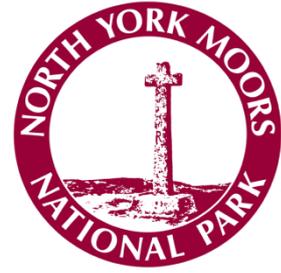


RYEDALE
DISTRICT
COUNCIL



Helmsley Plan

Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report

January 2012

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1. Summary

1.1 This scoping report represents the initial phase in establishing the framework for undertaking Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment of the Helmsley Plan.

1.2 The process of Sustainability Appraisal aims to promote sustainable development through better integration of sustainability considerations in the preparation and adoption of plans. Therefore the purpose of this consultation document is to help ensure that the final Sustainability Appraisal addresses all significant issues of environmental, social and economic sustainability by ensuring that there is adequate provision for options and policies to be sufficiently evaluated during their development and prior to their implementation.

1.3 This consultation document therefore;

- Reviews other relevant policies, plans, programmes and objectives which will inform the Helmsley Plan;
- Provides baseline information in relation to Helmsley and the surrounding area;
- Identifies the sustainability issues;
- Proposes the sustainability objectives and appraisal methodology;
- Identifies proposals for monitoring.

2. Consultation

- 2.1 Consultation on this document will help to ensure that the Sustainability Appraisal is comprehensive, robust and adequate to support the Helmsley Plan. In accordance with the statutory requirements the three Strategic Environmental Assessment bodies have been consulted (English Heritage, Environment Agency, Natural England) alongside other consultees as part of the consultation on the Discussion Paper. We are seeking your views at this point early on in the process to help us decide the scope and direction of our appraisal methodology.
- 2.2 Comments should be sent or emailed to the details below by 2 March 2012.

Planning Policy
North York Moors National Park Authority
The Old Vicarage
Bondgate
Helmsley
York
YO62 5BP
Tel: 01439 770657

Email: policy@northyorkmoors-npa.gov.uk

3. Introduction and Context

Helmsley Plan

- 3.1 The Helmsley Plan is being produced jointly by the North York Moors National Park Authority and Ryedale District Council. The town of Helmsley is divided between two planning authorities, and sits partly within Ryedale District and partly within the North York Moors National Park for planning purposes.
- 3.2 The draft Ryedale Local Plan Strategy¹, shortly to be released for consultation, identifies a need for 200 houses per year to deliver 3,000 new houses across Ryedale District by 2027. The draft Ryedale Local Plan Strategy proposes that land for approximately 150 houses needs to be identified in Helmsley over this period through small to medium sized extension sites. The Local Plan Strategy also identifies that between 37 and 45ha of employment land should be allocated across the District, and that between approximately 1.85 and 2.25ha of this should be distributed within Helmsley and Kirkbymoorside on sites within, adjacent to and on the outskirts of the built up areas.
- 3.3 The part of Helmsley in the National Park is not subject to any specific targets for housing or employment land but the National Park's Core Strategy and Development Policies support such uses in principle subject to proposals meeting certain criteria. However, it is considered logical to look at the town as a whole for the purposes of allocating housing and employment land to meet Ryedale's requirements as set out above. A commitment to produce a joint Development Plan Document for Helmsley has been established in both the North York Moors Core Strategy and Development Policies and in the draft Ryedale Local Plan Strategy.

Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment

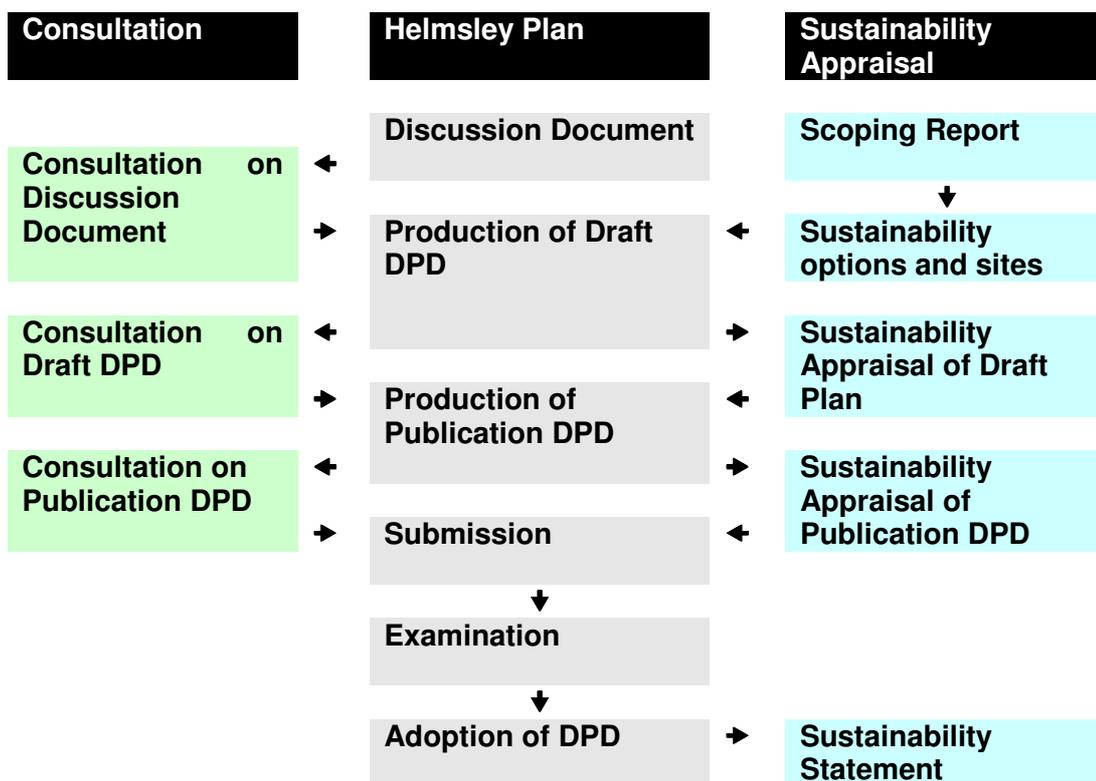
- 3.4 The Planning and Compulsory Act 2004 requires a Sustainability Appraisal to be carried out as part of the production of any Development Plan Document. In addition the requirements of the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive² must also be complied with. Both processes have been undertaken together and the term Sustainability Appraisal throughout the rest of this report refers to both assessments. Appendix 1 shows the elements of the Sustainability Appraisal which will meet the requirements of the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive. Table 1, overleaf, shows how the Sustainability Appraisal process will inform and be integrated with the production of the Helmsley Plan.
- 3.5 Assessment is also required under the Habitats Directive³. Habitats Regulations Assessment however follows different principles to Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment and therefore should be undertaken separately, although certain elements such as information gathering and developing options can be undertaken simultaneously. A Habitats Regulations Report will be published alongside the Sustainability Report at the appropriate stages.

¹ See Ryedale District Council website: <http://ldf.ryedale.gov.uk>

² Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment

³ The Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (Habitats Directive) (Directive 92/43/EEC)

Table 1 – Integration of Sustainability Appraisal



Previous Sustainability Appraisals

- 3.6 The North York Moors National Park Authority undertook Sustainability Appraisal as part of the production of its Core Strategy and Development Policies. Elements of the Sustainability Appraisal undertaken on the Core Strategy and Development Policies will hold relevance for the Helmsley DPD and these will be identified in subsequent sections of this report.
- 3.7 Ryedale District Council produced a Scoping Report in 2009 covering all documents within the Ryedale Plan and have undertaken Sustainability Appraisal as part of the production of their Local Plan Strategy. The Ryedale SA Scoping Report was designed to be applicable for all documents within the Ryedale Local Development Framework. However, it proves useful to produce a separate Scoping Report for the Helmsley Plan to ensure that information is up to date, to highlight the specific circumstances of the Plan as a joint document and to define the scope of what decisions can be taken through the production of this Plan.

Guidance

- 3.8 The following have been used to inform the Scoping Report:
 - Sustainability Appraisal Advice Note (Planning Advisory Service, 2010)
 - Local Development Frameworks – Guidance on options generation and appraisal (Planning Advisory Service, 2009)
 - A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (ODPM, 2005)

4. Information Requirements

What is the policy context?

- 4.1 In fulfilling the requirements of the SEA Directive it is necessary to identify the relationship of the Helmsley Plan to other relevant plans and programmes at International, European and national levels. Appendix 2 of this report provides a comprehensive listing of relevant plans and programmes so far identified (although it remains under development and review, and will continue to evolve in light of consultation feedback and as the Sustainability Appraisal process progresses). Below is a summary of the key issues arising from these. As a starting point, the review of plans and programmes carried out as part of previous Sustainability Appraisals undertaken by both Authorities has been used, and these have been updated to ensure that all relevant and up to date plans that cover the geographical area of Helmsley are included.

What is the situation now?

- 4.2 One of the key requirements of the Sustainability Appraisal is to predict and monitor the effects of implementing a plan. In order to do this effectively it is necessary to have an understanding of the baseline position. This section forms an important starting point for ascertaining the current and likely future state of the plan area as well as helping to identify the sustainability issues.
- 4.3 The collection of baseline data was undertaken as part of the Sustainability Appraisals for both the North York Moors Core Strategy and Development Policies and the Ryedale Plan. As much of the data relating to Ryedale District includes the part within the North York Moors National Park it would seem logical to use the baseline data established as part of the Sustainability Appraisal of the Ryedale Core Strategy. This has been updated, and supplemented with data relating specifically to Helmsley where this is available. An account of the baseline situation is contained in Appendix 3.

Sustainability Issues

- 4.4 A summary of the key sustainability issues arising from the two tasks above is set out below:
- Meeting the housing requirements of an aging population
 - Loss of young people and shortage of affordable housings
 - Pressure for second homes / holiday homes
 - Low average wages
 - Reliance on tourism and agriculture
 - Need to maintain services and facilities
 - Need to maintain current levels of employment
 - Much of Helmsley is surrounded by landscape, nature conservation and/or cultural heritage designations
 - Large parts of Helmsley designated as a Conservation Area and many Listed Buildings
 - Parts of the town at risk of flooding and within flood zone 3
 - Need to continue to promote renewable energy generation and reduce energy use
 - Need to continue to encourage recycling and composting

- 4.5 Without the Helmsley Plan there would be no formal promotion or support for the development of specific sites for housing and employment uses, which may hinder the provision of sufficient development to meet the future needs of the town, thus particularly worsening the existing issue of a lack of affordable housing and loss of young people. The Plan allows consideration of all sites as one process, without this new development may be more likely to take place in locations which are not optimal in terms of minimising any harm to the natural or historic environment.

5. Framework and Methodology

Sustainability Objectives

- 5.1 Central to the Sustainability Appraisal process is the development of the Appraisal Framework. This provides the template for describing, analysing and comparing sustainability implications of the Plan. Guidance suggests that the framework should consist of objectives, the achievement of which should be measurable using identified indicators.
- 5.2 Sustainability objectives were agreed as part of the Sustainability Appraisal of the North York Moors Core Strategy and Development Policies and through the Ryedale Scoping Report which was produced in 2009. As Ryedale District Council will be using the objectives agreed through their Scoping Report to assess other site allocations in the District it is logical to use these for the Sustainability Appraisal of the Helmsley Plan. These objectives have been reviewed against those agreed under the North York Moors Sustainability Appraisal and it is considered that they are compatible. In particular it is considered that the indicators provide adequate compatibility with National Park purposes. The proposed sustainability objectives are set out below:

Social Objectives

- A1 To ensure that all groups of the population have access to health, education, leisure and recreation services that are required
- A2 To provide the opportunity for all people to meet their housing needs
- A3 To improve overall levels of health and reduce the disparities between different groups and different areas.
- A4 To maintain and promote the distinctiveness of identifiable communities
- A5 To reduce crime and the fear of crime
- A6 To develop a more balanced population

Economic Objectives

- B1 To maintain and enhance employment opportunities
- B2 To maintain and enhance the vitality of the countryside, villages and town centres
- B3 To retain and enhance the factors which are conducive to wealth creation, including personal creativity and attractiveness to investors
- B4 To diversify the local economy

Environmental Objectives

- C1 To protect and enhance biodiversity and geo-diversity.
- C2 To maintain and enhance the quality and character of the landscape, including the special qualities of remoteness and tranquillity
- C3 Reduce long distance commuting and congestion by reducing the need to travel.
- C4 To ensure future development is resilient to climate change such as development is not vulnerable to flooding, or will increase the risk of flooding elsewhere
- C5 To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historical and cultural environment
- C6 To reduce the emission of greenhouse gases

- C7 To encourage the use of renewable resources and the development of renewable energy sources within Ryedale
- C8 To make the most efficient use of land
- C9 To maintain a high quality environment in terms of air, soil and water quality
- C10 Ensure that fossil fuel and water consumption is as low as possible, protect productive soils and maintain the stock of minerals
- C11 To reduce the amount of waste produced and maximise the rates of re-use and recycling as locally as possible

Appraisal Methodology

5.3 Policy documents produced by the two authorities which set out the strategic policy for Helmsley have been subject to Sustainability Appraisal throughout their development and the conclusions of these are summarised below:

Ryedale Local Plan Strategy

5.4 Assessment of strategic options has been undertaken on the Local Plan Strategy. The options considered were:

- Option 1 – Dispersed development across all settlements in Ryedale
- Option 2 – Concentrate new housing at the Market Towns and provide for local housing needs in the villages
- Option 3 – Concentrate new housing at the Market Towns and Key ‘Service Villages’
- Option 4 – As Option 3 but with ‘Rural Ryedale Community Housing Sites’ being delivered in Local Service Villages.

Whilst options 3 and 4 scored similarly overall against the Sustainability Objectives, it was considered that option 3 scored marginally better and therefore this option was selected as the basis for the Ryedale Plan.

5.5 In relation to the overall amount of development for Ryedale District, two options were assessed. These were:

- Option 1 – 200 homes per year
- Option 2 – 350 homes per year

Option 2 was selected as the most sustainable.

5.6 Options were also assessed in relation to allocating proportions of housing to various settlements across the District. The option which was considered to be most sustainable was option 1, which results in 15% of the land for housing being allocated in Kirkbymoorside and Helmsley. Strategic options for allocating employment land were also assessed and the option of locating new employment land in the Principal Town and Local Services Centres and limited dispersal to villages has been selected.

5.7 In relation to the levels of housing development proposed for Helmsley (150 dwellings from 2012 to 2027) in Strategic Policy 2 of the Local Plan Strategy, the Sustainability Appraisal concludes that impacts upon sustainability objectives will generally be positive but that the location and design of sites will need to ensure that uncertainties around flooding can be overcome and that impacts upon, for example, landscape and biodiversity are avoided / minimised. Strategic Policy 6, which allocates 1.85 – 2.25 hectares of employment land to Kirkbymoorside and Helmsley, is assessed as having mostly positive impacts on sustainability objectives provided that, as for housing development, through location and design uncertainties around flooding can be overcome and impacts upon, for example, landscape and biodiversity are avoided / minimised.

North York Moors Core Strategy and Development Policies

- 5.8 The relevant policies of the North York Moors Core Strategy and Development Policies are Core Policy B, Core Policy H, Development Policy 10 and Core Policy J. These identify Helmsley as the only Local Service Centre in the Park and as the location where the widest range of development would take place. The Sustainability Appraisal of the Submission Core Strategy and Development Policies concluded that the approach taken towards Helmsley would be broadly in line with sustainability objectives provided that development does not have an adverse impact upon the historic environment.
- 5.9 Sustainability Appraisal should involve the appraisal of options. However in the case of the Helmsley Plan the scope for appraising options is limited as the major decisions have already been taken during production of the Ryedale Core Strategy and the North York Moors Core Strategy and Development Policies. Guidance suggests that the Sustainability Appraisal should consider the 'No Plan' option, and therefore this will be considered alongside the option of producing a Plan for Helmsley. Appraisal of options will therefore relate to how sites will be selected. Sustainability Appraisal will then be undertaken in relation to each site put forward and then of drafts of the Plan at each stage.
- 5.10 The Sustainability Appraisal for the Helmsley DPD will therefore be used in the following ways:
- to assess options for the Helmsley Plan, as discussed above;
 - to assess the Plan's objectives;
 - to assess and inform selection of potential sites;
 - to identify any mitigation measures which can be built into the Plan.
- 5.11 The sustainability objectives themselves will be used for assessing the options, objectives and policies of the Helmsley Plan. The assessments will be undertaken in terms of the criteria below:

Category	Effect of Policy
✓ Positive impact	Policy is consistent with meeting the objective, either by having no negative impact or by positively influencing change in accordance with the objective.
✗ Negative impact	The policy will hinder achievement of this objective.
= Neutral impact	The policy will have neither a positive nor a negative impact upon this objective.
U Uncertain Impact	The policy may hinder achievement of this objective, but may have no negative impact. This will depend upon implementation.
○ No direct link	There is no direct link between the nature of the policy and the nature of the objective.

In addition the nature of the effects will be considered in terms of:

- Direct or indirect;
 - Long term, short term, temporary or permanent;
 - Local or wider in geographical extent.
- 5.12 Ryedale District Council have developed a number of 'prompts' to help with identifying impacts on sustainability objectives, these are contained in Appendix 4.

- 5.13 Ryedale District Council have recently consulted upon a proposed Site Selection Methodology. This will be used by Ryedale for assessing all sites within the District. The sites themselves will also be assessed against the Site Selection Methodology. This considers issues wider than the Sustainability Appraisal, such as deliverability of sites, but some of the information gathered will be useful in undertaking the Sustainability Appraisal. As part of the development of the Site Selection Methodology, Ryedale have assessed their Sustainability Objectives against those for the North York Moors National Park and have concluded that the Ryedale objectives cover all of the National Park ones, and that therefore the Site Selection Methodology is appropriate for use for the whole of Helmsley. Amendments are currently being made to the Site Selection Methodology following the recent consultation. The draft Site Selection Methodology can be viewed at http://extranet.ryedale.gov.uk/pdf/Site%20Selection%20Methodology_finaldraft.pdf.
- 5.14 Sustainability Appraisal should identify the cumulative and significant effects upon sustainability objectives. The assessment of cumulative effects will involve looking at the effects upon each sustainability objective in turn, particularly with regards to the criteria in 5.11 above. This assessment will then assist in determining whether there are likely to be any significant effects.

Monitoring

- 5.15 The objectives, and ultimately the performance of the Plan, should be monitored. Indicators have been derived during the development of the North York Moors Core Strategy and Development Policies and the Ryedale Local Plan Strategy to measure performance. In both cases these have been 'tested' against the sustainability objectives to ensure that performance against all objectives is being monitored. These are reported through the Annual Monitoring Reports of the respective authorities.
- 5.16 It should be recognised that in many cases the data available cannot be attributed to action as a direct result of the Plan but represents the best information available and will show overall progress against sustainability objectives. Much of the data relates to the whole of Ryedale District or the North York Moors National Park.
- 5.17 It is not proposed specifically to establish any further indicators for monitoring the Helmsley Plan. However if any significant effects are identified through the Sustainability Appraisal process, measures will be put in place to ensure they are monitored. This will be reported in the Sustainability Report.

6. Next Steps

- 6.1 This Scoping Report is being consulted upon at the same time as the consultation on the Discussion Paper which seeks comments on the content of the Plan. The sustainability framework and the Site Selection Methodology will then be used as the basis for assessing options and potential sites. This will inform the draft Plan which will contain proposals for Helmsley including the location of allocations, the types of uses which would be appropriate and any on-site requirements. The results of the assessment of potential sites, including an explanation for discarded sites, and an assessment of the draft Plan will be published alongside the draft Plan. Any mitigation measures identified can then be incorporated prior to formal Publication of the Plan.

Appendix 1 – Summary of Requirements of SEA Directive Directive

SEA Directive Requirements	Reported in...
An outline of the contents, main objectives of the plan or programme and relationship with other relevant plans and programmes.	Scoping Report / Sustainability Report
The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme.	Scoping Report (summarised in Sustainability Report)
The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected.	Scoping Report (summarised in Sustainability Report)
Any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to Directives 79/409/EEC and 92/43/EEC.	Scoping Report (summarised in Sustainability Report)
The environmental protection objectives, established at international, Community or Member State level, which are relevant to the plan or programme and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation.	Scoping Report (summarised in Sustainability Report)
The likely significant effects (1) on the environment, including on issues such as biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors. These effects should include secondary, cumulative, synergistic, short, medium and long-term permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects.	Sustainability Report
The measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme.	Sustainability Report
An outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with, and a description of how the assessment was undertaken including any difficulties (such as technical deficiencies or lack of know-how) encountered in compiling the required information.	Sustainability Report
A description of the measures envisaged concerning monitoring.	Finalised in Sustainability Statement
Where an environmental assessment is required...an environmental report shall be prepared in which the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme, and reasonable alternatives taking into account the objectives and the geographical scope of the plan or programme, are identified, described and evaluated.	Sustainability Report

A non-technical summary of the information provided under the above headings.	In relevant reports as above
The (environmental) authorities...shall be consulted when deciding on the scope and level of detail of the information which must be included in the environmental report.	Consultation on the Scoping Report (see para 3.3 of Sustainability Report)
The (environmental) authorities...and the public...shall be given an early and effective opportunity within appropriate time frames to express their opinion on the draft plan or programme and the accompanying environmental report before the adoption of the of the plan or programme or its submission to the legislative procedure.	Consultation on the draft Plan and Sustainability Report (November 2011)
The report shall include the information that may reasonably be required taking into account current knowledge and methods of assessment, the contents and level of detail in the plan or programme, its stage in the decision making process and the extent to which certain matters are more appropriately assessed at different levels in that process to avoid duplication of the assessment.	Sustainability Report
The environmental report...(and) the opinions expressed (through the consultation) shall be taken into account during the preparation of the plan or programme and before its adoption or submission to the legislative procedure.	Sustainability Statement (to be produced on adoption of the Plan)

Appendix 2 – Review of Relevant Plans, Programmes and Objectives

Plan / Programme	Objectives	Implications for Helmsley Plan
International and European		
Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development (United Nations 2002)	Commitment to economic development, social development and environmental protection — at the local, national, regional and global levels.	The Plan should be consistent with the principles of sustainable development.
Kyoto Protocol (United Nations 1992)	Reduction in greenhouse gas emissions	The Plan should seek to minimise greenhouse gas emissions from any new development in Helmsley.
EU SEA Directive (2001/42/EC)	Carry out Strategic Environmental Assessment as an integral component of the Core Strategy and Development Policies development	Strategic Environmental Assessment is being undertaken within the Sustainability Appraisal.
EU Framework Directive on Waste (75/422/EEC as amended by 91/156/EEC)	Take account of the waste hierarchy and associated principles as well as encourage waste efficient development.	The Plan should seek to ensure that the waste hierarchy is taken into account in any new development in Helmsley.
EU Birds Directive (79/409/EEC as amended by 97/49/EC)	Protect Special Protection Areas as habitats for certain bird species.	Special Protection Areas will be safeguarded through the Habitats Regulations Assessment which is being undertaken as a separate assessment.
EU Nitrates Directive (91/676/EEC)	Sets out environmental measures to reduce water pollution caused by nitrates from agricultural sources & prevent pollution in future.	The Plan should ensure that sufficient safeguards will be in place to ensure no unacceptable levels of pollution from Helmsley.
EU Habitats Directive (93/43/EEC) (As amended by 97/62/EC)	Directive requires that measures are taken to avoid significant deterioration of natural habitats as well as disturbance of species for which the area has been designated.	A separate Habitats Regulations Assessment is being undertaken on the Helmsley Plan.
EU Air Quality Directive (2000/60/EC)	Air quality should not be reduced and should be enhanced where necessary.	The Plan should ensure that sufficient safeguards are in place to protect air quality from new development in Helmsley.
EU Water Framework Directive	Water resources should be adequately considered during	Consideration should be given to the impact

Plan / Programme	Objectives	Implications for Helmsley Plan
(2000/60/EC)	the development of policies and programmes, and water quality should be retained at an appropriate standard.	upon water resources during production of the Plan.
EU Assessment & Management of Environmental Noise Directive (2002/49/EC)	Requires member states to draw up strategic noise maps and action plans assessing the impacts of noise on individuals.	The Plan should ensure that sufficient safeguards are in place to protect surrounding areas from noise pollution from new employment development in Helmsley.
National		
National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949	The Act established National Parks with the twin purposes of conservation and public enjoyment.	The Plan should be consistent with National Park purposes.
Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981	Established all purpose National Park Authorities with revised twin purposes and a duty in pursuing these purposes to 'seek to foster the economic and social well being of local communities'.	The Plan should be consistent with National Park purposes and duty.
Environment Act 1995	Outlines the statutory obligations on nature conservation in relation to planning.	The Plan should ensure that new development at Helmsley provides the appropriate level of protection for nature conservation.
Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CROW)	Establishes open access rights and provides greater powers for protection of SSSIs.	The Plan should ensure that new development at Helmsley provides the appropriate level of protection for SSSIs.
Climate Change Act 2008	Sets statutory target for reducing emissions by 80% by 2050 and puts in place procedures for adapting to climate change and assessing the risk of climate change.	The Plan should ensure that new housing and employment development is designed to minimise energy use.
Securing the Future: Delivering the UK Sustainable Development Strategy (DEFRA, 2005)	Guiding principles: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Living within environmental limits; • Ensuring a strong, healthy and just society; • Achieving a sustainable economy; • Promoting good governance; and • Using sound science responsibly. 	The Plan should ensure that new development at Helmsley is consistent with the principles of sustainable development.
Rural Strategy (DEFRA 2004)	The Government's three priorities for rural policy are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic and Social Regeneration - supporting enterprise across rural England, but targeting greater resources at areas of greatest need. 	The Plan should ensure that new development at Helmsley is consistent with these priorities.

Plan / Programme	Objectives	Implications for Helmsley Plan
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Justice for All - tackling rural social exclusion wherever it occurs and providing fair access to services and opportunities for all rural people. • Enhancing the Value of our Countryside - protecting the natural environment for this and future generations. 	
Delivering Affordable Housing (ODPM, 2006)	<p>Affordable housing policy is based around three themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • providing high quality homes in mixed sustainable communities for those in need; • widening the opportunities for home ownership; • offering greater quality, flexibility and choice to those who rent. 	The Plan should ensure that affordable housing will be provided as part of new housing development in Helmsley where needed to meet local needs.
National Air Quality Strategy (DEFRA, 2007)	Various standards for air quality which should not be exceeded.	The Plan should ensure that air quality standards will not be compromised by new development at Helmsley.
Energy White Paper: Meeting the Energy Challenge (DTI, 2007)	<p>Aim is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • save energy; • develop cleaner energy supplies; and • secure reliable energy supplies at prices set in competitive markets. 	The Plan should ensure that new development at Helmsley will contribute to reducing energy use and to using alternative sources of energy.
The Future of Transport White Paper (DfT, 2004)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the road network providing a more reliable and free-flowing service for both personal travel and freight, with people able to make informed choices about how and when they travel; • the rail network providing a fast, reliable and efficient service, particularly for interurban journeys and commuting into large urban areas; • bus services that are reliable, flexible, convenient and tailored to local needs; • making walking and cycling a real alternative for local trips; and • ports and airports providing improved international and domestic links. 	The Plan should ensure that transport movements related to new development at Helmsley are consistent with these national transport objectives.

Plan / Programme	Objectives	Implications for Helmsley Plan
UK Biodiversity Action Plan	<p>Objectives for conserving biodiversity:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To conserve and where practicable to enhance: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the overall populations and natural ranges of native species and the quality and range of wildlife habitats and ecosystems; (b) internationally important and threatened species, habitats and ecosystems; (c) species, habitats and natural and managed ecosystems that are characteristic of local areas; (d) the biodiversity of natural and semi-natural habitats where this has been diminished over recent past decades. 2. To increase public awareness of, and involvement in, conserving biodiversity. 3. To contribute to the conservation of biodiversity on a European and global scale. 	The Plan should ensure that an appropriate level of protection is applied to biodiversity, and that enhancements can be delivered where appropriate.
Natural Environment White Paper (DEFRA, 2011)	<p>Main themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protecting and improving our natural environment; • Growing a green economy; and • Reconnecting people with nature. 	The Plan should ensure that allocations will not harm the natural environment and that opportunities for people to connect with nature exist
Biodiversity 2020: A Strategy for England's Wildlife and Ecosystem Services (DEFRA, 2011)	<p>Vision:</p> <p>By 2050 our land and seas will be rich in wildlife, our biodiversity will be valued, conserved, restored, managed sustainably and be more resilient and able to adapt to change, providing essential services and delivering benefits for everyone.</p>	The Plan should ensure that allocations will conserve and enhance conditions for wildlife.
Heritage White Paper (DCMS, 2007)	<p>Core principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing a unified approach to the historic environment; • Maximising opportunities for inclusion and involvement; and • Supporting sustainable communities by putting the historic environment at the heart of an effective planning system. 	The Plan should ensure that allocations will not harm Helmsley's heritage.
Local Growth White Paper –	Key themes:	Allocating land for employment should help to

Plan / Programme	Objectives	Implications for Helmsley Plan
Realising Every Place's Potential (BIS, 2010)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shifting power to local communities and businesses; • Promoting efficient and dynamic markets and increasing confidence to invest; and • Focused investment. 	fulfil these aims.
Building a Greener Future: Policy Statement (CLG, 2007)	Seeks to progressively introduce a requirement for all new homes to be zero carbon by 2016.	New housing development in Helmsley should comply with national standards regarding energy use in homes.
Code for Sustainable Homes – Setting the Standard for Sustainability in New Homes (CLG, 2008)	Aims to ensure that new homes are increasingly more sustainable, including reducing energy use and carbon emissions, reducing resource use and ecology.	New housing development in Helmsley should comply with national standards regarding energy and resource use in homes.
Planning Policy Statement 1: Delivering Sustainable Development (ODPM, 2005)	The creation of sustainable communities is at the centre of PPS1.	The Plan should ensure that development in Helmsley will contribute towards the creation of sustainable communities.
Planning Policy Statement 1: Planning and Climate Change – Supplement to Planning Policy Statement 1 (CLG, 2007)	Reducing carbon emissions from new development, and supporting sustainable energy production.	The Plan should ensure that opportunities are taken to minimise energy use and to generate renewable energy as part of development of new development in New housing development in Helmsley.
Planning Policy Statement 3: Housing (CLG, November 2006)	Seeks to ensure a wide choice of affordable, high quality homes and widen opportunities for home ownership.	New housing development in Helmsley should include housing to meet local needs for affordable housing.
Planning Policy Statement 4: Planning for Sustainable Economic Growth (CLG, 2009)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build prosperous communities by improving the economic performance of cities, towns, regions, sub-regions and local areas, both urban and rural; • Reduce the gap in economic growth rates between regions, promoting regeneration and tackling deprivation 	The Helmsley Plan should ensure that land is allocated to improve the economic performance of the town.
Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To deliver sustainable development by ensuring that policies and decisions concerning the historic environment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - recognise that heritage assets are a non-renewable resource; - take account of the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits of heritage conservation; and 	The Plan should ensure that allocations do not harm Helmsley's heritage.

Plan / Programme	Objectives	Implications for Helmsley Plan
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - recognise that intelligently managed change may sometimes be necessary if heritage assets are to be maintained for the long term. • to conserve England’s heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance by ensuring that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - decisions are based on the nature, extent and level of that significance, investigated to a degree proportionate to the importance of the heritage asset; - wherever possible, heritage assets are put to an appropriate and viable use that is consistent with their conservation; - the positive contribution of such heritage assets to local character and sense of place is recognised and valued; and - consideration of the historic environment is integrated into planning policies, promoting place-shaping. • to contribute to our knowledge and understanding of our past by ensuring that opportunities are taken to capture evidence from the historic environment and to make this publicly available, particularly where a heritage asset is to be lost. 	
Planning Policy Statement 6: Planning For Town Centres (ODPM, 2005)	Aims to ensure the vitality and viability of town centres is sustained and enhanced.	Consideration will need to be given to the impact of the Plan upon Helmsley town centre.
Planning Policy Statement 7: Sustainable Development in Rural Areas (ODPM, 2004)	PPS7 aims to sustain, enhance and, where appropriate, revitalise country towns and villages and creates a diverse rural economy whilst maintaining local character / high quality environment.	Consideration will need to be given to the impact of the Plan upon the wider rural areas.
Planning Policy Statement 9: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation (ODPM, 2005)	Biodiversity and geological conservation interests should be protected and enhanced.	The Plan should ensure that safeguards are in place to ensure the appropriate level of protection for biological and geological conservation interests.
Circular - Biodiversity and Geological Conservation –	Seeks to ensure that sites designated for biodiversity or geodiversity purposes will be afforded the appropriate	The Plan should ensure that biological and geological conservation interests are given

Plan / Programme	Objectives	Implications for Helmsley Plan
Statutory Obligations and their Impact within the Planning System (ODPM 06/2005, DEFRA 01/2005)	protection.	the appropriate level of protection.
Planning Policy Statement 10: Planning for Sustainable Waste Management (ODPM, July 2005)	Ensure the delivery of sustainable waste management and moving the management of waste up the 'waste hierarchy' of reduction, re-use, recycling and composting, using waste as a source of energy and only disposing as a last resort.	The Plan should ensure that opportunities to manage waste sustainably are provided for as part of new development at Helmsley.
Planning Policy Statement 11: Regional Spatial Strategies (ODPM, 2004)	Need to ensure that the LDF conforms with RSS.	The Plan will need to be in conformity with the RSS. (Note – RSS is proposed to be abolished under the Localism Act)
Planning Policy Statement 12: Local Spatial Planning (CLG, 2008)	Need to ensure that the LDF is produced in accordance with the 2004 and 2008 Regulations. LDFs should take forward the spatial elements of Sustainable Community Strategies.	The Plan will need to take forward the spatial elements of the Helmsley Community Strategy and North Yorkshire Community Strategy.
Planning Policy Guidance 13: Transport (ODPM, March 2001)	Reduce reliance upon private car use and support and encourage use of public transport, walking and cycling.	Consideration will need to be given to how new developments could be accessed via sustainable modes of transport.
Planning Policy Guidance 14: Development on Unstable Land (Department of the Environment, 1990)	Minimise the risk from unstable land.	Consideration will need to be given to whether any new development would be affected by unstable land.
Planning Policy Guidance 17: Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation (Department of Transport, Local Government and the Regions, July 2002)	Facilitate the provision and retention of public open spaces and recreational facilities.	The Plan will need to consider the inclusion of open spaces as part of any new development in Helmsley.
Planning Policy Guidance 19: Outdoor Advertisement Control (Department of the	Ensure advertising is of an appropriate design and type.	The Plan will need to ensure that any advertising associated with new employment development in Helmsley is appropriate.

Plan / Programme	Objectives	Implications for Helmsley Plan
Environment, 1992)		
Planning Policy Statement 22: Renewable Energy (Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, 2004)	Promote renewable energy generation.	The Plan should provide opportunities for the generation of renewable energy as part of new development in Helmsley.
Planning Policy Statement 23: Planning and Pollution Control (Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, 2004)	Ensure that pollution from new development is minimised and controlled.	The Plan should ensure that safeguards are in place to ensure that no unacceptable levels of pollution arise from the development.
Planning Policy Guidance 24: Planning and Noise (Department of the Environment, 1994)	Special consideration is required where noisy development is proposed in or near to landscape and habitat designations (e.g. National Parks, AONBs, Heritage Coast, Sites of Special Scientific Interest).	The Plan should ensure that safeguards are in place to ensure that no unacceptable levels of noise arise from new employment development.
Planning Policy Statement 25: Development and Flood Risk (Communities and Local Government, 2006)	New development should not be at risk from flooding and should not contribute towards flooding elsewhere.	The Plan should ensure that new development in Helmsley will not be at risk from flooding and that measures are put in place to ensure that flood risk elsewhere is not increased.
Good Practice Guide on Planning for Tourism (Department for Communities and Local Government, 2006)	<p>Aim to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • maximise the benefits of tourism, in particular ensuring that the development is able to reach its potential to contribute to tourism in the area and for local communities to enjoy those benefits; • identify optimal locations, for example to maximise synergies with other tourist attractions and to promote opportunities for access by public transport; • integrate development with its surroundings both in terms of design and layout and in the way that the service or facility is able to function; and • avoid adverse impacts, for example by disturbance to 	The Plan should ensure that new development in Helmsley contributes to the local tourism product.

Plan / Programme	Objectives	Implications for Helmsley Plan
	activities on adjacent land.	
Design – Safer Places: The Planning System and Crime Prevention (Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, 2004)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access and movement: places with well defined routes, spaces and entrances that provide for convenient movement without compromising security; • Structure: places that are structured so that different uses do not cause conflict; • Surveillance: places where all publicly accessible spaces are overlooked; • Ownership: places that promote a sense of ownership, respect, territorial responsibility and community; • Physical protection: places that include necessary, well-designed security features; • Activity: places where the level of human activity is appropriate to the location and creates a reduced risk of crime and a sense of safety at all times; • Management and maintenance: places that are designed with management and maintenance in mind, to discourage crime in the present and the future. 	The Plan should ensure that new development in Helmsley will be designed with such considerations taken into account.
National Planning Policy Framework (Draft, CLG 2011)	<p>Broad objectives to:</p> <p>Build a strong, responsive and competitive economy, by ensuring that sufficient land of the right type, and in the right places, is available to allow growth and innovation; and by identifying and coordinating development requirements, including the provision of infrastructure;</p> <p>Promote strong, vibrant and healthy communities, by providing an increased supply of housing to meet the needs of present and future generations; and by creating a good quality built environment, with accessible local services that reflect the community's needs and supports its health and well-being;</p> <p>Protect and enhance our natural, built and historic environment, to use natural resources prudently and to</p>	The Helmsley Plan should allocate land to help to meet the objectives around the economy and housing, in a way which protects the natural, built and historic environment.

Plan / Programme	Objectives	Implications for Helmsley Plan
	mitigate and adapt to climate change, including moving to a low carbon economy. <i>Note – this is a draft and may change prior to final publication</i>	
Regional		
The Yorkshire and Humber Plan – Regional Spatial Strategy to 2026 (Government Office for Yorkshire and the Humber, 2008)	RSS seeks to achieve a more sustainable pattern & form of development, investment and activity in the Yorkshire and Humber region – putting a greater emphasis on matching needs across the Region with opportunities and managing the environment as a key resource.	Development in Helmsley should provide for needs for economic uses.
Regional Economic Strategy (Yorkshire Forward, 2006 - 2015)	Objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More Businesses that last – because higher levels of enterprise are so important • Competitive Businesses – making indigenous businesses more productive because they innovate and invest • Skilled People benefiting business – with talents that employers value and which offer due reward • Connecting People to good jobs – because levels of employment make a big difference to people and the economy, and we need more people in jobs in deprived areas. • Transport, Infrastructure and Environment – a strong economy needs good sustainable transport connections and to make the best of the environment and infrastructure • Stronger Cities, Towns and Rural Communities – to ensure they are attractive places to live, work and invest 	The Plan should ensure that development in Helmsley will contribute towards meeting the economic objectives for the region. These objectives should form the basis for the aims of allocating employment land in the DPD.
Yorkshire and Humber Regional Housing Strategy 2005 – 2021 (GOYH, 2005)	Three themes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating better places; • Delivering better homes, choice and opportunity; • Ensuring fair access to quality housing. 	The allocation of land for housing in the Plan should contribute to these themes.
Yorkshire and Humber Rural Framework (GOYH, 2006)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rural business development – encourage enterprise and innovation within new and established rural businesses, and 	The Plan should ensure that new development in Helmsley contributes to these

Plan / Programme	Objectives	Implications for Helmsley Plan
	<p>provide a co-ordinated support infrastructure that helps them adapt to change.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employment, education and skills training – develop and encourage participation in quality learning opportunities, and support rural businesses in workforce development. • Market towns – support market towns as hubs for the rural economy and as service centres, providing locally based employment opportunities. • Sustainable tourism – develop, manage and promote rural Yorkshire and The Humber as a high-quality ‘sustainable tourism’ destination. • Access to services – ensure that rural communities are characterised by high levels of inclusion and equitable access to quality services that recognise demographic trends. • Rural transport – understand and addresses transport needs in rural areas through private, public and voluntary sector provision, to promote rural regeneration and tackle social exclusion. • Rural housing – understand and address housing needs in rural areas, recognising and tackling issues of fuel poverty. • Rural communities – promote social cohesion, and encourage and support the engagement of rural communities and the active roles that they can play. • The natural environment – conserve and enhance the region’s rural biodiversity, its distinctiveness, and the quality of its natural and built environment • Promote a ‘functional landscape’ – where development draws on and sustains the natural, cultural and built heritage of the region’s rural areas. 	<p>aims, particularly in relation to market towns.</p>
<p>Let’s Take it from the Tip – Yorkshire and Humber Regional</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce waste production and increase re-use, recycling and composting 	<p>The Plan should ensure that measures are in place to enable recycling of waste produced</p>

Plan / Programme	Objectives	Implications for Helmsley Plan
Waste Strategy (Regional Assembly, 2003)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage residual waste in the most sustainable way • Provide technical support and advice 	in new development in Helmsley.
Regional Environment Enhancement Strategy 2008 – 2013 (Yorkshire Regional Environment Forum, 2008)	Aims to develop activities that address climate change and increase the opportunity and capacity for all organisations and individuals to participate in enhancing the environment in socially and economically fulfilling ways.	The Plan should ensure that measures are in place to ensure that opportunities are taken to enhance the environment as part of new development in Helmsley.
Regional Biodiversity Strategy (Yorkshire and Humber Biodiversity Forum, 2009)	<p>Themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protecting the best sites for wildlife in the region • Focusing conservation action on the region's priority habitats and species • Improving functional habitat networks and enhancing the wider environment • Developing a robust evidence base for the region • Engaging people with the region's biodiversity • Helping the region's biodiversity adapt to climate change 	The Plan should ensure that conditions for biodiversity are protected and enhanced.
Historic Environment Strategy for Yorkshire and the Humber 2009 – 2013 (Yorkshire and Humber Historic Environment Forum, 2009)	<p>Vision:</p> <p>To make the conservation and sustainable management of our historic environment the passionate concern of everyone in the Yorkshire and the Humber Region, by raising awareness of its value to peoples' lives and to the health of the economy.</p>	The Plan should ensure that allocations do not harm Helmsley's heritage.
Your Climate, Our Future – Climate Change Action Plan for Yorkshire and the Humber (Government Office for Yorkshire and the Humber, 2009)	<p>Vision:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate change mitigation and adaptation underpin future regional strategy and with leadership displayed at regional and local levels. • The economy is more diverse, with the development of innovative, resource efficient, low carbon products and services in all sectors. • Businesses use carbon trading effectively to stimulate investment in emissions reduction and new low carbon business opportunities. • Waste is reduced by making products with fewer 	The Plan should ensure that energy use in new development is minimised and opportunities for recycling are available.

Plan / Programme	Objectives	Implications for Helmsley Plan
	<p>resources, breaking the link between economic growth and waste growth.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Renewable energy forms an increasingly substantial proportion of our energy mix and the region is effective at reducing emissions from this sector. • Resource efficient living is becoming part of everyday lives. We have reduced consumption and waste and many more people are buying local. • Car use is reducing year on year. Cycling and walking or public transport are much more popular ways to travel. • All new development is zero carbon. Most of the region's homes and all public buildings have been retrofitted to improve resource efficiency. • There is less waste. More than half is recycled or composted. More than 75% of our municipal waste has a value recovered from it. • Agriculture and forestry are achieving higher production in a longer growing season supplying more local markets, and are effectively maintaining soil quality and managing more extreme weather with new disease and pest threats. • We are better prepared for the management of extreme weather events, including floods and droughts • We are able to help the natural environment, its habitats and biodiversity stay healthy and have been able to adapt to the changes through an extensive network of green corridors and infrastructure. • Cities and towns are creating networks of green infrastructure, designed to minimise effects of heat waves in urban areas, to enhance biodiversity and help manage flood risk. 	
<p>The Value of Trees in Our Changing Region – Yorkshire and Humber Forestry Strategy (Forestry Commission, 2005)</p>	<p>Strategic Aims:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To ensure that transformation and expansion of the region's tree and woodland resource takes account of and respects the historic, natural and cultural identity of the 	<p>The Plan should ensure that opportunities to contribute to these objectives are taken where appropriate.</p>

Plan / Programme	Objectives	Implications for Helmsley Plan
	<p>region while contributing positively to its economic, environmental and social development and regeneration;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To ensure the benefits provided by the region's trees and woodlands are understood, recognised and valued; • A sustainably managed regional tree and woodland resource supporting the retention and development of a viable and vibrant forestry sector, and contributing to the overall sustainable development of the region; • To utilise the many environmental strengths of trees and woodlands to underpin the economic and social renaissance of the region; • To achieve maximum biodiversity gain for the region through appropriate tree and woodland planting and management that takes account of the needs of all species and habitats; • To help the region address issues of ill-health by maximising the contribution of trees and woodlands, particularly in areas of greatest health inequalities; • To help the region combat climate change through maximising the contribution of trees and woodlands. 	
Sub-Regional		
Sustainable Community Strategy for North Yorkshire 2008-18 (North Yorkshire Strategic Partnership, 2008)	<p>Vision: North Yorkshire – a place of equal opportunity where all can develop their full potential, participate in a flourishing economy, live and thrive in secure communities, see their high quality environment and cultural assets maintained and enhanced, and receive effective support when they need it.</p>	The Plan should ensure that allocations contribute to creating a high quality environment and support the economy.
North Yorkshire Waste Local Plan (2006)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The County Council aims to encourage a more sustainable approach to waste management which acknowledges the waste hierarchy but also recognises that local circumstances and selection of Best Practicable Environmental Option (BPEO) may have overriding influence on waste management practices. 	The Plan should ensure that opportunities are provided for recycling waste produced from new development in Helmsley.

Plan / Programme	Objectives	Implications for Helmsley Plan
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To seek a balance between providing essential facilities to treat and dispose of waste with the need to protect, and where possible, enhance the environment and the quality of life in North Yorkshire, in accordance with the principles of sustainable development. • To protect the environment and local amenity from potential harm from waste related development • To seek a reduction in the amount of waste that requires treatment and disposal • To secure an adequate and integrated network of facilities for dealing with waste generated within, or in proximity, to North Yorkshire • To encourage a move away from traditional waste disposal to alternative methods of re-use and recovery • To encourage the use of environmentally acceptable standards of operational practices in respect of waste treatment and disposal 	
North Yorkshire Minerals Local Plan (1997)	To achieve a balance between satisfying the need for minerals and the need to protect the environment, which maximises the sustainability of both.	The Plan should seek to ensure that sustainable use is made of minerals in construction of new development in Helmsley.
North Yorkshire Local Transport Plan 2011 - 2016 (North Yorkshire County Council, 2011)	Aims to deliver equality and opportunity, protect and enhance the environment, improve health and safety, increase economic prosperity, build sustainable communities and reduce the demand for travelling.	The Plan should seek to ensure that new development in Helmsley can be accessed by modes of travel other than the car.
People, paths and places – The Rights of Way Improvement Plan for North Yorkshire 2007 – 2011 (North Yorkshire County Council, 2008)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To improve the accessibility of goods, services and recreational opportunities. • To improve and promote the use of the network for people with a range of expectations, interests and levels of ability • To maintain rights of way in a manner that reflects current and future demand • To maintain and maximise the significant benefit the 	The Plan should ensure that new development in Helmsley does not compromise these aims and contributes to them where appropriate.

Plan / Programme	Objectives	Implications for Helmsley Plan
	<p>rights of way network provides to the local and regional economy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To develop rights of way to meet current and future demand • To sustainably manage and promote the rights of way network and maximise its contribution to a sustainable environment • To encourage the use of rights of way to promote health and wellbeing as part of an active lifestyle • To improve the safety of non-motorised users both on highways shared with motor vehicles and on the rights of way network • To promote partnership at all levels in delivering this plan 	
<p>Let's Talk Less Rubbish – A Municipal Waste Management Strategy for the City of York and North Yorkshire 2006 – 2026 (York and North Yorkshire Waste Management Partnership Strategy, 2006)</p>	<p>To reduce the amount of waste produced in York and North Yorkshire so as to make us one of the best performing areas in the country by 2013 – (currently York and North Yorkshire residents produce more waste per person than in most other areas). By 2008, we aim to produce less per person than the average for England and Wales</p> <p>To promote the value of waste as a natural and viable resource, by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re-using, recycling and composting the maximum practicable amount of household waste • Maximising opportunities for re-use of unwanted items and waste by working closely with community and other groups • Maximising the recovery of materials and/or energy from waste that is not reused, recycled or composted so as to further reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill 	<p>The Plan should ensure that opportunities are provided for recycling waste produced from new development in Helmsley.</p>
<p>Derwent Catchment Flood Management Plan (Environment Agency, 2010)</p>	<p>Catchment Flood Management Plans aim to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce the risk of flooding and harm to people, the natural, historic and built environment caused by floods; 	<p>The Plan should seek to contribute towards the aims of the Yorkshire Derwent Catchment Flood Management Plan.</p>

Plan / Programme	Objectives	Implications for Helmsley Plan
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximimse opportunities to work with natural processes and to deliver multiple benefits from flood risk management, and make an effective contribution to sustainable development; • Support the implementation of EU directives, the delivery of Government and other stakeholder policies and targets, and the Agency’s Environmental Vision; and • Promote sustainable flood risk management. 	
<p>Humber River Basin Management Plan (Environment Agency, 2009)</p>	<p>To take forward the aims of the Water Framework Directive which are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • prevent deterioration in the status of aquatic ecosystems, protect them and improve the ecological condition of waters; • aim to achieve at least good status for all water bodies by 2015. Where this is not possible and subject to the criteria set out in the Directive, aim to achieve good status by 2021 or 2027; • meet the requirements of Water Framework Directive Protected Areas; • promote sustainable use of water as a natural resource; • conserve habitats and species that depend directly on water; • progressively reduce or phase out the release of individual pollutants or groups of pollutants that present a significant threat to the aquatic environment; • progressively reduce the pollution of groundwater and prevent or limit the entry of pollutants; • contribute to mitigating the effects of floods and droughts. 	<p>The Plan needs to ensure that allocations in Helmsley will not harm the water environment.</p>
<p>York and North Yorkshire Culture Strategy 2009 - 2014 (York and North Yorkshire Cultural Partnership, 2009)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To have a strong, sustainable and culturally vibrant York and North Yorkshire making the most of its special qualities and distinctiveness, and maximising its economic and cultural value; • To transform the image and perception of York and North Yorkshire by maximising the opportunities of its outdoor 	<p>The Plan needs to ensure that allocations contribute to the distinctiveness of Helmsley.</p>

Plan / Programme	Objectives	Implications for Helmsley Plan
	<p>adventure offer and ensuring it is a key driver for increased participation and growing the visitor economy;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To have a vibrant and strong cultural and creative industries sector contributing to the growth of the economy of the sub-region building on our existing infrastructure and networks; and • To ensure that all sections of the community of York and North Yorkshire have access to high quality cultural and sporting activities, helping to raise participation levels, volunteering and healthy lifestyles. 	
<p>Low Carbon and Renewable Energy Capacity in Yorkshire and Humber (LGYH, 2011) (York and North Yorkshire Sub-Regional Action Plan)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local policies and targets should support renewable energy, including policies for new development and strategic sites. • Educate communities, authorities and members about appropriate technologies for the sub-region; • Develop skills in local communities and support mechanisms to help communities to deliver renewable energy schemes; • Investigate and integrate local manufacture and management of renewable energy technologies within local economic strategies; • Identify delivery vehicles, and the role and capacity of local authorities to assist in delivery; • Share local knowledge and skills through a coordinated forum; • Stimulate the development of regional biomass supply markets; • Identify a lead coordinator for activity in the sub-region, who can act as a promotional lead and also co-ordinate funding to local priorities; • Develop greater understanding of the relationship between renewable energy development and the sub-region's landscape character and natural environment; • Identify opportunities on brownfield land for renewable 	<p>The Plan should support the use of renewable energy in housing and employment allocations.</p>

Plan / Programme	Objectives	Implications for Helmsley Plan
	<p>energy installations in tandem with regeneration and redevelopment initiatives;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training for officers, members and statutory consultees on technologies; • Establish a sub-regional mechanism to share knowledge across Local Authorities; • Engage with private woodland owners in the area to facilitate biomass management; • Establish a 'go-to' body for the sub-region that provides renewable energy advice and expertise. 	
<p>North Yorkshire Small Schools Policy (North Yorkshire County Council, 2005)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote "Excellence for Every Child" by giving wide access to the curriculum opportunities in school and extended learning and leisure opportunities outside the school day; • Ensure that educational opportunities for children promote their safety, health and economic well-being, allowing them to enjoy and achieve and to make a positive contribution; • Provide good quality education as close to communities as we can; • Support Heads, teaching and non-teaching staff to enable them to perform well and enjoy their work; • Preserve the contribution of the churches and other voluntary bodies wherever possible; • Encourage new ways of working such as increased collaboration, confederation and federation where these will promote increased educational opportunities for pupils and raise standards. 	<p>Consider local school provision in the context of new housing allocations.</p>
Local		
<p>Imagine Ryedale (Ryedale Strategic Partnership)</p>	<p>Set around the themes of vibrant communities, strong communities, access and communication, health and wellbeing, landscape and environment and developing opportunities</p>	<p>The Plan should ensure that new development in Helmsley contributes to these aims.</p>

Plan / Programme	Objectives	Implications for Helmsley Plan
<p>Ryedale Local Plan Strategy (draft, January 2012)</p>	<p>Aims:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To create opportunities to retain and create jobs, skills and prosperity and to develop a diverse and resilient economy that supports an ability to live and work in Ryedale; • To work towards rebalancing the age structure of the District; protect and enhance the safety and well-being of local communities; improve choices for local people and meet their needs for new homes, jobs, shops and services; • To protect and enhance the environment, Ryedale's unique character and special qualities associated with its high quality landscapes, rich historic and cultural heritage and a wealth of biodiversity; utilising natural assets and resources for renewable / low carbon energy generation; minimising the risk of flooding and increasing resilience to climate change. 	<p>The Plan must be consistent with meeting the objectives of the Core Strategy.</p>
<p>North York Moors Core Strategy and Development Policies (November 2008)</p>	<p>Objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conserve and enhance the natural environment and the biological and geological diversity of the Park. 2. Reduce the causes and assist in adaptation to the effects of climate change on people, wildlife and places. 3. Promote prudent and sustainable use of natural resources. 4. Secure high quality new development that takes account of and enhances the unique landscape character, settlement pattern and building characteristics of the 9 landscape character areas in the Park. 5. Preserve and enhance historic assets. 6. Promote sustainable design and efficient energy use in new buildings. 7. Support tourism and recreation industry by ensuring that development contributes to the local economy and provides opportunities for enjoying the Park's special qualities. 	<p>The Plan must be consistent with meeting the objectives of the Core Strategy and Development Policies.</p>

Plan / Programme	Objectives	Implications for Helmsley Plan
	<p>8. Strengthen and diversify the local economy by supporting a range of opportunities for employment and training particularly in sustainable locations.</p> <p>9. Maintain and foster vibrant local communities where young people have an opportunity to live and work and consolidate the role of settlements.</p> <p>10. Ensure that a range of new housing is provided including housing to meet local needs and affordable housing that will remain affordable and available to local people in perpetuity.</p> <p>11. Support the provision and retention of key community facilities and services throughout the area.</p> <p>12. Reduce the need to travel and facilitate alternative, more sustainable modes of travel to the private car and minimise the environmental impact of transport.</p> <p>13. Facilitate access to services and facilities.</p>	
<p>North York Moors National Park Management Plan (North York Moors National Park Authority, 1998)</p>	<p>Vision:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A place managed with care and concern for future generations; • A place where the diversity and distinctiveness of the landscape, villages and buildings is cherished; • A place where biological diversity, and the special qualities that are valued, are conserved and enhanced; • A place where the landscape and way of life is respected and understood; • A place where communities are more self-sustaining and economic activity engenders environmental and recreational benefits; • A place that is special to people and that provides pleasure, inspiration and spiritual well being; • A place where visitors are welcome and cultural and recreational opportunities and experiences are accessible; • A place that continues to adapt to change whilst National 	<p>The Plan should ensure that new development in Helmsley does not compromise the vision for the National Park, and where possible contributes towards it.</p>

Plan / Programme	Objectives	Implications for Helmsley Plan
	Park purposes continue to be furthered and pursued.	
North York Moors National Park Management Plan Review (North York Moors National Park Authority, 2004)	As above	As above
North York Moors Biodiversity Action Plan (North York Moors National Park Authority, 2008)	Contains objectives in relation to different habitats and species, set out in Habitat Action Plans or Species Action Plans.	The Plan should ensure that safeguards are in place to ensure that new development at the Business Park does not compromise the objectives of any habitat or species action plans in the Biodiversity Action Plan. Where possible, new development should contribute to the aims of the action plans.
The Future of Helmsley – A Policy Statement by Helmsley Town Council (Helmsley Town Council, 2010)	Aims to ensure that new development respects the character of the town and that the mixed use character is maintained, supports the controlled expansion of the industrial estate and aims for an increase in housing numbers is gradual.	The Plan should consider these aims when allocating sites for housing and employment.

Appendix 3 – Baseline Information

Community

The resident population of Helmsley, as measured in the 2001 Census, was 3,111 of which 48 per cent were male and 52 per cent were female. The population of Ryedale was 50,872, of which 49 per cent were male and 51 per cent were female.

Ryedale has an ageing population, with 36.5% of residents being over 55 compared with a national average of 16%. Over recent years, the 'remote rural districts' of Yorkshire and the Humber (which include Ryedale) have seen an influx of older, 'middleclass' migrants, many of whom are retired or about to retire.

26% of the District's population is under 25, compared to 30.75% nationally. Throughout North Yorkshire the population is increasing, however, the number of people in their 20s is actually falling. The District has suffered from an out-migration of young people (aged 16-24). This loss may in part be due to a lack of appropriate employment and training opportunities together with a scarcity of affordable housing.

Helmsley has a range of community facilities including convenience stores, banks, post office, a primary school and library.

In Helmsley Ward, 47.6% of households have one car, 36.9% have two or more cars, whilst 15.7% of households have no car at all.

Housing

Helmsley has 1,369 households. Average wages within Ryedale are below the national average. The average annual gross full time salary is £20,488, which equates to £394 per week, although this figure masks the fact that a number of people earn significantly less than the average wage. Some 22% of households in Ryedale have an income below £10,000 and are in receipt of financial support. Some 64% of households in Ryedale have an income below the National average of £22,000.

The average price of a property within Ryedale, is now approximately £235,132 which compares with a national average of £205,372 (Dec 2008). Prices in Ryedale have increased by 32% since 2004, which is significantly greater than the national average of 12%. Second homes account for some 3% of the total housing stock within Ryedale, this figure rises to 6% in some of the District's more picturesque settlements such as Cropton, and Helmsley. The home ownership rate for Ryedale is 68.8%, which matches the average for England of 68.1%.

The high cost of housing within Ryedale has made it difficult for many to buy or rent a home within the District. There is a significant need for affordable housing; the 2007 Housing Needs Assessment identified a need for an additional 292 affordable homes per year. To try to address the problem, the affordable housing policy within the Local Plan has been amended to require 35% of new homes be affordable on larger development sites (5+ properties in the market towns, and 3+ properties in the villages). The housing stock in Ryedale is under-represented in terms of smaller homes (terraced properties, and flats) compared to the national average. In addition, the projected increase in the elderly population will give rise to related housing and care needs for this particular sector. 9.4% of households in Helmsley ward have no central heating.

Economy

The District has high employment levels (in 2006 77.3% of the working age population were employed⁴) and the unemployment rate (claimant count) for Ryedale was just 1.4%⁴ of the population in 2006, which is lower than the North Yorkshire average (1.6%). No one sector of the economy is unduly large in relation to the others. However, agricultural employment is still relatively high (9.6% compared to the national average of 1.5%) and the manufacturing sectors are slightly over represented within the District's economy, which could potentially have negative effects for the vitality of the local economy if these sectors suffered a prolonged down turn.

The economy of the District is dominated by small firms, which typically employ less than 20 people. Changes to agricultural support mechanisms will bring challenges for Ryedale where farming is a key activity. These changes offer the opportunity to encourage new directions for the rural economy, including the growing of energy crops and promotion of the area's horse racing industry. Only 15% of total employment falls into the category of large firms employing more than three hundred people. The District is currently a net importer of employees, and a number of local businesses have stated that they have experienced difficulty in recruiting locally skilled labour.

Tourism is a particularly important source of employment within the District and is estimated to be worth in excess of £100 million to the local economy, per year. However, Ryedale also has a diverse manufacturing sector with a strong emphasis on hi-tech research, development and manufacturing businesses, which cater for national and international markets.

In Helmsley, Sawmill Land Industrial Estate is the focus for much of the employment activity, comprising mainly of manufacturing and workshop uses. Many other businesses in Helmsley are based around the tourism attraction of the town. The main employers in the ward are Duncombe Park Estate, Thomas the Baker and the National Park Authority.

Within Helmsley, 33 per cent of those unemployed were aged 50 and over, 0 per cent had never worked and 33 per cent were long term unemployed. Out of a total of 258 economically inactive males – 70.9% (183) are retired, this compares with 440 economically inactive females – 59.5% (262) of which are retired. The majority (46.3%) of working males in Helmsley ward have a working week of between 38 and 48 hours compared with the majority (31.0%) of females working between 16 and 30 hours per week.

Environment

The North York Moors National Park extends to the north and west of Helmsley and the boundary runs through the centre of the town. The Howardian Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty borders the southern edge of Helmsley. In addition to these designations, much of Duncombe Park which adjoins the southeast of Helmsley is a Site of Special Scientific Interest and the southern edge of the North York Moors Special Area of Conservation and Special Protection Area is approximately 8km to the north of Helmsley.

Historic Environment

In addition to part of the town being within the North York Moors National Park, the western and central part of Helmsley is designated as a Conservation Area and the town contains many Listed Buildings. Significant historic features include Helmsley Castle (a Scheduled Monument), Helmsley Walled Garden and Duncombe Park which is on the national register of Historic Parks and Gardens.

⁴ Audit Commission Local Quality of Life Indicators

Climate Change

Climate change may have significant impacts for Ryedale, particularly in terms of weather, flooding and biodiversity. A certain degree of climate change is almost inevitable; the Hadley Centre predicts that the average global annual temperature will increase by between 2°C and 4°C; these figures are based on a range of scenarios produced by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change⁵.

Over the next 50 years the patterns of flooding are likely to change. Increased winter rainfall volumes and more intense summer storms may have the effect of increasing frequency of flooding therefore increasing the need to plan for the effects of this across the District. Some areas to the northeast and the south of Helmsley are in flood zone 3 (land at most risk), and the town has experienced flooding events in the past, the most recent major event in 2005 when over 30 homes were damaged.

Climate change may potentially bring new economic opportunities for Ryedale, for example the summer tourist season may be extended as a result of climate change, and it may also be beneficial for certain agricultural sectors. However, any benefits that may arise from climate change remain very unclear at this stage.

Pollution

Helmsley is generally considered to have a clean air environment and there are no Air Quality Management Areas in the town.

Waste and Recycling

Ryedale households currently (2007-08) recycle 20.41% of the waste they produce, whilst the Council sent 31.44% for composting or treatment by anaerobic digestion. The remainder goes to landfill sites. These figures are improving year on year.

⁵ Meteorological Office - www.met-office.gov.uk

Appendix 4 – Assessment ‘Prompts’

	Proposed Objective	Appraisal prompts
A1	To ensure that all groups of the population have access to health, education, leisure and recreation services that are required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the site aligned with the location strategy? • Does the site need to be phased to take account of any facilities/services improvement? • Does the site comply with RSS accessibility standards? • Is the site accessible by a means of sustainable/feasible modes of travel? • Does the site result in a loss of a community facility?
A2	To provide opportunity for all people to meet their housing needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do the site allocations to meet housing requirements? • Is affordable housing viable on the site? • Does the site need to be phased to meet longer-term needs?
A3	To improve overall levels of health and reduce the disparities between different groups and different areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is open space required on site, or is an off-site contribution to be sought? • Is the surrounding environment of the site conducive to good health and providing opportunities for recreation?
A4	To maintain and promote the distinctiveness of identifiable communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the proposed use of the site address local needs? • Is the siting, design reflective of the settlement’s pattern of development and context?
A5	To reduce crime and fear of crime	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the site/proposal provide the opportunity to incorporate ‘secure by design’ principles?
A6	To develop a more balanced population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the proposal support a more balanced population?
B1	To maintain and enhance employment opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the site’s location meet identified needs as part of the Employment Land Review, or does it maintain/enhance existing opportunities? • Does the site, or its proposed use, continue to provide a range of a broad portfolio of sites? • Does the site reflect the Sub Regional Investment Plan policies?
B2	To maintain and enhance the vitality of the countryside, villages and town centres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the site and its proposed use, address local needs, but does so within the context of the settlement strategy, and reflecting the qualities of the area of the proposal?

	Proposed Objective	Appraisal prompts
B3	To retain and enhance the factors which are conducive to wealth creation, including personal creativity and attractiveness to investors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the site and use: • Appropriate to the location? • Is of high quality, and of a design that reflects the characteristics of the surrounding built environment? • Accessible through sustainable transport modes?
B4	To diversify the local economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will the proposals: • Deliver diversified employment opportunities? • Promote diversity in the skills base?
C1	To protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the site and the proposed use have an adverse effect on designated sites, can this be avoided, or mitigated? • Does the site maximise opportunities to enhance green infrastructure? • Does the site maximise opportunities for habitat connectivity and /or improvement?
C2	To maintain and enhance the quality and character of the landscape, including the special qualities of remoteness and tranquillity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will the proposal impact have an unacceptable impact upon the character of landscape in terms of visual impact, noise and activity?
C3	Reduce long distance commuting and congestion by reducing the need to travel.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the location of the site promote and provide opportunities for sustainable access to and from the site?
C4	To ensure future development is resilient to climate change such as development is not vulnerable to flooding, or will increase the risk of flooding elsewhere	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has the sequential approach to site selection been applied to all the sites? • Will the scheme/proposal result in increased flooding elsewhere?
C5	To preserve and where appropriate enhance the historical and cultural environment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the development reflect detailed design and development acknowledging the context and character of the place, and setting of any interest of acknowledged importance, such as: • Protection of archaeological sites and monuments? • Preserving / enhancing Conservation Areas and Listed buildings? • Consider impact on Conservation Areas, Listed Buildings, Scheduled Ancient Monuments and Historic Parks and Gardens and their settings?

	Proposed Objective	Appraisal prompts
C6	To reduce the emission of greenhouse gases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the site provide an opportunity to include: • Ensure accessibility of the site by sustainable modes of transport? • Site-specific energy supply requirements for renewable/low carbon decentralised energy supply?
C7	To encourage the use of renewable resources and the development of renewable energy sources within Ryedale	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the site/proposal maximise opportunities to harness Renewable Energy or use, or decentralised low carbon energy sources?
C8	To make the most efficient use of land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the site, or part of the site, brownfield land? • Can the proposed development be developed to minimum density standards that are appropriate to the character of the area?
C9	To maintain a high quality environment in terms of air, soil and water quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the proposed site/use: • Not contribute to poor air quality • Maximise the opportunities for developments to use Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems? • Does the site adversely affect hydrologically sensitive areas? • Can the impact of the use be mitigated?
C10	Ensure that fossil fuel and water consumption is as low as possible, protect productive soils and maintain the stock of minerals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will the site, and its use, minimise the use of fossil fuels and water consumption? • Will the use of the site have an adverse impact on soil and mineral resources?
C11	To reduce the amount of waste produced and maximise the rates of re-use and recycling as locally as possible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will the use of the site allow the application of site-specific sustainable building standards?