Section 4: Sub Area Policies

4.4 South Pennine Towns and Villages

Sub Area Policy PN1: South Pennine Towns and Villages

A. Strategic Pattern of Development

In accordance with Policy H03, the South Pennine Towns and Villages will accommodate 3,400 dwellings in the period up to 2030. The Council will work closely with partner organisations to ensure that this development creates vibrant and sustainable communities. The broad distribution of housing development is shown as follows:

	Number of residential units
Queensbury	1000
Thornton	700
Cullingworth	350
Denholme	350
Harden	100
Haworth	400
Oakworth	200
Oxenhope	100
Wilsden	200

Affordable housing requirements are set out in Policy HO11

B. Housing and Economic growth will be focussed on the following areas:

The Local Growth Centres of Queensbury and Thornton will between them see the creation of new employment and 1,700 new homes from sites within the urban area together with a significant contribution from green belt change in sustainable locations. Provision will be made for associated community facilities, in particular for children and younger people taking advantage of the excellent bus and road connections to the Regional City of Bradford, the Principal Town of Keighley and the town of Halifax.

The Local Service Centres of Cullingworth, Denholme and Haworth will between them see the creation of 1100 new homes principally from sites within the existing settlement boundaries together with some local green belt changes. Provision will be made for associated community facilities in particular, health care facilities at Denholme, a community centre at Cullingworth and recreational facilities in Haworth.

The Local Service Centres of Harden, Oakworth, Oxenhope and Wilsden will see between them the creation of 600 new homes from sites within the existing settlement boundaries together with some local green belt changes. Provision will be made for associated community facilities, in particular, health care, open space and recreational facilities at Harden, Oakworth and Oxenhope to address current deficiencies. Allocation of employment land will support local services

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and in locations and on a scale that respect both the character and ecological integrity of the area.

C. Economic Development

1. Support the economic diversification of settlements to retain local employment in the South Pennines.

2. Support the role of the centres of Queensbury and Thornton as locations for a mix of community facilities benefiting from excellent bus and road connections to the City of Bradford and the Principal Town of Keighley and the town of Halifax.

3. Promote sustainable tourism that respects the Bronte heritage of Haworth and Thornton, the Bronte Parsonage Museum and the importance of the Keighley and Worth Valley Steam Railway.

4. Support initiatives for the sustainability and diversification of agricultural and rural enterprise and for the extension of high speed broadband to rural communities

D. Environment

1. Protect and enhance the biodiversity and landscape character of the Pennine Upland, Wilsden, Worth and North Beck Valley, in particular the cultural associations of the Bronte landscape and the dense patchwork effect of stone wall field boundaries

2. Protect the ecological integrity, the wilderness appeal and wide open skylines of the South Pennine Moors from adverse impacts, and, enhance the value and connectivity of upland fringe habitats. For the protection of the South Pennine Moors SPA, avoid and/or mitigate loss or deterioration of important foraging land within the SPA's zone of influence, and mitigate the impact of increasing visitor numbers.

3. Value the historic networks of narrow winding lanes, footpaths and packhorse trails and encourage their use for recreation linked to the local, regional and national cycle and footpath routes.

4. Conserve and enhance the designated and undesignated heritage of the Pennine towns and villages especially those elements which make a significant contribution to the distinct character of this area including: the mills, chimneys and associated housing of its textile heritage; and the buildings and landscapes associated with the Brontes.

5. The close proximity of open moorland to the Pennine Towns and Villages, the significance of heritage assets and viewpoints mean that development, whether sited at the edge of settlements or associated with groups of farm buildings and even on a local scale, must be sensitively managed.

6. Manywells has been restored to create a new country park to enhance biodiversity and create a place for informal recreation.
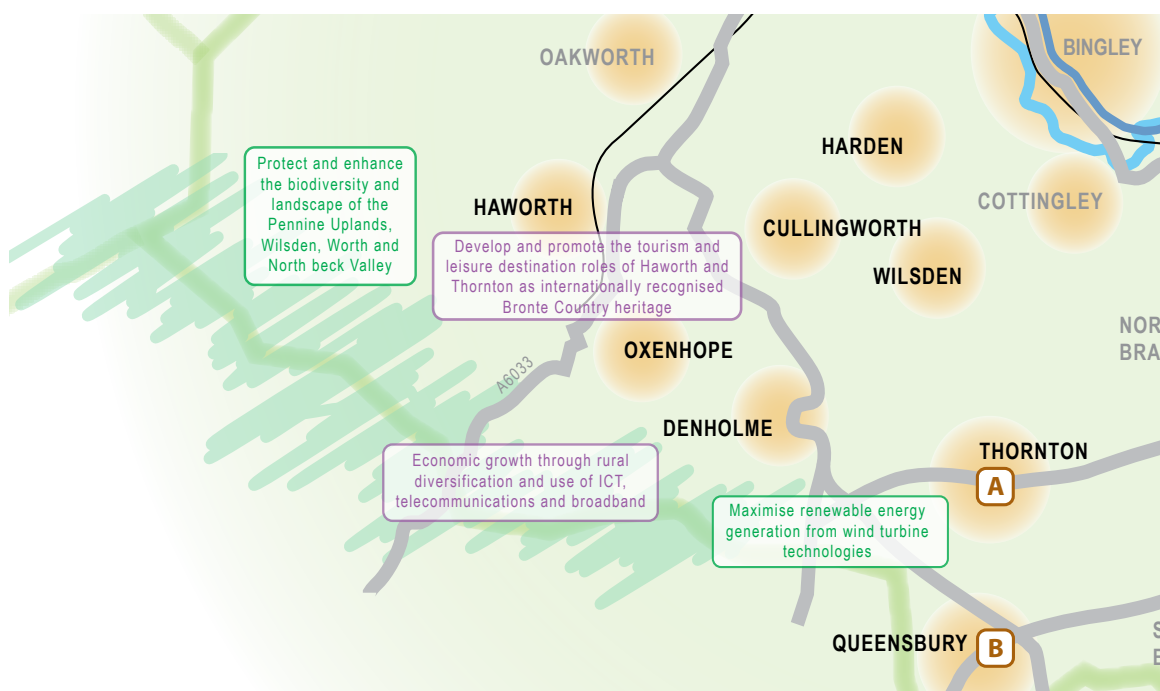
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E. Transport

1. **Ensure that strategic patterns of development maximise the opportunities to use non car modes of transport and reduce the overall need to travel.**

2. **Improve public transport within and between the settlements of the South Pennines, in particular bus improvements.**

3. **Implement stronger demand management in the South Pennine Towns and Villages as the economy recovers.**

4. **Improve public transport, cycling and walking access as appropriate between the South Pennine Towns and Villages, the Regional City of Bradford and neighbouring Principal Town of Halifax.**

5. **Support improved transport links within the Pennine towns and villages and to the Regional City of Bradford, the Principal Towns of Keighley, Ilkley, Bingley and Skipton and the Town of Halifax particularly for the Local Growth Areas of Queensbury and Thornton.**

Figure PN1: Spatial Vision Diagram – Pennine Towns and Villages by 2030

OAKWORTH

BINGLEY

HARDEN

Protect and enhance the biodiversity and landscape of the Pennine Uplands, Wilsden, Worth and North beck Valley

HAWORTH

COTTINGLEY

CULLINGWORTH

Develop and promote the tourism and leisure destination roles of Haworth and Thornton as internationally recognised Bronte Country heritage

WILSDEN

OXENHOPE

NOR
BRAD

DENHOLME

Economic growth through rural diversification and use of ICT, telecommunications and broadband

THORNTON
A

Maximise renewable energy generation from wind turbine technologies

QUEENSBURY
B

S
B

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Key

Pennine Towns and Villages Policy PN1

PN1D Economic Development

PN1E Environment

Growth Areas

A Thornton

B Queensbury

— Trainline

River

Canal

Road

Outcomes by 2030

4.4.1   **The following is the outcome envisaged at the end of the plan period (2030) following the implementation of policies, proposals and programmes outlined in this Core Strategy. It constitutes a high level description of how the area will look by 2030.**

4.4.2   **Queensbury** has seen a housing and economic growth over the last 20 years which has preserved and enhanced its retail and leisure offer. Black Dyke Mills has been transformed into retail, residential and commercial space and continues to play the role as the economic powerhouse of this important Pennine town. The town benefits from fast and frequent bus services to Bradford City Centre in the North and Halifax Town Centre in the South making it a popular and sought after location.

4.4.3   **Haworth** continues to function as a widely recognised asset to the District with its Bronte Country heritage, the Bronte Parsonage Museum and the Keighley and Worth Valley Steam Railway. The traditional economy of the town has been diversified by providing accommodation for visitors, specialist shopping and dining experience as well as a popular location for film and television productions. The success of Haworth has also helped to increase the numbers of visitors to the other heritage assets along the Airedale corridor.

4.4.4   **Thornton** has continued to exploit its tourism and leisure potential linked to Haworth and Bronte country whilst accommodating housing and economic growth which has benefited from fast and frequent bus services into Bradford City Centre making Thornton a highly desirable place to live and work with excellent links to the Sustrans Cycle Network.

4.4.5   The Pennine Villages of **Oakworth, Oxenhope, Harden, Wilsden, Cullingworth** and **Denholme** have retained their individual characters and sense of place whilst seeing a smaller scale of housing development and the provision of amenities served by improved bus and rail links to Keighley town centre, Bradford City Centre, Bingley, Queensbury and neighbouring Halifax.

Top: Bronte Parsonage Museum, Haworth
Middle: Oxenhope Railway Station
Bottom: Oakworth

Sub Area Policy PN2: Investment Priorities for the Pennine Towns and Villages

To manage change in the Pennine Towns and Villages on a scale that meets needs for housing, employment and renewal, enhances green infrastructure, heritage assets, community facilities and improves sustainable means of transport Partnership working between the public and private sectors, key stakeholder bodies and local communities should focus on:

A. Improving public transport, particularly to Queensbury, Thornton and Haworth, to enhance the ease of movement and improve access to jobs within the Regional City of Bradford, Airedale Corridor and Calderdale particularly for disadvantaged communities

B. Supporting sustainable economic, retail and leisure development where this is of a scale appropriate to the settlement, involves the re-use of an existing building, is located on land of the least environmental or amenity value and provides sensitive enhancement of heritage assets or public realm.

C. Managing flood risk, and improve access between Pennine Towns and Villages to Bradford City Centre, Keighley Town Centre and Halifax Town Centre as part of district wide regeneration initiatives.

D. Encouraging locally based enterprises, initiatives that develop community resilience and sustainable regeneration and tourism that respects the character of the South Pennines.

E. Showing respect for and enhancing the moorland setting, character and integrity of traditional gritstone buildings and features, routes and viewpoints associated with the Brontes, early stages of agriculture and development of the textile industry.

F. To support the development and extension of high speed broadband especially in rural and other less accessible areas.