

Sustainability Appraisal

Local Development Framework for Bradford Bradford City Centre Area Action Plan

Draft Scoping Report

July 2007



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ब्राडफोर्ड डिस्ट्रिक्ट (Bradford District) एर लोक्याल डेवेलोपमेन्ट फ्रेमवर्क (Local Development Framework – स्थानीय उन्नयन काठामो) एर अनेकगुलो कागजपत्र वा दलिलपत्रेण एकटि हलो एहि तथ्यापत्रटि । एहि तथ्यापत्रेण विषयवस्तु कमिउनिटिण लोकदेण कोनो भाषाय बुवाते चाहिले अथवा लिखित अनुवाद चाहिले नतुवा ता ब्रेइले (अक्षलिपिते), मोटो हरफे किंवा क्यासेटे रेकर्ड करे चाहिले, अनुवाह करे लोक्याल डेवेलोपमेन्ट फ्रेमवर्क ग्रुप (Local Development Framework Group)-के (01274) 434050, (01274) 434544 वा (01274) 434606 नाखारे फोन करण ।

यह दस्तावेज़ उन बहुत से दस्तावेज़ों में से एक है जिनसे मिलकर ब्रैडफोर्ड डिस्ट्रिक्ट का लोकल डिवेलपमेंट फ्रेमवर्क बनता है। यदि आप इस दस्तावेज़ की जानकारी का हिन्दी अनुवाद या इसे ब्रेल, बड़े अक्षरों या टेप पर प्राप्त करना चाहते हैं , तो कृपया लोकल डिवेलपमेंट फ्रेमवर्क ग्रुप से (01274) 434050, (01274) 434544 या (01274) 434606 पर सम्पर्क करें।

ਇਹ ਦਸਤਾਵੇਜ਼ ਅਜਿਹੇ ਬਹੁਤ ਸਾਰੇ ਦਸਤਾਵੇਜ਼ਾਂ ਵਿੱਚੋਂ ਇੱਕ ਹੈ ਜਿਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਨਾਲ ਬਰੈਡਫੋਰਡ ਡਿਸਟ੍ਰਿਕਟ ਦਾ ਲੋਕਲ ਡਿਵੈਲਪਮੈਂਟ ਫਰੇਮਵਰਕ ਬਣਦਾ ਹੈ। ਜੇਕਰ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਇਸ ਦਸਤਾਵੇਜ਼ ਵਿੱਚ ਦਿੱਤੀ ਗਈ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਦਾ ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਅਨੁਵਾਦ ਜਾਂ ਇਸਨੂੰ ਬ੍ਰੇਲ, ਵੱਡੇ ਅੱਖਰਾਂ ਜਾਂ ਟੇਪ 'ਤੇ ਪ੍ਰਾਪਤ ਕਰਨਾ ਚਾਹੁੰਦੇ ਹੋ ਤਾਂ, ਕ੍ਰਿਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਲੋਕਲ ਡਿਵੈਲਪਮੈਂਟ ਫਰੇਮਵਰਕ ਗਰੁੱਪ ਨਾਲ (01274) 434050, (01274) 434544 ਜਾਂ (01274) 434606 'ਤੇ ਸੰਪਰਕ ਕਰੋ।

આ દસ્તાવેજ ઘણાંમાં નો એક છે કે જે બ્રેડફોર્ડ ડિસ્ટ્રિક્ટ નાં સ્થાનિક વિકાસ ની રૂપરેખા બનાવે છે. જો તમને આ દસ્તાવેજનાં લખાણનું પ્રાદેશિક ભાષાઓમાં ભાષંતર કરાવવાની અથવા તેનો અર્થ સમજવાની જરૂર જણાય, અથવા તમને તેની જરૂર બ્રેઇલ, લાર્જ પ્રિન્ટ કે પછી ટેપ ઉપર હોય, તો મહેરબાની કરી લોકલ ડિવેલપમેન્ટ ફ્રેમવર્ક ગ્રુપનો (01274) 434050, (01274) 434544 અથવા (01274) 434606 પર સંપર્ક કરો.

یہ دستاویز بریڈفورڈ ڈسٹریکٹ کے مقامی ترقیاتی لائحہ عمل سے متعلقہ دستاویزات میں سے ایک ہے۔ اگر آپ کو اس دستاویز کا زبان یا تحریری ترجمہ کسی بھی کمیونٹی زبان میں درکار ہو یا آپ اسے بریل، لارج پرنٹ یا ٹیپ میں چاہتے ہیں تو براہ مہربانی لوکل ڈیولپمنٹ فریم ورک گروپ سے ٹیلی فون نمبر: 01274 434050, 01274 434544 یا 01274 434606 پر رابطہ کریں۔



BRADFORD
one landscape many views



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



Bradford City Centre Area Action Plan

Sustainability Appraisal: Draft Scoping Report

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NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

Sustainability Appraisal

The new-style Local Development Framework (LDF) was introduced by the Government in 2004. The Bradford City Centre Area Action Plan (BCCAAP) is one of the key elements in a portfolio of local planning documents, which will make up the Local Development Framework for Bradford. This will set the context for future planning and offer a long term spatial vision for the Bradford City Centre area which will be carried out in the form of City Centre Regeneration. It will seek to identify key future issues and objectives and specify policies and allocations for Bradford City Centre, looking as far ahead as 2021.

In preparing Local Development Documents, the council is required to comply with the European Union Directive 2001/42/EC, commonly known as Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), which requires an assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment. The objective of the SEA process is to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans with a view to promoting sustainable development.

In addition to the requirements of the Directive, the Council is also required to carry out an appraisal of the sustainability of the proposals in the local development document they produce under the provisions of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. Whereas the SEA considers the significant environmental effects of a plan, the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) in addition considers the effects of the plan on a range of social and economic interests. The key aim of a SA is to make the plan process more transparent, better documented and more clearly focused on sustainability.

This document is the Sustainability Appraisal Draft Scoping Report, which forms the initial stage in producing the full appraisal. The major influence in preparing it has been the Guidance for Regional Planning Bodies and Local Planning Authorities produced by the then ODPM in November 2005. It collects together baseline data and information on a range of other plans, policies and programmes in a systematic and summarised form. The data presents an overall picture of the City Centre and where possible relates to the District of Bradford, because it is felt that this will be of more significance as any impacts emerging from the Bradford City Centre Area Action Plan (BCCAAP) will affect not only the immediate area but also the wider community. On a range of topics, it compares Bradford's performance and the attributes of its population and the district to those of neighbouring areas and regional and national averages.

Based on this context, draft sustainability appraisal objectives and indicators are identified and issues and problems are set out to form a draft framework, which will then be used to measure the performance of the Bradford City Centre Area Action Plan (BCCAAP). A higher level Sustainability Appraisal which is being carried out as a part of the Core Strategy DPD will be a key to determine the importance and practicality of some of these issues for the Bradford City Centre Area Action Plan (BCCAAP) Sustainability Appraisal. Together, these elements form the sustainability framework, becoming a yardstick against which the social, environmental and economic effects of the plan can be tested. The framework forms the core of the full sustainability appraisal that follows at a later stage.

Snapshot of Bradford City Centre

Bradford's growth is closely linked to the industrial revolution. It became the wool capital of the world leading to the development of a solid engineering and manufacturing base. Buildings from the Victorian era still dominate a good part of the city centre, often influenced by classical European styles.

Bradford's Victorian legacy in particular is of national significance. Although its roots go back to medieval times, it was rebuilt mostly during the second half of the 19th century during the boom years of Bradford's economic development as an international centre of the wool trade. Much of this historic form still remains intact, reflected in the fact that there are around 100 Listed Buildings and four separate conservation areas within the city centre.

The present built environment in the city centre, however, is very much influenced by the post war redevelopment and has resulted in the loss of some of its historical character and natural settings. These recent developments rejected the use of continuous building frontages in favour of free standing building within an open landscape that eventually created unrelated and haphazard composition of buildings breaking up the spaces and cutting off potentially dramatic view of the townscape.

The number of resident population of the wider city centre is estimated to be approaching 4,000. The population is ethnically diverse, mostly of working age (20-39 years old) with a very small percentage of children and families and with a high proportion of single individuals. The majority of the existing housing in the city centre is single person accommodation comprised of flats with nominal amounts of terraced and semi detached units. Social and private renting dominates the housing tenure that gives an indication of affordability problem in the city centre. However, investment in the city centre's residential market has increased in the recent years and provided new life to the old, underused buildings linked to the city's industrial heritage.

The city centre is home to a large number of student populations studying at the university and college and is an important employment location for Bradford due to its concentration of retailing, offices, public services and other educational facilities. Once the main trading hub of the wool and textile capital of the world, it has experienced significant restructuring in the local economy over the last two decades with growing employment in the professional services industries. Almost 42,000 people come to work in Bradford City Centre, mostly in the public administration and financial and business services (FBS). The city centre experiences a net inflow of commuters everyday from surrounding areas.

But despite the increase in investment, development of new businesses and prospects for future growth, there still exists variation in the over all income, skill level, health and educational attainment of households within the city centre area.

Developing the Sustainability Appraisal Framework

It is virtually impossible to summarise the range of plans, policies and programmes identified in the full Draft Scoping Report that have influenced the development of the sustainability framework. Perhaps the best summary would be the shared UK principles of sustainable development. For a policy to be sustainable it should ideally embody all five principles. It would need to ensure that we live within

environmental limits and contribute towards a strong, healthy and just society, by achieving a sustainable economy, using sound science responsibly and promoting good governance.

At the heart of the sustainability appraisal framework lie the sustainability objectives, the achievement of which is measurable using indicators. An objective can be defined as a statement of what is intended. The draft sustainability appraisal objectives are set out below, sub divided into topic groups.

The proposed SA objectives are-

Sustainability Appraisal (SA) Objectives	
Energy and Resources	
1	Ensure the prudent and efficient use of energy and natural resources and the promotion of renewable energy.
2	Minimise the growth in waste and increase the amount of waste which is re-used, re-cycled and recovered.
Response to Climate Change	
3	Reduce the districts impact on climate change and vulnerability to its effects.
Air, Soil and Water Quality	
4	Safeguard and improve air, water and soil resources.
Natural Assets	
5	Conserve and enhance the internationally, nationally and locally valued wildlife species and habitats
6	Maintain and enhance the character of natural and man-made landscapes
Housing	
7	Provide the opportunity for everyone to live in quality housing which reflects individual needs, preferences and resources.
Transport	
8	Develop and maintain an integrated and efficient transport network which maximizes access whilst minimizing detrimental impacts.
9	Reduce congestion and pollution by increasing transport choice and by reducing the need to travel by lorry / car.
Land Use	
10	Improve the quality of the built environment, protect and enhance historic environment, cultural assets and make efficient use of existing land and buildings.
Accessibility and Local Needs	
11	Improve the quality and range of services available within communities and connections to wider networks.
Communities	
12	Promote social cohesion, encourage participation and improve the quality of deprived neighbourhoods.
Culture, Leisure and Recreation	
13	Create good cultural, leisure and recreation activities available to all.
Safety and Security	
14	Improve safety and security for people and property.

Health (and Social Welfare)	
15	Provide the conditions and services to improve health and well-being and reduce inequality to access to health and social care.
Education and Training	
16	Promote education and training opportunities which build the skills and capacity of the population.
Local Economy and Employment	
17	Increase the number of high quality job opportunities suited to the needs of the local workforce.
18	Support investment and enterprise to develop a dynamic, diverse and knowledge based economy, excelling in innovation with higher value and lower impact activities.

Sustainability issues have been identified covering the different elements of the concept. In terms of social issues, these include: accommodating the needs of the population for housing of a type and tenure to match needs and fulfil aspirations, yet reducing the environmental impact of new development, identifying ways in which land-use planning can have an impact on community cohesion, retaining good physical access to facilities for new development and improving the quality, type and range of services.

In addressing Bradford City Centre economy, issues identified include those of increasing incomes and skill levels in communities suffering high levels of deprivation, responding to future trends in employment and delivering regeneration in a manner that benefits the City Centre residents within the carrying capacity of the local environment. A further issue identified is that of integrating sustainability into the initial assessment of major projects, particularly in cases where new transport infrastructure is being considered.

Many of the sustainability issues relate to protection of the environment and the use of resources. The importance of protecting and enhancing biodiversity and landscape, promoting wider appreciation of their benefits is emphasized, as is safeguarding locally and nationally valued heritage assets and minimizing the impact of development on these. In aiming for the responsible use of resources, efforts should be made to promote good practice and reduce pollutants. While targets for air quality, re-cycling of refuse and energy efficiency are set nationally, attempts should also be made to reflect local concerns and priorities.

The sustainability issues identified will be used as prompts to assist in assessing more fully the impact of the plans objectives and policies. While the sustainability objectives are broadly similar to those of other authorities, particularly those within the region, the issues are an attempt to reflect more local concerns.

The Guidance on preparing a sustainability appraisal recommends that local planning authorities consult on the basis of a scoping report representing the information collected at this stage in the process. The sustainability appraisal framework will then feed into the development and refining of plan options and assessing effects. The sustainability appraisal findings will help to develop the preferred option.

SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Purpose and Structure of this Document

- 1.1.1 This document is the Draft Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report which forms the initial stage in producing the full sustainability appraisal for the Bradford City Centre Area Action Plan (BCCAAP) of the emerging Bradford City Council Local Development Framework (LDF). The appraisal process exists to ensure that sustainability concerns will be taken into account throughout production of the Bradford City Centre Area Action Plan (BCCAAP) through assessing the overall environmental, economic and social impact of its objectives and policies.
- 1.1.2 This draft scoping report makes a review of the relevant plans, policies and programs that will affect or influence the Bradford City Centre Area Action Plan (BCCAAP) and collects together, in a systematic and summarised form, relevant social, economic and environmental baseline information that will produce a characterisation of the Bradford District as a whole and the City Centre Area.
- 1.1.3 Based on this context, draft sustainability appraisal objectives and indicators are identified and issues and problems set out to form a draft framework, which will then be used to measure the performance of the Bradford City Centre Area Action Plan (BCCAAP). The framework forms the core of the full sustainability appraisal that follows at a later stage.
- 1.1.4 The structure reflects the appraisal process and is set out as follows:
- Section 1* – comprises the introduction and defines core concepts and the key elements that come together to form the Sustainability Appraisal process.
- Section 2* – sets out the context and objectives, establishes the baseline and decides on the scopes of the study
- Section 3* – describes the next stages of consultation and using the framework to appraise development of the Bradford City Centre Area Action Plan (BCCAAP).
- 1.1.5 This report has been prepared by the LDF Team of the Regeneration Department at Bradford City Council which is also responsible for the production of the Bradford City Centre Area Action Plan (BCCAAP).

We would like to know your views on any aspect of this Draft Scoping Report.

Please e-mail your comments to: ldf.consultation@bradford.gov.uk.

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By- 13/08/2007

Please head the response 'BCCAAP Sustainability Appraisal – Draft Scoping Report'.

1.2 Sustainability and Sustainable Development

1.2.1 The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act, 2004, requires that planning authorities prepare Local Development Documents with a view to contributing towards achieving sustainable development.

1.2.2 Sustainable Development is a term that is commonly used to describe the notion of ensuring a better quality of life for everyone, now and for future generations. The most common definition of Sustainable Development is that outlined by the World Commission on Environment and Development in 1987:

Development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”.

Planning Policy Statement 1 (ODPM 2005) places this notion at the centre of the planning process:

‘Sustainable development is the core principle underpinning planning. At the heart of sustainable development is the simple idea of ensuring a better quality of life for everyone.’

1.2.3 The UK strategy for Sustainable Development- ‘Securing the Future’, was published in March 2005, building on and reviewing the 1999 strategy ‘a Better Quality of Life’. Within this strategy, the five guiding principles of UK sustainability development are set out. All five of these need to be respected if a policy is going to be sustainable:

- Living within environmental needs- ensure that natural resources needed for life are left unimpaired for future generations
- Ensuring a strong, healthy and just society- meeting the needs of all sections of the community, with equal opportunities and social cohesion.
- Achieving a sustainable economy- build an economy that provides prosperity for all and in which environmental costs are paid for by those who impose them.
- Promoting good governance- promote participation and engage with all levels of society
- Using sound science responsibly- take into account sound evidence and public attitudes/values in policy development

1.2.4 In developing any plans, policies and programmes, authorities need to ensure that these principles are being addressed. It is considered that no one of these objectives is more important than the other and that in the long-term, success in one is dependent on the others.

1.2.5 Assessment of how local authorities are applying principles and addressing key aims of sustainable development in their Development Plan Documents (DPDs) and Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) can be achieved through Sustainability Appraisals (SAs).

1.3 The Sustainability Appraisal

1.3.1 The aim of the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) is to ensure that the principles of sustainability are taken into account in the production of the Bradford City Centre Area Action Plan (BCCAAP). This means consideration must be given to the environmental, social and economic effects of the plan.

1.3.2 The appraisal combines two processes:

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)- The SEA is the process for assessing the environmental impact of plans, programmes and policies to satisfy EU directive 2001/42/EC. The objective of the SEA process is to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans with a view to promoting sustainable development (see Appendix 1 for SEA Directive summary requirements). The SEA also works to inform the decision-making process through the identification and assessment of the cumulative effects a plan or programme will have on the environment at the strategic level and consultation on the potential effects with a wide range of stakeholders. The SEA regulations¹ detail specific procedural and content requirements, including setting out statutory consultees.

Sustainability Appraisal (SA)- The SA is a process required under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 to identify sustainable approaches for dealing with key planning issues and environmental problems. The key aim of a SA is to make the plan process more transparent, better documented and more clearly focused on sustainability. Whilst the SEA Directive focuses primarily on environmental effects, the SA process encompasses assessment of socio-economic as well as environmental aspects of strategies, policies and programmes. This assessment helps to determine the extent to which the implementation of specific strategies, policies or programmes will accord with the objectives by which sustainable development can be defined.

1.3.3 The requirements of the SA and SEA are distinct. However, it is possible to satisfy both through a single appraisal process. The requirements of the SEA Directive can be integrated into Sustainability Appraisals following the advice laid out by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM)² in its guidance paper of November 2005, '*Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Frameworks*'. References made to SAs in subsequent sections of the SA report should be taken to include such integration.

1.4 Context of Bradford LDF

1.4.1 The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act of 2004, together with associated regulations and guidance, set the framework for the new planning system, replacing Unitary Development Plans with the LDF which will be comprised of several smaller documents that can be produced, reviewed and altered more quickly than before. The key components of the Local Development

¹ The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004

² Please note that the ODPM has now become the Department of Communities and Local Government. However, for ease of reference this Guidance is referred to as the ODPM Guidance

Framework (LDF) are the Local Development Documents (LDDs) of which there are two main types- Development Plan Documents (DPDs) and Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) which, in addition to the Regional Spatial Strategy form the statutory development plan for the area. The new system allows local authorities to decide which combination of documents will best serve their needs.

1.4.2 As an important part of the LDF, but an element that can regularly be updated, the Local Development Scheme (LDS) sets out the details for producing, monitoring and reviewing Development Plan Documents and Supplementary Planning Documents in a three-year rolling programme of work. Documents that are currently programmed for preparation as part of the Local Development Scheme (LDS) can be viewed on the Council's website at: www.bradford.gov.uk/planning As the Replacement UDP was adopted in Autumn 2005, the policies and proposals outlined in the UDP will be 'saved' until 2008 i.e. three years, while the new DPDs are produced and added to the LDF. The Sustainability Appraisal (SA) programme needs to be taken into account as a Local Planning Authority (LPA) develops its timetable for the preparation of its LDF as outlined in the Local Development Scheme (LDS).

1.4.3 The first Development Plan Document being produced is the Core Strategy. This will be followed by a range of additional Development Plan Documents, including a land allocations (employment, housing and safeguarded land) document, and area focused Action Area Plan. Bradford City Centre Area Action Plan (BCCAAP) is part of these Development Plan Documents (DPDs) which are being produced following the development of the Core Strategy, during 2004-10. The Local Development Scheme has been revised and submitted to Government at end of March 2007. The revised LDS sets out the following documents, which form the LDF, as shown in Table 1 below.

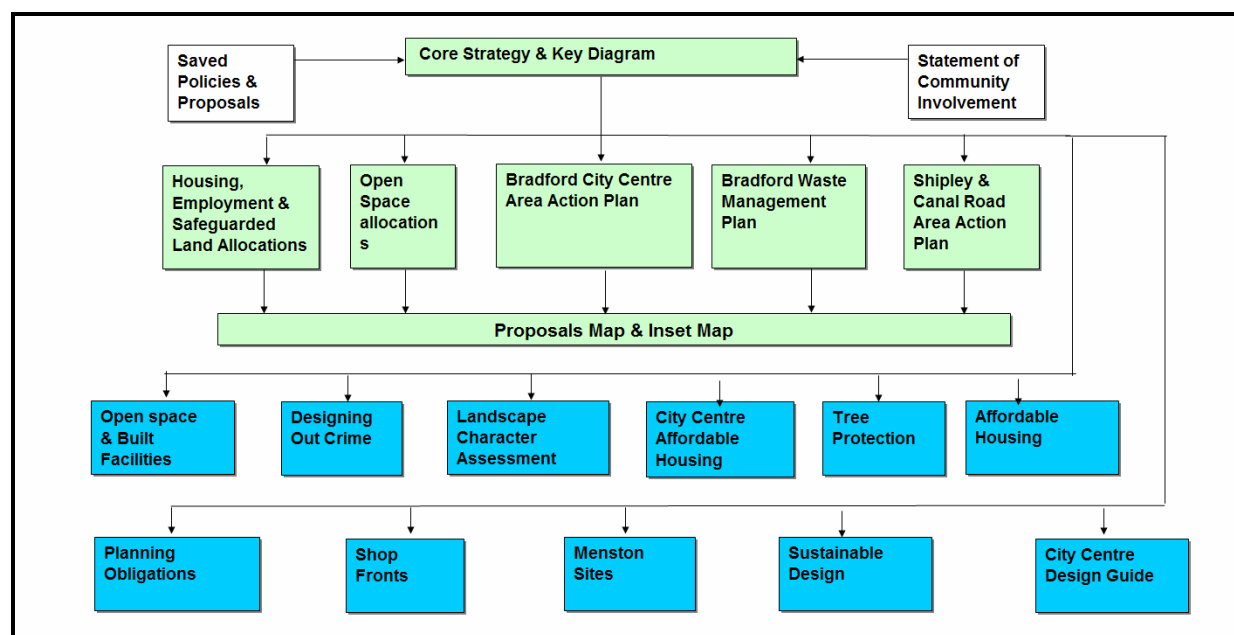
Table 1: Documents forming the Local Development Framework (LDF).

Document	Status	Description	Conformity	Adoption Date
Replacement UDP: Policies and Proposals saved for at least 3 years from the date of adoption (i.e. up to November 2008)				
Statement of Community Involvement (SCI)	LDD	How the community will be consulted on all DPDs and planning applications	The Regulations and Council's Corporate Communications Strategy	November 2007
Core Strategy	DPD	The Spatial Vision and Objectives for meeting known and anticipated development requirements.	RSS, & National Planning Policy Statements.	March 2010

Document	Status	Description	Conformity	Adoption Date
Proposals Map	DPD	Reflect policies and proposals in DPDs	Core Strategy and other DPDs	Dependent on the timetable of Core Strategy and other DPDs
Housing and Employment Sites and Safeguarded Land Allocations	DPD	Will identify sites in order to meet the Vision and Objectives of the Core Strategy.	RSS, Core Strategy, National Planning Policy Statements.	May 2011
Bradford City Centre Area Action Plan	DPD	Provide the statutory basis for the implementation of the City Centre Masterplan and associated four neighbourhood plans.	Saved rUDP policy, RSS & National Planning Policy Statements.	July 2010
Shipley and Canal Road Corridor Area Action Plan	DPD	Provide the spatial expression to deliver the regeneration and redevelopment of the Canal Road Corridor and north and east of Shipley. It will also support re-introduction of the canal and other major transport infrastructure. It will identify sites and areas of change and constraint.	RSS, & National Planning Policy Statements.	January 2011
Bradford Waste Management Plan	DPD	Will set out the Council's Spatial Strategy for dealing with waste and identify waste management sites.	RSS, National Planning Policy Statements & Core Strategy	September 2010
Open Space	DPD	Will identify existing and proposed open space sites and will set out policies for the protection of such sites and for securing new provision in line with PPG17. It will draw upon the District Open Space Assessment (2007).	RSS, National Planning Policy Statements & Core Strategy.	May 2011
Open Space and Built Recreation Facilities	SPD	Aimed at providing usable, accessible and sustainable open spaces, sport and recreational facilities within the District that will create a balanced and increased recreational opportunities.	Adopted UDP	December 2007

Document	Status	Description	Conformity	Adoption Date
Affordable Housing	SPD	Supports the saved policies on Affordable Housing and guidance on how the policies will be implemented	Adopted UDP	January 2008
Planning Obligations	SPD	Supports the saved policies UR6 on planning obligations and associated detailed policies on Affordable Housing, open space etc, of the adopted Replacement UDP. Provide guidance on how the policies will be implemented.	Adopted UDP	July 2007
City Centre Affordable Housing	SPD	Supports the saved policies H9 and H10 on Affordable Housing of the adopted Replacement UDP. Provide guidance on how the policies will be implemented in Bradford City Centre.	Adopted UDP	July 2007
Designing out Crime	SPD	A guide setting out how to reduce potential crime and nuisance.	Adopted UDP	July 2007
Landscape Character Assessment	SPD	Provides guidance on key character areas.	Adopted UDP	January 2008
Tree Protection	SPD	Supports the saved policies on the protection of trees on development sites.	Adopted UDP	September 2007
Menston SPD	SPD	Site specific SPD setting out development principles for two large housing sites in Menston at Derry Hill (S/H2.18) and Bingley Road (S/H2.17) allocated in the Replacement UDP.	Adopted UDP	June 2006
Shopfront	SPD	Supports the saved policy D13 in the Adopted Replacement UDP providing detailed guidance on principles of quality design in shop fronts.	Adopted UDP	September 2007

Figure 1 below shows the relationship between the Bradford City Centre Area Action Plan (BCCAAP) and other DPDs.



KEY

- Development Plan Documents
- Supplementary Planning Documents

1.4.4 The Bradford City Centre Area Action Plan (BCCAAP) will provide a spatial vision for Bradford City Centre and strategic objectives for realising the vision. It will substantially focus on setting out spatial policies that will identify specific areas within the city centre where significant change and/or conservation will be proposed and explaining implementation mechanisms. The Bradford City Centre Area Action Plan (BCCAAP) must also incorporate a monitoring and implementation framework showing how development and change will be measured and assessed against their impacts on the city centre as a whole, and adjoining areas, particularly in respect of environment, access, movement, transport and other infrastructure. In order to predict, assess and address these economic, social and environmental impacts likely to arise from the Bradford City Centre Area Action Plan (BCCAAP), a Sustainability Appraisal is required.

1.5 Sustainability Appraisal (SA) in DPD Preparation Process

1.5.1 Delivering sustainable development and encouraging greater participation from the public lie at the heart of the new development plan system. The LDF in the Bradford District must be in conformity with the Regional Spatial Strategy and must also seek to implement the spatial aspects of the Community Strategy prepared by Bradford Vision. The 2004 Act requires that Regional Spatial Strategies and Development Plan Documents be subject to sustainability appraisal. This is to ensure that the impacts of the plan on the environment, society and the economy are properly assessed and to allow queries to be raised about these issues.

Table 2- The five stages of Sustainability Appraisal

Stage A – Setting the context and objectives for the appraisal, establishing the baseline to measure changes against and deciding on its scope

Stage B – Developing and refining plan options

Stage C – Appraising the effects of the plan

Stage D – Consulting on the plan, preferred options and the SA Report

Stage E – Monitoring implementation of the plan

- 1.6.2 This Scoping Report essentially reports on how the steps in Stage A of the process have been carried out. It is a mechanism by which comments can be sought, highlighting any areas of concern or additional matters that need to be addressed.
- 1.6.3 Table 2 below sets out the 5 tasks within the first part of the process that will be carried out in this stage. These are in line with those tasks outlined in Stage A of the ODPM guidance. The first stage is based around establishing the context, the baseline and the scope of the SA, identifying key sustainability issues to be that need to be addressed. The remaining 4 Stages of the SA will be carried out alongside the production of the Bradford City Centre Area Action Plan (BCCAAP), after consideration has been given to responses received on this Scoping Report.

Table 3- Stage A of the SA process

A1 – Identify other relevant plans, programmes and sustainability objectives that will influence the LDDs

A2 – Collect relevant social, environmental and economic baseline information

A3 – Identify key sustainability issues for the SA/plan to address

A4 – Develop the SA framework, consisting of the SA objectives, indicators and targets

A5 – Consulting on the scope of the SA with the relevant statutory bodies, key stakeholders and the public

- 1.6.4 It is clear that SA is an iterative, ongoing process, which seeks to improve the sustainability performance of the plan or programme at every stage and be an integral part of the plan-making process. Starting the appraisal at an early stage of plan preparation means that it can contribute to the ongoing refinement of the strategies, proposals and policies. The SA process is subject to public or stakeholder consultation at key stages in the plan preparation process, with the response to consultation then used to inform the next stage of plan preparation.

1.7 Bradford's Approach to Sustainability Appraisal

- 1.7.1 Bradford Council has a steering group of officers which aims to bring together a multi-disciplinary team covering the key strands of sustainability, to provide specialist inputs and advice to officers carrying out SA, to debate key stages and to oversee the appraisal process. In debating the key stages involved in setting out an SA framework for the LDF, it has been acknowledged that there needs to be a corporate approach to scoping and carrying out appraisals, supported by access to a common data base of supporting evidence. The production of the scoping report for the Core Strategy represented a first step towards this approach. The work undertaken for this scoping report will add further data and issues to this common data-base.
- 1.7.2 The ODPM SA Guidance advises that the common use of SA information for Development Plan Documents is appropriate. Once SA information and objectives have been developed for a LPA's first SA, subsequent SAs of other Development Plan Documents can also draw on this information. This advice applies particularly to the scoping stage of the process. An SA need not be done in any more detail, or using more resources than is useful for its purpose. In this way the Core Strategy SA Scoping Report although primarily strategic in content and aimed at scoping the Core Strategy, has and will form the basis for scoping this and later DPDs produced by Bradford Council. However as part of the process of producing this scoping report further information specifically related to city centre development issues has been included.

SECTION 2: SETTING THE CONTEXT, ESTABLISHING THE BASELINE AND DECIDING THE SCOPE

2.1 Task A1: Identifying Other Relevant Plans, Programmes and Sustainability Objectives

2.1.1 Task A1 involves establishing the context in which the LDF is being prepared. This requires the identification and review of other relevant policies, plans and programmes (PPPs) which may influence the content of the LDF. The purpose of the review is to: set out factors that might influence preparation of both the plan and the SA, identify potential inconsistencies and constraints so that these can be addressed and highlight environmental effects. The SEA Directive specifically requires environmental protection objectives established at international, European Community and national levels to be taken into account. An overview of the relevant International, National, Regional and Local PPPs identified in this review is summarised in Appendix 2. The work is ongoing and additional documents will be reviewed and further updates made in response to feedback from this consultation exercise.

1) Key Influences from National and International Agenda

2.1.2 A number of plans, programmes and sustainability objectives that are of significance to the development plan process have been identified at international and national level. The content of these will be reflected in the production and review of sustainability objective and strategies, programmes and objectives of the Bradford City Centre Area Action Plan (BCCAAP).

2.1.3 Environmental Protection Objectives

- **EU Habitats Directive:** 'To conserve natural habitats and wild flora and fauna in the EU through a network of 'special areas of conservation' and 'special protection areas'.
- **UK Biodiversity Action Plan:** This describes the UK's biological resources and commits a detailed plan for the protection of those resources. The overriding aim is to conserve, protect and enhance biological diversity.
- **Water Framework Directive:** The Directive establishes a range of environmental objectives for surface waters and groundwaters. Its main aims are to improve water quality while reducing any danger a water body poses, such as flooding. It is also designed to stop the deterioration of wetlands and improve aquatic habitats for wildlife.
- **Waste Framework Directive:** Member states need to take appropriate measures to encourage 'the prevention, or reduction of waste production and its harmfulness, and to promote the recovery of waste by means of recycling, re-use or reclamation. The LPA should ensure that policies, site allocations and technologies (if applicable) are chosen that minimise the effects on human health and the environment.

- **The National Air Quality Strategy:** This sets objectives for 8 main air pollutants to protect health and local authorities will work towards achieving the objectives prescribed by regulation.
- **Energy White Paper:** White Paper goals:- To put ourselves on a path to cut the UK's carbon dioxide emissions (60% by 2050) – the main contributor to global warming – by creating a low-carbon economy through improved energy efficiency and increased use of renewable.
- **UK Climate Change:** The key priority of the programme is to ensure the UK meets its legally binding target under the Kyoto Protocol to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions to 12.5% below 1990 levels by 2008-2012. The programme is also designed to move towards the domestic goal of a 20% reduction in carbon dioxide emissions below 1990 levels by 2010.

2.1.4 Sustainable Development Strategy

- **National Guidance**

One of the main influences on the content of the LDF is national planning guidance. Planning Policy Guidance notes (PPGs) and their successors, Planning Policy Statements (PPSs) set out the Government's strategy for development on a number of issues, including housing, economy, transport and environment. Requirements set out in PPGs and PPSs that are of particular relevance to the Bradford LDF include:

- Re-using previously developed land within urban areas before considering the release of Greenfield sites;
- Reducing reliance of the use of the car;
- Ensuring that retail development is in town centres rather than in edge of town locations;
- The need to ensure a vibrant economy;
- The need to protect the character of the countryside, including biodiversity and cultural heritage.

2.1.5 The majority of Planning Policy Statements and Planning Policy Guidance are linked to the concept of sustainable development, but *Planning Policy Statement 1: Delivering Sustainable Development* expresses the Government's commitment to delivering the principles of sustainable development through the planning system. This PPS sets out that development plans should create social cohesion and inclusion, protect and enhance the quality of the natural and historic environment, encourage wise use of natural resources and promote sustainable economic development, in an integrated manner. An extract identifying key principles of the PPS 1 is set out in Appendix 3.

- **UK Sustainable Development Strategy – Securing the Future**

2.1.6 This has 5 main principles:-

- Living within environmental limits
- Ensuring a strong, healthy and just society
- Achieving a sustainable economy

- Promoting good governance
- Using sound science responsibly

2.1.7 And 4 key priorities:-

- Sustainable consumption and production
- Climate change and energy
- Natural resource protection and environmental enhancement
- Sustainable communities

2.1.8 The Government's agenda for creating **Sustainable Communities**³ is identified as a particularly important influence on the sustainability appraisal process.

2.1.9 'Sustainable communities are places where people want to live and work, now and in the future. They meet the diverse needs of existing and future residents, are sensitive to their environment, and contribute to a high quality of life. They are safe and inclusive, well planned, built and run, and offer equality of opportunity and good services for all.'

2.1.10 'Sustainable communities are:

- Active, inclusive and safe
- Well run
- Environmentally sensitive
- Well designed and built
- Well connected
- Thriving
- Well served
- Fair for everyone

2.1.11 The SA objectives will have to reflect the aim of these programme and policies should make contributions in achieving the target of building a sustainable community.

2.1.12 **Planning for the Protection of European Sites: Appropriate Assessment**

Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and Wild Flora and Fauna – the 'Habitats Directive' – provides legal protection for habitats and species of European importance.

2.1.13 Schedule 1 of the Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c) (Amendment) (England and Wales) Regulations 2006 inserts a new Part IVA into the Conservation (Habitats, &c) Regulations 1994 and transposes into English Law the requirement to carry out Appropriate Assessment for land use plans. Article 85B of the Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c) (Amendment) Regulations 2006 sets out that "the plan-making authority for that plan shall, before the plan is given effect, make an *appropriate assessment* for the implications for the site in view of that site's conservation objectives". Article 85B also sets out inter alia that "in the light of the conclusions of the

³ Sustainable Communities: Building for the Future, OPDM (Feb 2003)

assessment, and subject to regulation 85C (considerations of overriding public interest) the competent authority shall give effect to the land use plan only after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the European site”.

2.1.14 The government has recently introduced guidance on Planning for the Protection of European Sites: Appropriate Assessment (AA). The guidance makes it clear that Appropriate Assessment (AA) should be incorporated into the wider SA process and that the purpose of Appropriate Assessment (AA) is to ensure that significant effects on European sites are avoided. The assessment is carried out solely in respect of the ‘conservation objectives’ for which a European site has been designated and its integrity in relation to its ability to support those objectives. Appropriate Assessment (AA) has four steps:

- Stage 1: Screening: Determining whether the plan is likely to have a significant effect on a European site;
- Stage 2 (if necessary): Appropriate Assessment: Determining whether, in view of the sites conservation objectives, the plan would have an adverse effect on the integrity of the site(s);
- Stage 3 (if necessary): Assessment of alternative solutions: Where the plan is assessed as having an adverse effect on the integrity of the site there should be an examination of alternatives; and
- Stage 4 (if necessary): Assessment where no alternative solutions remain and where adverse impacts remain: The plan can only be put in place if there are imperative reasons of overriding public interest and there are no alternative solutions. Judgements will involve an assessment of the importance of the proposal and whether it is sufficient to override the nature conservation importance of that site. In this case, compensatory measures must be put in place.

2.1.15 In the case of the Bradford City Centre Area Action Plan (BCCAAP), the screening stage would need to examine whether the plan, its policies or site proposals would be likely to have any impact on the South Pennine Moors Special Protection Area (SPA- an area of some 20,938 ha of which 4,295 ha, represented by Rombalds Moor and Haworth Moor, is located within the Bradford District) which has also been proposed as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC), under the European Habitats Directive because it contains habitat types which are rare or threatened within a European context. An Appropriate Assessment (AA) is being undertaken as part of the Core Strategy Sustainability Appraisal and the Appropriate Assessment (AA) screening for the Bradford City Centre Area Action Plan (BCCAAP) will be led by the results of this. This screening process will need to be undertaken at the stage when the issues and options are being assessed.

2) Influence of Regional Spatial Strategy and its Sustainability Appraisal

2.1.16 One of the main changes to the development plans system is that the Regional Spatial Strategy, (a plan covering the whole region) which is produced by Yorkshire and the Humber Regional Assembly, now forms part of the legal development plan for the District. Therefore the core strategy will need to be in general conformity with the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS). How the plan and its SA address environmental matters and the Leeds sub-region (of which Bradford forms

a part), forms an important influence on the development of Bradford's LDF and SA. Many of the environmental issues cascade down to the district level and feature in the issues and objectives identified in this report.

2.1.17 The Draft RSS will seek to:

'Achieve a more sustainable pattern and form of development investment and activity in the Yorkshire and Humber Region – putting greater emphasis on matching needs across the region with opportunities and managing the environment as a key resource.'

2.1.18 The section on the environment defines the main components of the plan as including the need 'to transform cities and towns, raise environmental quality, increase biodiversity, enhance natural and built heritage, address climate change and protect rural and coastal areas'. The section on the Leeds City Region (of which Bradford forms a part) emphasises the rich variety of urban and rural habitats, the importance of Saltaire as a World Heritage Site, the region's role in the production of energy, the issue of poor air quality where traffic levels are high, the low proportion of tree cover and the need for further flood protection measures and increased flood alleviation along the Aire Valley, in response to climate change.

2.1.19 The SA of the RSS evaluates the policies in the plan against the SA objectives and indicators, issues and problems. The results are set out in the full report. The draft RSS is seen as particularly positive in terms of promoting employment opportunities for local residents, development in urban areas, providing accessible services, supporting public transport and environmental safeguards.

2.1.20 The RSS is criticised for having a negative impact in terms of airport development. The economy chapter is criticised for its 'old style' approach that focuses on employment land and omitting to explain how the strategy can help to address economic disparities and social inequalities. Traffic growth was identified as a key sustainability issue in the region but several policies still promote improvements to long-distance road links. However overall, due to the influence of the SA, this aspect of the plan has improved. Concern is expressed that climate change targets are unlikely to be met under current trends, and the RSS does not go beyond national standards to deal with this problem.

2.1.21 It is pointed out that like all RSSs, the draft RSS for Yorkshire and Humber will work only if many things outside its control are also done. Even where the RSS itself has positive impacts, it will not always be able to counter some wider negative trends that are due to individuals' behaviour, government policies (notably on roads and air travel), the strategies and approach of other organisations and other factors like power stations' choice of fuel.

3) Important Local Plans, Policies and Programmes

2.1.22 The full review of local plans, policies and programmes is in the table in Appendix 2. The Community Strategy and Vision 2020 are key influences setting out Bradford Council's priorities for the future and are outlined below.

2.1.23 Bradford Community Strategy 2006-2009 and Vision 2020

The Community Strategy and the Vision 2020 together set out the broad vision for the District over the next twenty years and the key priorities in moving towards that vision. The Vision 2020 is made up of a six point vision, focused upon creating a vibrant economy and enterprising District. The key themes are:

- A vibrant economy, fully integrated into the wider economy of the North of England and beyond, which will provide appropriate jobs for everyone and create a wealthier population with greater spending power. A place where people will be well educated and skilled, bringing an enterprising approach to all they do, and with the talent required to ensure a high profile District competing well in global markets.
- The District will have a diversified high-wage, high-skill, knowledge-based economy with particular strengths in cutting edge hi-tech manufacturing and communications, financial and business services, cultural and creative industries and environmental industries. It will be a connected District, using e-commerce and digital technology to improve people's lives and create business opportunities.
- The District will have excellent public services and community leadership. It will use resources efficiently and effectively and recognize energy use and waste. It is committed to recycling and the use of renewable energy sources and alternative fuels. It will be a District making the most of sustainable design, production and consumption.
- The District will be cleaner, greener and more ecologically healthy, with decent homes in decent neighbourhoods, healthier communities and lifestyles and where the lives of residents are enhanced by low levels of crime and fear of crime. With a modern transport infrastructure, every part of the District will be easily accessible to those who live or work within the District and to those who visit its internationally recognized tourist destinations.
- The District will be a place where all people can fully participate in a better future, where diverse people and communities respect each other and live in harmony. Older people are respected and valued for the contribution they have made, and continue to make. The well-being, creativity, aspirations and achievements of all children and young people will have been raised. It will be a District where the people are justifiably proud of where they live and of who they are.
- A District which is proud of, and makes the most of, its natural environment, its heritage and its potential. As a great place in which to live, learn, work and play, the District holds dear its breathtaking rural landscapes, beautiful historic and modern buildings and thriving towns and villages. The District draws strength and inspiration from its diversity and the qualities and enterprise of its exceptional people, vibrant community and cultural life.

2.1.24 The delivery of the Vision 2020 is driven by the Community Strategy, which has 5 related key aims:

- Creating a vibrant Economy and a prosperous District
- Improving the District for Children and Young People
- Building Safer and Stronger Communities
- Making Healthier Communities and improving the quality of life of Older People
- Creating the foundations for long term prosperity

2.1.25 The Community Strategy seeks to deliver and develop District-wide outcomes and goals that promote and improve the economic, social and environmental well-being of the District and contribute to sustainable development in the UK.

Table 4: Key Issues From National, International, Regional and Local Plans, Policies and Programmes

- Incorporate the principles of sustainable development.
- Continue focus on delivering development on brownfield land but be aware of implications
- Promote higher densities in accessible locations.
- Provide affordable, accessible and lifetime housing to meet identified needs .
- Improve match between type of housing built and needs of different sectors of community.
- Create sustainable mixed communities and promote social inclusion.
- Support for targets to improve existing housing and for renewal programmes.
- Reconcile tensions between increased road traffic, more sustainable means of travel and environmental objectives.
- Reduce the need to travel.
- Ensure that development sites have good access to services and local transport provision.
- Focus on City Centre and transport nodes for economic development.
- Provide appropriate levels of green spaces and protect and provide for their protection and enhancement.
- Protect and improve character and local distinctiveness, and promote good design.
- Need to deliver improved quality in the public realm, particularly where significant change is anticipated.
- Support for protecting and enhancing local landscape character, biodiversity and heritage assets.
- Protect and enhance the historic environment.
- Protect, enhance and improve access to the countryside, green belt and green spaces.
- Improve air and water quality and reduce air, noise and light pollution.
- Promote and provide for renewable energy and energy efficiency.
- Promote sustainable waste management.
- Manage mineral extraction.
- Reduce flood risk to people and property.
- Create safer and secure communities.
- Reduce impacts of anti-social behaviour.
- Remediate contaminated land.
- Provide for sustainable tourism.

2.1.26 In reviewing other relevant plans, programmes and policies and their sustainability objectives, we examined those identified in the Core Strategy Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report. Some PPPs discounted and other PPPs specific to the city centre were added. It's a continuous process and the information will be updated as required following reviews and consultations.

Questions

- 1) Have all of the Policies, Plans and Programmes (PPPs) and Sustainable Development Objectives that are relevant to the production of Bradford City Centre Area Action Plan (BCCAAP) been considered?
- 2) Are there any additional plans or programmes at the international, national, regional or local level that might have relevance in the production of the Bradford City Centre Area Action Plan (BCCAAP) and should be included in this document?

2.2 Task A2: Collecting the Baseline Information

2.2.1 Baseline information provides the basis for predicting and monitoring effects and helps to identify sustainability issues and problems. The basic aim of this task is to pull-together data on the present state of Bradford City Centre Area to enable any trends to be identified, any particular sustainability issues pinpointed and methods of monitoring of the plan's effects to be established.

2.2.2 The data has been collected that specifically relates to the Bradford City Centre Area Action Plan (BCCAAP) area. However, where appropriate, it has focused on data that relates to the district as whole. Because it was felt that, for certain issues data at this level is of more significance as many impacts emerging from the Bradford City Centre Area Action Plan (BCCAAP) will affect not just the immediate area, but also the wider community. The Core Strategy Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report provides a detailed account of the baseline information at the district level. It is also recognised that some data sources suggested in the ODPM guidance do not readily provide information at the city-wide or ward level. Therefore the best efforts have been made to establish data sources that provide information relevant to Bradford, so issues specific to Bradford can be accurately identified.

2.2.3 Information collection focused on the social, environmental and economic characteristics of the area and was guided by the questions set out in ODPM Guidance in Appendix 6 (Figure 17). The baseline information is set out in full in Appendix 4. The information is sub-divided into environmental data, social data and economic data to follow the model set in the Guidance and for ease of reference, although certain issues may straddle several headings. The sub-headings are also influenced by the Guidance and by sustainability issues and relevant environmental effects.

2.2.4 A range of indicators have been set out in the table in Appendix 5 linked with the identification and measurement of progress towards appraisal objectives. The setting out of baseline data and identification of indicators are a gage to establish how good or how bad the current situation is, and

whether the trend is to improve in the direction of achieving established targets or for the situation to become worse. This trend analysis can help to highlight existing and potential future problems. The aim is also to establish whether particularly sensitive or important elements of the economy, physical environment or community are affected by particular trends e.g. endangered species or rare habitats or vulnerable social groups.

Questions

- 3) Is the baseline data collected in appendix 4 appropriate, accurate, relevant and of sufficient detail to support the Bradford City Centre Area Action Plan (BCCAAP) and its Sustainability Appraisal?
- 4) Is there any baseline information missing or inaccurate?

2.3 Task A3: Identifying Sustainability Issues

- 2.3.1 Bradford has always been a very interesting city in which to live and work. It has a strong sense of community, powerful history and distinct cultural identity. The city has experienced significant progress in addressing challenges faced over recent years but still there is a need to be acutely aware of further challenges that remains and should focus actions on addressing key weaknesses.
- 2.3.2 As a part of the scoping exercise we must identify various sustainability issues that pose strategic challenges for the district as whole and need to be addressed in the City Centre specifically. The identification of sustainability issues (including environmental problems as required by the SEA Directive) is an opportunity to define key issues for the Bradford City Centre Area Action Plan (BCCAAP) and to assist in the development of sustainable plan objectives and options.
- 2.3.3 The table below seeks to identify sustainability issues and problems for Bradford District and links these to baseline data under topic headings. These were prepared from a number of sources following consultation and detailed desktop analysis. The sources include-
 - Analysis of the collected baseline data
 - Issues identified in the earlier review of plans, programmes, policies and sustainability objectives
 - Existing knowledge of Council Officers
 - Feedback from core strategy issues and options public consultation.
- 2.3.4 It is hoped that further consultation with the environmental bodies, other stakeholders and the public will be helpful in reviewing the scope of these issues and, perhaps, adding to them.

Table 5: Sustainability Issues to Address

Social	Population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accommodating the needs of an expanding population. • Accommodating these needs as far as possible within an urban area, which already has a densely developed core? • Reducing the environmental impact of new development while achieving a good quality of life for all residents.
	Housing & Quality of Urban Fabric	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting targets for additional housing and replacement of existing stock. • Providing housing of a type and tenure to match needs, (particularly those of the elderly, BME, gypsies and travellers) and fulfil aspirations of local population • Achieving higher standards for new development in terms of resource efficiency, design and lifetime flexibility. • Improving the public realm and seeking to promote high standards of new design where regeneration is needed
	Deprivation & Access to Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impact of legitimate aspiration to improve standard of living of deprived population on use of resources. • Identifying ways in which land-use planning can have an impact on community cohesion • Retaining good physical access to facilities for new development and improving quality, type and range of services to suit needs of local population and reduce use of private car • Support for green infrastructure i.e. a strategic network of green spaces and recreational corridors but also for individual open spaces of local importance • Influence of planning and wider council policies on propensity to use local facilities by deprived communities e.g. open space?
Environmental	Biodiversity, Landscape and Heritage Assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protecting and enhancing biodiversity, landscape and heritage assets as a strong element in the districts identity. • Maximising benefits from landscape character assessment and conservation area appraisals • Assessing plan in terms of its implications for the SAC to comply with regulations on appropriate assessment • Safeguarding the locally and nationally valued species and habitats and seeking to minimise the direct and indirect impact of new development on these • Seeking opportunities to create new priority habitats • Improving information base so that change can be monitored • Promoting wider appreciation of benefits from environmental assets

	Use of Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taking account of the impact of development options on the management of water. This should include assessing the risk of flooding, reducing that risk and mitigating its effects. • Meeting targets set nationally for air quality, re-cycling of refuse, energy efficiency etc. but also to reflect local concerns and priorities. • Promoting good practice in resource use and reduction of pollutants beyond minimum standards. • Conserving deposits of sandstone to meet future needs whilst ensuring that existing demand can be met.
Economic	Employment Need, Skill Base and Income	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing incomes and skill levels in communities suffering high levels of deprivation. • Contribution of land-use planning towards improving employment prospects and training for local residents.
	Employment Trends	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responding to future trends in employment / needs of workforce in particular accommodating the needs of smaller-scale work places.
	Transport Infrastructure & Future Growth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reliance on and promotion of future growth to improve income and skill levels. • Delivering regeneration in manner that benefits the districts residents within the carrying capacity of the local environment. • Integrating sustainability into initial assessment of major projects, particularly assumptions about need for new infrastructure versus shifts in modes of transport.

Questions

- 5) Do you agree with the key sustainability issues for the Bradford City Centre Area Action Plan ?
- 6) Are there any other issues that should be included?

2.4 Task A4: Developing the SA Framework

2.4.1 The SA framework provides a structure by which sustainability effects can be described and compared. At the heart of the SA framework lie the sustainability objectives, the achievement of which is measurable using indicators. SA objectives are distinct from the objectives of the plan, though they may in some cases overlap each other. They provide a way of checking whether the DPD objectives are the best possible ones for sustainability and can be seen as a methodological yardstick against which the social, environmental and economic effects of a plan can be tested. Finding any potential conflicts at this stage is particularly important to enable the potentially damaging effects of pursuing a sustainability objective to be assessed and also to enable possible ways to mitigate or overcome these problems to be considered.

- 2.4.2 The objectives for the SA focus on outcomes, whereas those of the Area Action Plan will usually focus upon how outcomes will be achieved through inputs. The SA objectives need to address the full cross-section of sustainability issues, including social, environmental and economic factors laid down by law or policy. The number of SA objectives needs to be sufficient to encompass the breadth inherent in the concept of sustainability, but manageable, in order to produce a succinct framework for future appraisal of the plan.
- 2.4.3 To fulfil the requirements of the SEA Directive, the SA is also required to consider ‘the likely significant effects on the environment, including on issues such as biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors’ (2001/42/EC, Annex 1F).
- 2.4.4 The table below sets out the objectives identified as SA objectives for the Bradford City Centre Area Action Plan (BCCAAP) following an analysis of the LDF core strategy SA objectives, examples from other local authorities, links with other relevant plans, policies and programs and local circumstances. It also highlights the relevance of the objectives, if any, to the environmental topics listed in the SEA Directive. The objectives have only been used where considered appropriate in order to avoid duplicity and/or overlapping with other objectives. The objectives selected are also limited to a manageable numbers.

Table 6: Bradford City Centre Area Action Plan (BCCAAP) Sustainability Appraisal Objectives		
SA Objectives		SEA Topic Covered
Energy and Resources		
1	Ensure the prudent and efficient use of energy and natural resources and the promotion of renewable energy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water, Soil and Air • Climatic Factors
2	Minimise the growth in waste and increase the amount of waste which is re-used, re-cycled and recovered.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water, Soil and Air • Climatic Factors
Response to Climate Change		
3	Reduce the districts impact on climate change and vulnerability to its effects.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water, Soil and Air • Climatic Factors
Air, Soil and Water Quality		
4	Safeguard and improve air, water and soil resources.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna • Water, Soil and Air
Natural Assets		
5	Conserve and enhance the internationally, nationally and locally valued wildlife species and habitats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna
6	Maintain and enhance the character of natural and man-made landscapes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultural Heritage and Landscape
Housing		
7	Provide the opportunity for everyone to live in quality housing which reflects individual needs, preferences and resources.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Population and Human Health

Transport		
8	Develop and maintain an integrated and efficient transport network which maximizes access whilst minimizing detrimental impacts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Population and Human Health • Climatic Factors
9	Reduce congestion and pollution by increasing transport choice and by reducing the need to travel by lorry / car.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Population and Human Health • Water, Soil and Air • Climatic Factors
Land Use		
10	Improve the quality of the built environment, protect and enhance historic environment, cultural assets and make efficient use of existing land and buildings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Population and Human Health • Water, Soil and Air • Cultural Heritage and Landscape
Accessibility and Local Needs		
11	Improve the quality and range of services available within communities and connections to wider networks.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Population and Human Health
Communities		
12	Promote social cohesion, encourage participation and improve the quality of deprived neighbourhoods.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Population and Human Health
Culture, Leisure and Recreation		
13	Create good cultural, leisure and recreation activities available to all.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Population and Human Health • Cultural Heritage and Landscape
Safety and Security		
14	Improve safety and security for people and property.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Population and Human Health
Health (and Social Welfare)		
15	Provide the conditions and services to improve health and well-being and reduce inequality to access to health and social care.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Population and Human Health
Education and Training		
16	Promote education and training opportunities which build the skills and capacity of the population.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Population and Material Assets
Local Economy and Employment		
17	Increase the number of high quality job opportunities suited to the needs of the local workforce.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Population and Material Assets
18	Support investment and enterprise to develop a dynamic, diverse and knowledge based economy, excelling in innovation with higher value and lower impact activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Population and Material Assets




2.4.5 The table above shows the objectives selected to form a part of the SA framework. The full framework, including indicators and links to local plans, policies and program objectives, can be found in appendix 5.

2.4.6 The indicators shown in the framework are based on the information collected through the baseline research. In some cases new indicators could be developed specifically to monitor sustainability once proposals are implemented in accordance with the Bradford City Centre Area Action Plan (BCCAAP).

Potential Conflicts

2.4.7 The matrix below shows the internal compatibility of each of the 18 sustainability objectives. It is designed to find out where they are incompatible, where they complement each other and where they are potentially both compatible and/or incompatible.

2.4.8 The shading of the boxes is as follows:

-  Potentially compatible
-  Potentially incompatible
-  Potentially both compatible and incompatible

2.4.9 The discussion in the paragraphs following the matrix details why there are potential incompatibility problems between the objectives.

Table 7 - Matrix of compatibility between Sustainability Objectives

	18	17	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
1												-			√	√	√	
2															√	√		
3	X	X							√	√	X	-			√			
4	X	X		√					√	√	X							
5						-			√		X	-	√					
6						-					-	-						
7	-			√	√		√			-								
8	√					√	√	√		√								
9									√									
10	-	-			√	√	√											
11	-			√		√												
12																		
13																		
14																		
15																		
16	√	√																
17	√																	
18																		

2.4.10 **Identified Areas of Incompatibility**

Where there are areas of incompatibility between objectives various considerations will be taken into account in judging which take precedent. These considerations may include the weight of public opinion and varying conditions at the time.

- **Providing sufficient housing**

2.4.11 Providing housing may potentially conflicts with the objective of protecting and enhancing historic environment, due to the possibility of existing Victorian buildings being removed to make way for new build development. However, there is also potentially scope for the objectives to be compatible if renovation of the existing buildings into residential dwellings is possible and biodiversity features e.g. green roofs, sustainable urban drainage are incorporated.

2.4.12 The need to provide housing also potentially conflicts with the objectives of economic development, as the two uses will be competing for a limited amount of available land within the Bradford City Centre Area Action Plan (BCCAAP) area.

- **Increasing the number of high quality job opportunities and supporting investment and enterprise to develop a dynamic and diverse knowledge-based economy**

2.4.13 These objectives have been grouped together as they are all concerned with facilitating economic growth. Apart from there being potential conflicts between the need to provide housing and economic growth, as outlined above, providing economic growth could potentially conflict with objectives concerned with improving the environment and particularly contributing to issues related to climate change. Economic growth potentially means more activity and traffic, as people come to and from work and visit for meetings. Depending on the nature of the employment, economic growth could also mean increased levels of air and noise pollution as a direct result of economic activity.

- **Developing an integrated an efficient traffic network**

2.4.14 The objective of developing and maintaining an efficient traffic network which aims to maximise access, particularly in a busy city centre like Bradford, potentially conflicts with the objectives of safeguarding and enhancing natural assets, improving the city centre's air quality and reducing the impact of traffic and congestion towards climate change issues.

Questions
7) Do you agree with the objectives and indicators outlined in Appendix 5?
8) Are there any objectives and/or indicators that should be added, removed or amended?
9) Are the SA objectives consistent with national, regional and local level policy guidance and appropriate within the context of the Bradford City centre?

2.5 Task A5: Consulting on the Scope of the SA

- 2.5.1 The SA guidance produced by the ODPM recommends that LPAs consult on the basis of a scoping report presenting the information collected at this stage. To meet the requirements of the SEA Directive, the LPA must seek the views of the statutory environmental consultation bodies designated in the SEA Regulations (Natural England, English Heritage and the Environment Agency) on the scope and level of detail of the environmental information to be included in the SA Report. It is also desirable for other bodies to be consulted as the LPA considers appropriate, with a balance between those concerned with social, environmental and economic issues. LPAs should allow 5 weeks for this stage of consultation, as required by the SEA Regulations.
- 2.5.2 In overall terms, the Statement of Community Involvement is the element in the new planning system that sets out how and when Bradford Council will involve the local community, stakeholders and other interested parties in the preparation of the documents that form part of the LDF and in decisions on future planning applications. The Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) can be viewed on the Council's website at www.bradford.gov.uk/planning ; Section 4 on community involvement in the LDF process is particularly relevant. Documents relating to preparation of the SA, initially the text of this scoping report will be available on the Council's website during the consultation period. As part of the LDF process, preparation of the SA, particularly the later stages, will be influenced by the steps the authority takes to encourage participation and the framework set out in the Statement of Community Involvement (SCI).

SECTION 3: NEXT STAGE OF SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL

3.1 Assessing the Effects of the Plan

3.1.1 The current stage of developing the SA framework and presenting it in a report is termed the scoping stage of the process. This equates with and feeds into the evidence gathering stage of plan production. The next stage after the production and consultation on the scoping report is *Stage B: Developing and refining options* and *Stage C: Assessing effects of the preferred options* (See ODPM Guidance diagram on page 5). This entails providing information to the plan development team in order to help them develop and refine plan options. The SA team will assist the plan development team by providing sustainability information at two key times. These are:

3.1.2 Issues and Options Stage

The draft SA framework set out in this scoping report will, following consultation, be used to influence the development and early analysis of issues and options. The emerging issues, options and objectives of Bradford City Centre Area Action Plan (BCCAAP) will be tested against the SA framework to determine their performance in sustainability terms. This will be published as an Initial Sustainability Appraisal Report with the issues and options consultation documents. The later stage involves feeding information into the development and refining of plan options and assessing their effects. Refining of options will lead to the dropping of some options, selection of others and the possible identification of new options which will then need to go through the same process. The SA findings will then help to develop preferred options, including mitigation measures.

3.1.3 Preferred Options Stage

The SA framework will then be used to carry out a more detailed and formal appraisals of the preferred options, once these have been selected. This will take the form of a report comprising the SA of the preferred options for the Bradford City Centre Area Action Plan (BCCAAP). There may be some re-visiting of the scoping tasks at this stage, including further refining of the baseline characteristics and key issues and problems, if the need arises.

3.2 Timescale and getting involved

3.2.1 A copy of the Scoping Report has been published for a five week consultation period ending on **August 13th 2007**. The report will be placed on the Councils web site and at the main planning offices. It will be sent to the statutory bodies and targeted consultees. The Council invites your views on the approach set out in the Draft Scoping report to be sent in writing to the address provided on page 9.