

**Selby District Submission Draft Core Strategy
May 2011**

Equality Impact Assessment



EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

NAME OF POLICY/STRATEGY: Core Strategy

LEAD OFFICER: Terry Heselton

What is the purpose of the policy?

The Purpose of the Core Strategy (DPD) is to establish the framework for sustainable development across the District over the next 15 years or so, providing a spatial vision, strategic objectives and Core Policies to achieve that vision.

What are the main activities of the policy?

The key areas of the strategy are grouped into four policy areas – Spatial Development Strategy, Creating Sustainable Communities, Promoting Economic Prosperity and Improving the Quality of Life. The Core Strategy sets the overall context for the delivery of development in the District through spatial policies, which will be expanded upon through more detailed policy documents in the future

Who are the main beneficiaries of the policy?

The Core Strategy has an impact on all those who live and work in the District, as it seeks to ensure the designation of a Strategic Site for housing and employment, as well as defining a hierarchy of the most strategic locations for development. An associated Infrastructure Delivery Plan provides a general overview of existing and planned infrastructure and the gaps in provision to be addressed at site allocation stage.

What consultation and information gathering has taken place as part of the policy development?

Periods of public consultation have been undertaken throughout the production process, namely at Issues and Options, Further Options, Draft and Submission Draft stages – in accordance with legislation and related documents including the Sustainable Community Strategy, and the adopted Statement of Community Involvement (SCI). Responses are gathered by e-mail, post, and fax, using a variety of ways of reaching people, and building on the methods used as time and resources allow. Comments are summarised and amendments proposed where appropriate, following the approval of Policy and Resources Committee. The information presented to the Committee is available to the public via the Council website.

The Core Strategy is also supported by a range of background and evidence documents that have informed the direction and content of the document. Evidence base documentation covers specialist and technical subjects, and key stakeholders in relevant fields have frequently been involved in their preparation.

Ongoing monitoring of Performance Indicators relating to the Core Strategy is an integral part of its use. Through the Annual Monitoring Report, the effectiveness of its policies (and combined effects with other planning policies) are tracked. Milestones and other trigger points are part of the policy framework, which will alert the need for action, should legislation or circumstances experience significant change.

**Are there likely to be any negative impact or outcome for different groups?
If you have identified a potential negative impact is this:**

- **Justified**
- **Likely to be a high impact**

As the Core Strategy deals with the broad distribution of land for development, including the identification of a strategic development site in Selby, there are several *perceived* negative outcomes, this is because development is an emotive subject, and some communities may be expected to absorb more development than others. Additionally, a small number of people have made strong representations in opposition to development proposals which they consider to be a negative outcome.

However, the role of the Core Strategy is to ensure that a framework exists to guide development (in accordance with the scale of growth identified in the Regional Spatial Strategy), towards the most suitable and sustainable locations. As such, the process of producing a development hierarchy and allocating land has been evidenced, measured and balanced, and takes into account extensive public consultation, including a number of key technical stakeholders. The Core Strategy is a strategic document and the spatial development strategy within it is considered the most sustainable approach to serve the needs of the wider community, although it is recognised this may have a negative impact on individuals or groups.

The Core Strategy is also accompanied by a combined Strategic Environmental Assessment and Sustainability Appraisal which identifies, assesses and evaluates impacts on environmental and economic conditions. This has played an integral part in influencing the final strategy and the strategic site options that have emerged.

Equality Impact Assessment completed by:

Caroline Sampson Paver

Date: 4 May 2011

Equality Impact Assessment quality checked by:

Eileen Scothern

Date: 4 May 2011

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ACTION PLAN

Action to be taken as a result of Impact Assessment	Milestone / Outcomes	Link to Service Plan / Corporate Priorities	Responsible Officer	Action by when
Ensure that the Core Strategy explains its role, status and function. Throughout consultation make it clear what is happening, and at each decision stage a clear reasoned justification is provided.	To be completed alongside each stage of the consultation process.		C Sampson Paver	Throughout adoption process