manage the natural resources of the region including water, air quality and minerals in a prudent manner; to seek to minimise waste and to encourage re-use and recycling.
- To involve people, through changes to lifestyles and activities in minimising adverse local, regional and global environmental impacts.

3.82 More specifically it sets out a policy statement (ENV6) for climate change and global warming “To minimise greenhouse gas emissions and protect the environment when adapting to the challenges and taking up the opportunities which climate change will bring” and policy (ENV19) for River Flooding “To protect rivers and their flood plains as a natural resource and to increase floodplain capacity wherever possible”

*East Midlands Regional Assembly, East Midlands Regional Energy Strategy*

3.83 The Regional Energy Strategy has adopted a vision of a low carbon future, addressing carbon emissions through reducing current emissions, seeking efficiency, using renewable resources and developing new low carbon technologies. A joint framework for action to implement these aspirations will be published by the Regional Assembly and East Midlands Development Agency during 2005. The energy strategy recognises that energy is an essential driver of our economy, but that low carbon solutions are an appropriate way to address our current emissions and make the most of economic opportunities of new technologies and more efficient use of resources.
3.84 Until the Regional Spatial Strategy is adopted regard should be given to the Derby and Derbyshire Joint Structure Plan within the District Council’s emerging Development Plan Documents. The Derby and Derbyshire Joint Structure Plan sets out that

- Development should have regard to the potential of energy saving technologies, in particular the use of solar energy where appropriate
- Development necessary to the harnessing or production of renewable energy will be permitted provided that it provides benefits including a reduction in Green House Gas production that outweigh the disturbance caused by the development
- Where appropriate preference will be given to locations that are well placed in relation to the existing electricity transmission network.

3.85 The Derbyshire Dales Local Plan is the development plan document for the district and covers the period up to 2011 and under the transition arrangements, the provisions in the Local Plan will remain in force until at least November 2008. After this date, the contents of the Local Plan will gradually be replaced by the policies and proposals in the emerging Local Development Documents.

3.86 The Local Plan acknowledges the importance of continuing to provide a high quality built environment and Policy SF5 (Design and Appearance of Development) sets out that planning permission will only be granted for where development where it maximises the energy efficiency of built development.

3.87 The Local Plan also sets out policies for developing renewable energy sources from solar and wind turbine generators and restrict their installation where there is minimum impact upon the immediate and wider landscape.

3.88 The District Council signed the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change which is a voluntary commitment to address the issues of Climate Change and represents a high level broad statement of commitment that any Council can make to its own community. By signing of the declaration the Council acknowledges the increasing impact that Climate Change will have on our community during the 21st century and commits to tackling the causes and effects of a changing climate on our District.
3.89 Promoting inclusive design principles for housing is key to creating healthy communities, while increasing the supply of affordable housing will make a major contribution to tackling health inequalities. For those vulnerable households in both socially rented and privately owned housing, particularly the elderly, it is important to consider not just the type of home available for their needs, but also its maintenance and upkeep. Many elderly people, for example, are unable to afford to heat their home to sufficient standards in the wintertime.

3.90 The main principles of the strategy are to help raise the income of poverty fueled households through claiming more benefits and to help residents make their homes more energy efficient. The condition of housing stock can influence the health levels of residents in the district.

**Decent Homes for vulnerable households**
- According to the 2003 stock condition survey 72% of vulnerable private sector households in Derbyshire Dales occupy decent homes.

**Addressing category 1 Hazards**
- The Council has no category 1 hazards

**Local Energy Advice Service**
- Provides advice on Energy efficiency in the home and acts as a referral route for householders to get grant aid the Governments Warm Front Scheme

**Fuel Poverty**
- The joint Housing Stock Condition Survey in 2003 estimated a total of 3297 dwellings in the Derbyshire Dales where households were considered to be in fuel poverty.

**Derbyshire Dales District Council, Working Group on Climate Change**

3.91 In 2007, the District Council made a public commitment to tackle climate change by signing *The Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change*. The Declaration, which is endorsed by the Government, acknowledges that climate change is occurring and requires authorities who have pledged their commitment, to address its causes and impacts. In response, the Council has begun a review of its own energy management strategy and carbon emissions.
4 Key Statistics of the Core Strategy Area

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Climate Change and Flood Risk</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4.1 The District Council has not undertaken independent studies to provide statistics or local analysis of climate change or its impact on Derbyshire Dales. Instead, it relies on the national, regional and sub-regional policy guidance on climate change available at the time of Core Strategy submission. This is included the UK Climate Impacts Programme 2002 Scenarios (UKCIP02) and the statistics from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change published and the East Midlands Sustainable Development Round Table. The summary of likely climate changes of this report are drawn from those studies and analyses.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.2 Further evidence and analysis on climate change has been made available from various sources including the Office for Climate Change, the International Climate Change Task Force. The Regional Assembly has also published the Regional Flood Risk Assessment required by PPS25 for the draft Regional Spatial Strategy for the East Midlands.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.3 In addition an objective assessment of District’s characteristics is being developed to help identify the issues in addressing climate change and flood risk. This will help to provide the evidence base and inform the consultation on an Issues and Options Paper in September 2008.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.4 For this Topic Paper data has been collected so far on the following:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Spatial Characteristics**

4.5 Map 1 below show the location of key settlements and Appendix 1 presents the ward and parish administration boundaries

**Summary Settlements**

- The Core Strategy area covers approximately 33,000 hectares of the Derbyshire Dales that lies outside the Peak District National Park.

- The District is mostly rural in character and comprises attractive areas of countryside interspersed with a large number of villages and hamlets. The District’s towns: Matlock, Wirksworth and Ashbourne are long established as market towns. These towns act as a service centre to a wide rural hinterland and are home to 47% of the total population whilst 29% live within large villages and the remaining 24% are scattered among the rural parishes in small villages / hamlets.

- The district contains 53 settlements of varying size, pattern and function which include market towns, villages and small hamlets:

- To the north the main population areas include Matlock Town (10,000), Darley Dale (5000), Wirksworth (5000) and Cromford (1500). The hinterland around these settlements include Northwood, South Darley, Tansley, Brassington, Bonsall and Middleton with populations of each settlement varying between around 700 to 1000.
To the south Ashbourne (7500), Doveridge (1500), Brailsford (1000), Clifton (500) and Hulland Ward (1000) represent the main population areas. The remainder of the District is dispersed with small settlements of populations about 100-300.

The population density of the area is 1.3 persons per hectare compared to county averages of 2.9 and national averages of 3.8.

**Demographic Data**

4.6 Appendix 2 presents the demographic characteristics by ward and settlement in the District using the Census 2001 data which includes information on:

- total population;
- population density;
- age structure; and
- population profiles by ward and principle settlements and population change since 1991.

**Map 1 : Location of the Derbyshire Dales Settlements**

- **Settlements with populations between 5000 -10000**
- **Settlements with populations between 450 -1500**
- **Settlements with populations between 100 -350**
Summary

- The current population of the Local Planning Authority is 48,920 (2004 Mid-Year Estimate)
- The total population of the three market towns is 24,020 (Census 2001) split as Matlock (9,496), Wirksworth (4,965), Ashbourne (7644).
- Males accounted for 49.6% of the population and females 50.3% of the population.
- Between 1991 and 2001 the population of the Derbyshire Dales grew by about 6%
- The age profile of District in 2001 was 18.5% comprised 0-15 years old, 16 – 64 years old was 63.4% and the proportion of the population in the age group 65 and over was 18.6% suggesting the District has an ageing population

Climate Change : National Evidence Base

4.7 The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report confirms that atmospheric concentrations of the major greenhouse gases, carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide have all increased significantly since pre-industrial times because of human activities. For example, carbon dioxide concentrations have risen by just over one third from 280 parts per million (ppm) in around 1750, to 379ppm in 2005. Including other major greenhouse gases, the total warming effect is equivalent to around 430ppm carbon dioxides. This concentration is far higher than the natural range of 180-300ppm over at least the last 650,000 years.

4.8 Global mean temperatures have risen by 0.74°C over the past century, with 0.4°C of this warming occurring since the 1970s. In the UK, average annual central England temperatures are now higher than at any time since records began in 1659. The IPCC concludes that most of the increase in global temperatures since the mid-20th century is very likely due to the human-induced accumulation of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. We are already committed to an additional global warming of 0.6°C by 2100 because of recent emissions.

4.9 The IPCC report estimates that without intervention greenhouse gas levels will rise to 600-1550 ppm CO₂ by 2100, depending on future emissions. This would be associated with a warming of between around 1.7 and 7.0°C above pre-industrial levels (or 1.1 to 6.4°C above 1990 levels) by the end of the century, and a further few degrees warming in the following century.

4.10 Recent climate modelling research confirms that delaying action now would require greater action later for the same temperature target and that a delay of only 5 years could be significant. If action to reduce emissions is delayed by 20 years, rates of emission reductions may need to more than double to meet the same temperature target than if reductions were begun now.

4.11 The latest IPCC report emphasises that warming will be associated with many other changes in climate, such as rising sea levels, changes in rainfall patterns and increased frequency of heat waves and intense hurricanes. The impacts of these changes on human society and on biodiversity are likely to be very significant.
4.12 Carbon dioxide is the main greenhouse gas in the UK. It contributed around 77 per cent of the UK's total emissions of greenhouse gases in 1990 or 161.5 MtC.

**Figure 4 : Total national carbon dioxide emissions**

Carbon dioxide emissions by source, 1990 to 2020, MtC

Source: Climate Change The UK Programme 2006

4.13 Methane is the second most important greenhouse gas in the UK. It contributed 12 per cent of the UK's total emissions of greenhouse gases in 1990 or 25.1 MtC. Annual emissions fell by about 50 per cent below 1990 levels to 12.5 MtC in 2004.

**Figure 5 : Total national methane emissions**

Methane emissions by source 1990 to 2020, MtC

Source: Climate Change The UK Programme 2006
4.14 Emissions of nitrous oxide from the UK in 1990 were 18.6 MtC or 9 per cent of the UK’s total greenhouse gas emissions. Annual emissions of nitrous oxide fell by 40.4 per cent below 1990 levels to 11.1 MtC in 2004.

Figure 6: Total national methane emissions

Nitrous oxide emissions by source 1990 to 2020, MtC

- Transport
- Industrial processes
- Waste
- Agriculture
- Fuel combustion
4.15 The East Midlands Regional Assembly commissioned research to provide, amongst other outputs, baseline regional energy use and carbon emissions data for the East Midlands region. The final report East Midlands Carbon Footprint – Determining Energy Baseline consumption data provides some data for Derbyshire Dales (including the Peak District National Park). The key findings are illustrated in the charts below and summarised as follows:

Key facts within the Core Strategy Area

- Derbyshire Dales has one of the highest per capita emissions in the East Midlands and England. There are many factors that determine CO₂ capita emissions. Reasons for this may include:
  - **Age and condition of housing stock.** The District Council has a high proportion of stone built properties that are difficult to insulate. There is a relatively high proportion of listing buildings and other buildings with historic interest that restrict possible renewable energy efficiency measures.
  - **Space Heating Demand** Figures 15 to 19 show the housing stock within the Core Strategy Area as of 2001. A high proportion of that stock is 4 to 5 bedroom properties. The amount of space required to heat and live in often requires high energy consumption if not built or modified to energy efficient standards.
  - **Occupancy of Housing** Whilst the Core Strategy Area has a high proportion of large properties, it also has a relatively high proportion of single occupants mainly pensioners, which reflects the national trend of an ageing population. The efficiency of heating a house is reduced when there are less occupants.
  - **Gas Network** Not all the Core Strategy Area benefits from the gas network. The production and use of electricity is rated high in carbon dioxide emissions.

- Table 2 below shows consumption data for electricity, gas, oil and coal for the Derbyshire Dales by average kilowatt-hours per dwelling per year by main fuel type is one of the highest within the East Midlands.

- Figure 6: below show the comparison of East Midlands Local Authorities (average kg CO₂ per dwelling) of total of gas, electric, oil, coal and Manufactured Solid Fuel (MSF). The Derbyshire Dales is within the upper quartile of local authorities within the East Midlands with high CO₂ emissions.

- Figure 7 shows the total industrial and Energy Consumption (GWh by LA and Fuel Type) within the East Midlands. The Derbyshire Dales is within the upper quartile of local authority areas that has high CO₂ emissions from the industrial and commercial sector. In particular the District is one of the highest consumers of manufactured solid fuel.
The tendency is for properties with more rooms, a lower SAP rating (see below) and more people at home during the day, to have higher gas consumption. Differences which can be seen at the regional level are more difficult to track at the local authority level.

There is a relationship between the age, condition and size of housing stock and the consumption of fuel. The proportion of houses (especially detached) is high within the District.

Large parts of the District are not on a gas supply which means these properties rely on heating oil as well grid electricity which is the most carbon intensive form of energy and/or coal Grid electricity is the most carbon intensive form of energy. More CO\textsubscript{2} is produced per kilowatt hour delivered than with any other commonly used power source. This is due to the inefficiencies involved in converting coal or gas (the usual power station fuels) into electricity. The electricity demand for the Derbyshire Dales is relative high.

Figure 7: Average kilowatt-hours per dwelling per year for the East Midlands (by Local Authority) by main fuel type

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Local Authority</th>
<th>Gas</th>
<th>Electricity</th>
<th>Oil</th>
<th>Coal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amber Valley</td>
<td>23,770</td>
<td>4,636</td>
<td>542</td>
<td>526</td>
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<td>Ashfield</td>
<td>18,149</td>
<td>4,150</td>
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<td>Bassetlaw</td>
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<td>Blaby</td>
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<td>Bolsover</td>
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<td>Derbyshire Dales</td>
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Figure 8: Comparison of East Midlands Local Authorities (average kgCO₂ per dwelling). Total of gas, electric, oil, coal and MSF.

East Midlands Carbon Footprint – Determining Energy Baseline consumption data

TOTAL DOMESTIC (kgCO₂ per dwelling)

TOTAL DOMESTIC (kgCO₂ per capita)
Figure 9: Total I&C CO$_2$ Emissions (CO$_2$ by LA and Fuel Type)
East Midlands Carbon Footprint – Determining Energy Baseline consumption data

TOTAL I & C Carbon Dioxide Emissions (tCO2 by LA and fuel type)
Figure 10: Total tones of CO₂ by source within the East Midlands
East Midlands Carbon Footprint – Determining Energy Baseline consumption data
The issue of climate change, its impacts including the consequences for flood risk, and how to deal with it is one of the key issues facing Derbyshire Dales, the UK and the world. Recent reports have emphasised the social, economic and environmental damage that is being and increasingly will be caused by manmade climate change.

Because of the lack of information on the likely effects of climate change specifically on the region, the East Midlands Sustainable Development Round Table (EmsdOt) commissioned a study of the most likely climate change scenario and effects of climate change on the region. The consultation report, entitled *The potential impacts of climate change in the East Midlands* (July 2000), also looked at how people are preparing for the threats and opportunities, which will flow from it. This study specifically takes forward the work of UK Climate Impact Programme (UKCIP), but also of a variety of other organisations working in this field.

The report makes the following important observations for the region and sets the East Midlands context for this work:

For the Derbyshire Dales plan area, the current evidence indicates that climate change during this century is most likely to mean:

- hotter, drier summers (more heat waves)
- milder, wetter winters
- increase in the number and intensity of storms
- higher sea levels and an increased flood risk to coastal areas
- increased risk of heavier downpours, flash flooding and surface water run-off
Figures: 11 to 14 Changes in regional temperature, precipitation and soil moisture content

Figure 11

**East Midlands**

Change in annual average daily temperature

- Low Emissions scenario
- High Emissions scenario

2020s 2050s 2080s

Figure 12

**East Midlands**

Percentage change in summer precipitation

- Low Emissions scenario
- High Emissions scenario

2020s 2050s 2080s
Figure 13

East Midlands
Percentage change in winter precipitation

Low Emissions scenario

2020s 2050s 2080s

High Emissions scenario

per cent change
45 30 15 0 -15 -30 -45 -50

Figure 14

East Midlands
Percentage change in autumn soil moisture content

Low Emissions scenario

2020s 2050s 2080s

High Emissions scenario

per cent change
0 -10 -20 -30 -40 -50

41
Figure 15 Total Number of household types within Core Strategy Area

Number of household types

- Whole house or bungalow: Detached
- Whole house or bungalow: Semi-detached
- Whole house or bungalow: Terraced
- Flat; maisonette or apartment: Purpose Built block of flats or tenement
- Flat; maisonette or apartment: Part of a converted or shared house
- Flat; maisonette or apartment: In commercial building
- Caravan or other mobile or temporary structure
Figure 16 Household Types by Ward

- Caravan or other mobile or temporary structure
- Flat; maisonette or apartment: In commercial building
- Flat; maisonette or apartment: Part of a converted or shared house
- Flat; maisonette or apartment: Purpose Built block of flats or tenement
- Whole house or bungalow: Terraced
- Whole house or bungalow: Semi-detached
- Whole house or bungalow: Detached
Figure 17 Percentage of all Households by Tenure

- Owner occupied: Owns outright: 40%
- Owner occupied: Owns with a mortgage or loan: 37%
- Owner occupied: Shared ownership: 9%
- Rented from: Council (local authority): 4%
- Rented from: Housing Association / Registered Social Landlord: 1%
- Rented from: Private landlord or letting agency: 9%
- Rented from: Other: 0%

Figure 18 Total number of households by family composition within the Core Strategy Area

- One person: Pensioner: 4500
- One person: Other: 2000
- All pensioners: 1500
- Married couple households: No children: 3000
- Married couple households: With dependent children: 4000
- Married couple households: All children non-dependent: 2500
- Cohabiting couple households: No children: 1500
- Cohabiting couple households: With dependent children: 1000
- Lone parent households: With dependent children: 500
- Lone parent households: All children non-dependent: 200
- Other households: With dependent children: 100
- All students: 50
4.20 Flood risk is a reality. It has happened in the past in Derbyshire Dales and will occur again. The impacts of flooding can be severe and can range from damage to property and the associated distress injury or at the worst extreme, loss of life. The effect on infrastructure and services is also significant and can have a social and economic impact well beyond the floodplain, for example by preventing road and travel, causing loss of business and confidence.

4.21 Due to some low lying nature of parts of the Core Strategy area and the location of infrastructure, there are road communications that are likely to be affected during a severe flood event as well as residential, commercial and other properties.

4.22 Flood risk is already a key issue in Derbyshire Dales. There have been flood events in the past in this plan area. In 1969 major flooding occurred in the Core Strategy Area, particularly in Matlock town centre. In 2000 there was widespread flooding from rivers and other watercourses, including the Derwent, due to high flows and exceptionally prolonged rainfall.

4.23 All parts of the plan area are potentially at risk or have the potential to make flood risk worse elsewhere. Some areas are at a higher risk of flooding than others; many areas are at little or no risk. It is the combination of a number of factors that contribute to making an area at risk of flooding. These are settlement location including proximity to a watercourse or the coast, climate, geology, and topography. The risk of flooding can become greater when there are extreme storms or when taking into account the predicted effects of climate change.
The Environment Agency Flood Risk Maps

4.24 The Flood Risk Plans show which areas are most likely to be affected by floods when waters rise. They show the extent of flooding with an annual probability of 0.1% or greater (flood zone 2) and 1% or greater (flood zone 3). The plan below shows areas in Derbyshire Dales within these zones.

Map 2 Flood Risk Zones
4.25 Flooding is normally a one-off event that can be sudden and severe and can cause loss of life and property. Properties in Derbyshire Dales are exposed to significant flood risk along the river systems and these areas can be identified through use of the Environment Agency flood risk maps.

**Additional Evidence Base**

4.26 PPS25 identifies the need for Local Authorities to carry Strategic Flood Risk Assessment in conjunction and agreement with the Environment Agency should carry out a detailed Strategic Flood Risk Assessment when preparing the Local Development Framework. Where appropriate any necessary flood risk mitigation measures should be identified as part of these assessments and will be useful in strategic site identification and previously developed land evaluation.

4.27 The Strategic Flood Risk Assessment is an overview of flood risk within a specific area. It provides general guidance to planning officers, developers and other interested people about areas where flood risk is an issue. It also provides guidance on how to identify which areas and sites lie within areas of risk, and the implications for planmaking and planning applications in taking flood risk into account. This is important because flooding of properties causes disruption, large and expensive damages, distress, harm, and can result in loss of life.

4.28 The District Council is currently working towards commissioning consultants to undertake a study with a published report anticipated in early 2008.
5 Discussion of Issues and Approaches

The Uncertainty of Climate Change

5.1 Future climate change is a complicated mix of short, medium and long term changes and impacts. Those impacts result from past as well as future human activity, as well as natural causes. National policy in the Energy White Paper 2003, now amplified through the emerging Climate Change Bill, guides the Core Strategy by providing the policy aims with related targets. These are within and beyond the plan period of the Core Strategy. For plan-making purposes, the Core Strategy reflects the Government’s short term (2010) and medium term (to 2050) – which is the deadline for achieving the target of 60% reduction in greenhouse gases. The long term extends beyond 2050.

5.2 The Core Strategy will have to deal with the uncertainties that surround climate change arising from:

- the need to consider the long term;
- the variation in evidence of past and current climate and the scenarios of future climate;
- the challenge of identifying the effects of climate change on the local area;
- the ability of policy to stabilise climate change, the timing of that stabilisation and the consequences of delays in stabilising change.

5.3 Climate change can bring opportunities, but the main issues relate to the direct and indirect consequences of the environmental hazards resulting from the changes in climate experienced locally, and the wider global effect to which Derbyshire Dales contributes. The changes increase the potential hazards such as:

- Milder wetter winters, with more intense rainfall patterns will increase flood risk, exacerbate soil run off and affect agricultural practices.
- The risks arise from increased risk to life and property, and the adverse impact on business, and the impact of increased risk of flooding for example on low lying roads and in places already at high risk.
- The impact of extreme events, such as storms, will increase emergency response costs and damage to buildings and infrastructure.
- Increased risk of fires in heaths, forests and woodlands during drier summers will result in risk to life and property, and will cause change to and potentially loss of habitats and landscape features.
- The impact of increased risk on property insurance in high risk areas. Hotter drier summers with increased risk of heatwaves and drought. This could impact negatively on water quality and quantity. This will affect aquifers, river abstraction and reservoirs. Drier summers will increase the risk of water shortages for example where agricultural practices result in areas depending on summer abstraction, or as increased visitor numbers put pressure on supplies.
- Increased health risk for vulnerable people from higher temperatures, amplified by the further effect on climate change as greater use of air conditioning /ventilation increases CO₂ production.
- Rising energy prices and potentially reduced security of energy supplies
- Impact of climate changes on flora and fauna, including gardens and sports pitches, as growing seasons change
- The possible northward migration of species, and the risk of species extinction if species and habitats cannot respond fast enough to climate change through adaptation or migration and relocation
- The consequential changes in the landscape and character of Derbyshire Dales and the potential loss of valued features and the area’s attractiveness that is important for the economy and the local quality of life
- The impact on the agricultural landscapes due to changes in growing season, increased water demand, and implications for crop management and storage.

**Addressing the causes of global warming and its consequences**

5.4 The Core Strategy will need to directly address the issue of climate change through the objectives and spatial strategy core policies should provide the broad strategy for the Derbyshire Dales Local Development Framework to respond to climate change. Inclusion of this issue in the Core Strategy is appropriate because:

- Climate change is one of the most significant issues facing Derbyshire Dales. This is an issue recognised by international governments and by the District Council;
- It is an issue where the responses need to be flexible to deal with the uncertainty associated with climate change impacts;
- It has to look well beyond the time horizon of the Core Strategy, to consider the longer term impacts particularly the impacts on the environment. This now means for at least 100 years and further.
- It is an issue that requires the spatial plan responds to change at the local level, complementing higher level policies, that encompass a range of measures to mitigate the impact of and adapt to climate change;
- It is a key element of ‘sustainable development’ that will be tested for directly through the Sustainability Appraisal process
- It is a cross-cutting issue. Using a package of Core Strategy policies to provide the spatial plan response is vital because policy and action is needed across a wide front, in combination, to address this issue and so achieve the strategic objectives of:
  - reducing consumption of carbon-based/fossil fuels and minimising the production of greenhouse gases;
  - protecting Derbyshire Dales and its communities from the unacceptable risk of environmental hazards, to mitigate and if possible reduce the local and global impact of Derbyshire Dales and development
  - securing a prosperous and sustainable local economy;
  - protecting and enhancing the quality and diversity of Derbyshire Dales environment
How should the Core Strategy respond to Climate Change?

5.5 The 2005 UK Government Sustainable Development Strategy identifies Climate Change and Energy as one of the four priority areas for immediate action. The recent Planning Policy Statement on Development and Flood Risk (PPS25) and the draft Planning Policy Statement on Climate Change (supplement to PPS1) puts flood risk and climate change right at the heart of the planning process. The Core Strategy has an important role to play in responding to flood risk and to climate change and should provide a strategic response to these issues that are relevant to Derbyshire Dales. The Core Strategy should adopt a positive approach in addressing climate change and flood risk objectives set out in national and regional planning policy.

5.6 The basis of the Core Strategy should include strategic objectives and policies and when finalised should be able to clearly state how the issues of climate change will be addressed. Some thoughts on how this might be developed include an understanding that the Core Strategy’s response should be based on:

- sufficient flexibility that is enough to deal with the uncertainties surrounding climate change
- the acceptance that human activity is a cause of global warming and resultant climate change, informed by nationally and regionally available evidence that is sufficiently robust
- addresses the causes of global warming and the consequences of that global warming.

Mitigation and Adaptation Strategy

5.7 PPS1 Planning and Climate Change sets out how spatial planning should contribute to reducing emissions and stabilising climate change (mitigation) and take into account the unavoidable consequences (adaptation). In line with national guidance a “twin track” strategy approach towards climate change is proposed and its effects based on:

- **Mitigation** of climate change through measures to prevent or reduce the causes, as part of a broader package of action, to reduce the human effects of global warming by reducing the quantity of greenhouse gases released into the atmosphere. It focuses on an energy hierarchy towards the better use of energy through: *avoiding energy use, using energy more efficiently; supplying energy from renewable resources; and finally using more efficient technology when using energy from fossil fuels* and is a key part of the sustainability agenda;

- **Adaptation** measures in response to unavoidable effects of climate change, improving resilience and combining planned intervention by the District Council. A strategy towards adaptation to the effects of climate change that are expected to happen as the result of past and future human activity as well as natural causes.

The Core Strategy approach to climate change and flood risk is based on:
the recognition that climate change is a cross-cutting issue, which should be addressed by the Core Strategy and through other strategies and activities of the District Council;

as a cross cutting issue, the Core Strategy’s responses to climate change are embedded within its strategic objectives, the visions for places, the spatial strategy and policies

together those policies form a broad mitigation and adaptation strategy the mitigation and adaptation strategy towards the long term will evolve through future reviews of Local Development Documents in Derbyshire Dales.

5.8 Preparation of the Core Strategy should be informed by the national and regional policies to help develop a mitigation and adaptation strategy.

Mitigation

5.9 The Government has made clear that formulating appropriate responses to climate change is at the top of its agenda. Its primary focus is on reducing the causes of global warming that arise from human activity by reducing the production of greenhouse gases.

5.10 The Energy White Paper 2003 gave a commitment for setting a UK target of reducing carbon dioxide (CO\textsubscript{2}) emissions by 60% on 1990 levels by 2050 (consistent with stabilising CO\textsubscript{2} in the atmosphere at 550 parts per million (ppm) ). Carbon dioxide is the chief greenhouse gas in the atmosphere produced by human activity. PPS22 Renewable Energy also advocates that target. At the launch of the Stern Review on the Economic Impacts of Climate Change (October 2006) the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced the UK’s proposal for a new European-wide emissions reduction target of 30% by 2020 and then at least 60% by 2050.

5.11 The UK’s Climate Change Programme (2006) sets out how the UK is to deliver its Kyoto target of cutting its greenhouse gas emission by 12.5% and its domestic goals of 20% below 1990 levels by 2010. The Government has since launched the 2006 Energy Review report, to get back on track for the 2050 target.

5.12 Government policy towards climate change is evolving, promoting a faster and stronger move towards responding to climate change. It has published significant new guidance on climate change and on development and flood risk.

5.13 The Government is looking to achieve “real progress” by 2020 towards the long-term goal within a new legal carbon management framework. It is consulting on a Climate Change Bill that will provide that legal framework. The Climate Change Bill makes clear the Government’s commitment to moving towards a low carbon UK economy over time. A further UK target of all new housing developments being ‘zero carbon’ by 2016 is proposed (i.e. net carbon emissions from energy use in the home would be zero) through major step changes by 2010, 2013 and 2016 by raising building regulation standards.

5.14 The supplement to Planning Policy Statement 1 on Climate Change and the emerging Climate Change Bill, supported by ‘Building a Greener Future: Towards Zero Carbon Development’ and the Code for Sustainable Homes. These clearly signal a strengthening of policy and the need for further measures towards mitigating and adapting to the impact of climate change. However, faster and
deeper cuts through stronger measures may need to be brought in if necessary, for
climate security, if there is evidence of actual emissions or temperature rises
occurring at the higher scenario levels.

5.16 The responses proposed by Government therefore anticipate a series of step
changes to achieve targets set nationally and regionally, in the period to 2050.
There are already opportunities to achieve ‘early wins’. Higher energy efficiency
standards are already required by Building Regulations and measures to mitigate
change are underway. One relatively easy option to achieve results can be made
through prioritising the maximum use of insulation in new and existing development.
Other measures to reduce non-CO₂ greenhouse gas emissions are also being
pursued.

5.17 The Core Strategy policies should address climate change through the full range of
measures aimed at reducing carbon emissions. Working with other plans and
strategies, the Core Strategy, should set out the approach to help deliver the step
changes of the scale and speed envisaged in national guidance and policy.

**How should the Core Strategy Respond to a Mitigation Strategy**

5.18 The Core Strategy must respond to both national and regional concern over climate
change through a mitigation strategy to help reduce the effects of climate change
of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and the District’s ‘carbon footprint’. The
strategy could focus on:

- increasing renewable energy and energy efficiency
- making wise use of natural resources, and reduced consumption
- minimising the need to travel and reducing the reliance on the private car by
  improving public transport and a shift towards more sustainable forms of
  transport
- building a sustainable low carbon economy; and
- using sustainable construction and design, reducing waste, with increased re-
  use and recycling.

5.19 The greatest scope to address climate change through the Core Strategy lies in
mitigation.

5.20 Most of the policies contained in the Core Strategy regarding climate change will
relate to mitigation – focused on reducing carbon emissions. The climate change
policies require consistent application, and monitoring, over the lifetime of the plan
and beyond if they are to help influence and stabilise current trends. The principle
mitigation measures might be through:

**Location - promoting a sustainable built environment through:**
the location of development, facilities and services at locations accessible by sustainable transport – particularly through urban concentration, mix of uses, a ‘market town centre first’ approach, strategic development provision and regeneration concentrating uses and attracting large numbers to places of good accessibility and limiting development in rural areas to small scale, focussed on settlements with accessible facilities and services
- the promotion of a sustainable built environment through sustainable construction and energy efficiency measures,

**Promoting sustainable use of resources** through:
- sustainable consumption and production (in ways that contribute towards a low carbon economy) by: Local supply chains; local labour supply (reducing commuting); reduction of waste - requiring energy efficient and water efficient measures in the design and implementation of development.

**Promoting sustainable transport and accessibility** by:
- Reducing the need to travel, especially by car, through integration of land use with walking and cycling opportunities and promoting patterns of development at all scales that reduce the need to travel and encourage modal shift
- The role of concentrated development well integrated with existing land uses to support public transport provision
- Locating major travel generators close to public transport interchanges

**Promoting energy efficiency and sustainable energy, renewable energy**, through:
- Energy efficiency measures [including refurbishment of the existing housing stock] and reduced demand for energy
- Policies to harness the potential of the district to generate power from renewable sources,
- Measures to promote sustainable waste management, recycling and energy recovery - Greater efficiency in the use of water resources; storage of water and security of supply
- Sustainable drainage.

### Adaptation

5.21 The development of the adaptation strategy towards addressing the spatial, social, economic and environmental effects of climate change in the short, medium and long term is challenging. This is due to the uncertainties of assessing likely climate change impacts at the local level.

5.22 The broad picture of climate changes that are likely to be experienced by Derbyshire Dales are set out above. This was informed by climate change scenarios produced by the United Kingdom Climate Impacts Programme in 2002 (UKCIP), and subsequent analysis by the research report *The potential impacts of climate change in the East Midlands* commissioned by East Midlands Sustainable Development Round Table (EmsdOt)

### How should the Core Strategy Respond to a Adaptation Strategy

5.23 The Core Strategy should address the issue of how local communities, places and habitats should adapt to unavoidable climate change, given the current estimates of changes and effects. A comprehensive long term strategy towards adaptation should recognise the potential risks of hazards, and the need to identify and implement measures that will reduce community vulnerability to such occurrences. Considerable information will be needed. The UKCIP scenario updates and responses to them will need to be carefully considered.
5.24 To help develop the adaptation strategy the following will need to be carefully considered

- The proposed Strategic Flood Risk Assessment will help identify high flood risk areas where there are vulnerable communities.
- Whether a ‘wait and see’ approach is an acceptable part of the present adaptation strategy due to the current uncertainties of climate change.

5.25 Preparation for any future review of Core Strategy will provide the opportunity to develop the evidence base towards the impact of weather conditions, the history of local disruption and assessments of the responses to changing conditions. The analysis will help to identify key intervention strategies required to minimise losses or benefit from opportunities based on awareness that conditions have or are about to change. The adaptation strategy could include:

- Climate proofing of development so that buildings and infrastructure are more resilient and reliable (reflecting the anticipated life of the development for housing this should be 100 years)

- Measures to improve the resilience of communities to more extreme events such as higher temperatures, greater storminess and wind speeds, and flood events. This should include taking into account the impacts on health and new measures towards urban cooling, the need to take into account residual risk, making provision for example for escape routes and flood warnings

- Providing opportunities for long term linkages of habitats to enable species to adapt and if necessary move into areas which provide conditions suitable for their survival

- Address the vulnerability of buildings, notably in the historic environment, and aid their response to the changes

- More radical solutions of:
  - Constraining development in the most vulnerable areas
  - Relocating vulnerable uses to lower risk areas (eg from flood risk, land instability) as well as restoration and re-use of the areas at high risk
  - Relocating uses to locations that would result in a greater contribution to climate change mitigation through reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

**Short and Medium Term**

5.26 The precautionary approach will mean that policies should avoid allowing proposals that would result in a high level of regret such as housing in high risk areas.

5.27 This Core Strategy’s approach to adaptation should focus on the short to medium term by developing, implementing and monitoring policies and measures to minimise risk, adapt to the unavoidable impacts of climate change and to exploit the opportunities of climate change. The principle adaptation measures to respond to the impacts are through:
Guiding development to locations with greater protection from impacts

- of flooding, erosion, subsidence or water shortages, or if the lack of realistic alternatives makes this unavoidable, then managing the risks to acceptable standards.

Identifying and responding to changes in flood risk, through flood risk management:

- Policies to avoid/reduce risk of flooding to people and places - Improvements to urban drainage and the promotion of sustainable urban drainage systems, schemes that ‘make space for water’
- Policies on safety and resilience to reduce the vulnerability of developments to climate change and severe weather events/flood events – measures such as locating more vulnerable uses on higher parts of development sites or on upper floors of buildings; making buildings flood proof/flood resilient.

Positively managing the environment

- Assessing the resilience of ecosystems to future climate changes and potential future areas of major change
- Identifying, safeguarding and creating green infrastructure to improving its connectivity by creating habitats for species migration (eg potential new habitats, buffer zones and corridors)
- Provide strategic opportunities for the migration of priority habitats so that they are not lost to other land use, and seeking their restoration to create more robust natural environments where wildlife is able to adapt to climate change
- Increasing woodland cover and adapting woodland management to take account of climate change
- Retaining and enhancing the quality of the landscape
- Water conservation measures to maintain and improve water resources (security of supply, quality and yield) and setting high standards for water efficiency for example in residential development to support a precautionary approach to water management

Promoting higher standards of design and sustainable construction with:

- Policies to reduce the effects of higher temperatures and higher precipitation and storminess in the winter on the occupants of development and adjoining areas – design will need to deal with the need for greater insulation, ventilation and cooling systems without adding to emissions.
- Improving the resilience and capacity of development and infrastructure to cope with the impacts of climate change.

Promoting a thriving, sustainable economy through:

- Opportunities to exploit new markets, products and technology that benefit from the changes
- Restructuring sectors that are adversely affected by the changes
- Energy efficiency measures to reduce costs and improving resilience to hazards to reduce the risk of lost production and business.

Promoting transport infrastructure and services that are more resilient to climate change and the impacts of flood damage, accidents and blocked roads
Community health and safety

- Working with community resilience/emergency planning measures to be prepared for severe events, and other factors including the anticipated health impacts of climate change such as increased air pollution and the increase in disease vectors due to warmer, wetter winters and hotter summers.

Long term

5.28 A long term approach to the changes and hazards of climate change will need to be informed by future risk assessment to identify the vulnerability to climate impacts and assessment of those impacts of change on local communities and businesses, plus an appraisal of alternative strategies for dealing with the threats posed. Future work in the development of the Strategic Flood Risk will be essential to inform policy choices for Core Strategy in the future. The analyses will help to identify the most vulnerable areas, development, assets and resources at risk from anticipated climate change and identify measures to manage those risks.

5.29 This will shape decisions on the need to halt further development in some locations, and in extreme circumstances, the identify alternative areas where displaced development, uses, infrastructure or resources could be relocated out of risk from the impacts of climate change. It could identify other major interventions to improve the resilience of local communities in Derbyshire Dales. Additional evidence will be necessary to inform risk assessment and appraisal of alternative strategies for dealing with the threats posed.
5.30 To limit and reduce the impacts of climate change’ will be one of the sustainability objectives against which the Core Strategy will be tested through the Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment. This way the Sustainability Appraisal can inform the development of the relevant policies. The key questions that are suggested when testing the Core Strategy policies will be:

- will it reduce or minimise greenhouse gas emissions?
- will it minimise the risk of flooding?
- will it increase efficiency in the use of energy?
- will it help to increase the share of energy generated from renewable resources?

5.31 To achieve this the Core Strategy will

- Promote development that maximises energy efficiency and mimimises CO\textsubscript{2} emissions
- Promote development that utilises low or zero carbon sustainable energy sources
- Promote development that reduces dependency upon the car
- Responding to the threat of flooding through the consideration of planning proposals in light of a strategic flood risk assessment
- Reduce consumption of natural and non renewable resources.
6. Discussion of Issues and Options

6.1 In considering climate change and flood risk some options have been presented for consideration. None of them should be regarded as a potential preferred option at this stage but have been presented to develop discussion about how the Core Strategy can address reducing green house gas emissions and mitigating against the effects of climate change.

6.2 Questions about how the impacts of climate change can be reduced include:

How can the Core Strategy:

- improve energy efficiency through design and layout of new buildings;
- reduce energy consumption (reducing car borne journeys through careful location of development);
- prevent development in areas prone to flooding;
- explore renewable energy sources/production; and
- encouraging recycling of waste and building materials

6.3 Local authorities are considered to be influential in the delivery of policies that will help reduce the impacts of climate change. One way in which this can be achieved is through the planning system through policies that will guide ways in which such issues may be tackled.

6.4 Climate change should be a priority consideration. Whilst proper measures need to be taken to deal with adaptation, the main priority is to reduce its effects. Through commitment made by the District Council, backed by international, national and local policies and declarations, the authority has a duty to explore ways of actively reducing greenhouse gas emissions and other key contributors to climate change.

6.5 Other sustainability issues that may be influenced through local policies for example, sustainable location of development and reducing the need to travel, will be set out in other Topic Papers of the Core Strategy including Transport, Housing, Employment, Retail, Leisure and Health. The Development Strategy Topic Paper sets out four options for possible future locations for future development within the District.

Climate Change: Renewable Energy Possible Options

6.6 Renewable energy schemes can make a valuable contribution to reducing carbon emissions. Although it is recognised that proposals can conflict with the protection of natural landscapes, ecology and historic environments, it will be important that policies seek to maintain the character of the towns and villages whilst embracing opportunities to introduce renewable energy sources.

6.7 Types of renewable energy that may be appropriate within the District include amongst others:

- Wind turbines
- Hydro electric schemes
- Energy from waste
- Biomass (energy from wood and agricultural waste)
- Small-scale hydroelectric schemes
- Improved insulation
- Water conservation
- Active solar power (solar panels, PVI)
- Ground sources heat pumps
- Passive solar power (using the sun to heat and cool buildings)

6.8 The Department for Communities and Local Government published a consultation (Permitted Development Rights for Householder Microgeneration 2007) outlining proposals for changes to the planning system in relation to installation of micro generation equipment for domestic properties. The consultation paper proposes the introduction of a revised system of permitted development rights for households wishing to install micro generation technology and would result in a more permissive regime than exists at present.

6.9 At present there are only a handful of functioning renewable energy schemes in the District Council. Figure 21 list the decisions for renewable energy generation from 2005 to 2007. However, through new technologies, emerging national and regional policies, and greater awareness and take-up from developers and individuals, the District Council is likely to come under more pressure to consider and allow for the development of such proposals. There are also opportunities presented, through the inclusion of policies in the Core Strategy, to integrate renewable energy into new developments.

**Figure 21 : Number of planning application determined for renewable energy (2005-2007)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Application</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Decision</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Installation of 12 no. Photovoltaic panels &amp; 6 solar heaters</td>
<td>Wirksworth</td>
<td>Granted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Installation of solar water heating collectors</td>
<td>Matlock Bath</td>
<td>Granted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Installation of solar heating collectors on front and rear roof slope</td>
<td>Tansley</td>
<td>Granted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Installation of solar panels</td>
<td>Cromford</td>
<td>Granted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Installation of 2 solar panels</td>
<td>Ashbourne</td>
<td>Granted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Installation of 2 no. Solar panels on roof</td>
<td>Hognaston</td>
<td>Granted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Installation of 2 no. Solar panels on roof on rear elevation of garage</td>
<td>Ednaston</td>
<td>Refused</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Installation of 2 solar panels</td>
<td>Marston</td>
<td>Withdrawn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Erection of domestic wind turbine</td>
<td>Matlock</td>
<td>Granted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Erection of wind turbine</td>
<td>Kniveton</td>
<td>Granted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Installation of 2 solar panels</td>
<td>Kirk Ireton</td>
<td>Granted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Erection of 4 no. wind turbine generators</td>
<td>Carsington</td>
<td>Refused</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Installation of solar panels</td>
<td>Kirk Ireton</td>
<td>Refused</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Installation of solar panels</td>
<td>Warren Carr</td>
<td>Granted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Installation of 1 solar panel</td>
<td>Matlock</td>
<td>Granted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Installation of solar panels</td>
<td>Kirk Ireton</td>
<td>Granted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Installation of solar panels</td>
<td>Shirley</td>
<td>Granted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Erection of a domestic wind turbine</td>
<td>Bonsall</td>
<td>Granted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Installation of solar water heaters</td>
<td>Shirley</td>
<td>Granted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Installation of solar panel</td>
<td>Bonsall</td>
<td>Granted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Installation of solar panels</td>
<td>Middleton</td>
<td>Pending</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Installation of solar panels</td>
<td>Matlock</td>
<td>Pending</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

6.10 The Government wants to encourage the widest possible take up of micro generation equipment by removing unnecessary regulatory barriers. It is however
concerned to ensure that the right levels of control are retained to protect the reasonable interests of neighbours, the environment and the wider community. The proposed changes to permitted development rights, therefore seek to address the impacts on amenity of domestic micro generation technologies, including those visual appearance, and the implications of any potential nuisance such as noise and vibration.

6.11 Renewable energy schemes can make a valuable contribution to reducing carbon emissions. Although it is recognised that proposals can conflict with well-established principles such as the protection of natural landscapes, ecology and historic environments. It will be important that policies seek to maintain the character of the towns and villages whilst embracing opportunities to introduce renewable energy sources.

Commercial Wind Turbines

6.12 However for the purpose of commercial wind turbine generators is to exploit optimum wind conditions in terms of wind strength, duration and consistency. In the Core Strategy area there only a limited number of locations where the wind speed is sufficient to make it commercially viable for the installation of wind turbine generators. These are generally on rising ground, ridges, hilltops, plateaux and flat expanses of land and tend to lend to occupy highly visible sites. Options for commercial wind turbines and other commercial renewable energy schemes will need to be carefully considered in particular whether there would be significant impacts.

Renewable Energy Options

6.13 Many local authorities have followed the example of the London Borough of Merton and introduced a 10% on-site renewable energy targets for new developments. Chichester District Council have taken this further by introducing a sliding scale of up to 50% renewable energy generation from small scale on site sources.

Option A

Introduce a London Borough of Merton Council style policy which reads

“The Council will encourage the energy efficient layout and orientation on site. All new residential development above a threshold of 1000m² will be expected to incorporate renewable energy production equipment to provide at least 10% of predicted energy requirements. The use of sustainable building materials and the reuse of materials will be encouraged, as will the use of recycled aggregates in the construction of buildings. This will be subject to the impact on the amenity of the local environment, taking into account the existing character of the area.”

Option B

Introduce a sustainable energy policy along the lines of Chichester District Council which requires the proportion of on-site renewable energy generation according to the type or size of the development.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Development Type</th>
<th>Requirement 2007 - 2013</th>
<th>Requirement 2013 to 2026</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Housing (1-9 dwellings)</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing (10+dwellings)</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Industry, offices, schools and warehouses</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retail</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Option C**

All applications for new build be required to demonstrate that the buildings are carbon neutral.

**Option D**

Mitigate the effects of climate change through the introduction of an incremental low / zero carbon requirement for all planning applications relating to existing development as set out below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>% of building affected by planning works</th>
<th>% of carbon neutrality required</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>25%</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50%</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75%</td>
<td>75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Option E**

Mitigate the effects of climate change through the introduction of an incremental low carbon requirement for all planning applications as above but only for buildings over 1000m².

**Option F**

Require all new development to meet the following targets:

- 1 to 9 dwellings and non-dwellings of less than 1000m² - a reduction of 15% of the possible estimated total annual energy requirement, (to be calculated by means of CO₂ emissions, for each dwelling)

- Over 10 dwellings and non-dwellings with total floorspace of more than 1000m² - a reduction of 25% of the possible estimated total annual energy requirement, (to be calculated by means of CO₂ emissions)

**Option G**

Require Level 6 of the Government’s nationally recognised Code for Sustainable Homes which is for Carbon Neutral Developments and BREEAM standards of ‘excellent’ for all
new developments, including schools, industrial units, retail developments, hospitals and homes.

**Flood Risk Options**

6.16 Because the District Council is working towards publishing a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment early next year, up to date information on potential flood risk is not available.

6.17 The issue of ‘flood risk’ is becoming increasingly important, as changes in the pattern of rainfall is putting pressure on existing flood risk management systems. It is essential through the preparation of the Core Strategy that measures are taken to help manage and reduce the occurrence of flooding and ensure that new developments do not pose an unacceptable risk of flooding elsewhere in settlements.

6.18 New planning guidance has responded to climate change by giving stronger emphasis to managing flood risk and directing development to locations that are least likely to flood.

6.19 The Environment Agency have produced Flood Zone maps for the District, which show areas that could be affected by flooding without the presence of defences. The Flood Zone Maps give an indication of the possibility of flood risk, with areas categorised into three zones:

- Zone 1 Little or no risk of flooding
- Zone 2 Low to medium risk of flooding
- Zone 3 High risk of flooding

6.20 Flood Zones 2 and 3 indicate the extent of a 0.1 percent (1 in 1000 year) and 1 percent (1 in 100 year) chance of flooding in areas respectively. These can be used to apply a sequential test for development proposals and prevent inappropriate development in areas that are at risk from flooding. (See Map2 above of the location of the zones within the Core Strategy Area).

6.21 Topic Paper 1 Development Strategy set out four possible options for the broad future location of development within the Core Strategy Area. It acknowledged that the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment will provide general guidance to planning officers, developers and other interested people about areas where flood risk is an issue. It also provides guidance on how to identify which areas and sites lie within areas of risk. Draft options have not been presented in this Topic Paper until the publication of the SFRA. To help stimulate discussion and guide the possible options available on flood risk the following questions are asked:

- What options are available to avoid /reduce the risk of flooding
- What solutions are available for flood management
- Where should development be located to offer the greatest protection from impacts of flooding
- What options are available in considering higher standards of design and sustainable construction to help reduce the effect of higher precipitation and storminess on the occupants of development and adjoining areas
Appendix 1: Administration Boundaries

Map Parishes within the Core Strategy Area
Map Wards within the Core Strategy Area
Appendix 2 : Population

The population of the plan area was 48,698 in 2001. The highest populated wards are Matlock All Saints (5237), Ashbourne North (3608), Ashbourne South (4034), Wirksworth (5668) and Darley Dale (5169). The lowest populated ward were Brailsford (1540), Norbury (1612) and Dovedale and Parwich (1741). These wards are characterised by small scattered villages.

Population Density

In 2001, there were on average 3 people per hectare living in the plan area. The least densely populated wards within Derbyshire Dales are characteristically those wards within rural area with the most densely populated wards being within the urban areas of Ashbourne South and Matlock All Saints.

In 2001, the most populated ward in the plan area was Ashbourne South with 16 people per hectare which was followed by Matlock All Saints with 7 people per hectare. The other most populated wards were Darley Dale, Ashbourne North, Matlock St Giles and Wirksworth.
Population Age Summary

In 2001, the age group 0-15 years accounted for 18% of the plan areas total population (9,051 people). Ashbourne South had the highest percentage number of 0-15 year olds. This age group accounted for 22% of the wards population. Doveridge and Sudbury had the lowest with number with 14% of the wards population being 0-15 years.

In 2001, only 4,021 people were within the age group 16-24. This accounted for 8% of the plan areas population. In general, each ward is relatively consistent in its proportion of 16-24 years old. Matlock All Saints wards has the largest proportion of 16-24 years old in the plan area.

There were 26,933 people aged 25-64 in the plan area in 2001. All of the wards had over 50% of their population within this age bracket with the exception of Doveridge and Sudbury which 62%. This can be attributed to the presence of Sudbury open prison. Carsington Water ward and Masson ward were the second highest with 58% and Ashbourne South was the lowest with 52%.

In 2001, 8,694 people (18%) in the plan area were aged 65 and over, accounting for 18% of the population. Asbourne North had the highest percent with 23% followed by Darley Dale (21%) and Matlock St Giles (20%). The wards with the lowest proportion of 65s and over were Doveridge and Sudbury (15%) and Dovedale and Parwich (16%).
### Population Profiles by Ward and Principle Settlements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Asbourne South / Ashbourne North</td>
<td>Ashbourne / Offcote and Underwood</td>
<td>6300</td>
<td>7664</td>
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<td>212</td>
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<td>1007</td>
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<td>116</td>
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<td>187</td>
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<td>Yeadersley</td>
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<td>Total</td>
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<td>47713</td>
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* Of the total population 530 reside in HM Prison Sudbury
Topic Paper 6: Environment: Natural and Historic Environment

Core Strategy

Issues and Options

Key Stakeholder Consultation
30 October 2007
Purpose

Work has commenced on the District Council’s Core Strategy, a key document in the Local Development Framework (LDF), that when adopted will provide the central policies for delivering the District Council’s spatial vision and objectives. It will guide the broad patterns of development over the next twenty years which will be based on a thorough understanding of the District’s local identity and distinctiveness. The District Council’s Core Strategy will only cover that part of the Derbyshire Dales outside the Peak District National Park.

The new planning system requires the District Council to think in strategic terms and reflect a spatial planning approach when developing the Core Strategy. Planning Policy Statement 12 (Local Development Frameworks) says:

“Spatial Planning goes beyond traditional land use planning to bring together and integrate policies for the development and use of land with other policies and programmes which influence the nature of places and how they function”

The District is required to go beyond the methods of traditional landuse planning and move towards spatial planning which moves the focus on regulation and control of land, to a wider more far ranging approach that aims to ensure the best use of land is delivered through a vision and overarching strategy for the District. At the heart of the Core Strategy will be the concept of sustainable development and sustainable communities. These have to be translated into a framework that will guide decisions on the:

- scale and distribution of growth and regeneration; and
- strategic policy and targets for housing, employment and retailing

This is reflected in PPS1: Delivering Sustainable Development which says:

“Planning shapes the places where people live and work and the country we live in. It plays a key role in supporting the Government’s wider social, environmental and economic objectives and for sustainable communities”

The new planning system is challenging because the process involves:

- Early engagement with key stakeholders and the community before any key decisions are made;
- Bringing out issues and options;
- Sharing information;
- Gathering evidence;
- Carrying out a thorough self assessment; and
- Being prepared to take difficult decisions

This is the first of a series of discussion papers that will be prepared by the District Council to help stimulate debate and discussion about the future direction of the District Council’s planning policies. This will provide valuable information in addressing the important strategic issues and developing the Core Strategy’s vision and strategy.
The Core Strategy must be prepared in a way that allows early involvement with the community.

This consultation will help the District Council seek stakeholder aspirations where the workshops will provide an opportunity to discuss the evidence about the approach taken so far and to help us “fine tune” an Issues and Option” document which will be subject to wider public consultation in September 2008.

In establishing our evidence base we need to include an assessment of:

- How the District works in spatial terms and how it deals with places and their relationships with each other;
- The main issues, problems and opportunities;
- Local distinctiveness of the area that addresses local issues;
- The changes that are likely to affect the area over at least the next 10 years or more.
- All the relevant national and regional policies and proposals that have a bearing on the use of space within the District.

The structure of this paper is threefold:

- Identify key messages from national and regional policy;
- Present baseline information of the characteristics of the District to help inform where development might be suitable over the next 20 years; and
- Outline some of the issues and options for future patterns of development.

The following questions have been asked about the approach taken and on the interpretation of the evidence presented:

- Do you think the correct issues have been identified?
- Are there any significant omissions?
- Are there any omissions in the key statistics?
- Do you agree with the objectives of policy which are being suggested?
1 Introduction : The new planning system

1.1 In September 2004 the Government introduced new legislation, which changed the way in which local Councils plan for the future development needs of their communities. The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act replaced the old system of local plans and structure plans with a system of ‘Local Development Frameworks’ (LDF). The new system sees local planning policy split across a number of different documents, which can be created, reviewed and replaced to different timescales, in order to speed up the planning system and allow greater flexibility. Therefore, instead of reviewing the Derbyshire Dales Local Plan that was adopted in November 2005, the District Council is now preparing the documents that will make up Derbyshire Dales LDF.

Derbyshire Dales LDF consists of the following documents:

- **Local Development Scheme (LDS)** is a timetable, which sets out when the District Council will produce each document of the LDF (last reviewed 15 June 2007).

- **Statement of Community Involvement (SCI)** sets out how people will be consulted in the production of the documents that make up the LDF and on planning applications (Adopted February 2007).

- **Core Strategy** (this Document) is the overarching policy document that sets the broad policy framework for all the other documents in the LDF.

- **Affordable Housing Development Plan Document** This document will provide policies for the delivery of affordable housing and will draw on the recently published Housing Needs Survey and Housing Market Assessment.

- **Matlock Master Plan Area Action Plan** will set out policies for the regeneration of Matlock town centre

- **Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD)** The District Council has adopted SPDs on Shopfront Design Guidance, Farm Buildings Design Guidance, Affordable Housing with adoption of a Landscape Character and Design Guidance anticipated this September.

- **Housing and Employment Allocations Development Plan Document** will develop site specific locations for employment and housing and will take into account evidence from the employment land review (to be completed by December 2007), Housing Market Assessment and Housing Land Availability Assessment.
LDF Preparation

1.2 As set out in the District Council’s latest Local Development Scheme (June 2007) the production of the Core Strategy will be prepared to the following timetable:

1) Start of Preparation Process October 2006
2) Start of Issues and Options Consultation September 2008
3) Start of Public Participation on Preferred Options October 2008
4) Submission to Secretary of State September 2009
5) Pre Examination Meeting November 2009
6) Examination May 2010
7) Receipt of Inspector’s Report May 2010
8) Adoption July 2010

The Core Strategy

1.3 The Core Strategy is the key document in the LDF which sets the strategic context for other development plan documents to conform with. The Core Strategy will contain the strategic policies that will guide the sustainable development of the Derbyshire Dales for at least 10 years from when it was adopted and will be integrated with other strategies to provide an effective basis for achieving change.

The Core Strategy should comprise of:

- A vision and objectives
  A vision should be a clear and concise statement of intentions for the future of the area. These should be supported by clear objectives to help realise the vision. The vision should be developed through public involvement and should capture the characteristics of the place, to distinguish it from other places and reflect specific local elements.

- A spatial strategy
  This will bring together the vision, objectives and policy into a coherent whole that provides a strategy for the area and individual locations. The strategy should relate to the geography of the area and be founded on its physical and demographic characteristics, internal and external links, and relationships with neighbouring areas.

- Core policies
  The Core Strategy should contain clear concise policies for delivering the spatial strategy. It should set out broad locations for delivering the housing and other strategic needs such as employment, retail, leisure, community, essential public services and transport development. The core policies should be integrated, coherent and based on a clear understanding of the economic, social and environmental needs and opportunities of the area, and any constraints on meeting those needs.

- A monitoring and implementation framework to ensure delivery of these policies to ensure delivery of these policies.
2 Messages from National, Regional and Local Policies and Strategies

2.1 This topic paper is organised under four components of the environment: built heritage; natural heritage, air and water (See also Climate Change Topic Paper 5 for issues relating to the water environment). The quality of our lives is determined, in a large part by the condition of our surrounding environment. Enhancing and protecting the District’s natural and built heritage is important, as well as bringing both social and economic benefits to communities.

2.2 **Biodiversity and landscape** are two key elements of our natural heritage that need to be protected and enhanced. The District benefits from a rich biodiversity and extensive areas of wildlife habitats. The Derbyshire Dales contain some of the most spectacular landscape and sensitive sites for nature conservation in Derbyshire and the quality of the natural environment in the District makes it an attractive place to live, work and visit and its protection and enhancement can go a long way to achieving sustainable development.

2.3 The **built heritage** component recognises the fact that there is a wealth of historical and cultural assets that contribute to the distinctive urban and rural character and provides an irreplaceable insight into the history of the District. The quality of the historic fabric of the District is one of the reasons that contributes to making the District an attractive place, where people want to come and visit.

2.4 **Good air quality** is important in terms of health, biodiversity and overall quality of life. Although the Derbyshire Dales has no significant air quality problems, policies are still required which seek to improve air quality.

2.5 **Water** is a precious natural resource and the protection of water resources from potentially harmful effects of new development is a key part of ensuring sustainable development. Watercourses and wetlands can easily be damaged by development that can, for example alter drainage patterns, lower the water table or cause pollution.

2.6 National and regional planning policy expects development and growth in the District to preserve and enhance a variety of environmental and historic assets and to protect the carrying capacity and qualities of both the local and global environment. This is about enabling the District’s places to be passed on to future generations in a state which they too can enjoy and benefit from.

2.7 The District Council is required to take account of the principles and characteristics of other relevant strategies when preparing the Core Strategy. It must be consistent with national policy and conform generally with the Emerging East Midlands Regional Plan. National and regional issues set the context for the Core Strategy, but it should also take into account local circumstances as revealed by community involvement and evidence gathering. The District Council will need to consult closely with the bodies responsible for those strategies to ensure effective integration.

2.8 PPS12 (Local Development Frameworks) requires the Core Strategy to draw on any other strategies of the local authority and other organisations that have
implications for the development and use of land in the area. Where appropriate
the Core Strategy should become the implementation mechanism for aspects of
these other strategies.

2.9 Figure 1 below lists the main documents that the District Council consider should be
taken into account when considering future patterns of development.

**Figure 1 Strategy and Policy Documents**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>National</th>
<th>Regional</th>
<th>Sub Regional</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Securing the Future Government Sustainable Development Strategy</td>
<td>The Draft East Midlands Regional Plan</td>
<td>Derby and Derbyshire Joint Structure Plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Planning Policy Statement 7 Sustainable Development in Rural Areas</td>
<td>Putting Wildlife Back on the Map – A Biodiversity Strategy for the East Midlands</td>
<td>Derbyshire Dales and High Peak Community Strategy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Planning Policy Statement 9 Biodiversity and Geographical Conservation</td>
<td>Forestry Authority Space4Trees</td>
<td>Derbyshire Landscape Character Assessment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Planning Policy Guidance 15 Planning and the Historic Environment</td>
<td>Woodland Trust Space for Nature</td>
<td>CPRE Tranquil Area Policy Statement and Map</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Planning Policy Guidance 16 Planning and Archaeology</td>
<td>Woodland Trust Space for People</td>
<td>Lowland Derbyshire and the Peak District Biodiversity Action Plans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Planning Policy Guidance 17 Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation</td>
<td>East Midlands Assembly Regional Strategic River Corridors</td>
<td>Derbyshire Dales District Council Corporate Plan (2007)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Planning Policy Guidance 19 Outdoor Advertisement Control</td>
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<td>Derbyshire Local Transport Plan (2006-2011)</td>
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<td>Planning Policy Statement 22 Renewable Energy</td>
<td>Derbyshire Dales Supplementary Planning Document : Landscape Character and Assessment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Planning Policy Statement 23 Planning and Pollution Control</td>
<td>Derbyshire Dales Supplementary Planning Document : Shopfront Design Guidance</td>
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2.10 The key issues/messages that emerge from these documents is presented below:
Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (2005) *Securing the Future*

2.11 The UK Government’s revised Sustainable Development Strategy “*Securing the Future: Delivering UK Sustainable Development Strategy*” was published in March 2005. It is based on five “Guiding Principles” and four “Shared Priorities for UK Action”: In the 2005 version of its sustainable development strategy, the Government states that:

‘The goal of sustainable development is to enable all people throughout the world to satisfy their basic needs and enjoy a better quality of life, without compromising the quality of life of future generations’.

2.12 The Strategy presents 5 guiding principles that will form the basis for future policy in the UK. For a policy to be sustainable it must respect all five of these principles. Where a policy places more emphasis on certain principles then any trade-off must be made in an explicit and transparent way.

Guiding Principles:

- Living within Environmental Limits
- Ensuring a Strong, Healthy and Just Society
- Achieving a Sustainable Economy
- Promoting Good Governance
- Using Sound Science Responsibly

The Government identifies the priority areas for immediate action as:

- Sustainable Consumption and Production
- Climate Change and Energy
- Natural Resource Protection and Environmental Enhancement
- Sustainable Communities

*Natural Resources Protection and Enhancing the Environment*

2.13 The protection and enhancement of the environment is vital to achieving sustainable development and ensuring a better quality of life for everyone. The key messages from the Strategy include:

- better understanding of environmental limits – understanding the level at which the environment is unable to accommodate a particular activity or rate activities without sustaining unacceptable or irreversible change.
- the need for environmental enhancement for everyone
- Precautionary principle approach
- Integrated approach to policy development

2.14 The Government's Rural Strategy 2004 was launched on 21 July 2004. In it, the Government set out three key priorities:

- social and economic regeneration—supporting enterprise across rural England, but targeting greater resources at areas of greatest need;
- social justice for all—tackling social exclusion wherever it occurs and providing fair access to services and opportunities for all rural people;
- enhancing the value of the countryside—protecting the natural environment for this and future generations.

2.15 The Government's Rural Strategy acknowledges that successful delivery of sustainable development requires effective protection of the environment and prudent use of natural resources. It goes on to state

"Rural areas are particularly important for landscapes, biodiversity and recreation, and the countryside around our towns and cities has an important part to play in enhancing urban and rural quality of life”

Department for Communities and Local Government (2005) *Planning Policy Statement 1 Delivering Sustainable Development*

2.16 Planning Policy Statement 1 (PPS1) – *Delivering Sustainable Development* sets out sustainable development as the core principle underlying planning. Based on the 1999 Sustainable Development Strategy, the four aims for sustainable development were identified as:

- Social progress which recognises the needs of everyone;
- Effective protection of the environment;
- The prudent use of natural resources; and
- The maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment.

2.17 Whilst the 2005 UK strategy has moved forward from those 4 aims the spatial vision and strategic objectives of Core Strategy should take into account the principles and objectives from the UK strategy and PPS1, seeking to provide a local interpretation of sustainable development that is specific to the circumstances of Derbyshire Dales.

2.18 PPS1 also sets out the aim of getting the right development, in the right place at the right time. Integrated sustainable development is a core principle underpinning these objectives and with planning facilitating and promoting sustainable and inclusive patterns of development by:

- Making suitable land available for development in line with economic, social and environmental objectives to improve peoples quality of life
- Contributing to sustainable economic development
- Protecting and enhancing the natural and historic environment, the quality and character of the countryside, and existing communities;
- Ensuring high quality development through good and inclusive design, and the efficient use of resources; and
- Ensuring the development supports existing communities and contributes to safe, sustainable, liveable and mixed communities with good access to jobs and key services for all members of the community.

Department for Communities and Local Government (2004), *PPS7 Sustainable Development in Rural Areas*

2.19 PPS7 provides the current policy context for planning for rural areas, including country towns and villages and the wider, largely undeveloped countryside up to the fringes of larger urban areas. It therefore applies to the whole of Derbyshire Dales District which sets out the Government's objectives to maintain or enhance the character of the countryside and conserve its natural resources including safeguarding the distinctiveness of its landscape, its beauty, the diversity of its wildlife, the quality of rural towns and villages, its historic and archaeological interest and best agricultural land. It recommends the use of the Landscape Character approach to identifying the unique characteristics of different areas of countryside.

2.20 Paragraphs 21-23: **Nationally designated** areas have the highest status of protection in relation to landscape and scenic beauty and their conservation should be given great weight. As well as reflecting this priority, policies should allow suitable development to support the local area and community but major developments should not take place in these designated areas except in exceptional circumstances.

2.21 Paragraphs 24 and 25: **Locally valued landscapes** can be protected with criteria based policies, using tools such as landscape character assessment. The aim is to provide protection for these areas without rigid designations that may restrict acceptable, sustainable development that can contribute to the vitality of rural areas. Local landscape designations should only be maintained where criteria based policies cannot provide the necessary protection and strong justification would need to be made for their retention.

2.22 Paragraph 1: New building in the **open countryside** away from existing settlements should be strictly controlled. The Government’s overall aim is to protect the countryside for the sake of its intrinsic character and beauty, the diversity of its landscapes, heritage and wildlife, the wealth of its natural resources and so it may be enjoyed by all.

2.23 Paragraphs 14 and 15: policies should provide a positive framework for facilitating sustainable development that supports traditional activities and leisure and recreation activities that require a countryside location. Planning authorities should continue to ensure that the quality and character of the wider countryside is protected and, where possible, enhanced.

2.24 Planning policies should support development proposals that enable farming to become more competitive, sustainable and environmentally friendly. The presence of best and most versatile agricultural land (defined as grades 1, 2 and 3a) should be taken into account alongside other sustainability considerations and it is for local authorities to decide whether it can be developed, having carefully weighed the options in light of competent advice. Where significant development of agricultural
land is unavoidable, poorer grade land (3b, 4 and 5) should be used in preference to that of higher quality except where it would be inconsistent with other sustainable considerations. Little weight should be given to the loss of grade 3b, 4 and 5 agricultural land.


2.25 The aim of PPS 9 is to:

- ensure policies and decisions integrate biodiversity and geological diversity with other considerations;
- to conserve, enhance and restore natural habitats, ecosystems and species; and contribute towards rural renewal & urban renaissance.

2.26 The requirement for local planning authorities is to take an integrated approach to biodiversity through LDFs, to ensure that all documents are consistent with all levels of priorities and designations. Current designated sites need to be clearly identified and any new sites of nature conservation importance should be identified.

2.27 Important examples of biodiversity outside of designated sites, particularly in unexpected areas such as previously developed land, should not be overlooked but should be valued.

2.28 The hierarchy of designated sites within the UK is also discussed within the PPS. As international sites enjoy statutory protection, specific policies at a local level are not needed to protect these areas (Ramsar sites, SPAs and SACs). SSSIs should be given a high degree of protection under the planning system and where a development is likely to have an adverse effect on such a site, planning permission should not normally be granted. Exceptions should only be made where the benefits of the proposed development outweigh any impact on the SSSI. Mitigation measures against the harmful aspects of the development should be pursued where possible.

2.29 Defra (01/2005) circular ‘Biodiversity and Geological Conservation – Statutory obligations and their impact within the planning system’. The circular provides a comprehensive interpretation of the legal duties of biodiversity and geological conservation applied through the planning process and a good practice guide for planners is also due to be released at the end of 2005 to assist in incorporating PPS9 into policy and help authorities meet legal requirements.

Department for Local Government and Communities (1994) Planning Policy Guidance 15 Planning and the Historic Environment

2.30 Both PPG15 and PPG16 (see below) make it clear that the historic fabric represents a finite resource and is an irreplaceable asset. Both advise that care must be taken to ensure that it is not destroyed.

2.31 Advice in PPG15 is that local planning authorities should set out clearly their policies for the protection, preservation and enhancement of the historic environment and the factors that will be taken into account in assessing different types of planning application.
2.32 PG15 advocates a general presumption in favour of the preservation of listed buildings except where a convincing case can be made for the alteration or demolition. It advises that local planning authorities should

“have special regard to the desirability of preserving the building or its setting or any features of special architectural or historic interest which it possesses.”

2.23 PPG15 advises that local planning authorities have a duty to formulate and publish proposals for the preservation and enhancement of conservation areas. It also advises that they have a duty to review their area from time to time to consider whether further designation of conservation area is required. Designation of a Conservation Area introduces a general control over the demolition of unlisted buildings and provides the basis for policies designed to preserve or enhance all aspects of the character and appearance that define their special interest.

2.24 PPG15 provides a full statement of Government policies for the identification and protection of historic buildings, conservation areas, and other elements of the historic environment. It explains the role played by the planning system in their protection. The Guidance recognises that the

“physical survivals of our past are to be valued and protected for their own sake, as a central part of our cultural heritage and our sense of national identity…..their presence adds to the quality of our lives, by enhancing the familiar and cherished local scene and sustaining the sense of local distinctiveness which is so important an aspect of the character and appearance of our towns, villages and countryside. The historic environment is also of immense importance for leisure and recreation.”

Department for Local Government and Communities Planning Policy Guidance 16 (1990) Planning and Archaeology

2.25 PPG16 sets out the Government’s policy on archaeological remains on land, and how they should be preserved or recorded both in an urban setting and in the countryside.

2.26 It advises that there should be a presumption in favour of physical preservation of nationally important archaeological remains and their settings, whether scheduled or not. The advice in relation to remains of lesser importance is that local planning authorities will need to carefully balance the importance of the archaeology against the need for the proposed development. Preference is given to the retention of remains in situ, over excavation.

2.27 PPG16 advises that where the destruction of remains is not justified, and that development would result in destruction, it is entirely reasonable for the planning authority to satisfy itself before granting planning permission that provision for the recording and excavating the remains has been made.

2.28 It also contains details of the arrangements that should be made for Scheduled Ancient Monuments.
2.29 Revised PPG 17 sets out a framework for Local Authorities to undertake robust open space audits and needs assessments to identify the amount of open space that should be protected and whether there is a need for additional or improvements to open space. PPG17 states that open spaces, sport and recreation all underpin people’s quality of life. Well-designed and implemented planning policies for open space are considered fundamental to delivering broader Government objectives. These include:

- Supporting an urban renaissance – local networks of high quality and well managed open spaces, sports and recreational facilities help create urban environments that are attractive, clean and safe. Green spaces in urban areas perform vital functions as areas for nature conservation and biodiversity and by acting as ‘green lungs’ can assist in meeting objectives to improve air quality.
- Supporting a rural renewal - the countryside can provide opportunities for recreation and visitors can play an important role in the regeneration of the economies of rural areas. Open spaces within rural settlements and accessibility to local sports and recreational facilities contribute to the quality of life and well being of people who live in rural areas.
- Promotion of social inclusion and community cohesion - well planned and maintained open spaces and good quality sports and recreational facilities can play a major part in improving people’s sense of well being in the place they live. As a focal point for community activities, they can bring together members of deprived communities and provide opportunities for people for social interaction.
- Health and well being - open spaces, sport and recreational facilities have a vital role to play in promoting healthy living and preventing illness, and in the social development of children of all ages through play, sporting activities and interaction with others.
- Promoting more sustainable development - by ensuring that open space, sport and recreational facilities (particularly in urban areas) are easily accessible by walking, cycling and that more heavily used or intensive sports and recreational facilities are planned for locations well served by public transport.

Department for Local Government and Communities (1992) Planning Policy Guidance 19 Outdoor Advertisement Control

2.30 PPG19 explains that the main purpose of the advertisement control system is to help those involved in outdoor advertising to contribute positively to the appearance of an attractive environment. The advice covers pre-application discussions, deemed consent, exemptions from detailed control and temporary as well as permanent advertisements. The role of guidance on design is explained as are criteria for dealing with advertisement applications. It states that special care is essential to ensure that any advertisement displayed on, or close to, a listed building or scheduled monument does not detract from the integrity of the building’s design, historical character or structure, and does not spoil or compromise its setting. It also allows for stricter controls to be applied in areas with a degree of special protection on grounds of amenity. These are called Areas of Special Control.

2.31 PPS22 sets out the Government's planning policies for renewable energy, which planning authorities should have regard to when preparing Local Development Documents and when making planning decisions. Planning should only be granted where it can be demonstrated that the objectives of designation of the area will not be compromised by the development, and any significant adverse effects on the qualities for which the area has been designated are clearly outweighed by the environmental, social and economic benefits.

Department for Local Government and Communities (2004) Planning Policy Statement 23 Planning and Pollution Control

2.32 This advises that the consideration of the quality of land, air or water and potential impacts arising from development are material planning consideration. The planning system plays a key role in determining the location of development which may give rise to pollution, either directly or indirectly and in ensuring that other uses are not affected by existing or potential sources of pollution. It can also attach mitigation measures to allow developments to proceed or prevent harmful development that cannot be made acceptable. However, planning should focus on whether the development itself is an acceptable use of the land, and the impacts of the use, rather than controlling the process or any emission as these will be covered by the relevant pollution control regime.


2.33 This guide has been published to promote higher standards in urban design and provide sound, practical advice to help implement the Government’s commitment to good design. The guidance illustrates the basic principles that are common to good design, and how these might be applied. It encourages those who influence and shape development decisions to think more deeply and sensitively about the living environments being created. The guide is relevant to all aspects of the built environment, including the design of buildings and spaces, landscapes and transport systems.


2.34 The UK Government published its strategic framework for air quality management in 1995 establishing national strategies and policies on air quality, which culminated in the Environment Act 1995. As a requirement of the Act, the Secretary of State has published a National Air Quality Strategy that provides a framework for air quality management. The Expert Panel on Air Quality Standards (EPAQS) has proposed national air quality standards for the UK Government and these standards and their objectives have been enacted through Air Quality Regulations. The Environment Act requires local authorities to undertake an air quality review for seven key contaminants, and in areas where air quality objectives are not expected to be met local authorities are required to establish Air Quality Management Areas.
Regional

East Midlands Regional Assembly, East Midlands Regional Plan (Draft Regional Spatial Strategy)

2.35 There is a requirement for the Core Strategy to conform with the relevant Regional Spatial strategy, which for Derbyshire Dales is the emerging East Midlands Plan.

2.36 For the purposes of informing the current preparation of the Core Strategy DPD, the District Council is relying on The East Midlands Plan which was published in 2005, and is formally a draft ‘Regional Spatial Strategy’ (RSS) which, once finalised, will provide the statutory strategic framework for the preparation of the Council’s LDDs. This document sets out the strategic approach for guiding the broad future level and distribution of growth in the District

2.37 The Draft Plan sets out that the protection and enhancement of the environment is vital to achieving sustainable development and ensuring a better quality of life for everyone. It includes policies that seek to achieve this for all aspects of the built and natural environment including biodiversity, woodlands, landscape character, the historic environment, water and flooding, and culture sport and recreation. It also sets targets for biodiversity, waste reduction and renewable energy.

2.38 The Regional Plan sets out 10 Core Objectives which are intended to translate into the broader policy context to help deliver sustainable development. In particular and amongst other relevant objectives include:

To protect and enhance the environmental quality of urban and rural settlement to make them safe and attractive places through the promotion of green infrastructure and promotion of high quality design design which reflects local distinctiveness.

To protect and enhance the environment through the:
- protection, enhancement, sensitive use and management of the Region’s natural and historic assets;
- avoidance of significant harm and securing adequate mitigation or compensation for any unavoidable damage; and
- recognition of the limits to the capacity of the environment to accept further development without irreversible damage.

To achieve a ‘step change’ increase in the level of the Region’s biodiversity through:
- the management and extension of habitats to secure net gains in biodiversity; and
- ensuring that no net loss of priority habitats or species is allowed to occur.

2.39 The Draft Regional Plan contains four policies on the natural and built environment.

- Policy 26 (Protecting and Enhancing the Region’s Natural and Cultural Heritage) is about The protection and enhancement of the Region’s environment is vital to achieving sustainable development and ensuring a better quality of life for everyone. The East Midlands has only a ‘finite environmental capacity’ to accommodate increased development before irreversible damage results in serious degradation. In particular the policy puts forward a number of principles to protect internationally and nationally designated natural and historic assets and that damage should be avoided. Damage to other natural and historic assets or their settings should be
avoided wherever and as far as possible, recognising that such assets are usually Irreplaceable.

- **Policy 27** (Regional Priorities for Environmental and Green Infrastructure) requires Local Authorities to quantify and manage the capacity of Environmental and Green Infrastructure in order to help deliver sustainable development and sustainable communities.

- **Policy 28** (Priorities for Enhancing the Region’s Biodiversity) seeks to increase the level of biodiversity within the region through biodiversity conservation and enhancement areas and through the Biodiversity Action Plan. The policy also requires the protection and enhancement of important natural wildlife corridors.

- **Policy 29** (Regional Priorities for Managing and Increasing Woodland Cover) aims to increase woodland cover to help secure social, environmental and economic benefits. It goes on to state that “*Ancient semi-natural woodlands, veteran trees and other woodlands of acknowledged national and regional importance should be protected by Local Development Frameworks*”.

- **Policy 30** (Priorities for the Management and Enhancement of the Region’s Landscape) requires Local Authorities through their Local Development Frameworks to develop criteria based policies to ensure that development proposals respect intrinsic landscape character in rural and urban fringe areas and that landscape and biodiversity protection and enhancement objectives through the integration of Landscape Character Assessments with historic and ecological assessments.

- **Policy 31** Regional Priorities for the Historic Environment acknowledges the East Midlands has a rich and diverse historic environment which is undervalued and increasingly under threat and recognises their importance to the region. The Policy aims to conserve and enhance the historic environment, in recognition of its own intrinsic value and sets out that development should promote sensitive change of the historic environment.

- **Policy 33** acknowledges that river environments are a very important resource and wildlife habitat for the region and offer the best opportunities to restore and enhance lost habitats and wetland landscapes and can provide a focus for the delivery of Green Infrastructure. It also recognises the River Derwent as a Strategic River Corridor and it natural and cultural attributes should be protected and enhanced. There is significant potential to promote its enhancement to link in with Biodiversity Action Plan habitats.

**East Midlands Regional Assembly (2005), Integrated Regional Strategy – Our Sustainable Framework**

2.40 The East Midlands Regional Assembly’s Integrated Regional Strategy (IRS) is the Sustainable Development Framework for the region and will move towards sustainable development. The Integrated Regional Strategy (IRS) seeks to integrate economic, environmental, social and spatial objectives in plan making and decision making. It sets out the following:
To protect, enhance and manage the rich diversity of the natural, cultural and built environmental and archaeological assets of the region;
To enhance and conserve the environmental quality of the region by increasing the environmental infrastructure;
To manage prudently the natural resources of the region including water, air quality, soil and minerals;
To minimise energy usage and to develop the region’s renewable energy resource, reducing dependency on non-renewable resources
To involve people, through changes to lifestyle and at work, in preventing and minimising adverse local, regional and global environmental impacts

**East Midlands Regional Assembly (2002), *East Midlands Regional Environment Strategy***

2.41 The East Midlands Regional Environment Strategy forms a major component of the East Midlands Integrated Regional Strategy (IRS), which is the Sustainable Development Framework. This strategy covers the environment theme and considers the impact on the environment and is accompanied by action plans. It summarises the key environmental challenges facing the region and sets policies to tackle them.

- To manage the historic environment so that the resource is conserved for the benefit of present and future generations
- To conserve and manage our natural heritage of geology, geomorphological landforms and processes so that the best is protected during development affecting it
- To value the soil as a resource and protect the most important and vulnerable types
- To protect and appropriately manage all ancient and semi-natural woodland and increase the extent of multi-purpose forests and woods that deliver environmental, as well as social and economic benefits
- To continue to protect and improve the quality of the region’s natural water resources for all uses
- To protect rivers and their floodplains as a natural resource and to increase floodplain capacity wherever possible
- To conserve and dramatically enhance biodiversity according to regional BAP priorities
- To enhance the character and quality of the region’s landscape by protecting the best and improving the rest


2.42 The Biodiversity strategy has been prepared as a key component of the East Midlands Regional Environment Strategy and Integrated Strategies to provide a strategic framework for the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity in the region.

2.43 The aim of this strategy is to promote the creation of the policy, strategic and communications framework within which conservation and enhancement of biodiversity can be best achieved. It helps to do this by:
- Identifying the strategic framework needed for conservation and enhancement of biodiversity to be achieved at a local level, through local biodiversity action plans (BAPs)
- Informing other regional strategies and sectors of the role and relevance of biodiversity in delivering their objectives
- Identifying key delivery partners, the envisages for them and the support available to them
- The strategy set out how the region can contribute to strong international, national and regional policies and obligations in ways that build on and contribute to the character, attractiveness and economic strength of the region.

2.44 The Strategy amongst other items sets out regional objectives for:

- Agriculture
- Water and Wetlands
- Forestry and Woodlands
- The Coast and Sea
- Sustainable Communities and Green Infrastructure

**Forestry Authority, (2005) Space4trees**

2.45 The regional office of the Forestry Commission has prepared a Regional Forestry Framework for the East Midlands entitled “space4trees”. The purpose of the document is to engender a shared recognition of how and why trees matter. It focuses attention and action across the region in order to:

- Achieve the most benefit from its trees and woodlands
- Ensure investment in a healthy, sustainable woodland heritage.

2.46 The framework adopts an integrated approach highlighting the wide range of social, economic and environmental benefits of trees and woodlands and will form part of the Regional Environment Strategy and Integrated Regional Strategy as well as being a component of the England Forestry Strategy.

2.47 As well as reviewing the trees and woodland resource it examines the main issues and sets key objectives and example actions in the following areas:

- Trees and our quality of life
- Trees and the environment
- Trees and the economy
- Making the connections – a spatial approach
- Delivering, monitoring and review.

**Woodland Trust, Space for Nature**

2.48 The mission of the Woodland Trust is to conserve, restore and establish woodland in the U.K. “Space for Nature” is the Trust’s thoughts on the development of landscape-scale action for woodland biodiversity. The study takes an holistic approach recognising that woodland reserves need to be part of ecologically functional landscapes that are not only sympathetic to wildlife but also contribute towards the needs of society and add to the quality of life.
2.49 Targets for increasing woodland biodiversity are based on the following principles:

- The need for habitat creation to buffer and extend semi-natural habitats in order to increase their core area and thus their ecological resilience
- That woodland biodiversity has greatest potential to be put on a more sustainable footing in areas where there is a high concentration of ancient woodland.
- Major and local concentrations of ancient woodland are identified and targets established with reference to key features and woodland ownership with goals set to achieve a vision of 30% semi-natural woodland cover and a further 30% semi-natural cover in the areas concerned.

2.50 Local concentrations of ancient woodland exist within Darley Dale/ Matlock, with smaller areas of ancient semi-natural woodland and planted ancient woodland sites thinly distributed across the Derbyshire Dales District.

Woodland Trust, *Space for People*

2.51 The Woodland Trust’s analysis of access to woodland in the U.K. is entitled “Space for People – Targeting action for woodland access”. Developing accessible woodland near to where people live will bring to society many of the quality of life enhancing benefits that woodland offers, including:

- Improvement of health
- Landscape enhancement
- Filtration of pollution
- Soil stabilisation
- Flood alleviation

2.52 The study which will inform the emerging Regional Forestry Framework includes:

- An inventory of accessible woodland across the U.K.
- The development of a woodland access standard based on surveys of public use and attitudes to woodland
- Targets for opening up existing woodland for public access and creating new woods.

East Midlands Regional Assembly, *Regional Strategic River Corridors*

2.53 The Regional Strategic River Corridors aim is to promote an integrated spatial development strategy for the management and enhancement of the natural, cultural and historic environment of river corridors.

2.54 East Midlands Draft Revised Regional Planning Guidance Policy 34 requires that local authority and other agencies’ development plans and strategies should seek to encompass this aim. It also states that such bodies should work in a co-ordinated manner with adjacent local authorities and agencies and with other regions to maintain and enhance the multi-functional importance of strategic river corridors for wildlife, landscape and townscape, regeneration and economic diversification, education, recreation and managing flood risk.
2.55 The objectives of Strategic River Corridors can be summarised as

- To raise awareness of the benefits river corridors can bring to the general health and quality of life for people.
- To restore or maintain river wetland environments
- To protect flora and fauna that rely on seasonal aquatic habitats and to create new habitats
- To protect and enhance the historic environment of the river corridors, including historic buildings and structures, landscapes and archaeological deposits
- To conserve and enhance the unique landscape character of river corridors
- To re-establish natural processes within river corridors, such as flood storage areas
- To promote tourism, improve access to and recreational use of river corridors
- To promote the economic and physical regeneration of areas adjacent to rivers
- To raise awareness of the contribution river corridors can make to the well-being of local communities and to the education of local persons.
Local

Derbyshire County Council, Derby and Derbyshire Joint Structure Plan Approved 2001

2.56 Until the Regional Spatial Strategy is adopted regard should be given to the Derby and Derbyshire Joint Structure Plan within the District Council’s emerging Development Plan Documents.

2.57 The Environment Policies of the Derby and Derbyshire Joint Structure Plan aim to:

- Protect and enhance the landscape character of Derbyshire
- Conserve or enhance the Special Landscape Areas of Derbyshire
- Protect and improve the environment, particularly in the environmental priority areas
- Promote the reclamation of derelict land to provide for new employment uses, attract new investment, improve the environment and provide for recreational, social and community facilities
- Promote the rehabilitation and reuse of contaminated land
- Protect existing trees and woodlands and encourage new planting

2.58 The policies in the Derby and Derbyshire Joint Structure Plan

- Aim to balance the need to protect the historic fabric with the need for new development. The policies are seen as extending and improving the means of protection for Conservation Areas, Listed Buildings, and other features, and to reflect the important role that conservation can play in the economic regeneration of towns and villages
- Seek to protect and enhance trees, hedgerows and woodlands, and other landscape features. It sets out that where opportunities arise local planning authorities should require developers to undertake tree-planting schemes as a condition on planning permissions. In all cases, however any planting should take account of landscape character, natural and built heritage considerations.
- relating to the preservation and conservation of listed and other historic buildings, recognise the important contribution they make to the character of the areas in which they are situated. It also seeks to resist development that would affect a site or setting of the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site.
- requires careful scrutiny of proposals within the World Heritage Site to ensure that it does not adversely affect the site or its setting, and that where appropriate development should enhance the site or its setting.

Derbyshire Dales District Council, Derbyshire Dales Local Plan Adopted 2005

2.59 The Derbyshire Dales Local Plan is the development plan document for the district and covers the period up to 2011 and under the transition arrangements, the provisions in the Local Plan will remain in force until at least November 2008. After this date, the contents of the Local Plan will gradually be replaced by the policies and proposals in the emerging Local Development Documents.
2.60 The underlying strategy of the plan is to concentrate development within the most sustainable locations, whilst seeking to protect the countryside from inappropriate development. The Local Plan sets out the strategic framework for development and the policy approach adopts a policy settlement framework so that all forms of development can be considered on the basis of their contribution to the achievement of sustainable development. The Plan seeks to concentrate development in the three market towns of Ashbourne, Matlock and Wirksworth which are best placed to make a contribution to the achievement of sustainable development. Priority is given to the concentration of development in these settlements. There are eight Other Settlements that would allow for new development within Brailsford, Hulland Ward, Cromford, Matlock Bath, Darley Dale, Middleton, Doveridge and Tansley. The Local Plan sets out that new development in these settlements is not required to maintain the presence of the existing services and facilities and should not have an adverse impact upon their character or appearance.

2.61 The Local Plan establishes the extent of the built framework and wider physical confines of the Market Towns and Other Settlements by identifying Settlement Frameworks. This enables certainty about where new development may be acceptable and will reduce the amount of inappropriate and unsustainable development. The identification of Settlement Frameworks ensures that all forms of development can be considered on the basis of their contribution to the achievement of sustainable development, and their ability to preserve or enhance the character of existing settlements.

2.62 Furthermore the Local Plan seeks to realise the vision contained within the Derbyshire Dales Community Strategy of “Working in partnership to keep the Derbyshire Dales one of the best places in Britain to live, work, and visit” through:

- Safeguarding and improving the quality of life of people living in Derbyshire Dales
- Protecting and enhancing the environment of Derbyshire Dales

2.63 The policy basis for protecting and enhancing the environment is set out within both the Strategic Framework and the Natural, Historic and Built Environment sections of the plan which address the following issues and objectives

**Strategic Framework**

**Relevant Objectives**

- To set out a strategic framework for the achievement of sustainable development in the Derbyshire Dales Local Plan that addresses the economic, social and environmental well-being of the area.

**Natural, Historic and Built Environment**

**Relevant Objectives**

- To safeguard sites important for nature conservation
- To protect and enhance biodiversity and habitats
- To protect and enhance the character and features important in the landscape
- To protect and enhance heritage assets
- To protect and enhance the quality and safety of the built environment
- To manage the impact of development on air, light and noise pollution
The Natural Environment
Relevant Objectives
- Nature conservation
- Features of importance to wild fauna and flora
- Species protected by law or nationally rare
- Trees and Woodlands
- Features important in the landscape
- Landscape character
- Protection of important undeveloped land
- The water environment
- Air quality

Historic Built Environment
Relevant Objectives
- Conservation areas
- Historic parks and gardens
- Archaeological sites and features
- Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site

Derbyshire Dales and High Peak Local Strategic Partnership, Derbyshire Dales and High Peak Community Strategy 2006-2009

2.64 The Derbyshire Dales Community Strategy has already been prepared by the Council, in conjunction with the Derbyshire Dales and High Peak Local Strategic Partnership, which is made up of public, private and voluntary organisations. The Community Strategy sets out the main issues for Derbyshire Dales and High Peak and what the Council intends to do, to improve the social, economic and environmental circumstances in the Districts.

2.65 The aim of the Community Strategy is to co-ordinate the work of organisations to address issues more effectively. PPS12 advises that the local development framework should be a key component in the delivery of the community strategy, setting out its spatial aspects where appropriate and providing a long-term spatial vision, and that local development documents should express those elements of the community strategy that relate to the development and use of land.

2.66 The Community Strategy sets out the vision for Derbyshire Dales. These aspirations are grouped into 8 themes and in particular deals with enhancing the natural and built environment which aims for “an enhanced built and natural environment that has been achieved in a way that improves peoples quality of life” Amongst others, the Community Strategy put forward the following objectives:

- Secure support for Peak District and Lowland Derbyshire Biodiversity Action Partnerships (BAP) to deliver targeted maintenance and enhancement of the natural environment
- Deliver accessible natural greenspace (Green infrastructure) in urban areas that reconnects our communities with our high quality countryside.
- Set standards for Green and environmental Infrastructure in and around new developments
The Derwent Valley Mills site was inscribed on the World Heritage list in December 2001. It extends from Matlock Bath to Derby and defines a cultural landscape of exceptional significance due, in the main, to its association with pioneering innovations in textile manufacture and the development of manufacturing and technology.

The boundary of the World Heritage Site encloses approximately 1229 hectares and the Buffer Zone extends to 4363 hectares. It comprises the ensemble of industrial sites and settlements which developed in association with the textile mills of Matlock Bath, Cromford, Belper, Milford, Darley Abbey and Derby over a period from the 18th to the early 20th century. It is a unique cultural landscape of industrial buildings, related housing, canal, road and railway architecture set, for the most part, within a green landscape. The Buffer Zone is defined in order to protect the site from development that would damage its setting. The Derwent Valley Mills Management Plan sets the framework for the integrated and pro-active management of the cultural landscape to ensure its special qualities are sustained and preserved for future generations. Under the overarching aim “to conserve the unique and important cultural landscape of the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site; to interpret and promote its assets; and to enhance its character, appearance and economic well being in a sustainable manner”, objectives include:

- Maintain and enhance the quality of the Derwent Valley Mills cultural landscape.
- Protect and enhance the character of the parks and gardens set within it, particularly those included in the English Heritage Register.
- Protect and enhance the special landscape character within the site
- Conserve and enhance biodiversity within the site.

The management plan is in four parts:

Part One provides an assessment of the cultural values that make the Derwent Valley Mills special
Part Two provides descriptive information for identifying various issues related to management needs and evaluates key management issues
Part Three establishes objectives and strategies for site management.
Part Four describes a programme for action.

Comprehensive landscape character assessment has been undertaken for Derbyshire outside the Peak District National Park with the help and support of the constituent District Authorities and the former Countryside Agency.

The aim of this work is to identify what is characteristic and locally distinctive about the countryside in the county and follows on from work at national level – the preparation of a landscape character map of England – undertaken by the Countryside Agency and English Nature (now know as Natural England)
2.70 At local level the following character areas are relevant to the Derbyshire Dales District:

- The Dark Peak
- The White Peak
- The Derbyshire Peak Fringe and Lower Derwent
- The Needwood and South Derbyshire Claylands
- The Trent Valley Washlands

2.71 Derbyshire County Council, in association with the District Council, considered landscape character at a greater level of detail identifying 18 distinct landscape types – in the District - within the character areas. These are:

The Dark Peak
- Open Moors
- Enclosed Moors
- Settled Valley Pastures
- Riverside Valleys

The White Peak
- Plateau Pastures
- Limestone Slopes
- Limestone Dales

The Derbyshire Peak Fringe
- Wooded Slopes and Valleys and Lower Derwent
- Wooded Farmlands
- Settled Farmlands
- Riverside Meadows

The Needwood and South Derbyshire Claylands
- Settled Plateau Farmlands
- Settled Farmlands
- Sandstone Slopes and Heaths
- Estate Farmlands
- Riverside Meadows

The Trent Valley Washlands
- Lowland Village Farmlands
- Riverside Meadows

2.72 A broad description and summary of the key features are included for each landscape type with the most characteristic and distinctive elements identified under the categories of:

- Geology and Landform
- Soils and Land Use
- Ecology
- Tree Cover
- Enclosure
- Transport
- Built Environment.
2.73 The Campaign for the Protection of Rural England (C.P.R.E.) defines areas of tranquillity as “places sufficiently far away from the visual or noise intrusion of development or traffic to be considered unspoiled by urban influences” For many people it is the absence of inappropriate noise, development and visual clutter that makes the countryside so important for relaxation, physical and spiritual renewal and a sense of well being.

2.74 The C.P.R.E. and the former Countryside Commission has prepared maps identifying areas considered to be tranquil, semi tranquil, vulnerable and less vulnerable based on a set of criteria determined by distances from various disturbing factors. The Derbyshire Dales District is one of the most tranquil in the country but, in common with all areas, comparative studies show how levels of tranquillity have been eroded over a period from the early 1960s to the early 1990s.

2.75 The Government has responded to the study by recognising the need to protect rural tranquillity in its Rural White Paper of 2000. However, levels of tranquillity continue to come under pressure from development.

2.76 The C.P.R.E. work highlights one of the less tangible qualities of the countryside identifying the social and economic, as well as environmental benefits that can be gained from protecting and enhancing tranquillity levels and advocating action in a number of areas. These include the need to plan strategically to protect tranquillity and that the recognition of tranquillity as a resource to be protected should be embodied in Regional Planning Guidance and Local Development Plans.

2.77 PPG 24 highlights the need for planning policies that ensure potentially noisy developments are located in areas where noise will not be such an important consideration or where its impact can be minimised. It also suggests that Local Planning Authorities might adopt policies to avoid potentially noisy developments in areas that have remained relatively undisturbed by noise nuisance.

Derbyshire County Council, Lowland Derbyshire and the Peak District Local Biodiversity Action Plans

2.78 The Government’s UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) identifies habitats that are nationally important, and sets out targets and actions for conserving and restoring them. Regionally, targets for restoring habitats are set out in RSS8.

2.79 Local Biodiversity Action Plans for Lowland Derbyshire and the Peak District provide a framework for restoring biodiversity locally. They identify habitats and species that are local and national priorities for protection and enhancement, as well as translate national and regional targets to a local level.

2.80 The creation of new habitats is important to the achievement of targets set out in the Lowland Derbyshire and Peak District Biodiversity Action Plan.
2.81 The issues raised within the Natural Area profile documents are those taken forward into the Local Biodiversity Action Plans and specifically the Habitat and Species Action Plans contained therein. These outline recommendations for action through a range of agencies and organisations and through strategic documents such as Structure Plans, Local Plans, Environment Agency local contributions and specific single topic strategies including The Landscape Character of Derbyshire.

2.82 Local Biodiversity Action Plans, therefore, focus efforts to conserve and enhance the biodiversity resource by:

- Describing the biodiversity resource of the area
- Evaluating the biodiversity resource in an international, national, regional and local context
- Developing specific nature conservation targets for species and habitats in the area
- Describing the actions and strategies required to meet those targets
- Defining how the actions will be implemented and who will be responsible
- Guiding the use of grant schemes locally to focus resources at the most important targets
- Making recommendations on long-term monitoring to ensure that the effectiveness of the Plan is measured

2.83 The Plans are intended to be used to help inform and formulate other key documents, plans and strategies.

2.84 The Plans most relevant to Derbyshire Dales are those prepared for Lowland Derbyshire and Peak District. Key sections contained within the Plans include:

- Habitat Action Plans Identify action to protect and increase habitat for most species.
- Species Action Plans Identify those species for which individual action plans have been written. 26 broad habitats have been identified in Derbyshire as a whole ranging from ancient broad-leaved woodland to roadside verges. The Habitat Action Plans seek to ensure that habitats are conserved, enhanced or restored; the area occupied by the habitat is enlarged and that the species associated with them are maintained and increased. Key actions for ensuring this occurs include:
  - Incorporating the protection of habitats and species into statutory development plans.
  - Taking precautions against the destruction of habitat by planned natural regeneration or the creation of another habitat on an adjacent site
  - Identifying opportunities and implementing proposals in each habitat the re-introduction of species which have become locally extinct.
  - In any planting to create new areas of habitat or improve existing ones, use species which occur naturally in the Local BAP area and stock of known local origin.

2.85 The appendices to the Local BAPs include sections that:

- Identify relevant National Vegetation Categories
- Match plant species to their habitats
- Match vertebrate species to their habitats
- Match invertebrates to their habitats
- Provide a list of national and locally important plant species within the Local BAP area.
- Provide a list of national and locally important mammal species within the Local BAP area.

2.86 The Biodiversity Action Plan is composed of a number of Habitat and Species Action Plans. These listed below.

- Lowland Broadleaved mixed woodland HAP (Revised April 2006)
- Wet woodland HAP
- Lowland Wood Pasture, Parkland and Veteran Trees HAP
- Semi-natural grassland HAP
- Lowland swamps, mires, fens and reedbeds HAP
- Rivers and Streams HAP
- Standing Open Waters, including, ponds, lakes and canals HAP
- Floodplain Grazing marsh HAP
- Ancient and or Species-rich hedgerows HAP
- Field Margins HAP
- Heathland HAP

2.87 The BAP process is also reinforced by the recent Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (2006) which places a duty on the Secretary of State to firstly publish a list of the living organisms and types of habitat which in their opinion are of principal importance for the purpose of conserving biodiversity across England; and secondly to take such steps as appear reasonably practicable to further the conservation of these organisms/habitats.

Derbyshire Dales District Council (2007), Environment Act 1995, Air Quality Progress Reports

2.88 The Environment Act 1995, Part IV places a statutory obligation on all local authorities to review and assess the air quality within their area against Air Quality Standards. Progress Reports have been introduced into the Local Air Quality Management (LAQM) system following a detailed evaluation of the review and assessment process. Progress Reports are prepared in the years when local authorities are not carrying out their statutory three yearly Updating and Screening Assessment or carrying out Detailed Assessments. This practice ensures that air quality is continually being assessed and reviewed.

2.89 The Environment Act 1995 requires local authorities to undertake an air quality review and where air quality are not anticipated to be met, local authorities are required to establish Air Quality Management Areas. The District measures concentrations of the following within the District

- Benzene
- 1,3 -Butadiene
- Carbon Monoxide
- Lead
- Nitrogen dioxide 200µg/m³
- Fine Particulates (PM₁₀)
- Sulphur Dioxide
Derbyshire Dales District Council (2007) * Derbyshire Dales Corporate Plan*

2.90 Improving the quality of life, protecting and enhancing the environment, along with protecting and enhancing the safety and health of residents and visitors are key themes in the Council’s Corporate Plan.

**Derbyshire County Council (2006) Local Transport Plan**

2.91 The County Council is required to prepare a five year Local Transport Plan to provide a framework for delivery of integrated transport to help deliver amongst other improvements to air quality. Air quality is highlighted as a key priority in the Plan addressed through reducing the environmental impacts of transport. Whilst the Plan recognises Derbyshire has good air quality there are still problem areas in rural area especially with heavy goods vehicles traveling through villages.

**Derbyshire Dales District Council, Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD)**

**Landscape Character and Design SPD**

2.92 The SPD aims to complement policies NBE8 (Landscape Character) and NBE26 (Landscape Design in Association with New Development) of the Adopted Derbyshire Dales Local Plan by providing detailed guidance on how new development can meet the aims and objectives of policies. It will also raise awareness of the design issues related to landscape character and provide an important reference point for developers on design standards ensuring that future development protects or enhances the character and local distinctiveness of the landscape.

2.93 It promotes an approach to design based on an understanding of the qualities which contribute to landscape character, local distinctiveness and a sense of place in the Derbyshire Dales. It offers greater certainty to owners/developers in understanding the aspirations of the District Council.

**Shopfront Design Guidance SPD**

2.94 The intention of this publication is to guide and advise shop owners, occupiers and developers on how to improve the visual quality of the shopping area of which they are part, maintain its special historic character and contribute to the long term benefit that this would bring to the local shopping centres and district as a whole. The District Council is committed to achieving a high standard of shopfront design.

**Farm Buildings Design Guidance SPD**

2.95 The special character and appearance of the Derbyshire Dales is an invaluable asset. The appearance of barns and farm buildings and the relationship they have with their surroundings, is an important element of local landscape character, which varies throughout the District. The landscape that provides the immediate setting for barns and farm buildings makes a significant contribution to their character and to the character of the site itself.
3 Key Statistics of the Core Strategy Area

3.1 An assessment of District’s environmental characteristics is being developed to help identify the issues and options available which will help to provide the evidence base for the consultation on an Issues and Options Paper in March 2008. For this Topic Paper data has been collected so far on the following:

Spatial Characteristics

3.2 Map 1 below show the location of key settlements and Appendix 1 presents the ward and parish administration boundaries

Summary Settlements

- The Core Strategy area covers approximately 33,000 hectares of the Derbyshire Dales that lies outside the Peak District National Park.

- The District is mostly rural in character and comprises attractive areas of countryside interspersed with a large number of villages and hamlets. The District’s towns: Matlock, Wirksworth and Ashbourne are long established as market towns. These towns act as a service centre to a wide rural hinterland and are home to 47% of the total population whilst 29% live within large villages and the remaining 24% are scattered among the rural parishes in small villages / hamlets.

- The district contains 53 settlements of varying size, pattern and function which include market towns, villages and small hamlets:

- To the north the main population areas include Matlock Town (10,000), Darley Dale (5000), Wirksworth (5000) and Cromford (1500). The hinterland around these settlements include Northwood, South Darley, Tansley, Brassington, Bonsall and Middleton with populations of each settlement varying between around 700 to 1000.

- To the south Ashbourne (7500), Doveridge (1500), Brailsford (1000), Clifton (500) and Hulland Ward (1000) represent the main population areas. The remainder of the District is dispersed with small settlements of populations about 100-300.

- The population density of the area is 1.3 persons per hectare compared to county averages of 2.9 and national averages of 3.8.
Map 1: Location of the Derbyshire Dales Settlements

- Settlements with populations between 5000 - 10000
- Settlements with populations between 450 - 1500
- Settlements with populations between 100 - 350
Geology

3.3 There are three distinct rock formations within the District and each is associated with particular physical characteristics and responsible for the historic development of agriculture and industry.

3.4 The oldest rocks belong to the Carboniferous system and are limestones that were laid down about 330 million years ago. They are the accumulated remains of marine creatures which lived in shallow seas and evidence of their origins can be seen at many sites through the existence of fossils. Around the fringes of the area limestone reefs can be found where bedding is poor or absent. During the formation of the limestones volcanic action produced molten lava which solidified in irregular dark layers as basalt or toadstone.

3.5 In post Carboniferous times many areas of the limestone were enriched by hot fluids migrating from within the Earth’s crust. Such fluids were rich in minerals and as they cooled deposition of these minerals occurred in veins. Generally speaking the veins take the form of filled vertical fissures known as rakes and may be up to 15 metres wide and run across country for many kilometres.

3.6 The most common minerals found in the District are galena (lead sulphide), sphalerite (zinc sulphide), fluorite (calcium fluoride), baryte (barium sulphate) and calcite (calcium carbonate).

3.7 Millions of years ago the whole limestone area was covered by shale and a coarse sandstone (commonly referred to as millstone grit) in the form of a great dome. Erosion over time has caused a portion of the upper rocks to become worn away, exposing the denuded limestone plateau and producing the characteristic gritstone edges along the boundary. Mineralisation did not penetrate the sandstone and it has been exploited only as stone for building or the production of millstones and grindstones. The Carboniferous series above the Millstone Grit is known as the Lower Coal Measures and is present in the north east corner of the District.

3.8 The District contains sand and gravel deposits in the South of the District. The formation of these “drift” deposits occurred following the last ice age when considerable areas of sand and gravel, silt and clay in the form of glacial and weathered rock deposits were eroded and deposited in wide tracts along the major rivers. The other sources of sand and gravel in the District is the Sherwood sandstones. These solid deposits having been laid down before the last ice age much older than the “drift” deposits of the river valleys.
Drift Geology Distribution

Distribution of Drift Geology
- DIAMICTON
- CALCAREOUS TUFA
- PEAT
- DIAMICTON
- UNDIFFERENTIATED SOLID ROCK
- SAND AND GRAVEL
- SAND AND GRAVEL
- SAND AND GRAVEL
- SAND AND GRAVEL
Landscape Character

3.9 In partnership with Derbyshire County Council, the Council undertook a systematic appraisal of the Derbyshire landscape. This appraisal identified 18 different landscape character types in the Derbyshire Dales which are described in Figure 2.

3.10 The Countryside Commission and English Nature (now Natural England) used this approach for work undertaken on the Countryside Character Initiative in preparing the Character Map of England. This involved mapping, describing and classifying landscape character across the whole country. It led to the identification of 159 discrete Regional Landscape Character Areas. Five of these cover the Derbyshire Dales which is shown in Figure 2 below.

Figure 2: Landscape Character Types for Derbyshire Dales

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Character Map of England - Landscape Character Areas</th>
<th>Derbyshire Landscape Character Type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Dark Peak</td>
<td>Open Moors</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Settled Valley pastures</td>
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<td>Riverside Meadows</td>
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<tr>
<td>The White Peak</td>
<td>Limestone Slopes</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Plateau Pastures</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Limestone Dales</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Derbyshire Peak Fringe and Lower Derwent</td>
<td>Wooded Slopes and Valleys</td>
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<td>Estate Farmlands</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Trent Valley Washlands</td>
<td>Lowland Village Farmlands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Riverside Meadows</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3.11 A landscape character assessment of the whole District has been undertaken in partnership with Derbyshire County Council and the Countryside Agency. This landscape character assessment identified 18 different landscape character types across the Derbyshire Dales. The geographical distribution of each of these landscape types is set out below.

3.12 The North West of the District, including Matlock and Wirksworth lies within the White Peak and consists of a gently rolling upland limestone plateau interrupted by steep sided Dales. There are scattered nucleated villages and occasional isolated farmsteads within a pastoral setting. The Dales are deeply incised river valleys with steep slopes and extensive amounts of exposed rock. Some Dales have rivers meandering through them and others are dry at the surface. The main habitats on the plateau are grasslands associated with dairy farming and rough grazing. This area has an open aspect and expansive views with dry stonewalls constructed from local limestone being a central feature of the landscape.
3.12 The White Peak strongly contrasts with the adjacent gritstone landscape of the Dark Peak, which extends into the northern part of the District, including settlements such as Darley Dale and Rowsley. Gritstone outcrops and rocky tors tend to dominate the landscape.

3.14 The Peak Fringe and Lower Derwent, situated throughout the central part of the District surrounds the villages of Hulland Ward and Hognaston, and generally comprises of an undulating area with river valleys.

3.15 The East of the District is characterised by enclosed moors and heaths with regular field patterns and attractive wooded slopes and valleys with a network of winding lanes linking dispersed sandstone farmsteads.

3.16 Much of the South of the District comprises a mixed farming landscape on gentle slopes that are interrupted by patches of semi natural woodland. Adjacent to the rivers there are broad flat floodplains occupied by meadows and scattered trees. The extreme south of the District borders the Trent Valley Washlands that feature lowland village farmlands and riverside and wet pasture meadows.
3.17 Within the local planning authority area, English Nature has designated 17 Sites of Special Scientific Interest under section 28 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 covering 516 hectares (1.5%) of the Districts overall land area.

3.18 The table below presents an assessment undertaken by English Nature on the favourable condition of the SSSIs. The national target is for 95% of SSSIs to be in favourable or recovering condition by 2010.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SSSI</th>
<th>% Favourable condition</th>
<th>% Unfavourable /recovering condition</th>
<th>% Unfavourable/declining condition</th>
<th>% Destroyed /part destroyed</th>
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<td>37.9</td>
<td>15.36</td>
<td>9.76</td>
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</table>
3.19 Special Areas of Conservation are designated under the provisions of the European Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Flora and Fauna. There are five sites that fall within the Local Planning Authority Area.
The Derbyshire Wildlife Sites Register prepared jointly by Derbyshire County Council and the Derbyshire Wildlife Trust identifies 196 sites as being of county or local importance for nature conservation in the local planning authority area measuring a total of some 1,227 hectares (3.6%). A number of these sites were previously derelict or despoiled and have naturally regenerated themselves.
Ancient Woodlands

3.21 Trees, woodlands, forests and hedgerows make a varied and valuable contribution to the quality of life from urban centres to the open countryside and contribute to the local distinctiveness of the area.

3.22 The Council has designated 166 Tree Preservation Orders across the area for which it is the local planning authority. There are a further 35 Tree Preservation Orders that have been designated by Derbyshire County Council. These, and a significant number of Ancient Woodlands are vital components of the local environment because of their importance aesthetically, historically, and their contribution to the protecting and enhancing biodiversity.
There is no Grade 1 agricultural land within the plan area and detailed information on Grade 3a is not currently available. The Figure below shows generalised areas of Grade 2 within the area.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agriculture Grade</th>
<th>%</th>
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<td>Grade 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grade 2</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 3</td>
<td>26.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3.24 The District is crossed by a number of watercourses. The River Wye and River Derwent dominate the river catchments network in the east of the district whilst the River Dove acts as a western boundary. Carsington Reservoir, completed in 1992, is located in the centre of the local planning authority area and measures some 307 hectares. The Cromford Canal flows from Cromford Mill eastwards to the District Boundary near Whatstandwell. Water quality in the rivers flowing through the District is revealed by the Environment Agency as being fair on a few short stretches to very good on the majority
Regionally Important Geological Sites

3.24 Regionally Important Geological and Geomorphological Sites is a non statutory designation afforded to sites of significant geological and geomorphological value. The R.I.G.S register is maintained by the Derbyshire R.I.G.S steering group. R.I.G.S are protected within the land use policies of statutory local plans. Forty sites fall within the Local Planning Authority Area.
3.25 The Derwent Valley Mills site was inscribed on the World Heritage list in December 2001 of the other 26 sites within England. It extends from Matlock Bath to Derby and defines a cultural landscape of exceptional significance due, in the main, to its association with pioneering innovations in textile manufacture and the development of manufacturing and technology. The boundary of the World Heritage Site encloses approximately 1229 hectares and the Buffer Zone extends to 4363 hectares. The Buffer Zone is defined in order to protect the site from development that would damage its setting. The Derwent Valley Mills Management Plan sets the framework for the integrated and pro-active management of the cultural landscape to ensure its special qualities are sustained and preserved for future generations.

It comprises the ensemble of industrial sites and settlements which developed in association with the textile mills of Matlock Bath, Cromford, Belper, Milford, Darley Abbey and Derby over a period from the 18th to the early 20th century. It is a unique cultural landscape of industrial buildings, related housing, canal, road and railway architecture set, for the most part, within a green landscape. The Buffer Zone is defined in order to protect the site from development that would damage its setting.
Conservation Areas

3.26 Conservation areas are designated due to their special architectural or historic interest. In an environment as sensitive as a conservation area, planning has a key role to play in emphasising the character and appearance of the entire area, in particular by overseeing a careful balance between preservation of the historic environment, while encouraging sympathetic new development.

3.27 The District has **32 Conservation Areas covering 1,406 hectares (4%)** of the local planning authority area and have been designated within the District in order to conserve and enhance the special architectural qualities or historic interest of particular areas. Figure 9 shows the distribution of conservation area within the District.

3.28 The designation of a conservation area has a number of legal consequences including specific procedures for planning application and the control of demolition of buildings. However unlisted buildings in conservation areas still enjoy permitted development rights, allowing for example windows, doors and roofs to be changed without express permission which can result in unsympathetic alterations. In order to avoid this, **3 Article 4(2) directions covering 503 properties** have been made in Derbyshire Dales. An Article 4(2) removes permitted development rights, giving added control to the local planning authority to ensure that the changes that take place make a contribution to the area. To achieve this more effectively, conservation area appraisals and guidelines are used. They comprehensively review the condition of each conservation area, describing their character including any particular features of interest, highlighting any current issues and setting out suggested guidelines for appropriate development. This provides a more detailed framework for the justification of planning decisions.

3.29 The Council has agreed a programme for undertaking appraisals of each of the 32 Conservation Areas designated within the District. As well as assessing the condition of buildings, curtilage features, hard surfaces and street furniture the role of trees, landscape and open spaces and the contribution they make to the quality and character of the Conservation Area environment is also being considered. As each appraisal is prepared the value of the landscape and priorities for its conservation and possible enhancement will be identified.

3.30 The map below shows the location of the Conservation Areas
Conservation Areas

Distribution of Conservation Area
- Conservation Areas

Locations:
- Darley Dale
- Matlock
- Wirksworth
- Ashbourne
- Hulland Ward
- Brailsford
- Doveridge
There is a Register of Parks and Gardens of special historic interest in England which is maintained by English Heritage and now contains 1,450 sites. While there are many parks and gardens that are historic and make a valuable contribution to an area’s visual and recreational attractiveness, only those deemed to be of special historic interest (based on the survival, quality and interest of their historic structure) are included in the register.

There are 9 parks and gardens included on the Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest covering some 446 hectares. Currently these are:

- Ednaston Manor
- Sudbury Hall
- The Heights of Abraham
- Lovers Walks
- High Tor
- Derwent Gardens
- Sydnope Hall
- The Whitworth Institute
- Wilersley Castle
Nationally important archaeological sites are statutorily protected as Scheduled Ancient Monuments under the Ancient Monument and Archaeological Areas Act 1979, which builds on legislation dating back to 1882.

The total number of scheduled ancient monuments in the area remains fairly static over time. What may alter, however is the number of those considered to be at risk. There are five buildings within the District that are on English Heritage’s National Buildings At Risk register and also on the District Council’s Buildings At Risk Register. Currently there are 57 scheduled ancient monuments in local planning authority area. The responsibility for the protection of scheduled monuments lies with English Heritage.
Listed Buildings

Map showing listed buildings in various locations including Darley Dale, Matlock, Wirksworth, Ashbourne, Hulland Ward, Brailsford, and Doveridge.
Although there is over 400 hectares of land identified in the National Land Use Database, much of it is associated with the quarrying and mineral extraction industries, and unsuitable for redevelopment because it is situated in isolated and therefore unsustainable locations. The map presents the distribution of brownfield land within the District.
Air Quality

3.35 Air pollutants in the District can be primarily linked to two main sources: transport and industry. In both areas changing technologies are bringing improvements as are increased use of Environmental Management Systems. Pollution tends to occur in pockets. Industrial / manufacturing areas are other main sources pollution and often occurs downwind of where they are generated. The District has a high proportion of permitted mineral extraction and processing which can cause different sort of air pollution in the form of dust and particulates. Domestic burning of coal can also cause pollution although minor and localised.

3.35 Naturally occurring radon gas also affects areas of the District

3.36 The District Council published the most recent air quality assessment in April 2007 as a progress report and has a good ongoing picture of air pollution levels across the District. Air Quality within the local planning authority area is considered good within generally with emissions dropping over recent years. The are no air quality management areas, and currently no recorded breached of any air quality objectives. The District Council have a number of statutory duties in respect of local air quality management and delivering the national objectives prescribed in the National Air Quality Strategy. The Air quality across the District is assessed for a number of pollutants and is considered to meet national objectives.

- The principal source of nitrogen oxides is road traffic
- Nitrogen dioxide concentration have been measured in 23 locations throughout the District in 2006
- There are no predicted exceedences of air quality objectives in Derbyshire Dales
- Locations of nitrogen dioxide tubes will be reviewed for deployments in 2007/8
- There are no predicted impacts on air quality in relation to new Pollution Prevention and Control installations
- Two major developments (A6 diversion and Sainsbury’s) are now open in Matlock town centre, but the impacts of these on local air quality are unknown
- New nitrogen dioxide diffusion tube deployment sites will take into account the A6 diversion and Sainsbury’s retail outlet
4 Identification of Emerging Issues and Objectives

4.1 Following analysis of the evidence base and key messages from national, regional and local strategy/policy, a number of areas relating to the environment have been identified which the Core Strategy DPD need to address:

- Protection of the countryside and landscape quality
- Biodiversity and nature conservation
- Protection of the historic environment
- Design in the built environment
- Sustainable construction techniques (see climate change topic paper)
- Renewable energy (see climate change topic paper)
- Climate change (see climate change topic paper)
- Flood risk (see climate change topic paper)
- Water and drainage
- Air quality

Landscape Protection

Key messages from strategies, plans, programmes and policy document

- New development in the open countryside should be strictly controlled.
- Policies and guidance should encourage good quality design in rural areas.
- Policies should have particular regard for areas statutorily designated for their landscape.

Key Issues

- The quality and character of the District’s landscape should be maintained and enhanced
- The quality, quantity and character of open spaces should be maintained and enhanced.
- Proposals for rural development could have an adverse effect on landscape character
- Increasing traffic volumes could continue to erode tranquillity and air quality.

4.2 The landscape in which we live, work and enjoy ourselves is an important resource for the District. Landscape is a complex concept which encompasses the characteristic landscape features such as hills, rivers, hedges and woodlands, the human influences which have developed over time, such as settlements, farm buildings and transport corridors and the underlying influences of geology, geography and climate and our reactions to all of these. The District’s landscape comprises a unique mix of distinct landscape types and individual landscape characteristics.

4.3 The landscape of the district makes an important contribution in terms of tourism and recreation, providing a backdrop to investment and to people’s enjoyment as well as being the framework for biodiversity and a record of the district’s historic development. Due to increasing pressures from modern farming, forestry, development, neglect of traditional management practices there is a need to
continue to identify and respond to opportunities to conserve and enhance the characteristic landscapes of the region

4.4 It is clear from government guidance that nationally and internationally designated sites should be given the highest level of protection. Therefore the current approach for protecting statutorily designated areas should be continued and the prime consideration will be conservation and enhancement of the beauty of the areas and protection of nature conservation interests.

4.5 The Landscape Character Assessment, in contrast, defines areas for their unique character and explain the reasons for this evaluation. It seeks to identify a variety of intrinsic qualities, including evidence of evolving landscape formation through geological or geomorphologic processes and archaeological importance such as ancient hedgerows or visible remains of village sites. A number of landscape areas across the district are identified and it is important that the quality and distinctive character of these areas are conserved and enhanced when new development occurs. The Local Plan sets out that development proposals will be resisted that do not take account of the components that contribute to landscape character and local distinctiveness including

- The landform and natural drainage patterns
- The pattern and composition of trees and woodland
- The pattern and type of field boundaries
- The type and distributions of wildlife habitats
- The pattern and distribution of settlements and roads
- The presence and pattern of historic landscape features.
- The scale and siting, layout, design, material and detailing of vernacular buildings, their enclosures and other features of cultural significance

4.6 Much of the countryside is covered by farming land and this contributes to the overall 'open feel' of Derbyshire Dales. There is some grade 2 agricultural land in the south east of the District but the remainder is mainly grade 3. This is a limited resource and once it has been developed it is rare for it to be returned to agricultural or other open use. However, there have not been significant pressures for development of high quality land in Derbyshire Dales and the general policy of using brownfield (previously developed) sites before undeveloped land will minimise the loss of agricultural land. The current Local Plan has a policy protecting the best and most versatile agricultural land from irreversible development and there is Government support for continuing this protection.

Suggested Objectives

- Minimise the loss of undeveloped land and protect the character of the countryside.
- Protect and enhance the character, appearance and features important in the landscape.
Biodiversity and Nature Conservation

Key messages from strategies, plans, programmes and policy document

- There are continuing pressures on biodiversity in the East Midlands, from changing land uses and more indirect factors such as climate change.
- Conditions of habitats, ecosystems and species need to be improved and monitored.
- Biodiversity must be maintained to support tourism and attract visitors.
- A spatial understanding of biodiversity is becoming increasingly important, for example, networks of habitats.
- Reconnecting and integrating action for biodiversity with other environmental, social and economic activity.
- There is a need to increase the number of SSSIs in the ‘favourable condition’ category.

Key issues

- The percentage of SSSIs in favourable condition in the District is well below the regional and national average.
- Climate change may lead to changes in species composition, and loss of species in the District.

4.7 Biodiversity means the full variety of living organisms and the inter-action between them. Geodiversity is the variety of geological forms and processes. Conservation and enhancement of biodiversity is a key test of sustainable development. National policies on biodiversity and geodiversity are set out in PPS9 and PPS9 Companion Guide. Regional Priorities are set out in “Putting Wildlife Back on the Map – A Biodiversity Strategy for the East Midlands (2006) produced by the East Midlands Biodiversity Forum

4.8 This identifies the state of biodiversity in the East Midlands and contends that biodiversity has undergone dramatic change mainly through agricultural intensification which has had major impacts on reduced food supplies for species. The East Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy clearly establishes that the first priority for conserving and enhancing biodiversity is to protect our existing resources particularly nationally and internationally designated sites, and those natural habitats that are irreplaceable. In the wider countryside and in urban area, the needs of biodiversity must be built into to land management and planning decision

4.9 The consequence of concern over such declines has been a large amount of legislation, including UK-based legislation (eg the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981, the Protection of Badgers Act 1992), and EC-initiated Directives (eg Ramsar Convention 1971, Habitats Directive 1992) which have become UK law, and have had the effect of affording ‘protected status’ to many species and habitats. The Wildlife and Countryside Act alone specifically protects more than 80 bird species, more than 100 animal species and more than 180 plant species. The new Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 provides that any public body or statutory undertaker in England and Wales must have regard to the purpose of conservation of biological diversity in the exercise of their functions. The intention is to help ensure that biodiversity becomes a natural consideration in the development
of policies, and that decisions of public bodies work with the grain of nature and not against it.

4.10 The Core Strategy area is within a Biodiversity Conservation Area as set out in the RSS which has been defined principally based on their having a relatively high proportion of the existing semi natural wildlife habitats in the region – particularly SSSI and local wildlife sites which could if well managed be reservoirs of wildlife that help the East Midland biodiversity recover to sustainable levels. Wildlife in these areas is likely to be capable of adapting positively to future challenges brought about climate change an accommodating the sustainable development of local communities and businesses. The emphasis is on giving strong protection to the existing network of protected sites and high quality semi-natural habitats. The main issues / actions identified are to:

- Support existing biodiversity and landscape enhancement projects
- Bring all existing protected site back into a favourable condition
- Buffer existing semi-natural habitats from adverse impacts
- Restore and re-create locally characteristic habitats based on assessments of local landscape character
- Promote social and economic benefits such as environmentally sustainable tourism.

4.11 There is a need to follow the guidance in PPS9 and identify and protect existing areas and secure improvements elsewhere. Much work is being carried out to help achieve these aims.

4.12 The RRS sets out a policy on Green Infrastructure to be delivered as part of development, which needs to be explored further. The Core Strategy will to deal with planning for Green Infrastructure to help deliver high quality biodiversity for the local environment and community to help link towns with rural hinterlands providing accessibility to the countryside. Understanding what Green Infrastructure means, what is required and how it should be delivered is an issue because it is a new concept and should be integral to the making of “sustainable communities”.

4.13 Climate change, will have major implications for biodiversity. The location of the preferred climate zone for many species may shift significantly as a result of changing temperatures resulting in the loss of some species. Also, the range of habitats and species that we regard as characteristic of the area may change, although new habitats may be created and new species arrive

**Suggested Objective**

- Maintain and enhance biodiversity and enable habitats and wildlife to adapt to future change.

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**Protecting the Built and Historic environment**

**Key messages from strategies, plans, programmes and policy document**

- Effective protection for all aspects of the historic environment, including full integration of the historic environment into sustainability.
Increase education and awareness of, and access to the historic environment.

Ensure use of the historic environment for leisure and recreation continues, whilst protecting the integrity of the sites.

Key Issues

- Ensure the historic character of the District is maintained, especially the historic settlements
- Increase education and awareness of the historic environment
- Ensure access to the historic environment for everyone

4.14 The historic environment embraces all those aspects of the environment that reflect the shaping of past human activity: the historic environment in so far as it is included within our modern environment, the towns, villages and countryside in which we all live and work. It is reflected in archaeological sites, in historic buildings, in the location and form of our settlements, in the fields, hedges and woodland and in industrial structures, historic parks and gardens.

4.15 The Government is committed to protecting and enhancing the quality of the natural and historic environment, in both rural and urban areas. Planning authorities should plan positively for the achievement of high quality and inclusive design for all development. Design which is inappropriate in its context, or which fails to take the opportunities available for improving the character and quality of an area should not be accepted.

4.16 The historic environment is an irreplaceable resource that can be damaged by development. The Government recognizes the historic environment’s importance as an economic asset, particularly of the tourism industry which is important for the Derbyshire Dales.

4.17 The built heritage of Derbyshire Dales plays a vital role in defining the distinctive character and identity of the area and it should be protected for its own sake and for its intrinsic cultural value. However, it should also be seen as an important asset that can provide the catalyst for a prosperous local economy and an enhanced ‘quality of life’ for those who live, work and visit the district. There are many issues that can impact on the historic environment so an integrated approach needs to be adopted.

4.18 The preservation and enhancement of the built heritage and historic environment has generally been successful. A healthy local property market combined with supportive planning policy and controls and several heritage-led regeneration initiatives have safeguarded this resource. However, there are many pressures on the historic environment that will necessitate continued policy protection in order to seek to preserve and enhance the built heritage.

4.19 The original use of many historic buildings may no longer be viable and there is often pressure for conversion and re-use for alternative uses. This should be encouraged in order to retain the contribution they make to the environment, however it needs to be carried out in a way that is sensitive to their original character. Sometimes there is conflict between the desire to keep a building in use and what use is considered appropriate in line with other planning considerations. The best use for a historic or listed building is that for which it was originally designed, and where possible that use should be continued. Where this is not
possible new uses that preserve the architectural or historic features of the building may be acceptable. This will need to be considered carefully in each individual situation and location.

4.20 There is also a need for new design to complement the existing built heritage. New buildings which reflect local architectural styles and make innovative use of traditional forms, detailing and materials will have the best chance of integrating with the area and reinforcing the identity of Derbyshire Dales.

4.21 The Core Strategy should encourage locally distinctive, contemporary and high quality design and stress the need for new development and alterations to fit into the landscape and townscape settings, whether this is infill within existing settlements or new allocations. Scale, massing and use of local materials will all be important considerations. A review of the District’s Conservation Areas is being undertaken through Conservation Area appraisals in line with Government guidance. These will look at the validity of individual designations, their boundaries, general condition and pressures and opportunities.

4.22 There is also a need to reconcile the drive for increased energy efficiency and sustainable construction with protection of the built heritage. New standards regarding sustainable construction, such as the new building regulations relating to energy efficiency. While it is not that difficult to design new buildings incorporating more energy efficient materials, styles and equipment, they do need to fit in with ‘traditional’ styles. Similarly, adapting traditional buildings to incorporate these features needs to avoid a significant change in their character and is more problematic.

4.23 The Historic Built Environment is continually evolving. Today’s development will be hopefully tomorrow’s heritage – provided Derbyshire Dales special architectural traditions are respected. Furthermore, the Historic Environment should be seen as integral to the economic development of the District (particularly in regard to tourism) and as an important component in the achievement of other policy objectives such as affordable homes, employment provision and cultural/educational awareness. It is important that the changes that take place in the District do not destroy its values historic assets and its distinctive character.

4.24 The protection of Historic parks and Gardens is important because the effect of development or its setting is a material consideration in the determination of a planning application.

Suggested Objectives

- To protect, maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes, townscapes and the built environment.
- To protect and enhance heritage assets.
- Contemporary, innovative and locally distinctive design will be encouraged, especially where it incorporates sustainable design and construction techniques.
- Appropriate changes of use will be encouraged for valuable historic buildings to continue their contribution to the historic environment.
Minimising Environmental Impact

Water Resources

4.25 Water is a precious natural resource and protection of water resources from potentially harmful effects of new development is a key part of ensuring a sustainable environment. Watercourses and wetlands can easily be damaged by development that can for example alter drainage patterns, lower the water table or cause pollution. Water use must not endanger resource availability or quality, as its supply is an important attraction to possible investment in the area. There are two main issues relating to water management:

- Increased contamination of groundwater, rivers and lakes
- Demand from the domestic and industrial sectors. Which may lead to altered pattern of flows.

4.26 The District contains a number of major aquifers that provides high quality water that requires little treatment prior to use. Protection of groundwater resources most at risk of pollution is most important.

4.27 How we use water and manage water is likely to become increasingly important because of climate change and increased pressures on the resource. Currently there are no immediate concerns for public water supply.

4.28 Climate change effects are likely to exacerbate the pressures on water resources. It is expected that summers will become drier, when demands for water are usually greatest. Changes in demographics could lead to greater domestic water use in future and changes in agriculture are likely to increase demand for irrigation.

4.29 The Environment Agency produced a Water Resources Strategy for the East Midlands Region in March 2001. This strategy will form a framework for the management of water resources over the next 25 years. The key issue for the District is the overall availability of water. Future demands will be met through a twin track approach involving:

- Seeking the efficient use of water through leakage control, domestic metering, low water use devices, waste minimisation and recycling;
- Developing new or enhanced water resources where appropriate.

4.30 Future developments in the East Midlands should recognise the limited availability of water and incorporate efficiency measures and sustainable drainage systems at the planning stage. The timing and location of new development must respect water resources and environmental constraints.

4.31 We want to establish a situation where water use is at a level that can be supported by sustainable supplies. This means that water abstractions do not cause adverse environmental impact, either directly or indirectly, and are used responsibly, i.e. in a way that is economically, environmentally and socially effective.

4.32 Water conservation measures should be incorporated in all new development to preserve the water resources that exist.
Aim

To manage the risk of flooding, and the impact of development on groundwater resources.

Air Quality

4.33 Air pollution is a factor that can have a major impact on people’s health. Exposure to air pollution can have a long term effect on health and can have a negative impact on our environment, both in terms of direct effects of pollutants on vegetation, an indirectly through effects on the acid and nutrient status of soils and waters.

4.34 The Core Strategy can help deliver an important part of an Integrated approach to air quality improvements in particular when considering new developments with emphasis on accessibility for public transport, walk and cycling. These can all help reduce the number of journeys made by car and the emissions to air.

4.35 Under Part IV of the Environment Act 1995, local authorities have a statutory duty to examine and manage local air quality, and the Council carries out continuous assessment programme to monitor and report on air quality with the aim of ensuring compliance with the national objectives for air quality and also to inform the public on air quality issues. The 2007 update found that all the seven pollutants that are required to be monitored were expected to meet their target values. Derbyshire Dales does not contain any Air Quality Management Areas, where air quality objectives cannot be met. The Local Transport Plan identifies Ashbourne as being a hot spot due to the high levels of traffic in the town centre. The District’s roads do not generally suffer from continuous levels of congestion that would cause pollutants, although at times several roads may be slow moving.

4.36 Air quality is directly affected by industrial activity and transport and it impacts on human health and biodiversity. The links between air quality, transport and planning are well recognised and one of the aims of sustainable development is that planning policy should seek to minimise development in locations that increases car use, and this will be a key aim of the Core Strategy.

Objectives

- To maintain and improve air quality standards
Sustainable Communities and Sustainable Development

4.37 The environment is a “Quality of Life” matter. The location, scale and distribution of new development can have an impact upon social and environmental well being. Inappropriately located new development can have unsustainable consequences. It is important, therefore, that in meeting the development needs of Derbyshire Dales, care is taken to ensure the principles of sustainable development are met and community well being is addressed.

4.38 The twin principles of sustainable development and the creation of sustainable communities are central to the new planning system. The concept of sustainable development means ensuring a better quality of life for everyone, both present and future generations. For sustainable communities this may mean achieving working toward communities which are active, inclusive and safe, well run, environmentally sensitive, well designed and built, well connected, thriving, well served, fair for everyone, diverse and reflecting their local circumstances.

4.39 The thrust of national, regional and local planning policy indicates that in rural areas, such as Derbyshire Dales, development should be concentrated in those most accessible settlements, with lesser amounts of development in smaller villages which have basic services and which have a population that would support their continued viability.

Setting out the Principles of Sustainability

4.5 Central to the District Council’s approach will be to develop the Government’s objectives for the planning system which is outlined within Planning Policy Statement 1 (PPS1). The policy statement sets out the aim of getting the right development, in the right place at the right time. Integrated sustainable development is a core principle underpinning these objectives and with planning facilitating and promoting sustainable and inclusive patterns of development by:

- making suitable land available for development in line with economic, social and environmental objectives to improve people’s quality of life;
- contributing to sustainable economic development;
- protecting and enhancing the natural and historic environment, the quality and character of the countryside, and existing communities;
- ensuring high quality development through good and inclusive design, and the efficient use of resources; and
- ensuring that development supports existing communities and contributes of safe, sustainable, liveable and mixed communities with good access to jobs and key services for all members of the community.

4.6 The formation of sustainable communities is in the spirit of PPS1 which will help achieve the objectives as set out in the guidance. The District Council considers that the essential elements of a sustainable community relate to:

Creating sustainable locations is about linking housing and commercial land needs in the same location and directing planned development to locations which avoid the risk of flooding, that will be supported by public transport, leisure, community and essential services and will minimise damage to the environment.
What defines a sustainable community could involve creating well designed places and spaces which enable close links between where people live, work and enjoy themselves and the services they require and which are designed to promote social inclusion, diversity and work with the environment where they are located. It also means:

- **A sufficient number of people to engender a sense of belonging**, vitality and safety, as well as support the range of services that people need in their daily lives. Some of Derbyshire Dale’s communities will need to accommodate additional housing development in order to create a better mix, as well as support the services they need.

- **A mix of land uses that works together** providing for activity helps to strengthen social integration, as well as improving public safety. To achieve this will mean concentrating a range of public facilities and commercial activities in the local community. These areas will need to be mixed working areas with higher density housing. They will need to include the facilities that we all use as part of our daily lives, such as shops, schools and community facilities. The centre of the community will also be public transport, connecting the community to the rest of the District and surrounding areas. Community safety will be an important feature of their design.

- **Provision for people to meet and interact.** At its best, the sustainable community operates as a network of interconnected places and spaces that help to bring people together. To do this effectively means putting the pedestrian first and ensuring that walking is the preferred option in accessing different facilities within an area. This does not mean taking an ‘anti-car’ stance. However, it does mean reducing unnecessary car journeys by ensuring many daily needs can be met within walking distance, as well as ensuring that public transport becomes an accessible way of getting around the District.

- **Character and sense of place.** Many parts of Derbyshire Dales are steeped in history, containing important buildings providing character and identity and located within superb natural settings. All these elements need to be respected – they are key assets in reshaping our neighbourhoods, making places where people want to live and will continue to want to live in the future.

- **Social inclusion.** Equality and inclusion are goals that lie at the heart of creating sustainable, linked communities, where the needs of all sections of the local population for housing, transport, employment, leisure, safety and accessibility are recognised and provided for. In particular, it is important that the needs of young and older people are recognised but also the needs of race and faith groups, people with a disability and the needs of women and men.

- **Sustainable Technologies** is about the choice of building materials and methods to help reduce the depletion of natural resources and the production of greenhouse gases, and that buildings will have a long life, flexibility and adaptability for other potential alternative future uses.
Appendix 1: Administration Boundaries

Map Parishes within the Core Strategy Area
This information is available free of charge in electronic, audio, Braille and large print versions, and in other languages on request.

For assistance in understanding or reading this document or specific information about these Minutes please call Brian Evans on 01629 761301 or e-mail committee@derbyshiredales.gov.uk

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of a Meeting held on Monday 22nd October 2007 in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Matlock at 6.00 pm.

PRESENT

Councillor Lewis Rose - In the Chair

Councillors Ian Bates, Ken Bull, David Fearn, Mrs. I. Ratcliffe, Tony Rosser, Geoff Stevens, Mrs. Carol Valentine and Mrs. Carol Walker

Mike Hase, (Planning Policy Manager), David Arnold (Planning Policy Officer), Claire Collison (Planning Policy Officer) and Christine Laver (Committee Administrator)

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Charles Duncan, Steve Flitter and David Hoskin

331/07 – MINUTES

It was moved by Councillor Ian Bates, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Irene Ratcliffe and

RESOLVED (Unanimously)

That the minutes of the Local Development Framework Advisory Committee held on 3rd September 2007 be approved as a correct record.

The minutes were signed by the Chairman.

332/07 – DERBYSHIRE DALES CORE STRATEGY ISSUES AND OPTIONS – HEALTH, LEISURE AND CRIME WORKSHOP FEEDBACK

At its meeting held on 3rd September 2007 the Committee resolved that the Health, Leisure and Crime Topic Papers be approved as a basis for discussion at workshops with stakeholders. A workshop was held on 12th September, 2007, where a presentation by Officers outlined the data collected, in relation to these topics, and the main issues and options identified to date. The workshop was attended by 20 delegates and the main points raised at the workshop, in relation to a series of questions posed by Officers, were detailed in the report for the information of Members. It was noted that the development of Options was an ongoing process.

It was moved by Councillor Geoff Stevens, seconded by Councillor David Fearn and
RESOLVED That the discussions held with stakeholders at the workshops be noted.

333/07 – DERBYSHIRE DALES CORE STRATEGY ISSUES AND OPTIONS – ENVIRONMENT TOPIC PAPER COVERING CLIMATE CHANGE, FLOODRISK, NATURAL AND HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT

The Committee considered two topic papers on Climate Change (including flood risk) and on the natural and historic environment. Both of these examined the characteristics of the local planning authority area and discussed the issues for inclusion in the Derbyshire Dales Core Strategy. The report provided members with an opportunity to suggest alternative approaches and sought approval for an informal period of consultation with stakeholders.

The new planning system, as introduced by the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, required local planning authorities to adopt a broader approach to planning, known as spatial planning, with the Core Strategy at the centre of this approach.

In line with the advice in Planning Policy Statement 12, work had commenced on the preparation of the Derbyshire Dales Core Strategy, which once adopted would set the strategic planning framework for Derbyshire Dales up to 2026 and play a key part in the delivery of the Derbyshire Dales and High Peak Community Strategy 2006 – 2009.

The Officer presentations set out the international, national, regional and local policy frameworks within which these topics would be considered and identified the following key messages from these sources:

Climate Change

- Tackling climate change is a major long term challenge: early action essential to avoid costs.
- Climate change is a planning consideration
- Sustainable Development – environmental limits
- Reduce greenhouse emissions
- Increase the use of renewable energy sources
- Energy efficiency
- New development to optimise carbon performance
- Deliver growth resilient to climate change in particular to flooding
- Sustain biodiversity: acknowledge habitats / species will be affected by climate change
- Protect floodplains and increase floodplain capacity

Natural and Historic Environment

- Protection, enhancement and preservation of the natural and historic environment is vital in achieving sustainable development – social and economic benefits
- Better quality of life
- Environmental limits and finite capacity
- Environmental enhancement and restoration
- Precautionary principle approach
- Promotion of high quality design
- Promotion of Green Infrastructure and "step" change increase in biodiversity and wildlife corridors
- Local distinctiveness
• Accessibility and education

Points raised by Members in relation to climate change and the natural and historic environment included

• Localised, ‘flash’ flooding could, in some instances, be more of a threat than more predictable, widespread flooding
• There was an apparent mismatch between the Council’s aim to provide affordable housing and increasingly onerous and expensive requirements for energy efficiency and carbon neutrality in new houses.
• Until a national framework was in place efforts to promote energy efficiency and carbon neutrality through planning could be thwarted by the Inspectorate.
• Climate change was a very ‘cross-cutting’ issue and, as such, would need to inform all areas of Council policy.
• The development of market towns as sustainable ‘hubs’ and the importance of maintaining physical links between them and their satellite villages.
• The importance of recognising the need for multi agency co-operation to mitigate the effects of climate change.
• The need to recognise the geographical diversity of the District and the resultant unlikelihood that one solution would be good for all.
• The need for the Council to have a framework in place relating to commercial use of renewable energy.
• The importance of maintaining biodiversity and preserving/adapting habitats accordingly.

The presentations also included key facts and statistics on each of the topics and identified issues that had emerged during the work to date. In relation to climate change a number of options for the approach of the Council to these issues were suggested. Work on the natural and historic environment topic had not yet progressed to a similar stage although the Committee suggested the following as possible options for an approach to this topic:

• Maintain the Council’s current approach
• Adopt a more protective approach

It was moved by Councillor Mrs Irene Ratcliffe, seconded by Councillor David Fearn and

RESOLVED (Unanimously) That the climate change and natural and historic environment Topic Papers on Climate Change (including flooding) and the Natural and Historic Environment be approved as a basis for discussion with stakeholders subject to the addition of the options suggested by Members.

MEETING CLOSED 8.00 PM

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Issued 26th October, 2007