City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council

Core Strategy: Issues and Options
Initial Sustainability Appraisal

February 2007
Local Development Framework for Bradford

This document is one of a number that make up the Local Development Framework for the Bradford District. If you need the contents of this document to be interpreted or translated into one of the community languages or you require it in Braille, Large Print or on tape, please contact the Local Development Framework Group on (01274) 434050, (01274) 434454 or (01274) 434606

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Core Strategy Issues and Options – Initial Sustainability Appraisal
Local Development Framework for Bradford

Initial Sustainability Appraisal of Core Strategy Issues and Options Papers

1.0 Introduction
1.1 A start is being made on preparing the Bradford District Local Development Framework. The Core Strategy is the key element in a portfolio of local planning documents, which will make up the LDF for Bradford. This will set the context for future planning and offer a long term spatial vision for the area. It will seek to identify key future issues and objectives and specify core policies for Bradford District, looking as far ahead as 2021.

1.2 An integral part of preparing the Core Strategy is the Sustainability Appraisal process, which will have the aim of assessing the overall environmental, economic and social impact of the Strategy’s objectives and policies. The Appraisal process exists to ensure that the Core Strategy, and in time other parts of the LDF, contribute towards achieving sustainable development.

1.3 The production of Bradford’s Core Strategy has reached the stage of identifying plan issues, draft objectives and starting to generate alternative options (Reg. 25 consultation). These are identified in a series of topic papers covering; spatial vision and strategy for Bradford, housing needs, the economy and jobs, transport and accessibility, community facilities, the environment and waste management.

1.4 The current major stage of developing the SA framework and presenting it in a report is termed the scoping stage of the process. A Draft Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report, collecting together baseline data and information on a range of other plans, policies and programmes in a systematic and summarised form, has recently been prepared. This also identifies the Draft Sustainability Appraisal Objectives that have been used in this Initial SA. The Draft Scoping Report will be undergoing consultation within a similar timescale to the Core Strategy Issues and Options Papers.

1.5 This initial SA starts to assess how the potential strategic options might perform against the draft SA framework and links the draft SA objectives to the questions posed in the Issues and Options Topic Papers. This will provide stakeholders with more information to assist them in choosing options and making comments. Although it is important that SA informs the process of identifying and choosing initial options and offers consultees additional information, it was not considered possible or appropriate to go into too much detail at this stage. The next stage of the plan-making process will be that of feeding information, from both the stake-holder consultation and the SA processes, into the developing and refining of plan options and assessing effects.

1.6 This Initial SA is in three sections. The first section focuses on the Spatial Strategy Options, presented in Topic Paper 2, the second section links the Draft Sustainability Appraisal Objectives with specific topic papers, questions and options and the third section considers the impact of the Draft
Sustainability Appraisal Objectives on the draft plan objectives, as currently defined.

1.7 **Methodology for Initial Sustainability Appraisal**

1.8 The first section briefly summarises the Options presented in Topic Paper 2: Spatial Vision and Options, seeks to identify the potential environmental, social and economic impacts of each and provides a summary of strengths and weaknesses. The results are presented in Table 1 overleaf.

1.9 The Draft Sustainability Appraisal Objectives set out Appendix 1 have been used to prompt consideration of impacts under the three headings. The Objectives have been sub-divided roughly into environmental, social and economic elements, while recognising that quite a number could readily fit into more than one of these categories.

1.10 The second section of the Initial Appraisal identifies the links between the Draft Sustainability Appraisal Objectives and the key questions and options set out in the six topic papers relating to specific topic areas. These are presented in Table 2. This acts as a reference guide and indicates that a start has been made in addressing the range of issues identified in the Draft Sustainability Appraisal Objectives.

1.11 The third section offers an Initial Appraisal of the impact of the Draft Sustainability Appraisal Objectives on the Draft Core Strategy or Plan Objectives in Table 3. The Draft Plan Objectives are set out in Appendix 2. A traffic light colour coding system has been used. The colour green indicates a positive impact, amber a neutral impact, while red draws attention to a possible conflict. In this section the Draft Sustainability Appraisal Objectives have been sub-divided into more detailed topic areas, identified in the top row of the table.

1.12 Table 3 provides an overview of potential conflicting elements in the topic areas covered by the Plan Objectives and the Draft Sustainability Appraisal Objectives. When examining the results, it should however be noted that at this stage the plan objectives are likely to undergo revision and the areas of potential conflict could therefore be reduced through future amendments to wording and content.
## Table 1

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<tr>
<th>Spatial strategy options</th>
<th>Environmental impacts</th>
<th>Social impacts</th>
<th>Economic impacts</th>
<th>Strengths &amp; weaknesses</th>
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<td><strong>Existing strategy focuses</strong> development on the main urban area of Bradford City, Shipley &amp; Baildon. Within other larger settlements the focus should be on economic development &amp; limited residential development to meet local needs.</td>
<td>More intensive development of urban areas is likely to reduce unprotected areas of vegetation and trees, lead to increased congestion and put pressure on infrastructure, which may be approaching capacity.</td>
<td>This option makes effective use of brownfield land. By using land within the largest urban area first, it ensures that new development has access to a range of facilities and reduces the need to travel. However, limiting residential development in larger settlements, particularly in Airedale, Wharfedale may make new housing less available and affordable here.</td>
<td>This option may succeed in bringing investment closer to more deprived areas if the alternative choice of locations is constrained and provided sites can be made sufficiently attractive to the market. A reduced choice of locations for development may result in lower levels of investment.</td>
<td>By using land within the largest urban area first, it ensures that new development has access to a range of facilities and reduces the need to travel. However more intensive development of urban areas is likely to reduce unprotected areas of vegetation and trees, lead to increased congestion and put pressure on infrastructure.</td>
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<td><strong>Option A Regeneration of the main urban area but with focused dispersal</strong> ie increased distribution of development to well located larger settlements such as Ilkley, Silsden, Bingley, Menston &amp; Burley. Existing safeguarded land on the edge of such settlements may be developed.</td>
<td>Developing safeguarded land on the edge of settlements extends the developed area. The impact on landscapes and habitat would need to be minimised &amp; opportunities for enhancement sought. On the positive side, higher land values in areas such as Ilkley, Silsden, Bingley, Menston and Burley could lead to speedier progress towards achieving sustainable design, thus reducing the impact of development.</td>
<td>Focused dispersal would allow a wider choice of housing location &amp; provision of an increased range of house types within well located larger settlements. It could support improvements in facilities and would maximise use of available infrastructure there.</td>
<td>Focused dispersal could bring higher levels of investment into the district &amp; attract businesses offering good quality employment. However it would need to be on an appropriate scale to avoid impinging on the character of smaller settlements. Also the resulting employment opportunities may not be in locations which would bring the greatest benefits to deprived areas.</td>
<td>Developing safeguarded land on the edge of settlements extends the developed area. The impact on landscapes and habitat would need to be minimised and opportunities for enhancement sought. Focused dispersal would allow a wider choice of housing location, could support improvements in facilities and bring higher levels of investment into the district.</td>
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## Local Development Framework for Bradford

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<td><strong>Option B</strong>&lt;br&gt;Dispersal of growth would mean all settlements make provision to meet the districts needs for development, primarily through intensification.</td>
<td>This option may be weaker in terms of energy and resource use if development occurs on a smaller scale as this would be less likely to justify use of renewable energy and decentralised energy sources. Environmental constraints such as flood risk would need to exercise an influence.</td>
<td>Dispersal maximises the choice of housing location &amp; the chance to satisfy housing need, while also spreading the costs/benefits of new development. However new development in settlements with few facilities could increase the need to travel to access services. Dispersal might however support existing or improved provision of services in villages. It would make good use of brownfield land, where this exists in smaller settlements.</td>
<td>Dispersal of employment land, whilst bringing improved employment &amp; training opportunities to those living in small settlements, would be likely to increase journeys made and may reduce the proportion made by public transport. It could also bring development on a scale out of keeping with local character.</td>
<td>Dispersal means fewer economies of scale for resource use &amp; less likelihood of people changing their mode of travel to more sustainable means. It maximises the choice of housing location and might support existing or improved services in villages, but would increase the need to travel. It would make good use of brownfield land, if this exists in smaller settlements.</td>
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<td><strong>Option C</strong>&lt;br&gt;Focused growth poles means that new development should go to key locations with good infrastructure or in locations where infrastructure can be developed, even if this means making localised changes to the green belt on the edge of main settlements.</td>
<td>Impact would depend on attributes of greenbelt near locations with good infrastructure. Sites would need to be carefully chosen to minimise impact on habitats, landscape and built form and maximise opportunities for enhancement. Resource use would need to be minimised to reduce the impact of extensions to the built form.</td>
<td>Focusing development in places with infrastructure capacity or potential for growth may not maximise use of brownfield land but could be beneficial in encouraging change to more sustainable modes of transport and concentrating contributions to service provision from development. There would be little increase in the supply of housing in areas not proposed for growth.</td>
<td>If allocation of employment land &amp; promotion of investment opportunities follow the focused growth poles model, then new job opportunities and training could be available to residents in a few locations leaving other communities deprived of these. If the market view of the growth poles chosen is not favourable, then investment could go outside the district.</td>
<td>Focusing development in places with infrastructure capacity or potential for growth would concentrate the potential for contributions to social provision. It could encourage a change to more sustainable modes of transport. The greenbelt would need to be able to accommodate an extension to the built-up area with minimal impact on habitats, landscape, settlement form and strategic flood risk.</td>
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## Draft Sustainability Appraisal Objective

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<th>Objective</th>
<th>Links to topic papers, key questions and options</th>
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| **Ensure the prudent and efficient use of energy and natural resources and the promotion of renewable energy** | **Topic paper 7 Environment**  
- Qu. 7.5 identifies a number of options for achieving sustainable design in buildings.  
- Qu. 7.6 asks how supportive the local policy should be towards the development of renewable energy resources.  
**Topic paper 5 Transport and Accessibility**  
- Qu. 5.3 asks how the LDF transport policies can influence the level of car use.  
- Qu. 5.7 asks how LDF policies can support the sustainable movement of freight in the District.  
**Topic paper 8 Waste**  
- Qu.8.3 asks what additional waste management facilities are needed to generate energy from waste. |
| **Minimise the growth in waste and increase the amount of waste which is re-used, re-cycled and recovered** | **Topic paper 8 Waste**  
- Qu. 8.1 asks how the LDF can promote waste minimisation and re-use.  
- Qu. 8.2 asks how can the Waste DPD help assist Bradford District to reach the recycling targets set by Government.  
- Qu. 8.5 to 8.7 ask where waste management facilities should be located and how sites should be selected. |
| **Reduce the districts impact on climate change and vulnerability to its effects** | **Topic paper 7 Environment**  
- Qu. 7.5 identifies a number of options for achieving sustainable design in buildings.  
- Qu. 7.6 asks how supportive policy should be towards the development of renewable energy resources.  
- Qu. 7.7 identifies options relating to striking the right balance between encouraging regeneration and reducing flood risk.  
**Topic paper 5 Transport and Accessibility**  
- Qu. 5.3 asks how the LDF transport policies can influence the level of car use.  
- Qu. 5.7 asks how LDF policies can support the sustainable movement of freight in the District. |
| **Safeguard and improve air, water and soil resources** | **Topic paper 5 Transport and Accessibility**  
- Qu. 5.5 asks how the LDF transport policies can minimise the effects of noise, vibration and air pollution caused by traffic?  
**Topic paper 7 Environment**  
- Qu. 7.7 identifies options relating to striking the right balance between encouraging regeneration and reducing flood risk. Qu. 7.8 asks how should the LDF contribute towards meeting the need for aggregates. |
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| Conserve and enhance the internationally, nationally and locally valued wildlife species and habitats | **Topic paper 7 Environment**  
- Qu. 7.1 asks where local policy support and resources for enhancement should be focused, taking as given the overall aim of protecting the biodiversity resource. |
| Maintain and enhance the character of natural and man-made landscapes | **Topic paper 7 Environment**  
- Qu. 7.2 asks where policy emphasis and resources should be focused, using the Landscape Character Assessment as a framework.  
- Qu. 7.3 asks how priorities for the protection and management of Bradford’s heritage assets should be determined. |
| Provide the opportunity for everyone to live in quality housing which reflects individual needs and preferences and resources | **Topic paper 1 Dwellings**  
- Qu. 3.1 asks how the additional housing requirement set out by the Region might best be accommodated in the District.  
- Qu. 3.3 asks how the needs of all sections of the community for a decent affordable dwelling should be met.  
- Qu. 3.4 asks how can the correct balance of house building and creation of new dwellings in the District in terms of type and size be achieved. |
| Develop and maintain an integrated and efficient transport network which maximises access whilst minimizing detrimental impacts | **Topic paper 5 Transport and accessibility**  
- Qu. 5.1 asks how can the LDF contribute to the enhancement of existing accessibility to jobs, services and facilities.  
- Qu. 5.2 asks how can the LDF assist in securing accessibility to jobs, services and facilities for new development. |
| Reduce congestion and pollution by increasing transport choice and by reducing the need to travel by lorry / car | **Topic paper 5 Transport and accessibility**  
- Qu. 5.3 asks how can LDF transport policies influence the level of car use and road congestion. |
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| Improve the quality and range of services available within communities and connections to wider networks | **Topic paper 6  Community Facilities**  
- Qu. 6.2 asks how the Council can ensure that new and existing facilities for education are accessible and well served by public transport.  
- Qu. 6.6 asks how the Council can ensure that all sections of the community can have access to a range of local community and cultural facilities.  
- Qu. 6.4 asks how the Council should ensure that all sections of the community have access to retail provision. |
| Provide social cohesion, encourage participation and improve the quality of deprived neighbourhoods | **Topic paper 6  Community Facilities**  
- Qu. 6.1 asks how the Council should ensure that new and existing Health Care Facilities are accessible, well serviced by public transport and promote social inclusion.  
**Topic paper 7  Environment**  
- Qu. 7.4 asks what the overall approach in the Core Strategy should be to achieving high standards of design for new development. |
| Create good cultural leisure and recreation activities available to all | **Topic paper 6  Community Facilities**  
- Qu. 6.3 asks how the Council can ensure that all communities have access to high quality green spaces and sport and recreation facilities.  
- Qu. 6.6 asks how the Council should ensure that all sections of the community have access to a range of local community and cultural facilities.  
- Qu. 6.5 asks whether the existing hierarchy and policy approach sustains and enhances centres to best meet peoples needs. |
| Improve safety and security for people and property | **Topic paper 5  Transport and Accessibility**  
- Qu. 5.4 asks how LDF transport policies can improve road safety. |
| Provide the conditions and services to improve health and well-being and reduce inequality in access and social care | **Topic paper 6  Community Facilities**  
- Qu. 6.1 asks how the Council should ensure that new and existing Health Care Facilities are accessible, well serviced by public transport and promote social inclusion.  
- Qu. 6.3 asks how the Council can ensure that all communities have access to a high quality green space and sport and recreation facilities. |
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| Increase the number of high quality job opportunities suited to the needs of the local workforce | Topic paper 4 Economy and Jobs  
• Qu. 4.1 asks how the LDF can contribute to providing greater prosperity in the District. Qu. 4.2 asks how the LDF can ensure that there is the right amount of land allocated for employment use. |
| Support investment and enterprise that respects the local character and needs of a local area | Topic paper 4 Economy and Jobs  
• Qu. 4.3 asks where should the LDF allocate land for employment uses.  
• Qu. 4.4 asks whether the stock of existing employment land and buildings should be protected.  
Topic paper 5 Transport and Accessibility  
• Qu. 5.6 asks how can LDF transport policies support economic activity and regeneration efforts. |
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<th>Air, soil &amp; water quality</th>
<th>Natural assets</th>
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<th>Transport</th>
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<th>Communities</th>
<th>Culture, Leisure &amp; recreation</th>
<th>Safety &amp; security</th>
<th>Health &amp; social welfare</th>
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**Key**
- Green: positive
- Yellow: neutral
- Red: Possible conflict
Appendix 1

Draft Sustainability Appraisal Objectives

Impacts on the environment and resources
- Ensure the prudent and efficient use of energy and natural resources and the promotion of renewable energy
- Minimise the growth in waste and increase the amount of waste which is re-used, re-cycled and recovered
- Reduce the districts impact on climate change and vulnerability to its effects
- Safeguard and improve air, water and soil resources
- Conserve and enhance the internationally, nationally and locally valued wildlife species and habitats
- Maintain and enhance the character of natural and man-made landscapes

Social impacts
- Provide the opportunity for everyone to live in quality housing which reflects individual needs, preferences and resources
- Develop and maintain an integrated and efficient transport network which maximises access whilst minimizing detrimental impacts
- Reduce congestion and pollution by increasing transport choice and by reducing the need to travel by lorry/car
- Improve the quality of the built environment, protect and enhance historic assets and make efficient use of land and buildings
- Improve the quality and range of services available within communities and connections to wider networks
- Provide social cohesion, encourage participation and improve the quality of deprived neighbourhoods
- Create good cultural leisure and recreation activities available to all
- Improve safety and security for people and property
- Provide the conditions and services to improve health and well-being and reduce inequality to access and social care

Economic Impacts
- Promote education and training opportunities which build the skills and capacity of the population
- Increase the number of high quality job opportunities suited to the needs of the local workforce
- Support investment and enterprise that respects the character and needs of a local area
Appendix 2

Core Strategy Draft Plan Objectives

**DPO1** To promote and support a successful and growing economy, which supports and attracts innovative and high value jobs

**DPO2** Promote well being, social equity and inclusion including access to homes, jobs and community facilities

**DPO3** To improve the quality of the built environment through the design, maintenance and accessibility of buildings and spaces in order to provide a clean, safe, sustainable and attractive built and natural environment with local distinctiveness

**DPO4** To provide a range of quality dwellings in terms of type, and affordability, to cater for the needs of current and future residents in a growing District

**DPO5** To improve public transport and highway, ensuring safety, efficiency, sustainability and accessibility

**DPO6** To provide better connections within the District and with other parts of the Region and country

**DPO7** To safeguard, enhance and add to the diverse historic and natural heritage of the District

**DPO8** To help reduce the impact on the environment and address climate change by reducing pollution and energy consumption and promoting the use of renewable energy

**DPO9** To provide accessible and varied opportunities for leisure & recreation

**DPO10** To improve access to housing, employment, shopping, culture, health & education

**DPO11** To promote the sustainable management of waste

**DPO12** To safeguard and manage the District’s natural and renewable resources including energy with care