

3. Vision, Aims and Objectives

- 3.1 The following Vision, Aims and Objectives provide a clear direction for development in Selby District up to 2027. The Vision reflects priorities highlighted in the key issues and challenges section above, based on what makes Selby special and where it wants to be by the end of the plan period. These have been established through the evidence in the District Portrait, the Sustainable Community Strategy and previous consultation on Core Strategy Issues and Options. The vision seeks to make the most of the local, distinctive, rural character in promoting future prosperity while at the same time protecting the District's assets.

Vision

By 2027 Selby District will be a distinctive rural District with an outstanding environment, a diverse economy and attractive, vibrant towns and villages. Residents will have a high quality of life and there will be a wide range of housing and job opportunities to help create socially balanced and sustainable communities, which are less dependant on surrounding towns and cities.

Aims

- 3.2 The purpose of the Core Strategy is to provide a spatial strategy for future development within Selby District over at least the next 15 years.
- 3.3 The Council wishes to ensure that future development is 'sustainable' - that is to enable all people to enjoy a better quality of life, without compromising the quality of life for future generations; as well as ensuring that the potential impacts of climate change are managed in line with the Government's overarching aims.
- 3.4 In order to deliver the Council's vision for the area in a sustainable manner the Core Strategy will pursue the following strategic aims and objectives to guide the location, type and design of new development and to manage changes to our environment:
- **To establish a spatial context for meeting the housing, economic, recreational, infrastructure and social needs of Selby District, and fostering the development of inclusive communities.**
 - **To ensure that new development is sustainable and that it contributes to mitigating and adapting to the future impacts of climate change.**
 - **To ensure that new development and other actions protects and enhances the built and natural environment, reinforces**

the distinct identity of towns and villages, and supports community health and wellbeing, including new communities.

Objectives

3.5 The Vision and Aims described above will be translated into action through the following objectives, (which are not listed in priority order). The objectives are reflected in the Spatial Strategy and Core Policies in the remainder of the document, and will influence subsequent DPDs.

1. Enhancing the role of the three market towns as accessible service centres within the District and particularly Selby, as a Principal Town.
2. Supporting rural regeneration in ways which are compatible with environmental objectives, and which deliver increased prosperity for the whole community.
3. Concentrating new development in the most sustainable locations, where reasonable public transport exists, and taking full account of local needs and environmental, social and economic constraints.
4. Safeguarding the open character of the Green Belt and preventing coalescence of settlements.
5. Providing an appropriate and sustainable mix of market, affordable and special needs housing to meet the needs of District residents, particularly young people and older people.
6. Locating new development in areas of lowest flood risk, where development is proved to be important to the sustainability aims of the plan, and where flood risk can be reduced to acceptable levels by using mitigation measures.
7. Promoting the efficient use of land including the re-use of existing buildings and previously developed land for appropriate uses in sustainable locations giving preference to land of lesser environmental value.
8. Minimising the need to travel and providing opportunities for trips to be made by public transport, cycling and walking.
9. Developing the economy of the District by capitalising on local strengths, nurturing existing business, supporting entrepreneurs and innovation, and promoting diversification into new growth sectors.
10. Protecting and enhancing the existing range of community facilities and infrastructure and ensuring additional provision is made to meet changing requirements and to support new development.
11. Protecting and enhancing the character of the historic environment, including buildings, open spaces and archaeology,

and acknowledging the contribution of the District's heritage to economic prosperity, local distinctiveness and community well-being.

12. Promoting high quality design of new development which recognises and enhances the character and distinctiveness of the locality and which is well integrated with its surroundings both visually and physically, and which achieves places that meet the needs of the members of the community including for health and well-being and facilitating social interaction.
13. Improving the range and quality of cultural and leisure opportunities across the District and improving tourism facilities.
14. Protecting, enhancing and extending green infrastructure, including natural habitats, urban greenspace, sports fields and recreation areas.
15. Making best use of natural resources by promoting energy efficiency, sustainable construction techniques and low-carbon and/or renewable energy operations, and protecting natural resources including safeguarding known locations of minerals resources
16. Protecting against pollution, improving the quality of air, land and water resources, and avoiding over-exploitation of water resources, and preventing noise/light/soil pollution and protecting development from noise/light/soil pollution.
17. Protecting the best and most versatile agricultural land and enhancing the wider countryside for its important landscape, amenity, biodiversity, flood management, recreation and natural resource value.

Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Development

- 3.6 The National Planning Policy Framework (March 2012) states that Local Plans should be based upon and reflect the presumption in favour of sustainable development, with clear policies that will guide how the presumption should be applied locally (paragraphs 14 and 15 of the NPPF).
- 3.7 The presumption in favour of sustainable development is a thread that runs through the Core Strategy which is a place based and people focused approach to develop communities in a sustainable way; it balances meeting development needs of the District against adverse impacts. Section 2 of the Core Strategy highlights the key issues for the District as meeting development needs, moderating unsustainable travel patterns, concentrating growth in the Selby area, providing affordable housing, and developing the economy. The Vision, Aims and Objectives and the policies in the Core Strategy seek to establish the presumption in favour of sustainable development and provide the

framework for local implementation of that presumption.

3.8 In addition to the suite of policies the following over-arching policy is included in the Core Strategy.

3.9 The presumption in favour of sustainable development does not apply where development requiring appropriate assessment under the Birds or Habitats Directives is being considered, planned or determined.

SP1 Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Development

When considering development proposals the Council will take a positive approach that reflects the presumption in favour of sustainable development contained in the National Planning Policy Framework. It will always work proactively with applicants jointly to find solutions which mean that proposals can be approved wherever possible, and to secure development that improves the economic, social and environmental conditions in the area.

Planning applications that accord with the policies in the Local Plan¹⁵ (and, where relevant, with policies in neighbourhood plans) will be approved without delay, unless material considerations indicate otherwise.

Where there are no policies relevant to the application or relevant policies are out of date (as defined by the NPPF) at the time of making the decision then the Council will grant permission unless material considerations indicate otherwise – taking into account whether:

- **Any adverse impacts of granting permission would significantly and demonstrably outweigh the benefits, when assessed against the policies in the National Planning Policy Framework taken as a whole; or**
- **Specific policies in that Framework indicate that development should be restricted.**

¹⁵ The 'Local Plan' comprises the development plan documents adopted under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. It includes the Core Strategy and other planning policies which under the regulations would be considered to be development plan documents. The term includes old policies which have been saved under the 2004 Act

[Explanatory Note - This therefore includes the SDLP which was prepared under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 and policies saved under the 2004 Act on adoption in 2005 and then 'extended' on 8 February 2008 by Direction of the Secretary of State under the 2004 Act until such time as superseded].