

FOREWORD

The current UDP was adopted by the Council in January 1998. At the time of its adoption it was clearly evident that there was a need for an early review.

This current review provides an opportunity to readdress the changing needs of the District and produce a plan with the clear intent to make progress towards a more sustainable future.

In the interim the Districts 20/20 Vision has been produced, draft Regional Planning Guidance for Yorkshire and the Humber has been published and Government has introduced new guidance on key environmental and development issues including housing and stringent guidelines on transport and parking restrictions.

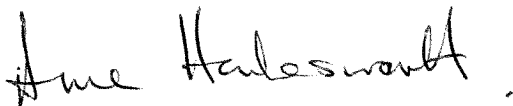
It is very clear that in replacing the 1998 Plan it will be essential to exploit the potential of the districts urban areas and safeguard for a longer period the rural green land.

The aim of the replacement plan is to achieve this 'Urban Renaissance' by making the best use of previously used land and buildings, and ensuring that green fields are only developed as a last resort. The aim is also to support the use of existing centres.

The replacement plan I hope will ensure that planning applications are decided in the best planning framework. As we move into the first part of the new century it is hoped it will make a major contribution to guiding and supporting key private investment decisions and public sector projects and programmes.

This First Deposit draft of the replacement UDP has been approved by the Council's all party Executive Committee for the widest circulation and consultation on the Council's suggested policies and proposals. This is now the opportunity for all to comment on the draft plan.

The Council welcomes ideas on ways to achieve the objectives as well as support.



Councillor Anne Hawkesworth
Environment Portfolio Holder