1 Introduction .................................................................................................................. 5
2 Rotherham now .............................................................................................................. 9
3 Challenges and opportunities ....................................................................................... 15
4 Our vision and strategic objectives ............................................................................. 25
   4.1 Our vision for Rotherham ......................................................................................... 25
   4.2 Strategic objectives ................................................................................................. 26
   4.3 Plans, policies and programmes .............................................................................. 31
5 Setting a local housing target ....................................................................................... 35
6 Spatial strategy ............................................................................................................. 41
7 Key diagram ................................................................................................................ 47
8 Core policies ................................................................................................................. 49
   8.1 Spatial strategy ....................................................................................................... 49
   8.2 Sustainable communities ....................................................................................... 100
   8.3 Climate change and managing natural resources .................................................... 134
   8.4 Infrastructure ........................................................................................................ 158
9 Monitoring and implementation ................................................................................... 173

Appendices
A Replaced Unitary Development Plan policies ............................................................ 183
B Evidence base .............................................................................................................. 189
C Glossary ....................................................................................................................... 199

Policies

Policy CS 1 CS1 Delivering Rotherham’s Spatial Strategy ................................................. 51
Policy CS 2 CS2 Release of Major Greenfield Sites .......................................................... 62
Policy CS 3 CS3 Location of New Development ............................................................... 64
Policy CS 4 CS4 Key Routes and the Strategic Road Network ........................................... 66
Policy CS 5 CS5 New Housing Development .................................................................. 69
Policy CS 6 CS6 Employment Land Requirement ............................................................ 72
Policy CS 7 CS7 Green Belt ........................................................................................... 76
Policy CS 8 CS8 Green Infrastructure ........................................................................................................... 79
Policy CS 9 CS9 Landscape ............................................................................................................................. 86
Policy CS 10 CS10 Valuing the Historic Environment ......................................................................................... 90
Policy CS 11 CS11 Sustainable Design ........................................................................................................... 93
Policy CS 12 CS12 Rotherham Regeneration Area ......................................................................................... 96
Policy CS 13 CS13 Accessible Places and Managing Demand for Travel ....................................................... 101
Policy CS 14 CS14 Managing Change in Rotherham's Retail and Service Centres ...................................... 104
Policy CS 15 CS15 Transforming Rotherham Town Centre ............................................................................... 111
Policy CS 16 CS16 Housing Mix and Affordability ......................................................................................... 117
Policy CS 17 CS17 Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation ............................................................................... 119
Policy CS 18 CS18 Transforming Rotherham's Economy .............................................................................. 120
Policy CS 19 CS19 Tourism and the Visitor Economy ..................................................................................... 124
Policy CS 20 CS20 Green space ..................................................................................................................... 128
Policy CS 21 CS21 Flood Risk within the Rotherham Regeneration Area ....................................................... 132
Policy CS 22 CS22 Freight ............................................................................................................................... 135
Policy CS 23 CS23 Community Health and Safety ......................................................................................... 137
Policy CS 24 CS24 Biodiversity and Geodiversity ......................................................................................... 142
Policy CS 25 CS25 Minerals ............................................................................................................................. 147
Policy CS 26 CS26 Managing the Water Environment .................................................................................... 152
Policy CS 27 CS27 Renewable Energy Generation ......................................................................................... 156
Policy CS 28 CS28 Infrastructure delivery and developer contributions ......................................................... 160
Policy CS 29 CS29 Improving skills and employment opportunities ............................................................... 162
Policy CS 30 CS30 Contribution Towards New Flood Infrastructure in the Rotherham Regeneration Area ......................................................................................... 165
Policy CS 31 CS31 New roads ............................................................................................................................ 167
Policy CS 32 CS32 Passenger Rail Connections ............................................................................................ 170

Tables

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Table 1</td>
<td>Previous Core Core Strategy Consultation</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table 2</td>
<td>Household Projections for Rotherham (2008 to 2033)</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table 3</td>
<td>Summary of Options for Setting a Local Housing Target</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table 5</td>
<td>Rotherham Regeneration Area: Character Areas</td>
<td>97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table 6</td>
<td>Hierarchy of Retail and Service Centres</td>
<td>104</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table 7</td>
<td>The Ten Renaissance Goals</td>
<td>111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table 8</td>
<td>Rotherham as a Visitor Destination: S.W.O.T. Analysis</td>
<td>125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table 9</td>
<td>South Yorkshire’s Limestone Aggregates Apportionment</td>
<td>149</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table 10</td>
<td>Proposed New Roads</td>
<td>167</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table 11</td>
<td>Spatial Strategy Policies Monitoring and Implementation</td>
<td>173</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table 12</td>
<td>Sustainable Communities Policies Monitoring and Implementation</td>
<td>176</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 13 Climate Change and Managing Natural Resources Policies Monitoring and Implementation .................................................................................................................. 179
Table 14 Infrastructure Policies Monitoring and Implementation .................................................................................................................................................. 180
Table 15 Superseded Saved UDP Policies .................................................................................................................................................................................. 183
Table 16 Evidence Base Documents .................................................................................................................................................................................. 189

Maps

Map 1 Rotherham in context .................................................................................................................................................................................. 10
Map 2 Spatial Planning Zones .................................................................................................................................................................................. 14
Map 3 Proposed settlement hierarchy .................................................................................................................................................................. 44
Map 4 Broad locations for growth ....................................................................................................................................................................... 45
Map 5 Key Diagram Showing Rotherham’s Broad Spatial Development Strategy .......................................................... 47
Map 6 Proposed housing and employment land distribution (2012 to 2027) .................................................................................. 54
Map 7 Green Infrastructure ............................................................................................................................................................................... 84
Map 8 Rotherham Regeneration Area ............................................................................................................................................................ 99
Map 9 Retail Centre Hierarchy ........................................................................................................................................................................ 109

Figures

Figure 1 Population Projections for Rotherham (Changes 2010 to 2027) .................................................................................. 16
Figure 2 Population - Household Comparisons .................................................................................................................................................. 36
Figure 3 Housing Completions in Rotherham .......................................................................................................................................................... 37
Figure 4 Forecast Economic Sectoral Change in Rotherham by 2016 .................................................................................. 73


1 Introduction

1.1 The Council is preparing a series of new planning documents to create a Local Development Framework (LDF) for Rotherham. The first document is a Core Strategy, prepared around a vision for the future development of the Borough taking us to 2027.

1.2 The Core Strategy sets out a “spatial” strategy identifying the towns and settlements where new housing schemes and land to support new industry and business are required. Provision will also be made for retail, leisure and supporting community facilities. It also sets out the strategic policies to make all this happen, taking into consideration potential environmental impacts and the implications of climate change. A supporting Sites and Policies document will show specific development sites and contain policies to guide the release of land and design of new development.

1.3 The Core Strategy and supporting Sites and Policies document will eventually make up Rotherham’s statutory development plan - replacing the current Unitary Development Plan.

1.4 In essence, the Core Strategy will guide what development is needed, how much is required, where it should go, and when it should happen.

1.5 From June to August 2009 we consulted on revised options for the Core Strategy. We now need to know your views on this draft Core Strategy before we submit it to Government for independent examination. The strategic policies contained in this document will help to shape the future development of Rotherham while protecting the environment and heritage assets we value so much. It is vital that we get them right. Your views on this draft Core Strategy are welcomed.

1.6 Further information on the Core Strategy and previous consultation documents can be found on our website at: http://www.rotherham.gov.uk/forwardplanning

1.7 You can contact us at:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>01709 823869</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fax</td>
<td>01709 823865</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Email</td>
<td><a href="mailto:forward.planning@rotherham.gov.uk">forward.planning@rotherham.gov.uk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minicom</td>
<td>01709 823536</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post</td>
<td>Forward Planning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Planning &amp; Regeneration Service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Environment &amp; Development Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bailey House</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rawmarsh Road</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rotherham S60 1TD</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Context

1.8 The aim of achieving sustainable development sits above all policy guidance and we have undertaken Sustainability Appraisal to ensure that the Core Strategy works towards achieving more sustainable development.

1.9 The Core Strategy is based on the principles of sustainable development set out in national guidance. The Spatial Plan has a very important role in achieving sustainable development. The Government’s current position on sustainable development is set out in ‘Guidance on Sustainability Appraisal Planning advisory Service (PAS), (2007) and the Sustainability Appraisal Advice Note (PAS,
Sustainable development is a key global and local issue. A commonly used definition of sustainable development is set out below:

Development that meets the needs of the present without comprising the ability of future generations to be meet their own needs. (Brundtland Commission, 1987)

Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment

1.10 A key requirement of the planning system is that preparation of the LDF, including the Core Strategy, is guided and informed by Sustainability Appraisal. The requirements of the European Union’s Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive 2001/42/EC are incorporated into the Sustainability Appraisal process.

1.11 As an ongoing process, Sustainability Appraisal (SA) has been used to appraise the potential significant social, environmental and economic effects of the Core Strategy at each stage in its preparation - from initial draft objectives through preferred and revised options to this draft document. The Council has retained external consultants to advise on SA methodology, to carry out independent assessments and to verify other SA work carried out by us and how the Core Strategy can be improved. The way this has been achieved is set out in full in the Integrated Impact Assessment Report accompanying this draft document. A non-technical summary of the Integrated Impact Assessment Report is also available.

1.12 Three assessments have been undertaken as part of the Integrated Impact Assessment: the Sustainability Appraisal, a Health Impact Assessment (HIA) and an Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA). SA, HIA and EqIA are a way of making sure that environmental, social (including equality, health and well-being) and socio-economic assets/ issues and opportunities are considered throughout the development of the Rotherham LDF.

1.13 Sustainability Appraisal will form an important part in demonstrating the soundness of the Core Strategy during the independent examination. A final report will also accompany the adoption stage.

1.14 The Sustainability Appraisal methodology itself is described in the LDF Sustainability Appraisal General Scoping Report (Dec 2005) available on our website. This Scoping Report has now been updated (March 2011). Amendments include updates to the Baseline situation and the context review to incorporate new and updated information since 2006. The SA framework has also been refreshed, however the fundamental elements of the original SA Framework have been retained.

Previous consultation on the Core Strategy

1.15 The following table details the consultation activity undertaken to date in the preparation of the Core Strategy.
### Table 1 Previous Core Strategy Consultation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>November 2005</td>
<td>Core Strategy objectives agreed following engagement with stakeholders and interested parties.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 2006</td>
<td>Workshop held to discuss emerging spatial options for the Borough.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 May to 16 June 2006</td>
<td>Consultation on four spatial options for Rotherham via an online questionnaire.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 2007</td>
<td>Opened invitation to suggest potential development sites for allocation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 February to 23 March 2007</td>
<td>Major consultation on Core Strategy Preferred Options (Jan 2007) and accompanying Sustainability Appraisal report.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23 November 2007</td>
<td>Workshop held with interested parties to discuss and agree methodology for site allocations surveys.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 2008</td>
<td>Closed invitation to suggest potential development sites for allocation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29 May to 31 August 2009</td>
<td>Major consultation on Core Strategy Revised Options (May 2009) including potential urban extensions and accompanying Sustainability Appraisal report.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29 May 2009 to June 2010</td>
<td>Invitation to suggest potential development sites for allocation open.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 2009</td>
<td>Core Strategy Revised Options Interim Feedback Report</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 2010</td>
<td>Core Strategy Revised Options Final Feedback Report</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1.16 The documents listed in the table above including the Core Strategy Preferred Options, Core Strategy Revised Options, the accompanying Sustainability Appraisals and Feedback Reports are all available from the forward planning web page at [http://www.rotherham.gov.uk/forwardplanning](http://www.rotherham.gov.uk/forwardplanning)

### Evolution of the Plan's strategy for growth

1.17 Each stage of consultation has enabled a refinement of the Borough’s spatial strategy to guide the location of new development in the Borough and to choose the most sustainable locations for new growth.

1.18 The South Yorkshire Settlement Assessment (2005) provided a consistent evidence basis for assessing the role and function of settlements across South Yorkshire. This report provided the evidence base for early work in preparing the Core Strategy and was the basis for the initial Core Strategy Issues and Options consultation. Three options were consulted on as the basis for establishing a spatial strategy for Rotherham:

- Option A: Responding to Market Forces
Option B: Matching Needs with Opportunities

Option C: Managing the Environment as a Key Resource

1.19 Following consultation the selection of a hybrid of Options B and C was taken forward as the basis for developing the Core Strategy. The Core Strategy Preferred Options (Jan 2007) document took this hybrid option forward and included a number of policy directions for consultation purposes. The Sustainability Appraisal of the policy directions also provided guidance in the drafting of the final policies that are to be consulted on as part of this document.

1.20 Further refining the spatial strategy for the Borough, the Core Strategy Revised Options (May 2009) consultation proposed three spatial options for future growth to accommodate the high Regional Spatial Strategy and Growth Point housing targets in existence at the time. Following on from the consultation and community engagement the outcome favoured Option 2: Development in the Rotherham Urban Area, Principal Settlements and on Key Public Transport Corridors as the basis of the future strategy.

1.21 In preparing this Draft Core Strategy we have considered all of the comments received during earlier consultation and community engagement activities and the outcomes of these earlier discussions has assisted in the preparation of policies and in determining the settlement hierarchy and growth strategy for the Borough.

Regional Strategy

1.22 One of the most significant areas of concern for local communities during the 2009 consultation, was the impact on the environment likely to be caused by the high levels of growth proposed by the Regional Strategy house building targets. Since this earlier consultation activity there has been a change in Government and the new coalition Government has indicated its desire to abolish Regional Strategies which in turn will abolish the housing growth targets incorporated within the Yorkshire and Humber Plan. In response to previous consultation and the Government's change of approach, this has enabled the Council to re-consider the likely number of new homes required and to propose a locally derived housing target that is based on local evidence.

1.23 In anticipation of the abolition of Regional Strategies, the Council is proposing a lower local housing target of 850 new homes a year. This will require 12,750 new homes to be built over the 15 year plan period from 2012 to 2027. This new target will require considerably less greenfield land and land within the Green Belt to meet local needs. The loss of Green belt land was one of the most significant concerns during the previous consultation.

1.24 The proposed reduction in the target for new homes has also helped the Council to look at where new houses should be built and whilst Rotherham Urban Area is expected to meet a significant proportion of all new homes to be built, the other principal settlements along key public transport corridors, are also expected to meet some of the need. Planning permission has also been granted in 2011 for a new community to be built at Waverley with a range of supporting services and facilities. This will mean that nearly 4,000 new homes will be built in a new community next to the Advanced Manufacturing Park which could provide local employment opportunities.
2 Rotherham now

2.1 The metropolitan borough of Rotherham occupies an area of 28,653 hectares, one of four metropolitan areas within South Yorkshire, bounded by Sheffield to the west, Barnsley to the north, Doncaster to the east and North East Derbyshire and Bassetlaw (Nottinghamshire) in the south. It falls within the defined Sheffield City Region boundary. The M1 motorway runs along much of the borough’s western edge and the M18 bisects the borough to the south of Rotherham town centre. There are five airports within a 50 mile radius, including "Robin Hood" airport near Doncaster.

2.2 Rotherham developed from a small market town into a major industrial centre based on coal and steel. The population of the present Borough grew from 17,000 in 1801 to 120,000 in 1901 and is now in excess of a quarter of a million. Most of the traditional industries of the 19th and 20th centuries no longer exist and many old industrial areas have seen large scale regeneration such as at Manvers in the Dearne Valley, although there is still a steelworks at Aldwarke and a coal mine at Maltby.

2.3 Map 1 'Rotherham in context' below shows the borough boundary, its main settlements and transport routes and the surrounding districts.
Map 1 Rotherham in context
2.4 Between 1981 and 2006 the population of Great Britain grew by 5%, while the regional population grew by 1%. Rotherham’s population remained fairly static during the 1980’s and early 1990’s, but then declined from a peak of almost 254,000 to just over 247,000 by 2000. This followed large scale job losses in Rotherham’s traditional industries of coal mining and steel making. The population began to grow again in 2001 and a steady increase over recent years has brought the population to 252,900 according to the 2008 mid-year estimate. The latest ONS 2008 based sub-national population projections predict that Rotherham’s population will continue to rise at a steady rate over the next 25 years but in common with the whole of the country this increase is concentrated in the older (mainly retired) age groups with relatively small increases expected in the younger (working age) age groups.

2.5 Sheffield is a major source of employment opportunities for Rotherham’s workforce with 21.5% commuting into Sheffield for work (Census 2001). Rotherham has by far the highest rate of commuting flows in South Yorkshire due to its central location and proximity to Sheffield:

- 38.7% commute outside the borough for work (increase from 34.5% in 1991) – 21.5% to Sheffield, 4.5% to Doncaster, 3% to Barnsley and 10% elsewhere.
- 30.5% commute into the borough for work (increase from 25% in 1991) – 10.5% from Sheffield, 7% from Doncaster, 5% from Barnsley and 8% from elsewhere.

2.6 The number of cars in the borough have increased by 30% from 80,475 in 1991 to 104,845 in 2001 and over 69% of people in employment in Rotherham travel to work by car (higher than the national average of 61.5%).

2.7 The early 1990s recession had a serious impact on Rotherham where employment in 1994 fell to 88% of the 1986 level. In Rotherham, the decline of traditional industries – coal and steel, and manufacturing in general caused the large fall in employment. Rotherham’s employment rate was a very low 65.7% in 1999 but began to show a strong increase during 2001, an improvement which continued up to 2005 as the Borough’s economy diversified and grew, with Rotherham’s employment rate remaining close to the national average at over 74% throughout that year. Investment in major employment sites at Templeborough, Manvers, Dinnington, and latterly at Waverley, all contributed to the rate of job growth in Rotherham being more than double the national rate. The employment rate has fallen back over the last few years, with the more deprived areas of the borough still suffering from very high levels of worklessness, and the current recession has seen several announcements of large job losses - however Rotherham’s economy is more diverse and better able to adapt than in previous recessions.

2.8 Rotherham has introduced a number of recycling schemes to enable the Borough to achieve the Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme targets and to become more sustainable. By 2005/6 100% of households were covered by a kerbside collection service and alternate week waste collection has been rolled out Borough-wide to 105,000 households which, along with other measures, has seen the recycling and composting of household waste increasing from 35% in 2007/08 to 47% in 2008/09. The water quality in Rotherham’s rivers has improved greatly in recent years, due to environmental improvement in water systems and industry, and the change in industrial patterns in the area resulting in less pollution entering the river systems. The Council has now established a Local Wildlife Site System (wildlife sites designated for their local significance) and is currently undertaking a broad-scale borough wide Landscape Character Assessment.
2.9 A by-product of Rotherham’s post-industrial legacy is a dispersed settlement pattern beyond Rotherham’s urban centre based upon historic coal mining activity. More than half of the borough is rural and the current green belt covers 72% of the borough area with many of the outlying settlements falling within rural areas. Early work on the development of the Core Strategy identified five distinct spatial ‘sub-regions’ or zones within the Borough (see Map 2 ‘Spatial Planning Zones’), using the distinct differences in travel to work patterns as an evidence base.

Dearne Settlements

2.10 This area lies to the north of the main Rotherham Urban Area bordering Barnsley and Doncaster, and covers the former mining towns of Brampton, Wath, Swinton Town, and Kilnhurst. It is characterised by significant out commuting into Barnsley and Doncaster with a limited number also to West Yorkshire, and with a less close relationship to Sheffield than other parts of the borough. This area has in the past been heavily reliant on the coal industry (Manvers) but has seen large investment in alternative industries within recent years, particularly in the new business parks along Manvers Way - e.g. call centres, distribution and light engineering, and is now a significant employment area within the borough.

Rotherham Urban

2.11 This includes the Town Centre, Eastwood, Upper Haugh, Greasbrough, Kimberworth Park, Masbrough, East Herringthorpe, Parkgate, North Rawmarsh, Thrybergh Park, Brecks, and Moorgate. It is characterised by less out commuting than other parts of the Borough and has a close association with the town centre, with a predominantly urban landscape. Rotherham town centre has suffered in recent years from de-population and the loss of many high street stores to new ‘out of town’ developments at Meadowhall and Parkgate Shopping Park. Many of the most deprived areas of the borough lie within the main Rotherham Urban Area.

Urban Fringe

2.12 This includes the settlements of Ravenfield, Bramley, Wickersley Village, and Whiston just to the south-east of the main Rotherham Urban Area. It is characterised by a less close association with the town centre itself and has a mix of commuting to Sheffield and, to a lesser extent, the Doncaster area. It includes generally more affluent areas and very popular residential areas which have grown in recent years with large parts of the area still rural in nature. There are limited areas of employment.

Rotherham / Sheffield Corridor

2.13 This includes the settlements of Wentworth, Kimberworth, Templebrough, Waverley, Aston, Rother Valley, and South Rural along the western edge of the borough (along / close to the M1 and Sheffield boundary). There are a mixture of urban and rural areas; settlements in the north and south of the corridor are more rural in nature but settlements just to the west of the main Rotherham Urban Area are more urban in nature, including industrial areas / large employment sites. All are characterised by extensive commuting into Sheffield (all areas have over 30% of their working age residents travelling across the 'border') with additional numbers also travelling to Nottinghamshire / Derbyshire from settlements in the south of the corridor and to Barnsley / West Yorkshire from settlements in
the north of the corridor. Within this area settlements often have limited association with Rotherham – less than 50% of working age residents in these areas work in the Borough.

**Outlying & Rural Settlements**

2.14 This includes the settlements of West Maltby, East Maltby, Laughton, Thurcroft, Dinnington Town, and Anston to the south / south-east of the main Rotherham Urban Area. It is predominately rural in nature but with significant settlements, Dinnington being classified as a Principal Town within the Regional Spatial Strategy, linked to Rotherham centre by quality bus corridors (Maltby and Dinnington / Thurcroft routes). There is a mixture of commuting patterns, but significant numbers commute to Sheffield (given the proximity of M18 and M1 motorways) as well as Nottinghamshire (mainly Bassetlaw) and Derbyshire. It consists mainly of ex-mining areas (Maltby has the only remaining working coal mine in the borough) with pockets of deprivation remaining in many of these communities.
Map 2 Spatial Planning Zones

- Dearne Settlements
- Rotherham Urban
- Urban Fringe
- Rotherham/Sheffield Corridor
- Outlying and Rural Settlements

Legend:
- Urban Area
- Motorway Network
- Main Passenger Rail Service
- Borough Boundary

© Copyright 2018. All rights reserved. Rotherham MBC Licence No. 10068593. Not to scale.
3 Challenges and opportunities

3.1 Despite significant improvements seen over recent years many of the issues, problems and challenges facing Rotherham stem from the legacy of its industrial past and the past reliance of many communities within the borough on the steel and mining industries. Fresh challenges will also have to be faced in relation to the impact of an increasing and ageing population, better use of resources and the likely impact on the local environment of climate change.

3.2 The current recession has seriously impacted on Rotherham but as the UK economy begins to grow again it will be necessary to ensure that the borough once again continues to increase in prosperity through additional job creation, by encouraging growth in local businesses and attracting further inward investment. Rotherham is at the heart of the Sheffield City Region and is highlighted as having the potential to capitalise on its strengths in manufacturing and supply chains and its shared economy with Sheffield. Parts of the borough are clearly more deprived than others and require higher priority for investment to ensure that they share in the benefits of an improving local economy. The quality of life for all residents will need continual improvement - better quality housing, transport infrastructure, leisure and cultural services, health and education provision, and the protection of the areas historic and natural assets.

Population change

3.3 The population of Rotherham is projected (ONS 2008-based sub-national population projections) to increase by an additional 21,000 people or a 8.2% increase (below the national average) between 2010 and 2027. Most age groups show relatively small changes with some of the working age groups actually experiencing slight falls. However the most significant demographic change is projected in the number of residents aged over 75 years with an estimated increase of almost 12,000 people or 61% between 2010 and 2027, reflecting the national trend of an ageing population due to increasing life expectancy. Those over 85 will increase at an even higher rate, with an additional 5,200 people or a 83% increase. These increases have obvious serious implications for health and social care provision which will need to expand continually to meet rapidly rising demand from the anticipated additional 16,700 residents aged 65+.
Figure 1 Population Projections for Rotherham (Changes 2010 to 2027)

Source: ONS 2008-based Sub-National Population Projections (totals may not agree due to roundings)

### Issue 1

Plan for the impact of an increasing elderly population, which has implications for future housing need and the impact on health and social care provision across the borough.

### Deprivation

**3.4** The Indices of Deprivation published in 2007 showed that deprivation in Rotherham had fallen since the last publication of the Indices in 2004. Rotherham is now ranked 68th (out of 354) on the average Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) score, in comparison to 63rd in 2004. However, the percentage of residents falling into the top 10% most deprived neighbourhoods in the country changed little from 11.4% in 2004 to 11.5% in 2007. Rotherham has particularly high levels of deprivation on two domains; Education, Skills and Training (39th most deprived in the country) and Health and Disability. The Borough also has high levels of Employment deprivation, although this is less severe.

**3.5** In terms of the spatial context of deprivation, the highest levels are concentrated in areas close to Rotherham town centre but also in pockets across the borough, such as parts of Maltby and Dinnington. Patterns of change in 2004 – 2007 show deprivation changing little in the most deprived areas – covering about 20% of the Borough. The reduction in deprivation has largely been in those areas where deprivation levels are around the average. This is likely to reflect the competitive advantage of people with skills, experience and qualifications who are more likely to live in less deprived areas, over those with the lowest skills who are more likely to live in the most deprived areas.
Improvements required across the borough but to help reduce the 'gap' prioritise and encourage development and investment in those areas of greatest deprivation.

**Housing**

3.6 Although Rotherham's overall population is projected to increase only slowly, the number of households is predicted to increase at a faster rate. Rotherham had an estimated 108,000 households in 2010 (based on the latest official household projections released at the end of 2010) and the number is projected to rise by 14,000 households, or 13%, to 122,000 by 2027. The Borough is following the national trend with an increasing number of one person households and fewer large households - e.g. the projections show an increase from 33,000 to 49,000 single person households between 2008 and 2033 in Rotherham. Thus the same population requires more dwellings to accommodate it over time. The primary reasons for this trend are the number of people marrying later in life, increasing divorce rates, an ageing population (45% of pensioners lived alone according to the 2001 Census), particularly in the over 85's, and an overall increase in one-person households.

**Table 2 Household Projections for Rotherham (2008 to 2033)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2023</th>
<th>2028</th>
<th>2033</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Household Projections</td>
<td>106,000</td>
<td>110,000</td>
<td>115,000</td>
<td>119,000</td>
<td>123,000</td>
<td>127,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: CLG 2008-based Sub-national Household Projections

3.7 This will have implications for future housing requirements in the borough as average household sizes continue to fall, the types of property required and available building land. The current low level of house completions falls far short of the predicted need with the current housing market conditions impacting on the willingness of house builders to bring forward housing sites for development. This has implications for the delivery of sufficient affordable housing, the ability of young people to buy their own house as restricted supply exerts an upward pressure on house prices, and a potential restriction to the scale of future economic growth.

3.8 House prices across the borough remain relatively affordable compared to regional and national averages but large price rises seen in recent years means that affordability has become more of a concern. Rotherham has more semi-detached properties than the national average but fewer terraced houses and flats - home ownership levels remain below average and many houses still require improvements to bring them up to an acceptable standard.

**Issue 3**

Plan for increased housing demand which will meet the needs of local people, encouraging brownfield and higher density developments in the most sustainable locations, to lessen the impact of any incursions into the green belt.
Issue 4

Housing quality needs improving and to provide a choice of dwellings of different size, type and tenure based in the most sustainable locations and to include affordable housing provision.

Transport

3.9 Rotherham, in common with the national trend, has seen a large increase in car ownership over a long period. In 1991 there were 80,000 cars available to households in the Borough and by 2001 this figure had increased to almost 105,000 (a 31% increase in 10 years). The percentage of households in Rotherham without a car in 2001 was just under 30% (38% in 1991 Census) which is higher than the average of 27% for England. 26% of households in Rotherham had 2 cars or more, a growing trend which has fuelled the growth in car numbers. In Rotherham over 69% of people in employment travelled to work in the 2001 Census - higher than the national average of 61% and an increase from 63% in 1991.

3.10 Travel to work by public transport is correspondingly lower at 13% compared to the average for England & Wales of 14.5%. Traffic volume increased by 7% in Rotherham between 2001 and 2007 but will have reduced since in line with national trends linked to the economy. High levels of commuting by car are likely to continue in the future unless there are significant improvements in the public transport infrastructure or economic factors such as higher fuel prices which make it financially unattractive. Better public transport links to Sheffield could be a partial answer to some of these problems (22% of Rotherham's working age population worked in Sheffield in 2001). Quicker and more frequent rail links to Leeds, connecting services to the east coast main line at Doncaster and to Meadowhall Interchange are also needed. Planned improvements to Rotherham Central station will make rail travel more attractive.

3.11 The Government white paper "The Future of Transport" predicted continuing increases in the demand for travel from:

- Economic growth resulting in an increasing demand for travel. This demand will reduce during a recession before rising again with recovery;
- Past planning policies and demographic changes driving a trend towards dispersal and longer journeys;
- Growth of the number of cars and car travel; and
- Demographic changes, including rising car ownership amongst older people.

3.12 Published studies show that car commuting is more limited by time than distance. If congestion increases, people will tend to work closer to home. Likewise, faster public transport can shift commuters away from cars. Long term trends suggest a gradual rise in car use. Journeys by car increased from 79 per cent of total distance travelled in 1980 to 85 per cent in 2002 and car ownership is projected to grow further. Although road traffic volumes in Rotherham have been increasing by 1% per year, fewer people in work over the next few years could halt or reverse this trend temporarily but as recovery occurs the level of fuel prices could rise and counteract the effects of economic growth. The recent announcements of public sector expenditure cuts is likely to impact on the viability of some desirable transport schemes within the borough with available funding expected to be severely
restricted in the next few years. Development without traffic growth is key to a more sustainable future, for example, new ways of working will encourage less travel to work and more working from home.

**Issue 5**

Housing and employment developments to be encouraged in the most sustainable locations to minimise any increase in traffic and to encourage public transport usage.

**Issue 6**

Improvement and better co-ordination to existing public transport with improved cross border links, particularly between Rotherham and Sheffield.

**Economy, education and skills**

3.13 Rotherham’s employment rate began to show a strong increase during 2001 and this improvement continued up to 2005 as the Borough’s economy grew, with Rotherham’s employment rate remaining close to the national average throughout that year. However during 2006 the rate fell back before stabilising at around 72.0% throughout 2007 and into 2008. The first signs of the economic downturn began to impact in the second half of 2008 with Rotherham’s employment rate falling back below 70%, more than three percentage points behind the national average. A key challenge as the UK comes out of recession will be to ensure that Rotherham takes full advantage of the upturn and employment rates recover to at least match the national average.

3.14 The Regional Econometric Model predicts that employment levels in Rotherham may take a significant time to recover to 2008 pre-recession levels. It also predicts that further job losses will occur in elementary occupations (generally low-skilled) within Rotherham in future years with increases forecast in the professional and technical occupations. Following recent announcements of cuts in public expenditure it is also likely that Rotherham could see a significant reduction in public sector employment within the borough, highlighting even more the need to attract more private companies to invest in the borough and to encourage private sector business growth. The continuing trend away from traditional manufacturing to high-tech industries and a service based economy requires a well educated local workforce if companies are to continue to consider Rotherham for inward investment / location.

3.15 A key challenge facing Rotherham over the coming years is to continue to increase educational attainment overall, to close the gap with attainment in England and to improve the educational attainment of the local workforce. Working age level qualifications in Rotherham have improved over recent years, closing the gap to the national average, particularly at the lower NVQ1 / NVQ2 levels. However, the percentage of the working age population with no qualifications remains well above the national average and the percentage with the highest levels of qualifications (NVQ4+) remains substantially lower. Attracting high-tech and highly skilled jobs into Rotherham would also help to attract graduates and assist graduate retention.
3.16 Despite recent improvements, Rotherham’s stock of small businesses is far below the national average resulting in a heavy reliance on large employers for local employment - a potential weakness in the local economy. It is important that Rotherham continues to attract companies into the borough, which requires sufficient stock of industrial land / units / office space of the right quality and in good locations. Recent years have seen significant floorspace construction on its employment sites with almost a quarter of the total floorspace being built within the last 10 years and excellent rates of economic land uptake. However, floorspace vacancy rates have started to rise during the current recession and it appears that some areas / properties are less attractive to the market - possibly due to older premises and / or a less desirable location.

Issue 7

Safeguard the manufacturing base and existing employment sites whilst providing sufficient employment land for the requirements of modern industry in sustainable locations which are attractive to the market.

Issue 8

Encourage hi-tech business and support the development of new skills through appropriate training.

Rotherham Town Centre

3.17 Work has now begun on the redevelopment of Rotherham town centre (the Rotherham Renaissance initiative). The town centre has suffered over a long period from de-population and the loss of many high street stores to new ‘out of town’ developments at Meadowhall and Parkgate Shopping Park. The 25 year proposals focus on development around the waterfront and aspire to a redeveloped Forge Island to act as a focal point for new cultural, entertainment and arts facilities, improved public spaces and a brighter environment. This will hopefully lead to attracting more specialist shops to locate in Rotherham and encouraging more visitors to the town.

3.18 The immediate prospects for regeneration through the private sector are not encouraging in the current economic climate. Vacant premises, cleared sites and disruption associated with redevelopments will affect the town centre for several years whilst new developments may be delayed. It will be challenging to ensure minimum disruption in the short-term and use major public sector redevelopments such as the new council offices, new library and community stadium over the next few years to pave the way for wider private sector investment as economic recovery begins.
**Issue 9**

Support the regeneration of Rotherham Town Centre by promoting more diversification, such as more leisure facilities, to attract greater footfall into the town centre and to facilitate the attraction of high quality shops and an improved retail offer.

**Environment**

3.19 The Council is committed to the regeneration of derelict and degraded land and focusing new developments on brownfield sites - this will help protect green spaces and the diversity of natural habitats and wildlife. However, given the need to meet future housing requirements and ensure there is sufficient land for Rotherham’s future employment needs, some extensions into the Green Belt will be required in the long-term. The challenge will be to ensure that these are kept to a minimum and to mitigate their impact on the environment.

3.20 Air quality monitoring has been in place since 1995 in Rotherham with monitoring stations situated close to the main town centre and also along the M1 corridor along the western edge of the borough - both show areas where air quality does not always meet Government standards. Water quality has improved greatly in recent years due to environmental improvements in water systems and less industrial pollution but latest Environment Agency data indicates that the quality of Rotherham’s rivers still leaves room for improvement.

3.21 An attractive well maintained environment is an important element in the quality of life for residents - in Rotherham over 10% of the borough is covered by woodland, there are seven Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) and six Local Nature Reserves together with numerous listed buildings, conservation areas and historic sites, including 37 Scheduled Ancient Monuments. Any development must try to protect and enhance these important features and attributes.

**Issue 10**

Protect biodiversity in Rotherham and maintain / safeguard and enhance greenspace, country parks, historic buildings and the natural landscape.

**Issue 11**

Consideration of the impact of any new development on air and water quality and any pollution risk.

**Waste**

3.22 Working in partnership with Barnsley and Doncaster Councils, Rotherham MBC is currently preparing a Joint Strategic Waste document, forming part of their respective Local Development...
Frameworks. This will contain policies and allocate strategic sites promoting sustainable waste management solutions to forecast future waste arising from the three Boroughs. In conformity with regional priorities, and the respective LDF Core Strategies, the overall aims are to -

- Encourage greater reduction, re-use and recycling of waste
- Plan for sufficient waste facilities to address the predicted shortfall of waste treatment within South Yorkshire identified in the Yorkshire & Humber Plan
- Reduce transport of waste and encourage communities to take more responsibility for their own waste by locating waste management facilities within or close to urban areas (where appropriate, taking account of technologies) and allowing for limited additional import and export from outside the three districts
- Recognise the local economic benefits of waste management activity, including the use of waste as a resource for feedstock for local industry

**Issue 12**

Ensure the borough has sufficient waste management capacity to meet its own needs and reduce the reliance on landfill, including additional re-use, recycling, composting and residual waste treatment facilities.

**Climate change**

**3.23** An ever more important issue in the future will be climate change - the latest UK Climate Projections 2009 (UKCP09) under the Medium Emissions Scenario suggests that the following changes are likely in the region and for Rotherham by 2050:

- **Drier summers** Mean precipitation level in the summer period throughout the region is generally predicted to decrease by as much as 20% or even 30% at the most extreme of the wider probability levels. For Rotherham this storyline is very similar.
- **Wetter winters** In the winter period, the regional precipitation levels are predicted to increase. The upper predicted change for the region, (at a 67% level), sees a 10% rise. For Rotherham this figure may be as much as 16.5% (at the 67% level). Rotherham therefore may experience wetter winters than the regional mean.
- **Annual temperature rise** Rotherham's annual temperature is predicted to be the highest in the region. Rotherham's temperature range between 33% and 67% for the 2050s is modelled at approximately a 2 to 2.7°C increase.

**3.24** The challenge for Rotherham, as elsewhere, will be to try and mitigate these impacts by ensuring that any developments add as little as possible to the output of CO2 and other greenhouse gas emissions into the atmosphere. This will actions such as energy efficiency measures in new buildings and improvements to existing, reduction in the need to travel and/or increased public transport use, and renewable energy projects.
3.25 Flooding is likely to become more severe and regular in the future - a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment of the borough has been undertaken to ascertain the scale of the flood risk. Rotherham is built on the confluence of two rivers, the Don and the Rother, and areas around Rotherham town centre are particularly liable to flooding. A higher flood risk across the borough will act as a constraint to future development without flood defence measures such as the Flood Alleviation scheme at Templeborough.

**Issue 13**

Plan for the impact of climate change on the borough, mitigating the impact of any new developments by energy efficiency measures and a reduction in the need for travel.

**Issue 14**

Encourage renewable energy projects and plan to reduce the impact of flood risk on development land, property and people.

**Health**

3.26 Rotherham's population has historically suffered from higher levels of ill-health compared to the national average, particularly male ill-health, partly due to the area's past reliance on coal mining and steel making. The difference between life expectancy and healthy life expectancy can be regarded as an estimate of the number of years a person can expect to live in poor health - the increase in the period of 'unhealthy' life expectancy is predicted to continue and has implications in the areas of social and health care and housing needs. There has been significant rises in the number of residents entitled to Disability Living Allowance and there is no evidence that the most deprived areas are closing the gap with the rest of the Borough in terms of people needing care.

3.27 The LDF supports the provision of local health facilities but also influences health directly by supporting strategies for improvements to air quality and promoting a healthier lifestyle through walking / cycling and the provision of open spaces and recreation facilities.

**Issue 15**

Provide recreation and leisure facilities to help promote a healthier lifestyle and ensure developments do not adversely impact on the air and water quality in the borough.
4 Our vision and strategic objectives

4.1 Our vision for Rotherham

4.1 In order to promote economic growth, achieve sustainable development and create sustainable communities, our vision is that:

Rotherham will provide a high quality of life and sense of place. It will be prosperous, with a vibrant, diverse, innovative and enterprising economy and have the best in architecture, urban design and public spaces. Regeneration of the town centre will offer urban living and a new civic focus. Rotherham will promote biodiversity and a high quality environment where neighbourhoods are safe, clean, green and well maintained, with good quality homes and accessible local facilities and services. It will aspire to minimise inequalities and create strong, cohesive and sustainable communities.

4.2 In seeking to achieve this vision, our broad aims are:

- To implement a long-term spatial strategy that steers new development to the most sustainable locations.
- To create and secure sustainable communities that are as self sufficient as possible in terms of employment, retail and local services.
- To reduce the Borough's contribution to, and adapt to the effects, of climate change.
- To ensure that the necessary new infrastructure is delivered to support the Plan's spatial strategy.

4.3 The Rotherham Community Strategy (2005-11) contains seven priority themes designed to create opportunities and improve the quality of life for all Rotherham's citizens and businesses. The Local Development Framework is the "spatial expression" or delivery plan for the Community Strategy. Listed below are the strategic objectives for the Core Strategy indicating which Community Strategy theme each objective is designed to deliver.
4.2 Strategic objectives

Spatial strategy

Objective 1: Scale of future growth

By the end of the plan period, sufficient new homes and employment opportunities and a choice of development sites will have been provided to meet the Borough’s projected needs against locally-derived targets for house building and provision of employment land.

(Achieving theme)

Objective 2: Green Belt

In implementing the plan’s spatial strategy over the plan period, the wider aims of national Green Belt policy will have been safeguarded while a Borough-wide review will have informed the phased release of limited areas of Green Belt land in the most sustainable locations for growth to meet future needs.

(Achieving theme)

Objective 3: Sustainable locations

By the end of the plan period, the majority of new development will have been located in sustainable urban locations, close to transport interchanges and within transport corridors. Wherever viable and most sustainable, previously developed land will have been used first. Car dependency and the need to travel will have been reduced by the promotion of higher housing densities and mixed use developments in appropriate locations, travel planning and public transport improvements.

(Achieving & Safe themes)
Sustainable communities

**Objective 4: Retail and service centres**

By the end of the plan period, the plan’s "town centre first” approach to development decisions will have improved the economic viability and vibrancy of Rotherham Town Centre as the Borough’s principal location for business, commerce, culture, leisure and civic activities. The plan will have supported the aim of providing a community stadium as close to Rotherham town centre as possible. The implementation of a retail and settlement hierarchy will have steered new development to appropriate centres to sustain and, where appropriate, extend retail, leisure, employment and community services. Smaller local centres will have been sustained to continue provision for local daily needs.

*(Most themes)*

**Objective 5: Landscape and settlement identity**

Implementation of the plan’s policies over the plan period will have helped promote the continuing management, protection and enhancement of the Borough’s distinctive historical features and landscape character. While allowing for growth of certain settlements to implement the plan’s spatial strategy, wherever possible, the identity and setting of individual settlements will have been maintained and enhanced.

*(Achieving & Proud themes)*

**Objective 6: Design**

By the end of the plan period, new development built to sustainable design standards will have contributed to the creation of safe, accessible, and well managed places, buildings and public spaces. The design of new development will have contributed to and enhanced the distinctive townscape and character of heritage features within communities.

*(Most themes)*
Objective 7: Provision for housing

By the end of the plan period, implementation of the plan’s policies will have helped improve the housing stock in areas of low housing demand. Development of new housing will have provided a wide choice of type, tenure and affordability, including provision for gypsies and travellers. Any established need for affordable housing in specific rural communities will have been met.

(Safe theme)

Objective 8: Provision for employment

By the end of the plan period, the Borough’s economy will be more modern, diverse and enterprising and will have moved closer to a low-carbon economy. Implementation of the plan’s policies will have helped provide a wide range of accessible job opportunities in the Borough. The regeneration and improvement of existing employment sites will have been complemented by the creation of local and rural employment opportunities.

(Most themes)

Objective 9: Local transport connections

By the end of the plan period, the proportion of trips made by walking and cycling will have increased. Public transport interchanges and bus services between local communities will have been improved. Implementation of the plan’s policies will have helped to secure improved information technology networks to enable increased “teleworking”, along with the development of live/work housing and mixed use schemes in appropriate locations.

(Achieving theme)

Objective 10: Greenspaces, sport and recreation

By the end of the plan period, the Borough’s network of green infrastructure will have been identified, protected and enhanced. Implementation of the plan’s policies will have protected and enhanced the Borough’s network of accessible sport and recreation facilities and helped improve the health of Rotherham’s population.

(Alive theme)
Objective 11: Community well-being

By the end of the plan period, implementation of the plan’s policies will have helped to reduce crime levels and minimise the potential results of terrorist activity by improving the design of new development. The potential risk to nearby populations from hazardous installations will have been minimised by the designation and enforcement of appropriate stand off zones. Decisions on the location and type of development will have helped to reduce pollution levels in the Borough’s air, land and water and will have taken account of the Borough’s legacy of former coal mining activity.

(Safe theme)
Climate change and managing natural resources

**Objective 12: Biodiversity/ geodiversity**

By the end of the plan period, the Borough’s significant biodiversity and geodiversity sites will have been identified, designated, protected and enhanced. The geodiversity, habitat, greenspace, woodland and water eco-systems of the wider environment will have been protected, enhanced and managed by implementation of the plan’s policies. The Borough’s best and most versatile agricultural land will have been protected, wherever possible, to promote local food production.

*(Safe theme)*

**Objective 13: Minerals**

By the end of the plan period, the Borough’s mineral reserves will have been identified and managed to provide for the needs of the construction industry. In tandem with this, the use of recycled and secondary sources, sustainable site waste management practice and the use of sustainable building materials will have been increased by implementation of the plan's policies. Sources of local building materials will have been safeguarded for conservation of the Borough’s built heritage.

*(Achieving & Safe themes)*

**Objective 14: Waste management**

By the end of the plan period, a strategic waste management facility will have been provided to deal with the Borough’s forecast needs. Implementation of the plan’s policies, or those of joint plans covering the Borough, will have promoted a reduction in waste levels by utilising waste as a raw material for industry and energy production and by encouraging increased recycling rates.

*(Achieving & Safe themes)*
Objective 15: Managing the water environment

By the end of the plan period, implementation of the plan’s policies to regulate development will have protected and enhanced the Borough’s water environment and contributed to the wider integrated management of water catchments. The risks of pollution of rivers and water resources, depletion of water supplies, flooding and harm to biodiversity and leisure interests will have been minimised by implementation of the plan’s policies.

(Safe theme)

Objective 16: Carbon reduction and renewable energy

By the end of the plan period, the Borough’s carbon footprint will have been reduced from current levels. Implementation of the Plan’s policies will have secured an increased proportion of energy generation via renewable and low carbon means and will have promoted energy efficiency, energy conservation and the use of sustainable construction techniques.

(Safe theme)

Infrastructure

Objective 17: Infrastructure delivery

By the end of the Plan period, the necessary utility infrastructure to support new development will have been provided in appropriate locations. Local community services will have been provided or existing services enhanced in keeping with the scale of planned new development in each community.

(Learning, Alive & Safe themes)

4.3 Plans, policies and programmes

4.4 As well as the Rotherham Community Strategy, the drafting of the Core Strategy has taken account of other plans, policies and programmes - both internal to the Council and external cross-boundary plans.

Sheffield City Region Development Plan

4.5 The Sheffield City Region covers an area spanned by local authorities within South Yorkshire and the northern part of the East Midlands region. The vision for the City Region is for it to be a place which: "Provides the nation with its prime centre for advanced manufacturing, metals and related
low carbon industry, and offers its people a great place to live and work, with a richness and variety all of its own."

4.6 The draft Sheffield City Region Development Plan (August 2010) is focused on three 'Core Issues' where action is essential and appropriate at the City Regional level: Economy and Skills, Housing and Transport. These issues are fundamentally linked to one another.

4.7 To achieve the vision it identifies a number of strategic priorities:

- Support the growth of the **Advanced Manufacturing and Materials (AMM) sector**, including related **Low Carbon Industries**, that is pronounced across the City Region.
- Meet employer skills needs and assist people to gain work in the private sector through increasing **Apprenticeships** focused on key sectors (AMM first) and creating **innovative, private sector led employment programmes** to help unemployed people and public sector employees, to retrain if needed and to access private sector jobs.
- **Attract and retain business investment** to expand growth and employment, through continuing the successful ‘**Key Account Management**’ approach that builds relationships with large businesses and investors and responds to their needs.
- Devolve national housing budgets and powers to the City Region, and invest in shared multi-area priorities, including a **low carbon retrofitting programme in the Dearne Valley** in line with its Eco Vision.
- Improve **access to Robin Hood Doncaster Sheffield airport**
- **Enhance rail connections to key cities outside the City Region, especially to London**, as well as to Leeds and Manchester.
- Improve **public transport connections between Rotherham, Sheffield and Waverley**, including through a Bus Rapid Transport system.

**Dearne Valley Eco-Vision**

4.8 The Dearne Valley spans three local authority areas – Barnsley, Doncaster and Rotherham. An new vision for the Dearne has been developed by the Dearne Valley Special Board, which operates under the auspices of the Sheffield City Region.

4.9 The proposals would see the Dearne Valley re-imagined by an eco-vision. As a pioneer in the Sheffield City Region, the Dearne would grasp the opportunities and apply the solutions needed to reduce the community's CO2 emissions such that, within a decade, it will be the lowest carbon community of its type in the UK.

4.10 For the communities of the Dearne, the vision will mean:

- the delivery of more energy efficient homes, cutting fuel bills for residents.
- better public transport links, improving access and reducing reliance on the car.
- more training opportunities will be available in skills to address climate change.
- improving people’s job prospects and equipping them for the new jobs created.
more businesses, specialising in environmental technologies, are attracted to the area.

- an enhanced natural environment, creating a place where people want to live and work and bring up their families.
- the creation of an area attracting visitors from across the City Region.

4.11 The eco-vision would put into practice the Planning Policy Statement 1 (Delivering Sustainable Development) supplement on Planning and Climate Change, identifying how local energy resources could be used to meet demand and how existing buildings could be linked to new local energy networks. Planning policy at a settlement level should take into account its role in delivering low carbon economic growth in terms of location, density, usage and construction standards. Planning policy needs to be aspirational to ensure that achievement runs ahead of minimum standards.

4.12 The Council will work with Barnsley and Doncaster to help implement the vision. We will do this by agreeing a common stance on the Dearne Valley Eco Vision in our respective Core Strategies. We envisage that the spatial development aspects of the vision could be delivered by a joint area action plan or supplementary planning document. However, further detailed arrangements on joint working to achieve a planning policy framework are yet to be determined. This will be dependent on evolving governance arrangements for the Sheffield City Region and the Local Enterprise Partnership.

Rotherham Council strategies

4.13 Rotherham Council strategies that have a bearing on the Core Strategy are:

- the Rotherham Housing Strategy
- the Municipal Waste Management Strategy
- the Economic Plan
- the Rural Strategy

Chesterfield Canal

4.14 The Council supports the broad aims of the Chesterfield Canal Strategy and Viability Study. This is reflected in Objectives 5 and 10 above and by Policies CS8 Green Infrastructure and CS10 Valuing the Historic Environment.

Wentworth Woodhouse

4.15 The Council recognises the long-term need to protect the historic parkland setting of Wentworth Woodhouse and is sympathetic to proposals of an appropriate scale and nature to develop the house to secure its long-term future, subject to the necessary listed building consents and planning
permissions. This is reflected in Objective 5 and Policies CS10 Valuing the Historic Environment and CS19 Tourism and the Visitor Economy.
5 Setting a local housing target

Background

5.1 The Government has recently announced its intention to scrap Regional Strategies (RS) and the housing requirements that these documents contained. The RSS for Yorkshire & Humber set the housing requirement for Rotherham which was included and formed part of the Core Strategy Revised Options (May 2009) document which was consulted on in 2009. Following abolition of RS it will be up to individual local authorities to set their own housing requirement. It is currently unclear exactly on how this should be carried out but it would appear to be prudent to base any local target on a robust methodology and the ‘best available’ evidence. Planning Policy Statement 3 (Housing) (paragraphs 32 to 35) provides guidance relating to what matters should be taken into account when determining the level of housing required. This guidance relates to the production of the Regional Strategy, so it is not all relevant to a locally produced figure, but it requires a strategic, evidence-based approach. Below is a summary of the various sources considered in determining an appropriate local housing target; a full explanation of the sources and methodologies explored is available in a background paper available on our website.

Sources of evidence

Regional Strategy

5.2 The current Regional Strategy for Yorkshire & Humber required Rotherham to build 23,880 homes between 2004 and 2026. Between 2004 and 2008, 1,595 new homes were built leaving a total of 22,285 as the remaining target to 2026. South Yorkshire was awarded New Growth Point status in July 2008 which increased the housing numbers by 20% above the RS target for the period between 2008/09 and 2016/17. Discounting the additional growth point numbers this gave an annual requirement of 1,160 homes per annum (and up to 1,350 in later years when taking into account the current shortfall in the actual / projected completions). Although the Government intends to abolish Regional Strategies the evidence and methodologies used in relation to housing targets may still be relevant and local authorities can, if they wish, carry forward the RS target.

Population projections

5.3 Household projections released by the Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG) are closely linked to the projected population changes which are produced by the Office for National Statistics (ONS). Latest population projections are 2008-based and were released in May 2010. These show that the population in Rotherham is expected to increase by 21,000 in the period 2010 to 2027 – the vast majority in the 60+ age groups. These projections are the best available estimate of population growth but are produced nationally and may, in certain circumstances, not always capture the particular local characteristics of an area. The components of change (natural, internal and international migration) were examined individually against any local evidence available to consider if they were 'reasonable' for Rotherham. This included considering historic internal migration from Sheffield - over the last five years there as been an average net inflow of 570 people into Rotherham from Sheffield - and the projections for internal migration would appear to be reasonable, with this trend captured / incorporated into the ONS projections. Without any strong evidence to the contrary it is considered that the latest ONS population projections for Rotherham...
are the most robust and reliable available and form a reasonable basis in considering the impact on household numbers.

**Household projections**

5.4 As mentioned above these projections are based on the ONS mid-year population projections / estimates, allowing for change in household density. These are released every two years, the most recent being 2008-based, released in November 2010, which are shown in the table below (along with historic trends and household densities). These show a fall from the previous 2006-based release in line with the latest population projections. The projections suggest an additional 14,000 homes will be required between 2010 and 2027 or around 824 homes per annum.

**Figure 2 Population - Household Comparisons**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Households</th>
<th>Density</th>
<th>One-person households</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1981</td>
<td>253,200</td>
<td>88,839</td>
<td>2.85</td>
<td>16,235</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1991</td>
<td>253,700</td>
<td>97,854</td>
<td>2.59</td>
<td>22,742</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>248,300</td>
<td>102,273</td>
<td>2.45</td>
<td>27,628</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008*</td>
<td>252,900</td>
<td>106,000</td>
<td>2.39</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>257,800</td>
<td>110,000</td>
<td>2.34</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>264,100</td>
<td>115,000</td>
<td>2.30</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>270,000</td>
<td>119,000</td>
<td>2.28</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2026</td>
<td>274,500</td>
<td>121,000</td>
<td>2.27</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2028</td>
<td>276,800</td>
<td>123,000</td>
<td>2.26</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Estimates from Office for National Statistics 2008 based household/population projections

**Housing need**

5.5 The 2007 Rotherham Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) estimated the annual housing need required in the borough as 792 new homes. From this we can estimate the total number of new homes that would be required to meet this need. For the period 2008 to 2026 this equated to a housing need of 15,049 or 792 homes per annum. An updated SHMA is currently in draft form but early indications are that the housing requirement is estimated to be 22,000 over the next 20 years or 1,100 homes per annum. Note this is subject to revision / amendments, particularly in light of the revised population / household projections, which could drop this figure down below 1,000 homes per annum. It is also important to note that any housing target will impact on the amount of affordable housing built (currently a developer is expected to provide 25% affordable housing on developments of 15 units or more, subject to viability assessment) - i.e. a lower target will result in less affordable housing provision.

**Past completion rates**

5.6 We also looked at the past rate of completions as a guide to the future requirement in Rotherham. The chart below shows the number of homes completed in each of the last 12 financial years - a total of 8,501 homes or an average over this period of 708 per annum.
5.7 The number of completions in the last financial year is particularly low and gives an indication of the current low rate of inactivity within the housing market. Only once in the last 12 years has completions in Rotherham exceeded 1,000.

Linking job projections and creation with household provision

5.8 The link between growth in the local economy and an increase in local jobs to the requirement for housing is complex and dependant on many factors. The latest Regional Econometric Model (Autumn 2010) provided by Experian through Yorkshire Forward indicates that the number of jobs in Rotherham will take to the end of the plan period in 2027 to get back to pre-recession levels. The Model's baseline estimates suggest an increase of 8,000 jobs by 2027. This is purely a baseline trend, not taking into account any specific local conditions, and it is important to remember that any modelling such as this becomes more unreliable the further into the future the projections are taken. An alternative 'high growth' scenario based on this new baseline but using an 'uplift' from original RS scenario work, which takes into account more local knowledge of regeneration projects / known investments, gives a more optimistic level of future employment. An additional 10,000 extra jobs are required under this scenario – i.e. a total increase of 18,000 jobs.

5.9 The baseline figure would not result in any additional housing requirement above the Communities and Local Government (CLG) household projection figures but in a higher economic growth scenario additional housing would be required. This could result in an additional 400 homes per annum requirement, but factoring in a higher employment rate for the borough this additional requirement would fall to around 250 per annum above the CLG figure. All figures assumed that net commuting would remain unchanged but in reality the picture is far more complex with the extent of factors such as working beyond ‘normal’ retirement age and people having second (or third) jobs difficult to assess going forward. The success of job creation in surrounding economies, the housing supply in these areas, and future levels of commuting will all impact upon the level of housing provision likely to be required.
Summary

5.10 The table below summarises the above options and provides a basis on the selection of the most appropriate housing target for Rotherham.

Table 3 Summary of Options for Setting a Local Housing Target

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Evidence / Methodology</th>
<th>Resulting Housing Requirement (per annum)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Current RS targets*</td>
<td>1,160 (up to 1,350 in later years)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLG Household Projections (latest 2008-based)</td>
<td>824</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SHMA (2007) Housing Need</td>
<td>792</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SHMA (draft update) Housing need**</td>
<td>1,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Past completion rates</td>
<td>708</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baseline economic growth*** (household projections sufficient)</td>
<td>824</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High economic growth scenario</td>
<td>1,150</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5.11 * Excludes growth point status
** This is subject to change as currently uses previous 2006-based population and household projections
*** Economic growth scenarios assume no net change in commuting.

5.12 It is clear that the current RS target is unlikely to be achievable (and may not be desirable) and could be discounted in setting a local target, given that this level of housing completions was not reached even in the highest year of completions. Other evidence and methodologies suggest a target in the range of around 700 to 1,100 per annum to the end of the plan period. It is likely that the current requirement to prove a five year supply of deliverable housing sites will be retained and this could also form a basis for setting a local housing target.

5.13 Obviously the target has implications for the amount of greenfield land that will need to be released to the end of the plan period, with even a relatively low target requiring some element of building on greenfield sites. Equally there are significant drawbacks / negative impacts in choosing too low a target as this could act as a constraint on economic growth, a possible decline / stagnation in some communities, and exacerbate the current lack of affordable housing.

A local housing target

5.14 At the time of writing the Government decision to revoke the RS target is undergoing a legal challenge and consequently, until this is resolved or the Localism Bill is passed (towards end of 2011), the annual target of 1,160 remains part of the local development plan. Prior to the final adoption of the Core Strategy in Rotherham the position should be clearer, with the RS target expected to no longer form part of the plan and a locally agreed target taking its place.
5.15 On balance, given the range of options and methodologies explored, it is considered that a local target of **850** homes per annum be adopted for Rotherham. This is well below the RS target but is slightly in excess of the latest official household projections and above the past average completion rates - it is considered that this represents a sustainable level of growth for the borough, helps to address the current lack of affordable housing provision and gives encouragement to local house builders and developers. However, by keeping development more constrained than the original RS target the negative impacts on congestion, greenbelt release and environmental conditions are minimised.
6 Spatial strategy

6.1 Sustainable development is the fundamental principle underpinning spatial planning. Earlier work in developing the Core Strategy objectives, locations for growth, the settlement hierarchy and strategic policies has used the principles of sustainable development as the basis for determining the Borough wide spatial strategy. The four principles are:

- Protecting and enhancing the natural and built environment
- Building a prosperous, diverse and enduring economy
- The prudent management of natural resources and minimising climate change
- Creating cohesive and inclusive communities.

6.2 At each stage in drafting the Core Strategy we have undertaken a sustainability appraisal of the strategy to assesses the Plan’s credentials in meeting the fundamental principle of promoting sustainable development. Earlier drafts of the Core Strategy have considered the ways we can meet the housing and jobs needs of the Borough in the most sustainable way and these are then appraised.

6.3 This Draft Core Strategy has been appraised for its sustainability by external consultants Jacobs and this Sustainability Appraisal accompanies this document.

6.4 The proposed settlement hierarchy (see Map 3 'Proposed settlement hierarchy') and future growth strategy have been derived from previous consultation activity in preparing the Core Strategy, which supported an approach of matching needs with opportunities and managing the environment as a key resource. The outcome of the last round of consultation was to favour development focused in the main urban area of Rotherham, the Borough’s principal settlements and on key public transport corridors.

6.5 The settlement and growth strategy or "spatial strategy" forms the bedrock of the Core Strategy, it will assist in the selection of sites for future development as work progresses on preparing the supporting Sites and Policies document.

6.6 The following are some of the key issues that have been considered in preparing the settlement and growth strategy for the Borough:

- to clearly establish the settlement hierarchy for the borough and to identify the principal settlements for growth in the future
- to determine how a settlement identified for growth will change in the future
- to identify potential development sites including broad locations for growth (see Map 4 'Broad locations for growth') to meet the needs of the Borough
- to set an appropriate local housing target
6.7 The proposed spatial strategy for the Borough is at the heart of the Core Strategy and the proposed settlement hierarchy reflects the status of the centres and settlement groupings as they are currently defined and their potential future role. It reflects the availability of existing facilities and services and assesses whether growth could potentially be supported in the settlement in the future.

6.8 The following is proposed as the settlement and growth strategy for the Borough:

To enable development within Rotherham Urban Area, the principal settlements and nodes on key public transport corridors, making best use of existing infrastructure, services and facilities, reducing the need to travel and, where viable and sustainable, using brownfield land first. It will ensure that communities are, as far as possible, self contained and where there is capacity within existing community infrastructure (or the infrastructure can be readily provided) development will be encouraged in these communities. The settlement hierarchy identifies principal settlements for growth, principal settlements and local service centres.

Main location for growth:

- Rotherham Urban Area

6.9 Rotherham Urban Area is the main location for new housing and employment growth to meet identified needs for this area. To meet these needs a broad location for growth at Bassingthorpe Farm has been considered and the development of this broad location is essential to the delivery of the Core Strategy. The detailed identification of development sites in this broad location will be progressed through the Sites and Policies document.

Principal settlements for growth (settlement groupings) are:

- Wath, Brampton Bierlow and West Melton
- Bramley, Wickersley and Ravenfield
- Dinnington, Anston and Laughton Common

6.10 Dinnington was identified as a Principal Town in the Regional Strategy; it serves a wide rural hinterland providing jobs and higher order services appropriate to such location. Significant growth is also proposed at Wath, Brampton Bierlow and West Melton reflecting the status of this community as serving a wider Dearne Valley hinterland and providing a higher order of services including further education and retail opportunities.

Principal settlements (settlement groupings) are:

- Maltby and Hellaby
- Wales and Kiveton Park
6.11 Swinton's position in the hierarchy reflects the limited capacity for new growth on sustainable sites.

6.12 Local service centres are:

- Thorpe Hesley
- Thurcroft
- Catcliffe, Treeton and Orgeave
- Waverley New Community
- Todwick
- Harthill
- Woodsetts

6.13 The settlement hierarchy is illustrated in Map 3. Map 4 shows the three broad locations for growth which are considered vital to the delivery of Rotherham's spatial strategy: Waverley New Community (which has planning permission for 3,900 new homes with associated infrastructure), Bassingthorpe Farm, and Dinnington East.

6.14 It is important to appreciate that "no growth" is in most circumstances not an option; demographic changes such as an ageing population and or smaller household sizes, could lead to some smaller settlements stagnating and the critical mass required for the provision of local services, particularly to service the needs of an aging population, will no longer exist. Within the existing population there is also an ongoing trend for the creation of smaller households.

6.15 Key corporate priorities for the Council include economic growth and revitalisation of Rotherham town centre. The suggested housing target and employment land provision reflect these key priorities by providing sufficient long-term employment land to encourage economic development and ensuring sufficient new housing provision to accommodate population growth and changes in household size. To enable new housing and employment opportunities to be provided the Council has undertaken a localised Green Belt Review.
Map 3 Proposed settlement hierarchy
Map 4 Broad locations for growth

- Bassingthorpe Farm
- Waverley
- Dinnington East

Legend:
- Orange circles: Broad locations for growth
- Light grey shade: Urban Area
- Grey lines: Motorway Network
- Grey dashed lines: Main Passenger Rail Service
- Black lines: Borough Boundary
7 Key diagram

Map 5 Key Diagram Showing Rotherham's Broad Spatial Development Strategy
8 Core policies

8.1 This chapter sets out the strategic policies designed to achieve the Plan's objectives, the reasoning behind each policy's approach and how they will be implemented. The policies are grouped under the same themes reflecting the Plan's aims set out in Chapter 4.

8.1 Spatial strategy

8.2 The Spatial Strategy Core Policies set out how we will deliver the key components of Rotherham's spatial strategy. They identify how much housing, employment and retail growth we will plan for, where this should be directed to, and the factors that will be taken into account when allocating specific sites for new development. However they also recognise the important role of the Green Belt in safeguarding the countryside, concentrating development towards urban areas and preventing settlements from joining together.

8.3 To guide development and deliver sustainable communities these policies also deal with movement around the borough, and also set out strategic guidance on green infrastructure, landscape and the historic environment.

8.4 By placing an emphasis on sustainable design the Core Strategy looks to ensure that development respects and enhances the distinctive features of Rotherham, and develops a strong sense of place.

8.5 The spatial strategy recognises the importance of Rotherham’s urban area as the centre of Rotherham’s public and private transport network, and as the main centre for community, retail and service facilities. As such it identifies a key regeneration area in and around Rotherham town centre with a policy intended to promote economic regeneration, improve the quality of the built and natural environment and also contribute towards reducing the threat of flood risk.

Delivering Rotherham's Spatial Strategy

Context

8.6 Between 2012 and 2027 (the Local Development Framework plan period) the most obvious feature of growth will be new built development, whether this is new housing, economic development or community facilities and services. Core Strategy Policies CS5: New Housing Development, CS6: Employment Land Requirement, and CS14: Managing Change in Rotherham's Retail and Service Centres set out how much housing, employment and retail growth we have planned for. Policy CS1 establishes how this growth will be distributed around the Borough; essentially setting out our spatial strategy for new development.

8.7 Rotherham's spatial strategy will create sustainable communities by concentrating development in the Rotherham urban area, principal settlements for growth and at appropriate nodes in key public transport corridors. To achieve this the Borough's settlements have been assessed for their suitability to accept new growth and a hierarchy established to guide the scale of development appropriate in each settlement.
8.8 In determining the settlement hierarchy consideration has been had to current proportionate size of settlements within the Borough (in terms of existing population and households) and the capacity of settlement groupings to accommodate new development, through the availability of key social infrastructure or the ability to provide new social infrastructure to meet the needs of a growing population.
Policy CS 1

CS1 Delivering Rotherham’s Spatial Strategy

Rotherham’s spatial strategy will be delivered through new investment and development in sustainable locations in accordance with the settlement hierarchy set out in Table 4 and summarised below.

Main Location for New Growth:
Rotherham urban area

Principal Settlements for Growth:
Dinnington, Anston and Laughton Common
Bramley, Wickersley and Ravenfield
Wath-upon-Dearne, Brampton Bierlow and West Melton

Principal Settlements:
Maltby and Hellaby
Aston, Aughton and Swallownest
Swinton and Kilnhurst
Wales and Kiveton Park

Local Service Centres:
Catcliffe, Treeton and Orgreave
Waverley (with significant potential for growth)
Thorpe Hesley
Thurcroft
Todwick
Harthill
Woodsetts

Most new development will take place within Rotherham’s urban area and at Principal Settlements for Growth. At Principal Settlements and Local Service Centres development will be appropriate
to the size of the settlement, meet the identified needs of the settlement and its immediate area and help create a balanced sustainable community.

**Three broad locations for growth are identified at:**

- Bassingthorpe Farm on the north western edge of Rotherham Urban Area (around 2,400 new dwellings)
- Dinnington East (around 700 new dwellings)
- Waverley New Community (2,500 new dwellings delivered in the Plan period)

The hierarchy should also be used by public service providers to inform decisions about the provision of their services and infrastructure.

**Reasoned Justification**

8.9  Rotherham’s spatial strategy, derived from extensive public consultation, seeks to match needs with opportunities whilst managing the environment as a key resource. To achieve this requires ensuring that the scale and type of development is focused in communities that can accommodate this change by:

- Providing sufficient land for new housing and employment developments
- Protecting community services and facilities and ensuring activities such as shopping, offices, businesses and other services are focused in accessible, sustainable locations.
- Locating development and areas of mixed use in locations accessible to key transport routes
- Establishing a ‘hierarchy’ of settlements to guide the location of new development

8.10  This policy is the key means of achieving Core Strategy Objectives 1: Scale of Future Growth and 3: Sustainable Locations. These objectives seek to maintain population and sustainable economic growth by providing a balanced choice of housing and employment land to meet the future needs of the Borough, and promote development in sustainable urban locations, close to transport interchanges and at appropriate nodes on key transport corridors.

8.11  Policy CS1 identifies a settlement hierarchy to achieve the borough’s growth strategy and the communities where significant growth should be accommodated. The settlement hierarchy contains four levels:

1. Rotherham Urban Area, as the main location for new housing and employment growth
2. Principal Settlements for Growth, where there is capacity for new development and growth to be accommodated
3. Principal Settlements which still perform a principal settlement role but where significant growth is not envisaged
4. Local Service Centres which serve a more localised catchment

8.12  The Policy identifies three broad locations for growth that are essential to delivering the Borough Spatial Strategy. The broad locations for growth are essential to meet local housing needs
and it is considered that Rotherham Town centre and Dinnington town centres provide a level of social and community infrastructure and a range of jobs and local employment opportunities that will support future growth in these communities. The new community at Waverley is adjacent to an important regeneration area that will provide significant and high quality employment opportunities and it will meet its own social and community infrastructure requirements as evidenced by the recent grant of planning permission.

8.13 Table 4 below sets out the Rotherham Borough Settlement Hierarchy and also provides information on the current proportionate size of settlements within the Borough. It sets out how much of the borough’s housing and employment land each settlement should accommodate as a percentage of the overall requirements. This has had regard to the capacity of settlement groupings to accommodate new development and to the impact this scale of growth will have on the community and existing social infrastructure.

8.14 It also shows the retail centres in each settlement grouping, derived from the retail centre hierarchy established in Policy CS14: Managing Change in Rotherham's Retail and Service Centres. Finally the table establishes the broad strategy for each settlement grouping. Detailed examination of this information along with the proposed settlement hierarchy and the current availability of infrastructure and likely future levels of infrastructure required to enhance the sustainability of the settlement, has enabled the Council to refine its settlement and growth strategy.

8.15 Map 6 ‘Proposed housing and employment land distribution (2012 to 2027)’ shows the proposed distribution of housing and employment growth.
Map 6 Proposed housing and employment land distribution (2012 to 2027)

Total for Rotherham Main Urban Area
4850 homes (38%)
41 emp. ha (34%)

Total 12,750 homes
(850 a year)

Total 178 hectares

*Percentage figures may not total to 100 due to rounding
8.16 The Sites and Policies Development Plan Document Issues and Options consultation provides details of all sites assessed throughout the borough including their potential capacity for housing and employment purposes. This document also provides information on the previously developed land available for potential future development and the amount of Green Belt land that will be essential to meet even a relatively modest target for future housing and employment growth.

8.17 The detailed analysis of all sites enables a broad assessment of how much new growth each settlement is capable of accepting. Consultation is to be undertaken on the selection of the ‘preferred sites’ and this will lead to further refinement of how much development will be provided in each locality.

Cross References

8.18 This Policy should be read in conjunction with the following Core Strategy Policies: CS2: Release of Major Greenfield Sites, CS3: Location of New Development, CS4: Key Routes and the Strategic Road Network, CS5: New Housing Development, CS6: Employment Land Requirement, CS12: Rotherham Regeneration Area, CS13: Accessible Places and Managing Demand for Travel, CS14: Managing Change in Rotherham's Retail and Service Centres, and CS15: Transforming Rotherham Town Centre

Delivery

8.19 This policy will primarily be delivered by informing the selection of sites for new development through the Sites and Policies DPD.

8.20 Delivery will also be addressed through the Infrastructure Delivery Plan which will accompany the final Core Strategy

8.21 The hierarchy should also be used by the Council and its partners and other public service providers to inform decisions about the provision of their services.

Table 4

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Settlement Hierarchy</th>
<th>Settlement Groupings</th>
<th>Current Proportionate size of settlement</th>
<th>Housing Distribution - % of new development</th>
<th>Employment Distribution - % of new development</th>
<th>Retail Hierarchy</th>
<th>Strategy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Main location for new housing and employment growth</td>
<td>Rotherham urban area</td>
<td>43.8</td>
<td>38 (19% at Bassingthorpe Farm and 19% in the remainder of the Urban Area)</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>Rotherham Town Centre. Parkgate District Centre Rawmarsh Local Centre Bassingthorpe Farm Local Centre</td>
<td>The Rotherham Urban Area as defined on the key diagram is the main location for new housing and employment growth. Rotherham town centre will be the principal focus for new retail and leisure floorspace. More localised retail and service floorspace is</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Settlement Hierarchy</td>
<td>Settlement Groupings</td>
<td>Current Proportionate size of settlement</td>
<td>Housing Distribution - % of new development</td>
<td>Employment Distribution - % of new development</td>
<td>Retail Hierarchy</td>
<td>Strategy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------------</td>
<td>----------------------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------</td>
<td>---------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Principal Settlement for Growth</td>
<td>Dinnington / Anston /</td>
<td>7.8</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Dinnington Town Centre</td>
<td>Dinnington is identified as a principal town in the Regional Strategy.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Rotherham Town Centre has a train station linking to Sheffield in the west and Doncaster, Leeds in the north. There is also a public transport interchange connecting to much of the rest of the Borough and the wider City Region. There are significant employment opportunities in the urban area, a college of further education a hospital and new NHS walk-In centre.

Bassingthorpe Farm, in close proximity to Rotherham Town Centre and to neighbourhood services and facilities provided in Greasborough and Kimberworth, will be developed as an extension to Rotherham urban area. New development will integrate with existing communities. Supporting infrastructure, including a new local centre if required, will be provided as necessary to meet the needs of the emerging community and to ensure that existing provision is not working beyond its capacity.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Settlement Hierarchy</th>
<th>Settlement Groupings</th>
<th>Current Proportionate size of settlement</th>
<th>Housing Distribution - % of new development</th>
<th>Employment Distribution - % of new development</th>
<th>Retail Hierarchy</th>
<th>Strategy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Laughton Common</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Principal Settlement for Growth</td>
<td>Wickersley / Bramley / Ravenfield Common</td>
<td>8.9</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Wickersley District Centre</td>
<td>The Dinnington Settlement Grouping (Dinnington, Anston, Laughton Common) will continue to be identified as a principal settlement capable of accommodating significant growth at an appropriate level in the future. Dinnington has significant employment opportunities available locally, there is a college of further education and a modern transport interchange linking the wider rural hinterland to Rotherham-Sheffield-Worksop.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Principal Settlement for Growth</td>
<td>Wath upon Deame / Brampton / West Melton</td>
<td>7.1</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Wath Town Centre</td>
<td>Bramley / Wickersley / Ravenfield Common provide a good range of service provision, are in close proximity to the main urban area and considered able to accommodate new growth. Particular consideration will be given to addressing a shortfall in school places to ensure that educational needs in this community are met. Wath / Brampton / West Melton lie at the heart of the Dearne Valley communities. Wath provides the range of service provision which aligns with the role of Principal Settlement and which serves the neighbouring settlement of Brampton / West Melton, which</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Settlement Hierarchy</td>
<td>Settlement Groupings</td>
<td>Current Proportate Size of settlement</td>
<td>Housing Distribution - % of new development</td>
<td>Employment Distribution - % of new development</td>
<td>Retail Hierarchy</td>
<td>Strategy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------------</td>
<td>----------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------</td>
<td>------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>----------------</td>
<td>----------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Principal Settlement</td>
<td>Kiveton Park / Wales</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Kiveton Park / Wales District Centre</td>
<td>Kiveton Park / Wales provide a reasonable level of service provision; also there are two railway stations providing links to Sheffield and the East Coast Main Line at Retford. Wales / Kiveton Park is considered able to accommodate some new growth in the borough. Growth in the settlement may enhance its overall sustainability and give rise to opportunities for improving its current infrastructure and physical environment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Principal Settlement</td>
<td>Maltby / Hellaby</td>
<td>7.2</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Maltby Town Centre</td>
<td>Maltby performs the function of a principal settlement; however it may not be able to provide significant opportunities for expansion in the future given the settlement's constraints (including the Doncaster / Rotherham Borough boundary to the north, the topography of the land and the Sites of</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Settlement Hierarchy</td>
<td>Settlement Groupings</td>
<td>Current Proportionate size of settlement</td>
<td>Housing Distribution - % of new development</td>
<td>Employment Distribution - % of new development</td>
<td>Retail Hierarchy</td>
<td>Strategy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------------</td>
<td>----------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------</td>
<td>---------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Principal Settlement</td>
<td>Aston / Aughton / Swallownest</td>
<td>5.4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>Swallownest District Centre</td>
<td>Special Scientific Interest to the south, and the limits to development to the east imposed by the Maltby Colliery site.) An alternative urban extension has been appraised as part of the Sustainability Appraisal to accompany the Core Strategy on sites to the south west of Maltby close to the settlement of Hellaby.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Principal Settlement</td>
<td>Swinton/ Kilnhurst</td>
<td>5.8</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Swinton District Centre</td>
<td>Aston / Aughton / Swallownest provide a reasonable level of service provision. They are considered able to accommodate new growth in the borough. Growth may enhance the overall sustainability and give rise to opportunities for improving current infrastructure and the physical environment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Swinton / Kilnhurst are also located in the Dearne but are close to Rotherham Urban Area. The settlement grouping has high levels of population and provides some higher order services. Although the communities do not serve a wider catchment area, they provide a level of service provision which supports the local population. Swinton has a railway station linking to Sheffield / Leeds and Doncaster which may make it...
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Settlement Hierarchy</th>
<th>Settlement Groupings</th>
<th>Current Proportionate size of settlement</th>
<th>Housing Distribution - % of new development</th>
<th>Employment Distribution - % of new development</th>
<th>Retail Hierarchy</th>
<th>Strategy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Local Service Centre</td>
<td>Catcliffe, Orgreave, &amp; Treeton</td>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Local and Neighbourhood Centres</td>
<td>With more limited social infrastructure the Catcliffe, Orgreave, &amp; Treeton grouping provides a local service centre function. This does not necessarily preclude further development, particularly where they are well served by public transport. The grouping includes a retail park at Catcliffe.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Service Centre with significant potential for growth</td>
<td>Waverley</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>Waverley Local Centre</td>
<td>Waverley is defined as a Local Service Centre with significant potential for growth at Waverley. Waverley new community will deliver 3,900 new homes in total (although only 2,500 are anticipated to be delivered in the Plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Settlement Hierarchy</td>
<td>Settlement Groupings</td>
<td>Current Proportionate size of settlement</td>
<td>Housing Distribution - % of new development</td>
<td>Employment Distribution - % of new development</td>
<td>Retail Hierarchy</td>
<td>Strategy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------------</td>
<td>----------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------</td>
<td>----------------</td>
<td>----------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Service Centre</td>
<td>Thurcroft</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Local Centre</td>
<td>Local Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Service Centre</td>
<td>Harthill</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Local and Neighbourhood Centres</td>
<td>Thurcroft, Todwick, Harthill, Woodsetts and Thorpe Hesley all perform functions as local service centres. They provide a mainly local function, although this does not necessarily preclude further development, particularly where they are well served by public transport. The details of any potential growth opportunities within and on the edge of these communities will be decided within the emerging Sites and Policies DPD.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Service Centre</td>
<td>Woodsetts</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Local and Neighbourhood Centres</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Service Centre</td>
<td>Thorpe Hesley</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Local and Neighbourhood Centres</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes: Settlement proportions are based on the number of households for the whole borough including smaller villages and Green Belt villages. The housing and employment percentages may not add up to 100% as the figures have been rounded. Allowance has been made to provide 1% of the borough's housing requirement in other villages (including Harthill and Woodsetts) to meet localised need and which is not shown in the above table.

8.22 Notes: Settlement proportions are based on the number of households for the whole borough including smaller villages and Green Belt villages. The housing and employment percentages may not add up to 100% as the figures have been rounded. Allowance has been made to provide 1% of the borough's housing requirement in other villages (including Harthill and Woodsetts) to meet localised need and which is not shown in the above table.

Release of major greenfield sites

Context

8.23 It is important to ensure that the development priorities of the Core Strategy can be delivered in a planned rather than an ad hoc way and that sites are released to meet the needs of the Borough,
prioritising development on previously developed land first before releasing major greenfield sites. It is also vital to ensure that sufficient impetus is given to continuing the development of a major or significant site once development has commenced to ensure the delivery of the appropriate infrastructure to meet the needs of the incoming residents and reducing the impact on the existing infrastructure and over stretching services and facilities in existing communities.

**Policy CS 2**

**CS2 Release of Major Greenfield Sites**

The Council will prioritise the release of previously developed land to maintain a five year supply for residential development and to meet the need for employment generating activities. The release of major greenfield sites including the release of sites forming part of the broad locations for growth will be phased to ensure that land is released in a timely manner and has regard to the spatial strategy in policy CS1 - Delivering Rotherham’s Spatial Strategy.

Detail masterplanning work and the phasing and delivery of essential infrastructure will be essential to bring forward the broad locations in a coherent way. The Council will adopt a plan, monitor, manage approach to the granting of any future planning permissions to ensure that sites are delivered to meet the aims of the Borough Spatial Strategy, to ensure the creation of sustainable communities, minimise the impact of new development on existing services and facilities, ensure the delivery of new social infrastructure to meet the requirements of the development and minimise the impact of development on the openness of the wider countryside.

Development of all sites will be subject to further detailed phasing policy in the Sites and Policies Development Plan Document to ensure that the most sustainable sites are released first and appropriate infrastructure provided.

**Reasoned Justification**

**8.24** The Core Strategy is promoting a localised review of the Green Belt whose boundaries will be determined in the emerging Sites and Policies Development Plan Document. Policy CS1 Delivering Rotherham’s Spatial Strategy also identifies broad locations for growth that are essential to the delivery of the Borough Spatial Strategy: on the north west of Rotherham Urban Area, east of Dinnington and Waverley new community. Planning permission has recently been granted for the delivery of the new community at Waverley. However to meet the locally derived housing and employment land targets there is a need to release a number of smaller but still sizeable sites that are green field and previously designated Green Belt.

**8.25** This policy will contribute towards achieving Core Strategy Objectives 1 (delivering an appropriate scale of future growth), 3 (delivering development in sustainable locations), 4 (implementing an appropriate retail centre hierarchy), 7 (provision of housing), 8 (provision for employment) and 17 (delivering necessary infrastructure).

**8.26** The aim of this policy is to ensure that planning permissions for significantly large green field sites are not granted permission without reference to those planning permissions for new housing
or employment opportunities that have been previously granted. This is to ensure the delivery of sustainable communities throughout the Borough and to ensure the release of land in a structured rather than an ad hoc or random way. The priority is to deliver sites within the Borough on previously developed land first and land within existing communities before enabling the release of green field sites throughout the Borough.

8.27 This Policy will ensure that once a major site has commenced development there is sufficient impetus to enable its continued development to deliver the necessary community services, infrastructure, transport improvements, affordable housing provision, landscaping and greenspace, in a timely manner to meet the needs of the community without putting undue pressure on services and facilities and other infrastructure within the surrounding communities.

8.28 The policy seeks to ensure that detailed masterplanning work for the broad locations and other major sites that are identified for development in the Sites and Policies DPD is carried out at an early stage in the visioning for the site and that appropriate consultation is undertaken before planning permission is sought.

8.29 Sites will be released using the plan, monitor, manage tool to ensure that the market is able to deliver the Borough's growth strategy and that sites are completed in a timely manner before consideration is given to releasing other sites in locations that do not meet the priority needs of the borough. The emphasis will be on delivering new homes within Rotherham Urban Area followed by Waverley and the Principal Settlements For Growth including the broad location for growth to the east of Dinnington, priority will be given to developing on previously developed land in all circumstances.

8.30 In order to maintain the landscape characteristics of development sites prior to their release for future development and during subsequent development phases, broad locations and other sites allocated in the Sites and Policies Development Plan Document, will be maintained through countryside management practices to enable their successful integration into the wider countryside once development occurs.

Cross References

8.31 This policy should be read in conjunction with the following Core Strategy policies: CS1 Delivering Rotherham’s Spatial Strategy CS3 Location of New Development CS5 Policy New Housing Development and CS13 Accessible Places and Managing Demand for Travel

Delivery

8.32 Delivery will be through informing the site selection process in production of the Allocations and Policies DPD and the consideration of planning applications in the development management process.

8.33 Further detailed supporting policies will be provided as part of the Sites and Policies DPD
Location of new development

Context

8.34 The location of new development is important not only at a strategic level but also in relation to how it contributes to and effects existing communities and the wider environment.

8.35 In choosing new sites for development a number of things need to be taken into consideration to ensure that communities will grow in a sustainable way. These include the location of the site and how well it relates to the existing community and countryside, accessibility to services and employment opportunities.

8.36 For existing communities to grow in a sustainable way new development should, wherever possible, be located where accessibility between new housing, existing centres, facilities and services and existing and planned employment opportunities can be maximised. Good accessibility comes from close proximity, good transport networks or a combination of the two.

8.37 New development sites should be allocated in locations that minimise the impact upon and, where possible, improve the existing urban surroundings, the surrounding countryside and the wider environment.

8.38 The re-use of derelict and previously used land is also important, derelict sites often blight the areas they are in and their re-development should be a priority. Re-use of such sites also minimises the amount of countryside and other greenfield land required.

8.39 New development can play an important role in supporting regeneration and the contribution that it can make to communities, particularly those that are most deprived, is also an important consideration.

Policy CS 3

CS3 Location of New Development

In allocating sites in the Sites and Policies DPD regard shall be given to the following considerations:

a. The need to priorities the development of brownfield land
b. Maximising the proximity and accessibility of new housing to service and employment centres
c. Maximising accessibility to public and private transport networks
d. Ensuring that new development meets the needs of Rotherham’s areas of highest deprivation
e. Ensuring that new sites create a coherent built form and that impact on the open countryside is minimised
f. Ensuring that new sites would not result in unacceptable environmental harm
g. Ensuring that the infrastructure exists or that there is the potential to create the necessary infrastructure to support the new allocation.
Reasoned Justification

8.40 The spatial development strategy seeks to create sustainable communities by concentrating new development in and around existing urban areas and it determines the amount of development for each area. This policy seeks to determine which factors will be taken into account in selecting the location of particular sites for development.

8.41 Planning Policy Statement 1 (Delivering Sustainable Development) (PPS1) requires that development plans include policies that will provide improved access for all to jobs, services, shops, and facilities, by ensuring that new development is located where everyone can access services or facilities on foot, bicycle or public transport rather than having to rely on access by car. To this end they should actively manage patterns of urban growth to make the fullest use of public transport and focus development in existing centres and near to major public transport interchanges. PPS1 also states that Planning should seek actively to bring vacant and underused previously developed land and buildings back into beneficial use and to enhance as well as protect biodiversity, natural habitats, the historic environment and landscape and townscape character.

8.42 Planning Policy Statement 13 (Transport) (PPS13) states that local authorities should actively manage the pattern of urban growth to make the fullest use of public transport and maximise the opportunities for making journeys on foot or by bicycle.

8.43 New development brings potential benefits to an area and PPS1 requires that planning policies address social inequalities. In allocating sites the Council will seek opportunities for the potential benefits of new development to be felt by the Boroughs most deprived communities. These benefits could be in relation to employment opportunities, access to services and facilities or access to new affordable housing.

8.44 New development will have an impact on the character of an area, and PPS1 states that planning policies should seek to protect and enhance the quality, character and amenity value of the countryside and urban areas. In choosing locations for new development consideration needs to be given to which sites will have potentially positive effects on the character of the locality and which have the least negative impacts and what potential for the mitigation of negative impacts exist.

8.45 The infrastructure requirements of new development needs to be taken into account and development should be prioritised where existing infrastructure, capable of supporting development, exists. The potential for new infrastructure also needs to be considered either for a single site or a collection of sites which would require or contribute to infrastructure provision. The potential opportunities for development to facilitate new infrastructure, which may benefit the wider community, should also be considered when deciding on locations for new development.

Cross References

8.46 This policy should be read in conjunction with the following Core Strategy policies: CS1: Delivering Rotherham's Spatial Strategy, CS2: Release of Major Greenfield Sites, CS5: New Housing Development, CS6: Employment Land Requirement, CS13: Accessible Places and Managing Demand For Travel, CS14: Managing Change in Rotherham's Retail and Service Centres, CS17: Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation and CS28: Infrastructure Delivery and Developer Contributions.
**Delivery**

8.47 Delivery will be through informing the site selection process in production of the Allocations and Policies DPD and the consideration of planning applications in the development management process.

**Key Routes and the Strategic Road Network**

**Context**

8.48 Supporting economic growth is the over-arching aim of the Sheffield City Region Transport Strategy. Economic growth is forecast to create a demand for more trips as more people access new jobs and services in Rotherham and the surrounding City Region. Our Key Routes and the Strategic Road Network will carry many of the new trips associated with economic growth.

8.49 Our network of Key Routes (currently those identified in the Sheffield City Region Transport Strategy and the Third South Yorkshire Local Transport Plan (LTP3)) and the Borough’s Strategic Road routes (M1/M18) will be managed to maintain a road network for the efficient movement of people and goods. Our aim is to develop a high quality road network to connect Rotherham with the main urban centres within the city region (especially Sheffield) and beyond with particular emphasis on high speed links to the Leeds and Manchester City Regions and regional airports. This aim will be developed further in the South Yorkshire Congestion Delivery Plan and a Transport Statement for the Borough, to be published early within the life of the adopted LDF.

---

**Policy CS 4**

**CS4 Key Routes and the Strategic Road Network**

The Key Route and Motorway network will provide efficient access between the main Rotherham Urban Area, Principal Settlements and the regional and national road network. This will be achieved by:

a. Concentrating through traffic on Motorways and ‘A’ Roads with best use being made of the existing road capacity to enable this.

b. Improving specific Key Routes to manage congestion including traffic management measures, bus priority and facilities for cyclists and pedestrians.

c. Integrating Park and Ride projects into bus priority schemes where they create a demonstrable reduction in vehicle mileage and are proven to be self financing.

d. Concentrating road based freight onto those key routes where it would not have an unacceptable impact on local communities.

Investment in key routes will be complemented by improved links into the communities they serve. Where a key route passes through a community or acts as the main transport link between communities, it will be modified to reflect the needs of local people with priority given to accommodating vulnerable road users.
Reasoned Justification

8.50 Policy CS4 will contribute towards achieving Core Strategy Objective 3 which seeks to deliver development in sustainable locations.

8.51 The South Yorkshire Local Transport Plan 2011-16 incorporates the aims and objectives of the Regional Strategy and Regional Transport Strategy (to create a successful and competitive regional economy) with specific emphasis placed on the on the need to tackle congestion, make the road network reliable, improve journey times / bus punctuality and improve strategic road links to neighbouring City Regions and beyond.

8.52 Rotherham has seen traffic levels grow by 17% between 2000 and 2010 (this is just above the national average) and taking into account our aspirations to further improve connectivity and links to employment and education within Rotherham and the Sheffield and Leeds City Regions, our Urban Dynamic Model predicts that by 2026, demand for highway trips will rise by a further 11% with a 10% rise in trips by public transport.

8.53 The Third South Yorkshire Local Transport Plan and Sheffield City Region Transport Strategy acknowledge that more travel is inevitable if our economy is to grow and access is to be improved to local jobs and those in the sub region. The additional trips associated with growth need not result in disproportionate rises in car use. Current morning peak hour cordon counts in Rotherham record around 18,000 car occupants and 5,355 bus passengers. The ratio of bus to car occupants (1 : 3.36) is much less favourable than is recorded in Sheffield (1 : 2.24) and this demonstrates that much can be done to reduce car travel and grow the bus passenger market.

8.54 A network of existing key routes (identified in the Sheffield City Region Transport Strategy 2011-25, LTP3 and South Yorkshire Congestion Delivery Plan) will form the backbone of future road transport investment. These routes will support new and existing land uses and connect people with public transport interchanges, employment centres, retailing and public services. However, we do not intend to substantially increase the physical capacity of the road network and will, instead, invest in transport measures identified and agreed in the Local Transport Plan.

8.55 It should be noted that the Highways Agency will only consider improving the Strategic Road Network to meet traffic generated by new development as a last resort, even if the extra capacity is funded by the private sector. Instead, the Highways Agency will encourage developers to provide a range of sustainable travel options for people using their developments through the use of Transport Assessments and Travel Plans, the role of which is set out in Policy CS13 of the Core Strategy.

8.56 Investment in key routes will be complemented by improved links into the communities they serve. Where a key route passes through a community or acts as the main transport between communities, it will be modified to reflect the needs of local people with priority given to accommodating vulnerable road users.

Cross References

8.57 This policy should be read in conjunction with the following Core Strategy policies: CS1: Delivering Rotherham’s Spatial Strategy, CS3: Location of New Development, CS13: Accessible Places and Managing Demand for Travel, CS22: Freight, and CS31: New Roads.
8.58 This policy should be read in conjunction with the Policies set out in the Regional Strategy, in particular those within the Regional Transport Strategy chapter and with the following:

- Local Transport Plan 2011-26
- Sustainable School Travel Policy
- Highways Asset Management Plan
- Air Quality Management Action Plan
- South Yorkshire Congestion Delivery Plan
- South Yorkshire Park and Ride Strategy
- Regional Freight Strategy
- Yorkshire and Humberside Rail Network Utilisation Strategy
- South Yorkshire Rail Strategy

8.59 In determining applications regard will also be had to guidance in national planning policy, in particular PPG13: Transport.

8.60 Delivery

8.61 This policy will be delivered through the determination of planning applications. The Council and its partners will also take forward transport measures identified and agreed in the Local Transport Plan.

**New housing development**

**Context**

8.62 This policy sets out how the Core strategy will ensure that the future housing requirements of Rotherham are met. This is essential if we are to meet the needs of existing communities and to support the economic growth of Rotherham. New homes are required not only to meet the projected growth in the number of households in the Borough but also to increase the variety of homes available, improving the choice on offer to existing residents and those who may be looking to move to the Borough. Also, for companies considering re-location or expansion into a new area, the availability of suitable homes in sufficient numbers for prospective employees is a key consideration.

8.63 New housing development, in the right places, allows existing communities to grow in a sustainable way and can support existing local services and facilities, either by ensuring that enough people are using them and in some cases by facilitating the provision of new infrastructure and facilities. In order to promote regeneration of urban areas and protect the countryside, new housing should ideally, be built within the existing urban area, prioritising previously developed "brownfield" sites, with development designed to use land efficiently. Greenfield land, particularly in the countryside should only be used where there is not enough land in the urban areas to maintain an adequate supply.

8.64 House prices have increased much more quickly than earnings over the last decade or so, even when the recent falls in house prices are taken into account. The supply of new houses, compared to demand is one of the most important factors determining the price of housing. Building enough new homes, to meet increasing demand, is key to improving the overall affordability of housing in Rotherham's communities.
Many prospective house buyers are currently finding it difficult to access credit, and this has led to recent falls in house prices. However, the number of households in the Borough is projected to continue rising and the underlying requirement for new homes still exists: there are many households that require a new home but cannot afford it or acquire a mortgage at the moment.

Given the above, it is important that the allocation and release of housing land is managed in a way that ensures that there is always an adequate supply of housing land while ensuring that the growth of communities is sustainable, supports regeneration and prevents unnecessary loss of valuable countryside.

### Policy CS 5

**CS5 New Housing Development**

Sufficient land will be allocated in the Sites and Policies DPD to meet Rotherham’s housing requirement of 12,750 dwellings for the period 2012 to 2027. The following principles will be applied to the allocation and release of these sites:

a. Allocations will be distributed according to the Spatial Strategy set out in Policy CS1 - Delivering Rotherham’s Spatial Strategy
b. In each settlement site allocations shall be made that would promote sustainable growth, having regard to the criteria laid down in Policy CS3 - Location of New Development
c. Allocations will normally be released according to the phasing criteria laid out below, subject to maintaining a five year supply of deliverable sites:
   i. brownfield sites within urban areas
   ii. other sites within urban areas
   iii. sustainable brownfield urban extensions
   iv. sustainable greenfield urban extensions as indicated on the proposal map
d. Housing development will be expected to make efficient use of land while protecting or enhancing the character of the local area.

While the release of brownfield sites will normally be prioritised, greenfield sites should be released where it can be demonstrated that they are identified as the most sustainable and deliverable alternatives to meet the housing requirement or early release is essential for infrastructure delivery.

### Reasoned Justification

By delivering land to meet our housing requirements to 2027 this policy will help achieve Core Strategy objectives 1 (scale of future growth), 3 (delivering development in sustainable locations), 7 (providing housing which meets a range of different needs) and 17 (delivering necessary infrastructure).
Specific sites will be allocated in order to meet Rotherham's housing requirement. Government policy seeks to increase the number and quality of new homes being delivered. Planning Policy Statement 3 (Housing) (PPS3) requires that Local Planning Authorities should set out how they enable continuous delivery of housing for at least 15 years from the date of adoption of the plan. As part of the 15 year supply Local Planning Authorities need to identify sufficient specific deliverable sites to deliver housing in the first five years. For the remainder of the period Local Planning Authorities must identify enough land to meet the requirement for 10 years either as specific developable sites or in some cases five years of developable sites and broad areas sufficient to accommodate the requirement for a further five years. PPS3 also requires that the 15 year supply of housing land is managed in a way that ensures a five year supply of deliverable sites is available at any given time.

It is expected that the Sheffield/Rotherham Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) will demonstrated a supply of deliverable and developable sites well in excess of the 15 year requirement. However the amount of land available in suitable locations within the urban areas, previously developed or otherwise, falls far short of the amount needed to meet the 15 year requirement. It will not, therefore, be possible to deliver all of Rotherham's requirement on brownfield sites. The SHLAA will provide important evidence to support the site selection process, telling us which sites are suitable and, if released, when they are likely to be developed.

The Government’s policy is to ensure that housing is developed in suitable locations which offer a range of community facilities and with good access to jobs, key services and infrastructure. Also, a key objective of Government Guidance is that Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) should make effective use of land by re-using land that has been previously developed. The Core Strategy's approach to allocating and releasing land for new housing is to priorities the release of previously developed land and land within the existing urban areas in order to achieve these aims and to, wherever possible, protect the countryside. When allocating sites to meet the growth identified for each area, it will be assumed that suitable brownfield sites, that are likely to come forward within the plan period, will be chosen before deciding which possible urban extension sites will be allocated.

The need to maintain a five year supply of deliverable sites is an overriding consideration when deciding which sites should be released first. Current economic conditions and serious constraints on many of the remaining previously developed sites, may mean that development is not economically viable in the short term. In these cases, the release of some Greenfield sites will, therefore be inevitable, even though there may be some brownfield sites remaining. Evidence provided by a regularly updated SHLAA allow decisions to be made regarding the deliverability of brownfield sites at any given time.

The monitoring of delivery against the housing trajectory, along with evidence in the SHLAA regarding deliverability, will allow us to make decisions throughout the plan period that will ensure that the housing requirement is delivered. Sites will inevitably come forward for housing that have not been allocated, these are known as "windfalls". Windfall sites may be those that are too small to allocate or larger sites that have not been identified as potential housing sites at this time; e.g. a commercial site that has become disused and is no longer viable for employment use. A substantial proportion of the housing delivered in recent years has been on windfall site. Although the proportion of future housing delivered on windfalls is likely to be lower, these will still form a part of housing delivered. We can estimate the windfalls that may come forward in the future, but we cannot factor them into the housing supply as part of this plan. Windfalls will, however, be factored into the supply throughout the plan period, as and when they come forward.
8.73 PPS3 requires local planning authorities to promote designs and layouts which make efficient and effective use of land. The density of new housing development is important; the higher the density i.e. the number of dwellings for each Hectare of land, the less land will be required to build the number of houses needed. Maximising the density of new development will, therefore, reduce the amount of countryside that will need to be allocated. Higher densities can also help to support existing service centres by increasing the number of people that live within walking distance of them. Higher densities should not be an excuse for poor design or impact unacceptably on the existing community and townscape.

Cross References

8.74 This policy should be read in conjunction with the following Core Strategy policies: CS1: Delivering Rotherham's Spatial Strategy, CS2: Release of Major Greenfield Sites, CS3: Location of New Development, CS13: Accessible Places and Managing Demand For Travel and CS17: Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation

Delivery

8.75 Delivery will be through informing the site selection process in production of the Sites and Policies DPD and the consideration of planning applications in the development management process.

Employment land requirement

Context

8.76 Employment creation has been one of the Council's longstanding priorities. Through access to a range of funding sources, a variety of regeneration schemes, and with the assistance of the Council's partners and private sector investment, significant improvement has been made to Rotherham's economy. The employment rate of the working age population rose from the 65%-66% range during the mid-1990's to reach 74% in 2004/05, close to the national average. Employment in Rotherham has fallen back from this high and the impact of the current recession can be clearly seen from 2008, with the employment rate now having fallen back to just below 70%.

8.77 Rotherham has strong links with a number of its neighbouring authorities, particularly within the South Yorkshire sub-region where there is a long history of partnership working. As part of the Sheffield City Region there will be opportunities for the links with our neighbours to be built upon to improve employment opportunities within Rotherham, and access to jobs for Rotherham's residents.

8.78 Rotherham's location means that it benefits from excellent road, rail and air infrastructure. The Sheffield and Rotherham Joint Economy Study, 2007, identified that Sheffield and Rotherham share a single and very successful economy, giving residents a choice of accessible job opportunities and allowing businesses to benefit from market linkages. The corridor between Rotherham town centre and Sheffield, along Templeborough and Meadowbank Road, ties into areas continuing to be the focus of economic growth in Sheffields Development Framework.

8.79 In Barnsley and Doncaster the key relationships are focused around the Dearne and Robin Hood Airport. Barnsley's Core Strategy (Publication) Consultation document (February 2010) identifies the Barnsley Growth Corridor stretching down the eastern half of Barnsley into Rotherham. Within
this corridor it expresses support for the Dearne Valley Eco Vision, building upon the existing employment provision at Manvers. Doncaster’s Employment Land Review (December 2009) also highlights the importance of the Airport as an economic driver.

**8.80** Rotherham has over 2.84 million sq m of floorspace on the main industrial estates with over 22% of this constructed within the last 10 years. To ensure that Rotherham continues to provide sustainable, accessible job opportunities and to benefit from economic growth it is important that sufficient land is provided to allow for new economic developments.

---

**Policy CS 6**

**CS6 Employment Land Requirement**

Sufficient land will be allocated in the Sites and Policies DPD to meet Rotherham’s employment land requirement of 230 hectares of land for business and industrial development and 5 hectares of land for office floorspace. Employment generating opportunities will be provided through the regeneration and intensification of previously developed land, and through the allocation of land necessary to support employment growth in sustainable locations and meet modern economic requirements.

---

**Reasoned Justification**

**8.81** Planning Policy Statement 4 (Planning for Sustainable Economic Growth) (PPS4) sets out the Government’s objectives to achieve sustainable economic growth, which include improving economic performance, promoting regeneration and tackling deprivation, delivering more sustainable patterns of development, promoting town and other centres as locations for new development and raising the quality of life and the environment in rural areas.

**8.82** Planning Policy Statement 1 (Delivering Sustainable Development) requires that Local Planning Authorities should ensure that suitable locations are available for industrial, commercial, retail, public sector (e.g. health and education) tourism and leisure developments, so that the economy can prosper. They should bring forward sufficient land of a suitable quality in appropriate locations to meet expected needs. Policies E1 and E3 of the Regional Strategy support this, identifying the need to deliver economic growth, restructuring and diversification. They require Local Planning Authorities to ensure the availability of sufficient land and premises in sustainable locations to meet the needs of a modern economy, taking account of the need for additional land and floorspace and ongoing restructuring and modernisation of the manufacturing sector.

**8.83** The cornerstone of our approach to transforming the local economy is the provision of sites suitable to meet modern economic needs. To ensure that sufficient land is available we will protect existing employment land and allocate new sites in line with the Borough’s growth strategy which are well suited to modern economic needs.

**8.84** It is acknowledged that as one of the main urban centres within the Sheffield City Region, Rotherham plays an important role in providing employment and local services. Developing the economic roles and functions of these main centres will be important to the success of the City Region.
and helping hinterlands in transition to new economic roles will also be important in relation to helping the main urban areas develop. The City Region also recognises that the larger centres, such as Dinnington, contain significant levels of economic activity in their own right.

8.85 Between 1998 and 2004 an additional 24,000 jobs were created in Rotherham, more than double the rate of increase seen regionally and nationally. Whilst the number of people in employment has slipped back due to the impact of the recession, Rotherham's Local Development Framework seeks to maintain population and sustainable economic growth by providing a balanced choice of land for new development (Core Strategy Objective 1). The Economic Plan for Rotherham 2008-2020 recognises the importance of land being available to accommodate new businesses and provide opportunities for existing businesses which may relocate to other areas. Allocating sufficient land for new economic development, through the Sites and policies DPD, will help achieve this.

8.86 Rotherham's 2010 Employment Land Review establishes not only how Rotherham's economy is performing at present but also how it is likely to change and the scale of likely demand to 2027. Manufacturing and public sector employment currently make up over 40% of the economy with growth in the past being seen within the construction, wholesale/retail, transport and communications, and public and other services sectors.

**Figure 4 Forecast Economic Sectoral Change in Rotherham by 2016**

8.87 Figure 4 'Forecast Economic Sectoral Change in Rotherham by 2016' above, based on previous Sheffield City Region forecasts, gives a broad indication of how Rotherham's economic sectors may change in the longer term. Public services, manufacturing, construction and wholesale/retail are forecast to remain as key economic sectors within Rotherham. Growth is also expected across a range of Yorkshire Forward identified clusters, with perhaps the most significant contribution expected in advanced engineering and metals, building on the success of the Advanced Manufacturing Park at Waverley.
Since the conclusion of the Employment Land Review the impact of public spending cutbacks on public sector employment has become clearer. Yorkshire Forward's 2011 report "Re-balancing the Yorkshire and Humber Economy" found that the region could lose up to 53,000 jobs and £7.3bn in output over the next five years. However it concluded that in Rotherham the private sector is expected to create enough jobs to more than offset the contraction in the public sector.

There is a broad provision of existing stock of employment land and premises primarily located within the borough’s industrial estates. Around half of the commercial and industrial floorspace was constructed prior to 1970; however significant growth during the 1980s saw an influx of more modern premises. In 2009 almost 14% of floorspace in industrial estates was vacant; a similar level to that seen in 2006. Between 2002 and 2009 an average of 11% of floorspace was vacant. It is estimated that office floorspace grew by around 10% between 1998 and 2004. It is estimated that there are currently around 168,500 sq m of office floorspace within Rotherham’s industrial estates, and that vacant floorspace and sites with planning permission amount to almost 65,000 sq m of available floorspace.

The Regional Strategy forecast that from 2006 Rotherham could see around 1590 new jobs per year. This equates to around 31,800 new jobs between 2006 and 2026. Around 25,400 of these jobs would be accommodated on traditional employment land, with the remainder being derived from main town centre uses.

However Rotherham's 2010 Employment Land presents a more up to date assessment of the likely employment land requirements. It considered evidence for higher employment land provision, in the region of 390 hectares, based on historic land take up but concluded that this was overly optimistic having regard to the current economic climate. It also considered evidence based on labour supply and demand.

In terms of labour supply, to meet a realistic target of 75% of Rotherham's working age population being in employment would require an additional 15,000 jobs to 2027. In terms of demand, and taking account of planned developments, it is forecast that between 2008 and 2026 there may be an additional 12,000 jobs based in Rotherham. Rotherham could also see up to 3000 more office jobs over the LDF Plan Period. These labour and supply forecasts are not directly comparable due to the effect of commuting patterns within the region, meaning that some jobs within Rotherham will be taken by those commuting into the borough and conversely some of Rotherham's working age population will travel to jobs outside of the borough. However they give a good indication of the scale of employment to plan for.

Taking account of unimplemented planning permissions and the capacity of existing employment areas to accommodate some of these new job opportunities, it is considered that around 230 hectares of land for new economic development will be required to meet the broad requirements of 12 - 15,000 additional jobs, and a further 5 hectares of land for office floorspace.

Cross References

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following Core Strategy policies: CS1: Delivering Rotherham's Spatial Strategy, CS3: Location of New Development, CS12: Rotherham Regeneration and Flood Alleviation Area, CS13: Accessible Places and Managing Demand for Travel,
CS18: Transforming Rotherham’s Economy, CS19 Tourism and the Visitor Economy, CS22 Freight and CS28: Infrastructure Delivery and Developer Contributions

8.95 This policy should be read in conjunction with the following Regional Strategy policies: Policy E1: Creating a successful and competitive regional economy and Policy E3: Land and premises for economic development

8.96 Supporting policies will also be set out in the Sites and Policies DPD

**Delivery**

8.97 Delivering the allocation and development of this scale of employment land is to be achieved through working with developers and partners, and facilitated by the allocation of land for development and policies against which planning applications will be judged, to be made within the Sites and Policies DPD.

**Green Belt**

**Context**

8.98 Rotherham’s Green Belt, which covers approximately 65% of the borough, regulates the growth of urban areas, prevents the coalescence of settlements and protects and preserves easy access to the countryside. Importantly it has also served as a valuable planning tool to support the Borough’s regeneration credentials.

8.99 The Green Belt in Rotherham was adopted in June 1990 following preparation of the Green Belt Local Plan. The Green Belt was then “rolled forward” into the Unitary Development Plan (UDP), which was formally adopted in June 1999. The current Green Belt has, therefore, been in existence for 21 years. The boundary was tightly drawn around the built-up areas of Rotherham in order to reinforce the regeneration strategy that the UDP was based upon. The UDP was prepared in the aftermath of extensive steel and colliery closures which had resulted in Rotherham having vast tracts of derelict and despoiled land and high unemployment levels.

8.100 The UDP’s regeneration strategy was prepared to direct new development towards these derelict areas in order to replace jobs lost through the colliery and steel works closures and to improve the environment, enabling Rotherham to compete both nationally and internationally in attracting inward investment. This strategy has proved so successful that the majority of the derelict land has now been reclaimed and is once again in productive use. The down-side of this success is that the need for future development land cannot be satisfied within the built-up areas of Rotherham alone.
Policy CS 7

CS7 Green Belt

Detailed boundaries for the Green Belt will be shown on the Proposals Map which will accompany the Sites & Policies DPD.

Land within the Green Belt will be protected from inappropriate development as set out in national planning policy.

Reasoned Justification

8.101 The Council recognises the important role of the Green Belt in the borough, particularly in preserving its towns and settlements from merging into one another, safeguarding the countryside and concentrating development into its urban areas. As such it is a key element in achieving sustainable development. This is reinforced through Planning Policy Guidance 2 (Green Belts) (PPG2) which states that “the fundamental aim of Green Belt policy is to prevent urban sprawl by keeping land permanently open; the most important attribute of Green Belts is their openness. Green Belts can shape patterns of development at a sub-regional and regional scale, and to help ensure that development occurs in locations allocated in development plans. They help to protect the countryside, be it in agricultural, forestry or other use and can assist in moving towards more sustainable patterns of urban development.”

8.102 These considerations need to be balanced against the key corporate priorities for the Council which include economic growth and revitalisation of Rotherham town centre. The Core Strategy’s housing and employment land requirements reflect these high priority areas by providing sufficient long-term employment land to encourage economic development and ensuring sufficient new housing provision to accommodate population growth. In Rotherham these requirements form the exceptional circumstances to justify exploring the release of land that currently has a Green Belt designation.

8.103 Whilst the Council must plan for future growth, it also needs to protect sensitive areas from development and ensure that the pattern of development does not have a negative impact on sustainability. This, allied to the established exceptional circumstances, forms the foundation to a Review with an overarching ambition of not causing material harm to the fundamental aims of national Green Belt policy.

8.104 The Green Belt Review will provide an understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of existing Green Belt designations, plus a consideration of wider sustainability issues, so that via the Site Allocations DPD we can provide recommendations to review the Green Belt where appropriate. This will provide certainty throughout the plan period to 2027 that no further changes will be necessary. We fully understand that the integrity of the Green Belt can be seriously compromised where its boundaries are constantly changing. Furthermore, public confidence in Green Belt policies is very largely dependent on their certainty and longevity.

8.105 In order to avoid future alterations to the Green Belt boundary, it may be necessary to retain undeveloped land between urban areas and the Green Belt which may be required to meet
longer term development needs. Areas of such safeguarded land will be subject to technical assessment and public consultation when the Core Strategy and Sites & Policies DPD are reviewed, if consideration of development needs at that time indicate that additional land is needed in the area. In the intervening period, development would be restricted to that necessary for the operation of existing uses. For those areas of countryside outside of the Green Belt, recognising the need to protect the countryside for its own sake may fulfil a number of objectives including providing for attractive, economically healthy settlements and helping to retain agriculture, forestry, nature conservation uses and other non renewable resources. This would accord with Government guidance on the control of development in the countryside as set down in PPS7 (2004) ‘Sustainable Development in Rural Areas.

8.106 The regeneration function of Green Belt may also be maintained (even though land has been removed from the Green Belt) by having strict timing/phasing criteria relative to the supply of land for housing and employment, with the re-use first of existing urban land.

8.107 In accordance with the approach being taken, where land is removed from the Green Belt for built development the opportunity should be taken to compensate by enhancing the features and facilities of the remaining Green Belt areas in that vicinity through the creation of Green Infrastructure. This will give some long term reassurance about the long term characteristic of the Green Belt.

8.108 The difficulties and inconsistencies caused by the tightly drawn boundaries of the Green Belt around some parts of the Borough are also recognised. The Green Belt in some locations follows irrational, arbitrary lines, or features on the Ordnance Survey Mapping, which bears no relationship to circumstances locally or features on the ground. Therefore, it is also considered appropriate to make minor alterations to the Green Belt boundary during the review process, in order to remove irregularities and to take account of circumstances on the ground. It should be noted that they were not introduced to facilitate development or meet housing needs, but to provide a realistic and pragmatic approach to the boundary of the Green Belt throughout the Borough.

Cross References

8.109 This policy should be read in conjunction with the following Core Strategy policies: CS1: Delivering Rotherham’s Spatial Strategy, CS2: Release of Major Greenfield Sites, CS3: Location of New Development, CS5: New Housing Development, CS6: Employment Land Requirements, CS8: Green Infrastructure, CS9: Landscape, CS20: Green Space, CS24: Biodiversity & Geodiversity, and CS25: Minerals.

8.110 The Regional Strategy published in May 2008, while not specifically advocating a review of Green Belt boundaries for Rotherham did, through Policy YH9, give authorities the right to undertake localised reviews of boundaries where local circumstances justified such action.

8.111 PPG2 makes it clear that most types of development in the Green Belt are inappropriate and can only be permitted in very special circumstances. Policies in the Sites and Policies DPD will set out the types of use which can be considered in the Green Belt and the criteria which must be met. Planning applications on land within the Green Belt will be determined in accordance with PPG2 (or updated national planning policy) and the policies within the Sites and Policies DPD.
This policy will contribute towards achieving Core Strategy objectives 1 (Scale of future growth), 2 (Green Belts), 3 (Sustainable locations), 5 (Landscape and settlement identity), 7 (Provision for Housing), 8 (Provision for employment), and 12 (Biodiversity/Geodiversity).

This policy will also contribute to the Community Strategy cross-cutting theme of Sustainable Development through making sure there is a high quality environment sustained through minimising harm from development. The strategic theme of Rotherham Achieving will be satisfied through providing a high quality of life in the countryside.

**Delivery**

Development in the Green Belt will be managed and controlled through determining planning applications against national policy and detailed policies set out in the Sites and Policies DPD. The Green Belt will be maintained through the appropriate designation of land in the proposals maps allied to the Sites and Policies DPD. Requires co-operation of landowners & countryside interest groups.

**Green Infrastructure**

**Context**

Green Infrastructure is a network of multi-functional green spaces and other environmental assets, which helps to provide a natural life support system for people and wildlife. These assets support native species, maintain natural and ecological processes, sustain air and water resources, and contribute to the health and quality of life of people and communities. As such, Green Infrastructure may also be seen as part of the life-support system of an area; providing functions and environmental services to a community, such as employment, recreation, physical health and mental well being, social interaction, contact with nature, drainage and flood management, climate change adaptation and pollution mitigation.

The Green Infrastructure network for Rotherham (as shown in Map 6) links in with the wider Green Infrastructure network for the South Yorkshire sub-region. New development will be located within this network and will be expected to contribute towards enhancing it. The Local Planning Authority will liaise with neighbouring Local Authorities to ensure that potential linkages between regional, sub-regional, district and local corridors are recognised in the development of specific proposals.
**Policy CS 8**

**CS8 Green Infrastructure**

Rotherham’s Green Infrastructure network will be protected, extended, enhanced, managed and maintained. Strategic Green Infrastructure Corridors have been identified in the Region and the broad extent of these for Rotherham, are shown in Map 6. The precise boundaries of these corridors will be identified in the Sites and Policies DPD.

Proposals will be supported which make an overall contribution to the Green Infrastructure network based upon the principles set out below:

a. Securing provision, either on or off site, of an appropriate size, shape, scale and type and having regard to the nature of the development and its impact on the wider network
b. Delivering opportunities identified in local and sub-regional green infrastructure strategies, including long term management and maintenance of these assets where appropriate
c. Avoiding damage to or loss of green infrastructure assets; where loss is unavoidable and the benefits of the development outweigh the loss, appropriate compensation measures should be included as part of development proposals
d. Prioritising investment to those areas where net gains in the range of functions can be secured, particularly those that improve access to the urban core and remedy local deficiencies in open space accessibility and quality.
e. Improving connectivity from new developments outside of the corridors (especially those in close proximity to an identified corridor) to the strategic Green Infrastructure network
f. Helping reduce the impacts of climate change, by promoting natural and semi natural flood storage along the regionally important rivers Don, Rother and Dearne
g. Assessing the proximity of development proposals to accessible natural greenspace (ANGSt) when considering green space provision within a locality

Masterplanning proposals for major developments, particularly the proposed Urban Extensions will be required to contribute to an attractive and connected environment by:

a. creating green corridors that link urban areas and new developments to the wider countryside and the public footpath and bridleway network
b. creating and enhancing links from areas of growth to greenspaces and assets within existing urban areas
c. incorporating assets that define and soften the edges of settlements to provide a quality transition between urban and rural areas particularly where new development provides opportunities for enhancing the urban fringe at greenfield urban extensions
d. preventing fragmentation of habitats and enabling wildlife to move around the ecological network
Reasoned Justification

8.117 Rotherham’s Green Infrastructure network provides an opportunity to deliver and coordinate future growth and environmental improvements in a way that encourages investment into the borough; promotes access to the countryside and recreation as well as protecting and enhancing the character and quality of our settlements. This is encompassed by the definition given in Planning Policy Statement 12 "Green Infrastructure is a network of multi-functional green space, both new and existing, both rural and urban, which supports the natural and ecological processes and is integral to the health and quality of life of sustainable communities" .

8.118 Natural England advises that Green Infrastructure should be embedded in the plan making process, and that the multi functional nature of Green Infrastructure means that a number of development plan policies can support its implementation (see 'Cross References' below). This overarching policy serves to ensure that Green Infrastructure is prioritised in planning decisions.

8.119 In partnership with Natural England (through the Yorkshire & Humber Green Infrastructure Mapping Project 2010) we have identified an initial strategic network of Green Infrastructure which includes the following corridors:

- River Dearne - Regionally significant, it provides green infrastructure linkages through Barnsley and the Dearne Towns area. Opportunities include addressing accessible greenspace deficit, landscape and historic environment enhancement, biomass production and flood management opportunities.

- River Don - The regionally important Don corridor is broad and diverse passing rural and urban areas with some parts remaining in heavy industrial use reflecting the historic and economic development of the area. Within Rotherham investment could improve access to the river as there is little existing access.

- Rother - The regional Rother corridor runs from the south of Rotherham borough before it merges into the Don Corridor in the town centre. This corridor extends outside South Yorkshire into Chesterfield. There are enhancement opportunities that will increase the linkages between the river and the surrounding water and wetland sites, building upon current recreational opportunities in a sustainable manner. Opportunities may exist to tackle air quality management issues. Major development proposals at Waverley (former Orgreave Colliery site) have the potential to create additional natural conservation and recreation features for the benefit of existing communities and the incoming populations.

- Chesterfield Canal - The Chesterfield Canal runs through the south of Rotherham on its way from the River Trent to Chesterfield. It is shown as sub regional significance for its connectivity and function outside the Yorkshire and Humber region. There is potential for a marina to be developed in the former Kiveton Colliery greenspace and fishing ponds area.

- Maltby - The Maltby (District) corridor extends from the outskirts of north east Thurcroft to encompass the town of Maltby and surrounding areas. Opportunities exist for future initiatives with the inclusion of the currently active Maltby Colliery and the former Thurcroft Colliery site and also improvements in the Maltby urban area.
• Thrybergh - The Thrybergh (District) corridor stretches from east of Rotherham town centre out across the urban fringe into countryside. Opportunities for enhancement exist in the urban and urban fringe locations of this corridor.

• Wentworth - This district corridor starts at the edge of the Rotherham urban area and extends north west to connect to the Elsecar corridor. Green infrastructure projects would need to maintain and enhance the rural character of the area.

• Elsecar - The Elsecar (District) corridor runs from Harley village in Rotherham through Elsecar village, Elsecar Canal and Knoll Beck to the River Dearne. Assets in this district importance corridor include Elsecar Heritage Centre, Elsecar Park and Elsecar Reservoir/canal. Opportunities include addressing accessible green space deficit and enhancing both the landscape and historic environment.

• Anston Brook & Sandbeck - Locally significant, the Anston Brook & Sandbeck corridor sweeps around the western edge of Dinnington, moving north-east wards towards the stately home and Capability Brown designed landscapes of Sandbeck Park. Opportunities for green infrastructure enhancement include creating links between existing urban areas and new developments into the wider countryside.

8.120 The strategic corridors identified are important valued features which define the borough. They form part of a wider network of Green Infrastructure that allows people and wildlife to move through the countryside and built up areas. Whilst the corridors are the focus for creating and improving green infrastructure, it will also be provided and improved through new development and elsewhere as appropriate. The identified corridors within Rotherham may also be subject to refinement as the various Green Infrastructure strategies are developed.

8.121 This includes the South Yorkshire Green Infrastructure (SYGI) Strategy. Part 1 of this work puts forward a series of ambitious, high-level goals, supported by proposals for the kinds of actions that can deliver these goals. It includes a masterplan, highlighting priority areas for improvements in specific locations. The strategy goes on to describe the kinds of potential actions that can be taken forward in partnership, to address the main strategic challenges faced by South Yorkshire. This document also sets out how Part 2, will develop a five-year delivery programme, which will be refreshed on a rolling basis. The proposed approach is to focus on improvements that will deliver benefits across the four local authority districts, rather than solely local impacts. In due course, the SYGI strategy may be adopted as a Supplementary Planning Document.

8.122 Consideration will also be given to preparing more detailed green infrastructure strategies at the local level which will provide a vision and framework for the protection and enhancement of green infrastructure. This will take account of planned growth and will include guidelines for developers to ensure that new Green infrastructure is provided to serve new development and that improvements to existing networks are made to ensure that new development does not place undue pressure on existing provision. Within identified urban extensions, a key aspect of the design code (see Policy CS11 Sustainable Design) for a scheme’s development will be details of the intended green infrastructure provision.
On a wider level, green infrastructure must be designed as an integral part of all new development (including transport and river corridors and gateways) to create a safe and accessible environment that softens the landscape, provides linkages between assets and other facilities (e.g. schools and residential areas) and addresses deficiencies in the network. Green infrastructure provision includes:

- managed and natural green spaces, including woodlands, gardens, allotments, recreational space (e.g. playing pitches) and formal parks and amenity areas. These might be public or private assets in both rural and urban locations

- green corridors and assets including footpaths, bridleways and cycle paths; disused railway lines, cycle lanes within the road network, greenways, waterways and tree lined avenues and other features that enhance links between habitats, places and tourist activities, close to where we live and work

- nature conservation sites and heritage assets

- individual or distinctive features of the landscape, such as green/brown roofs, and ancient woodland

- habitat creation schemes and ecosystems to maximise biodiversity and reduce fragmentation

- flood alleviation measures such as sustainable urban drainage systems, carbon sinks and water storage areas

The economic benefits of green infrastructure should also be maximised and can include the creation of an attractive environment which improves image and encourages investment and development, increased property values and more tourism. There are also increased opportunities for landowners to reap economic benefits through managing their natural assets for woodfuel, carbon sequestration and local food production.

Green Infrastructure will have an important role to play in helping Rotherham to adapt to climate change. For example by moderating urban temperatures, contributing to flood risk management through storing excess rainfall and increasing surface porosity to ease drainage, the positive impacts of tree planting in terms of CO2, and opportunities for the provision of renewable energy. New and improved Green Infrastructure could be created, delivering transport routes and options for non-motorised travel between residential and employment centres.

Cross References

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following Core Strategy policies: CS7: Green Belt, CS9: Landscape, CS10: Valuing the Historic Environment, CS11: Sustainable Design, CS13: Accessible Places and Managing Demand for Travel, CS20: Green Space, CS23: Community Health & Safety, CS24: Biodiversity & Geodiversity, CS26: Managing the Water Environment, and CS28: Infrastructure Delivery & Developer Contributions.
Regional Strategy Policy YH8 deals explicitly with Green Infrastructure. Green Infrastructure will be formed, developed and protected by other Regional Strategy policies, in particular ENV 6: Forestry, trees and woodland, ENV8: Biodiversity, ENV9: Historic environment and ENV10: Landscape.

As part of the approach to more sustainable living and climate change adaptation, Green Infrastructure is increasingly recognised as an essential component. This is reflected in various aspects of national and regional planning policy including Planning Policy Statement 1 (Delivering Sustainable Development), its supplement entitled 'Planning and Climate Change' and Planning Policy Statement 12 (Local Spatial Planning). A number of other planning policy statements are also relevant in relation to Green Infrastructure. These include Planning Policy Statement 7 (Sustainable Development in Rural Areas) which has an emphasis on landscape character conservation and enhancement, Planning Policy Statement 9 (Biodiversity and Geological Conservation), Planning Policy Statement 25 (Planning and Flood Risk), and Planning Policy Statement 22 (Renewable Energy.)

Policy CS8 will contribute towards achieving Core Strategy objectives 5 (Landscape and settlement identity), 6 (Design), 10 (Greenspaces, sport and recreation), 12 (Biodiversity/Geodiversity), 15 (Managing the water environment), and 17 (Infrastructure delivery).

This policy will also contribute to the Community Strategy cross-cutting theme of Sustainable Development through making sure there is a high quality environment sustained through minimising harm from development. Allied to this, the strategic themes of Rotherham Achieving, Alive, Safe and Proud will be satisfied.

Delivery

The Council will work with partners, developers, the private sector and agencies to deliver Green Infrastructure and collaborate with adjacent local authorities to ensure that Rotherham's Green Infrastructure assets complement and link with cross boundary Green Infrastructure network and corridors. This will be facilitated as necessary by policies against which planning applications will be judged, to be made within the Sites and Policies DPD. Supplementary Planning Documents may also be adopted to set out Green Infrastructure requirements in more detail.
Map 7 Green Infrastructure

![Map of Green Infrastructure in the region with various districts and corridors marked.](image-url)
Landscape

Context

8.132 Landscapes are a mix of natural and cultural elements, giving rise to the European Landscape Convention's definition of landscape: 'An area as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction or natural and/or human factors' (Article 1, European Landscape Convention Council of Europe, 2002). This recognises that we are a part of the landscape, both shaping and being shaped by it.

8.133 Our landscapes are important to us for many reasons. They are a shared resource for everyone, irrespective of ownership, ability or background. They offer enjoyment and a place for activities. They provide a link to the past, and an inspiration for culture. They provide a wide range of social and health benefits. They are important in attracting investment and development and in bringing people to the Borough. They are a vital and frequently undervalued resource that must be safeguarded and enhanced for the benefit of future generations.

8.134 The variety of our landscapes is the result of interaction between geology, landform, soils, vegetation and climate, combined with the legacy of human occupation and use.

8.135 Landscape Character Assessment (LCA) is a recognised system for identifying, describing, classifying and mapping this variety of landscape. LCA provides baseline information that can be used to guide landscape change - by feeding into development plans, decisions on development proposals, land management plans and strategies for land use.

8.136 Detailed descriptions for national character areas present in Rotherham are given in "Countryside Character Volume 3: Yorkshire and Humber" (1999). In 2009 an outline “Landscape Character Assessment and Landscape Capacity Study” was carried out in Rotherham. In this study, eleven main landscape character areas (and further subdivisions) were identified (see The “Landscape Character Assessment and Landscape Capacity Study” (2009)). Particular landscape features identified in Rotherham include the relatively intact areas of historic parkland at Wentworth in the west of the Borough and Sandbeck in the east. The landscape within the east of the Borough is heavily influenced by the underlying limestone geology, which is replaced by a coalfield landscape in the western half of the Borough. The Rivers Rother, Don and Dearne also locally influence the landscape.

8.137 Land of particularly high landscape quality in the Borough was previously identified and protected through local planning designations as “Areas of High Landscape Value” under Policies ENV1.1 and ENV1.2 in the Rotherham Unitary Development Plan (1999).

8.138 The policy approach to the protection and enhancement of the landscape in Rotherham is to continue to provide the highest level of protection to the Areas of High Landscape Value until such a time as a comprehensive Landscape Character Assessment has been prepared. Once the Landscape Character Assessment work is completed, development will be required to respect or enhance the landscape character area in which it is proposed as set out in the outline “Landscape Character Assessment and Landscape Capacity Study” (2009).
Policy CS 9

CS9 Landscape

New development will be required to safeguard and enhance the quality, character, distinctiveness and amenity value of the Borough’s landscapes. This will be achieved through the principles set out below:

a. All new development proposals in and adjoining the countryside will be required to respect and enhance the character and distinctiveness of the relevant National Character Areas and the Local Landscape Character Areas identified for Rotherham.

b. Within Areas of High Landscape Value, development will only be permitted where it will not detract from the landscape or visual character of the area and where appropriate standards of design and landscape architecture are achieved.

c. Important views including landmarks and skylines will be safeguarded and enhanced. Proposals that reduce the negative visual impact of landscape detractors will be encouraged.

d. Development will respect the setting of the Borough’s settlements.

e. Careful consideration will be given to the capacity of the landscape to accommodate renewable energy developments, the ability to mitigate visual intrusion and the cumulative impact of individual sites.

f. Where opportunities exist, the Council, and its partners, will support landscape enhancement, restoration, reclamation and other environmental improvements to enhance the quality, appearance and attractiveness of the Borough and encourage future investment, development and tourism.

g. Landscape works shall be appropriate to the scale of the development.

h. Developers will be required to put in place effective landscape management mechanisms including long term landscape maintenance.

Reasoned Justification

8.139 The aim of this policy sets out to provide a positive framework for landscape in Rotherham. Most of Rotherham is currently open countryside. Protecting, and managing the diverse environment is therefore a key objective of the Core Strategy.

8.140 Policy CS9 will make a vital contribution to the spatial strategy, providing a framework for the protection of the countryside, minimising the ill effects of new development on the landscape, mitigating declining environmental quality and seeking landscape enhancements. Landscape enhancements will be required to avoid any significant adverse impact associated with new developments. These shall be appropriate to the scale of the development and will be in balance with other considerations (such as respect for the historic environment; bio and geo diversity; hydrology and drainage; green infrastructure, and mitigation and adaption to climate change).

8.141 This Policy includes provision for the safeguard of important views, and proposals that reduce the negative visual impact of landscape detractors will be encouraged. Information on significant landscape features is given in the “Landscape Character Assessment and Landscape
Capacity Study (2009)". A number of assets of landscape significance in Rotherham Metropolitan Borough are recognised for other interests they contain (e.g. they may have one or more planning designations such as Local Wildlife Sites, and they may also receive statutory protection such as a Site of Special Scientific Interest). Historic assets of landscape importance in Rotherham are also recognized through the Registered Parks and Gardens designation.

8.142 Ratification of the European Landscape Convention means that the United Kingdom has agreed to the following common core principles and actions:

- Putting people from all cultures and communities, and their surroundings, at the heart of spatial planning and sustainable development.
- Recognising that the landscape is important everywhere, not just where designated as special, and that whether outstanding or ordinary, landscape is our shared inheritance.
- Increasing awareness and understanding of landscape and its value.
- Promoting a more accessible, integrated and forward-looking approach to managing the landscapes we have inherited, and in creating new ones.

8.143 National planning guidance on landscape is given in a number of national planning policy statements. Planning Policy Statement 1 (Delivering Sustainable Development) gives specific key guidance on landscape, indicating that in development plan preparation planning authorities should seek to enhance as well as protect landscape and townscape character (p27ix), and stating that "Planning should seek to maintain and improve the local environment and help mitigate the effects of declining environmental quality..." (p18) Reference is made to the protection of the historic environment and wider historic landscape in Planning Policy Statement 5 (Planning for the Historic Environment). Planning Policy Statement 9 (Biodiversity and Geological Conservation) gives planning guidance on designated nature conservation sites, important natural habitats and networks of natural habitats. Planning Policy Statement 7 (Sustainable Development in Rural Areas) (PPS7) (p15) states that "Planning authorities should continue to ensure that the quality and character of the wider countryside is protected and where possible enhanced". Planning Policy Statement 22 (Renewable Energy) (p19) requires policies in the development plan to address the minimisation of visual effects arising from renewable energies.

8.144 The value of landscape character assessment as a tool in landscape protection is recognised in PPS7(p24). The completion of a full borough wide Rotherham Landscape Character Assessment will be a priority. Once this Landscape Character Assessment work is completed, development will be required to respect or enhance the landscape character area in which it is proposed as set out in the Landscape Character Assessment. Until this time, the existing local landscape designations “Areas of High Landscape Value” will be maintained.

8.145 The Policy reflects the aspirations of Regional Strategy Policy, which is given primarily in ENV10: Landscape. Other areas relating to landscape in the Regional Strategy are Policy ENV 8 Biodiversity, Policy ENV 6 Forestry, Trees and Woodlands, Policy ENV7 Agricultural land, ENV9 Historic Environment, ENV11 Health, recreation and sport, Policy SY1: South Yorkshire sub area policy and Policy E7: Rural economy.
8.146 “The South Yorkshire Forest Plan” (2002) recognises the importance of a high quality environment for economic regeneration and investment and improved quality of life and identifies landscape restoration, improvement and management zones. The South Yorkshire Forest Plan is expected to be superseded by the “South Yorkshire Green Infrastructure Plan” currently being prepared by the South Yorkshire Forest Team.

8.147 Policy CS9 contributes to the strategic themes identified in Rotherham’s Community Strategy. Landscape is an important element of the environment in which we live, work and learn, promoting well being and encouraging a more active lifestyle, so contributing to themes such as Achieving, Learning, Alive, Safe, and Sustainable Development.

8.148 The impact of new developments on the landscape was a key area of concern in the Rotherham LDF Issues and Options Consultation 2010.

8.149 Policy CS9 principally addresses Core Strategy Objective 5 (Landscape and settlement identity) by helping promote the continuing management, protection and enhancement of the Borough’s distinctive historical features and landscape character. It also contributes towards achieving Core strategy Policies 2 (Green Belt), 5 (Landscape and settlement identity), 6 (Design), 10 (Greenspaces, sport and recreation), 12 (Biodiversity / geodiversity), 15 (Managing the water environment) and 16 (Carbon reduction and renewable energy).


Cross References

8.151 This policy should be read in conjunction with the following Core Strategy policies: CS1: Delivering Rotherham’s Spatial Strategy, CS2: Release of Major Greenfield Sites, CS3: Location of New Development, CS5: New Housing Development, CS6: Employment Land Requirements, CS7: Green Belt, CS8: Green Infrastructure, CS10 Valuing the Historic Environment, CS11 Sustainable Design, CS19 Tourism and the Visitor Economy, CS20: Green Space, CS23 Community Health and Safety, CS24: Biodiversity & Geodiversity, CS25: Minerals, CS26 Managing the Water Environment, CS28 Infrastructure Delivery and Developer Contributions

8.152 Planning applications will also be considered against the guidance set out in the Regional Strategy and in national planning policy. More detailed guidance will be provided through policies in the Sites and Policies DPD.

Delivery

8.153 Policy CS9 will be delivered through the development management process via the determination of planning applications (including the use of planning conditions and developer obligations), and also using a variety of measures: such as planning briefs, master plans, management plans, maintenance plans, and design codes as applicable to the development proposal.
Valuing the historic environment

Context

8.154 Rotherham has a rich and varied historic environment. Its heritage assets have an important role to play in connecting us with our past and also have a vital role to play in shaping our future. Rotherham is a Borough that wishes to be seen as serious and forward thinking about its heritage. As such, this is an increasingly important area of work for the Council.

8.155 The historic environment is an asset of enormous cultural, social, economic and environmental value. It contributes significantly to our quality of life and to the quality of our places. Rotherham has a distinctive historic environment and a wealth of heritage assets that should be protected or enhanced. Planning plays a crucial role in conserving the historic environment through the application of legislation, policy and guidance. Heritage assets embrace all manner of features within the historic environment including buildings; parks and gardens; standing, buried and submerged remains; areas, sites and landscapes, whether designated or not. The greater the significance, the greater the degree of protection in planning decisions. Once lost, heritage assets cannot be replaced and their loss has a cultural, environmental, economic and social impact.

8.156 The historic environment is an asset which can contribute to broader strategic objectives such as economic development, urban and rural regeneration, tourism, leisure and recreation, cultural and community development; good urban design and town planning; provision of formal and informal education, development of skills, and sustainability. This Policy aims to help define, reinforce and bring these diverse aspects together.
Policy CS 10

CS10 Valuing the Historic Environment

Rotherham's historic environment will be protected, enhanced and managed, in accordance with the principles set out below

a. Proposals and initiatives will be supported which conserve, and enhance the heritage significance and setting of the Borough's heritage assets, specifically those elements which contribute to the distinct identity of the Borough. These include:

   i. The Roman ridge and settlements, motte and bailey castles, historic houses, historic parks and gardens and villages.
   ii. The Borough’s industrial past with particular regard to Catcliffe Glassworks Cone and the Chesterfield Canal.
   iii. The historic grain of the town centre, including its street layout and plot sizes.
   iv. Early 20th century developments including planned colliery villages.

b. The character and setting of Rotherham Minster and the Chapel on the Bridge will be conserved and enhanced. Proposals will be supported which respect and enhance key views and vistas to both these and other regionally significant buildings such as the Church of All Saints at Laughton en le Morthen.

c. The character and setting, including key views to and from the historic buildings and designated landscape, of the Wentworth Woodhouse Estate will be conserved, enhanced and protected from inappropriate development.

d. Proposals will be supported which protect the heritage significance and setting of locally identified heritage assets such as buildings of local architectural or historic interest, locally important archaeological sites and parks and gardens of local interest.

Reasoned Justification

8.157 National planning policy on the historic environment is set out in Planning Policy Statement 5 (Planning for the Historic Environment) (PPS5) and its accompanying practice guide provides guidance on the identification, significance, and protection of heritage assets. These assets include listed buildings, conservation areas, historic parks and gardens and archaeological remains. National policy expects that the contribution of such heritage assets to local character and sense of place is recognised and valued and the policy will reinforce this.

8.158 Policy CS10 seeks to ensure that heritage assets are safeguarded or enhanced for the future both for their own heritage merits and for the wider benefits they bring. These benefits should include improvement in the quality of the historic built and landscaped environment, the stimulation of high architectural quality in new buildings, creation of a stronger local identity and sense of place, increased sustainability, encouragement of local building craft skills, greater opportunities for use of the historic environment in education and increased levels of investment and tourism.
This Policy will contribute towards achieving Core Strategy Objectives 5 (Landscape and settlement identity) and 6 (Design). It will also contribute to the Community Strategy cross-cutting theme of Sustainable Development through making sure there is a high quality environment sustained through minimising harm from development. Allied to this, the strategic themes of Rotherham Alive and Safe will be satisfied.

Rotherham has a surprisingly rich and diverse collection of heritage assets, including evidence of early settlements, country houses and estates, nationally significant parks and gardens, historic villages, ecclesiastical, agricultural, civic and industrial buildings, canal structures, twentieth century suburbs and planned colliery settlements. The underlying geology of the district gives rise to an interesting variety of vernacular building materials characterised by sandstone buildings to the west and limestone buildings to the east. Stone slate, Welsh slate and clay pantile roofs are distinctive characteristics of parts of the Borough. National policy requires local authorities to ensure that they have evidence about the historic environment and heritage assets in their area and that this is publicly documented.

Within the Borough there are 524 listed buildings which are designated nationally. Although Rotherham Borough has fewer in numbers than its immediate neighbours, 10% of these are high grade (ie Grade I and II*) The medieval record of the Borough is particularly strong, with a number of extant villages retaining their medieval character in addition to the archaeological record of deserted villages, moated sites fortifications and relict landscapes (particularly on the Southern Magnesian Limestone). The ecclesiastical record is an equally important component of the medieval landscape, with significant monastic sites and urban churches complementing the rural record. 18th and 19th century designed landscapes are an important feature of the Borough. English Heritage, in conjunction with the Council, has drawn up databases of Grade I and II-star Listed Buildings At Risk and of Conservation Areas At Risk. Additionally, the Council is preparing a list of Grade II Listed Buildings at Risk. Strategies and initiatives to reduce the number of buildings and areas at risk are being supported and developed. There needs to be greater recognition and subsequent protection of the Boroughs assets which are regionally or even nationally significant. Examples of these include:

- Rotherham Minster, considered by Pevsner to be "one of the largest and stateliest of parish churches in Yorkshire" (The Buildings of England: Yorkshire West Riding, Penguin Books, 1974) and by Simon Jenkins in "Englands 1000 Best Churches" (Allen Lane; 2004 ) as "the best work in the county".
- Rotherham’s Chapel on the Bridge, dating from 1483, is one of only four complete bridge chapels that still exist
- The Catcliffe Glassworks Cone, the oldest surviving structure of its type in Western Europe and one of only four remaining in the United Kingdom.
- The East Front of Wentworth Woodhouse, at over 600 feet in length, is (according to Pevsner, Ibid) reportedly the longest frontage of any country house in England.
- The medieval barn at Whiston is the oldest standing, non-religious building in Yorkshire.

In addition, Rotherham has 37 Scheduled Ancient Monuments and 5 Registered Parks and Gardens. The Parks and Gardens form a high proportion relative to its total area mainly due to the large estates at Wentworth Woodhouse and Sandbeck Park. These (along with the 524 listed buildings) are detailed in national lists and registers which are made publicly available by the Council. Listed Buildings and Scheduled Monuments are afforded protection through national planning legislation.
and policy. The heritage significance of registered parks and gardens of special historic interest is a material consideration in the determination of planning applications.

8.163 Currently, Rotherham has 26 conservation areas. These have an element of protection through national planning legislation but are designated locally. The key characteristics of the Borough’s conservation areas are described in conservation area character summaries. It is intended to make these available on the Council’s website. Work is currently being undertaken on more detailed Conservation Area appraisals and management plans which will then be used to identify and assess local character and promote enhancement. Work is also in progress to assess whether the designation of a further 12 conservation areas is appropriate.

8.164 The Borough also has a significant number of historic buildings which may in the future be considered for designation as buildings of local architectural and historic interest. These are heritage assets that contribute to the distinctive local character of the Borough but are not afforded the same legislative protection. National policy on the historic environment recognises that some of these local heritage assets have lesser significance but expects that decisions are based on the nature, extent and level of that significance, which is a material consideration in the determination of planning applications. The Council will consider the designation of buildings of local architectural and historic interest. The policy will ensure that this will then be given due consideration in planning decisions.

8.165 Archaeological sites of national and local importance are identified in South Yorkshires Sites and Monuments Database.

Cross References

8.166 This policy should be read in conjunction with the following Core Strategy policies: CS1: Delivering Rotherham’s Spatial Strategy, CS7: Green Belt, CS8: Green Infrastructure, CS9: Landscape, CS11: Sustainable Design, CS12: Rotherham Regeneration Area, CS15: Transforming Rotherham Town Centre, CS18: Transforming Rotherham’s Economy, CS19 Tourism and the Visitor Economy, CS20: Green Space, CS24: Biodiversity and Geodiversity, CS29: Improving Skills and Employment Opportunities.

8.167 This policy should also be read in conjunction with both Planning Policy Statement 5 (Planning for the Historic Environment) and Regional Strategy policy ENV9 Historic Environment.

8.168 Supporting policies will also be set out in the Sites and Policies DPD.

Delivery

8.169 This policy will be delivered through working with developers and partners and facilitated through the determination of planning applications. It will also be achieved through the allocation of land for development and policies against which planning applications will be judged, to be made within the Sites and Policies DPD.

8.170 In addition, ongoing schemes such as the Rotherham Town Centre Townscape Heritage Initiative will help deliver the policy around key town centre buildings such as Rotherham Minster.
**Sustainable design**

**Context**

8.171 Good design fosters civic pride, a sense of place, improves and enhances the existing environment and also attracts business and investment. Architecture and design are both significant to development in urban and rural areas and require an understanding of the context in which new development takes place. Creative site planning is a crucial element in the provision of high quality living and working environments.

8.172 Rotherham is characterised by a mix of suburbs focused around Rotherham itself and more rural areas of smaller towns and villages to the northwest and south-east of the borough. The industrial wealth of the last two centuries saw the building of a number of lavish country houses, parks and estates, with Wentworth Woodhouse and Sandbeck being of particular merit. Many of these still contribute to Rotherham's character and landscape.

8.173 Establishing overarching design principles for Rotherham ensures that development is appropriate to its surroundings, and improves what needs improving, whilst protecting what is good about what we have. Design that reflects the character of areas will help to strengthen their distinctiveness, identity and people's sense of belonging to them. Good design can also play a vital role in supporting economic and physical regeneration and bringing about new forms of distinctiveness by making run down areas both physically and economically more attractive.

---

**Policy CS 11**

**CS11 Sustainable Design**

Proposals for development should respect and enhance the distinctive features of Rotherham. They should develop a strong sense of place with a high quality of public realm and well designed public buildings within a clear framework of routes and spaces.

Future development proposals will be assessed against the following criteria:

a. the topography, landforms, Green Infrastructure assets, river corridors, important habitats, waterways, woodlands, other natural features and open spaces
b. views and vistas to landmarks and skylines into and out of Rotherham Town Centre and across Rotherham to the surrounding countryside
c. heritage, townscape and landscape character including the scale, layout, building styles and materials of the built form particularly (but not exclusively) in and around:

i. Rotherham Town Centre
ii. within and adjacent to Conservation Areas
Reasoned Justification

8.174 Good design is central to good planning. It ensures attractive, useable, thriving and well-liked places where people want to live, work and play. It goes beyond the visual appearance of buildings and it considers how buildings relate to each other, the spaces between buildings, and the connections between places. Good design is also about making places that everyone can use easily and safely. Our vision of quality places links in with the concept of Lifetime Neighbourhoods, places that are sustainable, accessible, inclusive, and attractive and which offer a wide range of facilities for people of all ages.

8.175 This Policy will contribute towards achieving Core Strategy objectives: 3 (Sustainable locations), 5 (Landscape and settlement identity), 6 (Design), 10 (Greenspaces, sport and recreation), 11 (Community well-being), 12 (Biodiversity/Geodiversity), 15 (Managing the water environment), 16 (Carbon reduction and renewable energy), and 17 (Infrastructure delivery).

8.176 This policy will also contribute to the Community Strategy cross-cutting theme of Sustainable Development through making sure there is a high quality environment sustained through minimising harm from development. Allied to this, the strategic themes of Rotherham Achieving and Safe will be satisfied.

8.177 Whilst the quality of Rotherham’s built environment has improved over recent years and continues to be regenerated, the design quality of new buildings, public spaces and neighbourhoods must continually evolve to address the needs of the community and the wider environment. A recent housing design audit undertaken by Transform South Yorkshire suggested that whilst there are some notable exceptions, the general quality of new development built in the borough over the past 10 years has not been as good as it could be. Similarly, there is an urgent need to improve the overall sustainability of all types of development to help combat climate change and its effects.

8.178 New proposals should seek to use land efficiently, but to be acceptable, higher density developments must also be well designed. Building for Life (BFL) is the national standard for residential design quality that encompasses good design objectives. We will aim to ensure that all new residential developments (of 10 dwellings or more, although many of the guidelines are appropriate to smaller developments) should meet the relevant Building for Life criteria. This approach will be considered further in the Sites and Policies DPD.

8.179 The Code for Sustainable Homes (CSH) (Communities and Local Government, December 2006) sets standards for energy and resource efficiency that can be applied to all new homes. The Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM) is a widely recognised quality assurance scheme that assesses the environmental performance of non-residential buildings. Both are closely linked to Building Regulations. The required standards to be achieved may increase, and the thresholds decrease, as advances in technology enable higher standards of sustainable design. In the longer term this will be aided by development and construction costs of sustainable homes and buildings being reduced by economies of scale and improved knowledge and technology.

8.180 The Council may also require a proportion of new homes to be built to Lifetime Homes standards depending upon the scale of development proposed. Again, this approach will be considered further in the Sites and Policies DPD. Using nationally recognised standards as design benchmarks provides a flexible way for proposals to reduce their environmental impact and provides certainty to
investors and developers. Often good design principles can be met simply by using a good designer, and there are many overlaps between the standards and other planning requirements e.g. surface water management.

**8.181** Sustainable design also includes the sustainable use of resources, which is an important part of conserving materials and natural resources that are likely to become scarcer. This includes conserving how existing buildings can be re-used, and how new buildings might be used in different ways in the future. Sustainable materials include those that are degradable, have low embedded energy, are easily renewed, or are recyclable.

**8.182** For significant greenfield sites, urban extensions, and other major proposals, (which are important by virtue of their proposed use, scale or location) the Council will expect developers to apply a Design Code approach. The aim of design coding is to provide clarity as to what constitutes acceptable design quality and thereby a level of certainty for developers and the local community alike that can help to facilitate the delivery of good quality new development. Higher sustainability levels could also be sought, using BREEAM and the Code for Sustainable Homes levels as flexible benchmarks to be met. This issues will be addressed further in the Sites and Policies DPD.

**8.183** Further information is provided within the South Yorkshire Residential Design Guide (January 2011) with consideration to be given (post adoption of the Core Strategy) of its adoption, all or in part as a Supplementary Planning Document. Better Places to Work (2002) provides best practice guidance for office and industrial development in South Yorkshire.

**Cross References**

**8.184** This policy should be read in conjunction with the following Core Strategy policies: CS8: Green Infrastructure, CS9: Landscape, CS10: Valuing the Historic Environment, CS13: Accessible Places and Managing Demand for Travel, CS15: Transforming Rotherham Town Centre, CS16: Housing Mix and Affordability, CS19: Tourism and the Visitor Economy, CS20: Green Space, CS23: Community Health & Safety, CS24: Biodiversity & Geodiversity, CS26: Managing the Water Environment, CS27: Renewable Energy Generation, and CS28: Infrastructure Delivery & Developer Contributions.

**8.185** Design is an aspect that transcends many elements of the Regional Strategy, in particular as part of the Core Approach through Policy YH4 and the South Yorkshire sub-area policy SY1.

**8.186** Planning Policy Statement 1 (Delivering Sustainable Development) emphasises the importance of good design, stating that it is a key element in the overall aim of achieving sustainable development. Planning Policy Statement 3 (Housing) states that good design should contribute positively to making places better for people, and that it is fundamental to the development of high quality new housing, which contributes to the creation of sustainable, mixed communities.

**Delivery**

**8.187** The Council will work with partners, developers, the private sector and agencies to deliver sustainable design principles. This will be facilitated as necessary by policies against which planning applications will be judged, to be made within the Sites and Policies DPD. Updating of Building Regulations will cover many aspects of sustainable design but planning has a distinctive contribution to make by introducing guidelines in advance of the update to complement the regulations.
Supplementary Planning Documents may also be adopted to set out design requirements further. Planning briefs, design codes and masterplans will be used to implement the policy in areas of significant change.

**Rotherham Regeneration Area**

**Context**

8.188 Rotherham Town Centre and its surrounding areas lie at the heart of Rotherham’s urban area. The renaissance and diversification of this area is vital to underpin the future growth and success of the Borough. Despite the economic climate and other challenges, investment momentum is growing. The completion of phase 1 of the community wide flood scheme has led to significant investment on brownfield sites upstream of Templeborough and has protected key infrastructure. This demonstrates the importance of completing the scheme through the Town Centre.

8.189 The area, shown in map 8, includes the town centre, the river corridor, parts of Templeborough which is a key corridor linking Sheffield and Rotherham, and stretches eastwards towards Parkgate along another key gateway into Rotherham.

8.190 The challenge for this area is to focus on creating the conditions where confidence is increased to create a vibrant and sustainable area which provides a strong heart for the rest of the Borough. This includes:

- Reducing and managing the threat of flood risk;
- Supporting and encouraging the regeneration of key development sites;
- Creating an attractive riverside;
- Diversifying the land uses within this whole area;
- Reversing decline through creating the conditions which will enable people to make decisions to continue to invest in existing activity in the Town Centre. In turn this should help bring in new investment as the Town Centre becomes a more attractive place to live, work and visit;
- Encouraging more people to visit and use the Town Centre to improve its vitality; and
- Creating attractive gateway areas into the Town Centre.

**Policy CS 12**

**CS12 Rotherham Regeneration Area**

Within the Rotherham Regeneration Area, to be defined on the Proposals Map, improvement of this important strategic area will be supported through economic regeneration, attracting investment and addressing deprivation by contributing to the quality of life through the creation of high quality gateways, buildings and places. Developments in this area must meet Rotherham’s Renaissance aspirations (as identified in table 4) and the broad strategy for each Character Area (set out in table 2) and provide a positive contribution towards transforming the Town Centre including reducing the threat of flood risk.
**Reasoned Justification**

**8.191** This policy targets a main area of change in and around Rotherham town centre which will promote development in sustainable locations (in line with Core Strategy Objective 3), improve the vibrancy of Rotherham Town Centre (in line with Core Strategy Objective 4) and support good design of places and spaces (in line with Core Strategy Objective 6). It also supports economic regeneration (in line with Core Strategy Objective 8), and helps address flood risk issues (in line with Core Strategy Objectives 15 and 17).

**8.192** To the east it follows the railway line as a logical physical boundary. To the north it includes Parkgate retail park and land remaining to be developed at Aldwarke. It includes land along Fitzwilliam Road, including Eastwood Industrial Estate which would benefit from physical and environmental improvements to ensure the most effective use of land. To the east it includes Rotherham town centre and adjacent mixed use areas and to the south the important employment area at Ickles.

**8.193** It has been defined taking into account of the following factors:

- That the creation of a strong vibrant centre is at the heart of creating a vibrant sustainable Borough;
- The need to regenerate a number of large previously developed sites, particularly along the riverside of the River Don. Some of these have been subject to public investment to deliver their remediation;
- The key brownfield regeneration area around Templeborough, which was previously the subject of European Objective 1 money. Flood risk in this area has already been reduced by the first phase of the flood alleviation scheme;
- The Core Area of the Town Centre, which is at the heart of the renaissance activity to breath new life into the town;
- The retail area of Parkgate, which is a main centre of retail activity for the Borough;
- Important existing employment areas such as those along Rawmarsh Road;
- Fringe employment and residential areas which are also subject to other regeneration initiatives and are important gateway areas into the Town Centre;
- Major potential development sites which are previously developed land at Parkgate and Aldwarke.

**8.194** Nine character areas have been identified having regard to existing land uses and functions, regeneration objectives, physical features and communication routes such as the river, canal, railways and roads, and the extent of flood risk zones. Each character area is described below, along with a broad strategy for its development. This policy requires that development must contribute to the strategy for the area in which it is located.

**Table 5 Rotherham Regeneration Area: Character Areas**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Character Area</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Broad Strategy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Bradmarsh and Templeborough</td>
<td>South of River Don and Rother Confluence/ Enterprise Park.</td>
<td>To continue to support the industrial and employment function of this area.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Character Area

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Character Area</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Broad Strategy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2 Masborough West of Centenary Way</td>
<td>South of Masborough Street, north of Sheffield Road, west of Centenary Way.</td>
<td>To diversify the land uses, improve the appearance and coherence of the area and improve pedestrian links with Rotherham town centre.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Central Riverside Area</td>
<td>West, North and East of the River Don, East of Centenary Way.</td>
<td>To regenerate and develop key riverside sites and enhance the riverside.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Town Centre</td>
<td>Town Centre Core - East of Westgate, Corporation Street and Effingham Street.</td>
<td>To regenerate the Core Town Centre through improving vitality through encouraging more visitors and diversifying land uses.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Masborough – Thornhill</td>
<td>North of Masborough Street, West of Greasborough Street, South of Greasborough Road.</td>
<td>To diversify the land uses and improve the appearance of the area'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 College Street</td>
<td>Area to the North of Main Street, West of the Railway Line, East of Centenary Way and Greasborough Street.</td>
<td>To continue to support the industrial and employment function of the area.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 Northfield</td>
<td>East of Greasborough Road, West of Effingham Street, South of the Rotherham Canal</td>
<td>To continue to support the industrial and employment function of this area, and the regeneration of previously developed sites.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 Parkgate Retail Park</td>
<td>Area around Northfield Road, north of Effingham Street and north of the River Rother.</td>
<td>To continue to support the industrial and employment function of this area and the regeneration of previously developed sites.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 Eastwood</td>
<td>North of Erskine Road and Chesterton Road and South of the River Rother.</td>
<td>To support the riverside regeneration and mixed employment and residential use of this Town Centre fringe neighbourhood.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

8.195 The regeneration of Rotherham town centre and its surrounding areas is one of the Council’s key priorities. The Council along with its partners and the wider community have identified a number of longer term aspirations. In seeking to achieve the Renaissance of Rotherham town centre this policy seeks to ensure that development contributes towards the Renaissance aspirations. The
Renaissance aspirations are identified in the 10 Renaissance Goals which are set out in table 4. It is acknowledged that individual development proposals are unlikely to contribute to all Renaissance aspirations, and consideration will also be given to whether proposals negatively impact on any of the Renaissance goals.

8.196 Importantly it includes the town centre river corridor which is an important asset in terms of regeneration and also the focus of the Community wide flood alleviation scheme. Phase 1 of the flood alleviation scheme has been completed, with the remainder expected to be completed incrementally. Further detail regarding this is set out in Policy CS21.

Cross References

8.197 This policy should be read in conjunction with the following Core Strategy policies: CS1: Delivering Rotherham's Spatial Strategy, CS6: Employment Land Requirement, CS11: Sustainable Design, CS15: Transforming Rotherham Town Centre, CS18: Transforming Rotherham's Economy, CS21: Flood Risk within the Rotherham Regeneration and Flood Alleviation Area, CS26: Managing the Water Environment, CS28: Infrastructure Delivery and Developer Contributions, and CS30: Contribution Towards New Flood Infrastructure in the Rotherham Regeneration and Flood Risk Area.

Delivery

8.198 This policy will be delivered primarily through the allocation of land for development to be made within the Sites and Policies DPD, and through the determination of planning applications.

Map 8 Rotherham Regeneration Area
8.2 Sustainable communities

8.199 At a national level Planning Policy Statement 1 identifies sustainable development as the core principle underpinning planning. In line with national guidance our Core strategy policies seek to support existing communities and ensure that new development contributes to the creation of safe, sustainable, liveable and mixed communities with good access to jobs and key services for all members of the community.

8.200 To do this the policies within the Sustainable Communities theme of the Core Strategy focus on the importance of transport and movement around the borough by delivering accessible places and managing the key road network. Key to delivering sustainable communities is ensuring that new development is focused in appropriate locations, which is supported by the policies which establish the hierarchy of centres within Rotherham and the importance of regenerating Rotherham town centre. These support the 'town centre' first approach for main town centre uses established in national planning policy. In concentrating on Rotherham's urban area the issue of flood risk is recognised and therefore our policies seek to ensure that new development within the Rotherham Regeneration Area contributes to reducing the threat of flood risk.

8.201 Policies also set out how we will look to continue to support the transition of Rotherham's economy, as well as providing guidance on creating successful and affordable places to live and how we will improve the quality and accessibility of Rotherham's green spaces.

Accessible places and managing demand for travel

Context

8.202 The framework for a good transportation network already exists in Rotherham on the Key Route Network and other local roads and no fundamental physical changes to it are planned (Policy CS4). The land use policies in the Core Strategy will reduce the distances that people need to travel on the network but it is important to plan for those trips that still need to be made and to ensure that the most sustainable mode of travel is an attractive option.

8.203 Public transport will form the backbone of the sustainable transport network because it has a proven ability to carry people quickly and efficiently between places. The Sheffield City Region Transport Strategy and Local Transport Plan 3 contain significant proposals to enhance the public transport network including Bus Quality Partnerships, Key Route Improvements and advanced ticketing options.

8.204 Cycling and walking are becoming increasingly popular travel modes for short to medium length journeys and, as fuel prices, health, air quality and sustainability become increasingly important transport considerations, they will form an important part of future local transport networks.

8.205 Cars and other motor vehicles will need to be accommodated. Whilst road charging or workplace parking levies remain an option, demand for motorised travel will be managed mainly through the land planning process using parking policies, parking standards, workplace and school travel planning.
Policy CS 13

CS13 Accessible Places and Managing Demand for Travel

The Council will work with partners and stakeholders to focus transport investment on making places more accessible and on changing travel behaviour. Accessibility will be promoted through the proximity of people to employment, leisure, retail, health and public services by:

a. Locating new development in highly accessible locations such as town and district centres or on key bus corridors which are well served by a variety of modes of travel, including public transport, and through supporting high density development near to public transport interchanges or near to relevant frequent public transport links.

b. Enabling walking and cycling to be used for shorter trips.

c. Reducing car parking provision in town centre and other accessible sites if public transport and other sustainable modes can accommodate travel but not to an extent where the town centre is unattractive when compared to out of town shopping centres.

d. Set thresholds where existing and future employers and institutions will need to adopt Travel Plans or Area Travel Plans as part of a programme of sustainable transport promotion.

e. The use of maximum parking standards for non-residential developments aimed at reducing the number of car trips to and from them.

f. Adopting car parking policies for vehicles and bicycles in accordance to national guidelines that support and complement public transport and the introduction of sustainable travel modes.

g. The use of Transport Assessments for appropriate sized developments.

h. The safeguarding of suitable land for the provision of transport infrastructure.

i. Prohibiting development where this is prejudicial to projects outlined in the Local Transport Plan or for any other transport proposals. Land to be safeguarded will be contained in specific transport proposals, the Sites and Policies DPD or other Local Development Plan Documents as appropriate.

j. Implementing the Public Rights of Way Improvement Plan and maximising the use of the Public Rights Of Way network for local transport connections on foot and by bicycle.

k. Not allowing new development in Air Quality Management Areas if the whole of the traffic and air quality impact cannot be mitigated.

l. Promoting Park and Ride where other sustainable travel choices cannot deliver similar benefits.

m. Maintaining and improving School Travel Plans to manage demand for travel to and from schools and colleges.

Reasoned Justification

8.206 Transport and accessibility is the glue that binds many of the strands of the Core Strategy together. It is essential to connect people with places and services although the demand for travel needs to be balanced with the need to reduce both congestion and the negative effects of movement that rely on carbon based fuels.
8.207 People are now making longer trips and are travelling more often and use of the private car continues to increase. This reflects the disparity between the location of key settlements and key services and employment opportunities which have tended to become more centralised in principal towns and cities rather than in our local and district centres. Accordingly congestion, air quality and the general negative effects of road traffic are becoming an increasingly important issue.

8.208 Policy CS13 contributes towards achieving Core Strategy Objective 3 which seeks to deliver new development in sustainable locations, Core Strategy Objective 4 which steers development towards appropriate town, district and local centres, and Core Strategy Objective 9 which seeks to improve local transport connections. By addressing development within Air Quality Management Areas it also contributes towards achieving Core Strategy Objective 11 which seeks to improve community well being.

8.209 The Sheffield City Region Transport Strategy (2011-25) and Local Transport Plan (2011-2016) (LTP) set out our objectives for creating accessible communities where people can easily access services using informed travel choices. The City Region Transport Strategy and LTP are underpinned by Government guidance from the Departments of Health and Transport including advice on Delivering Healthy Local Transport Plans (2007) and the Healthy Lives Healthy People White Paper in 2010 both of which advocate local accessibility and sustainable travel.

8.210 Since around 2005, Rotherham has pursued policies that promote accessibility and manage demand for travel. For example, In 2011, 40% of Rotherham’s workforce were covered by a site specific or area wide travel plan. 100% of schools were covered by a travel plan and more than half engaged in some form of sustainable travel education. School Travel Plans will be maintained and more workplace Travel Plans will be negotiated, for example, when applications for planning permission are being considered. Policy CS13 is a consolidation of our existing sustainable transport policies. More detailed policies will be developed as part of the Sites and Policies DPD to take forward elements of Policy CS13 such as setting thresholds for Transport Plans, and adopting car parking policies.

8.211 Having taken into account overarching Local Transport Plan policy, the Council will also publish a Transport Statement for the Borough which will set out how transport accessibility and demand management will be delivered within the Borough.

8.212 Planning Policy Guidance 13 (Transport) provides guidance for the application of maximum parking standards which have proven to be acceptable for developments in Rotherham.

8.213 Cross References

8.214 This policy should be read in conjunction with the following Core Strategy policies: CS1: Delivering Rotherham’s Spatial Strategy, CS3: Location of New Development, CS15: Transforming Rotherham Town Centre, CS28: Infrastructure Delivery and Developer Contributions, CS31: New Roads and CS32: Rail Connections.

8.215 This policy should be read in conjunction with the Policies set out in the Regional Strategy, in particular those within the Regional Transport Strategy chapter and with the following:

- Local Transport Plan 2011-26
- Sustainable School Travel Policy
• Highways Asset Management Plan
• Transport Asset Management Plan
• Air Quality Management Action Plan
• South Yorkshire Congestion Delivery Plan
• South Yorkshire Park and Ride Strategy
• Regional Freight Strategy
• Yorkshire and Humberside Rail Network Utilisation Strategy
• South Yorkshire Rail Strategy

8.216 In determining planning applications regard will also be had to guidance in national planning policy, in particular Planning Policy Guidance 13 (Transport).

Delivery

8.217 This Policy will be delivered through the allocation of sites for development in the Sites and Policies DPD and through the determination of planning applications. More detailed policies will be provided through the Sites and Policies DPD.

Managing change in Rotherham's retail and service centres

Context

8.218 Rotherham town centre is the borough’s principal retail and service centre which will continue to be the prime focus for shopping, leisure, education, health and cultural activities and facilities. It also provides important opportunities for housing and employment. However throughout the borough there are a range of shopping and service centres, from town and district centres which serve wider communities, to local centres and shopping parades which enable local communities to access day to day shopping and other services. There are also shopping parks such as Parkgate and Cortonwood Retail Parks, and areas within neighbouring districts, such as Meadowhall regional shopping centre, which provide employment as well as shopping opportunities. All of these centres will continue to play an important role for communities in meeting their shopping and service needs. However as business and community requirements change it is important that Rotherham’s centres can follow suit.

8.219 National planning policy promotes a ‘town centre first’ approach to new development and identifies that local planning authorities should actively promote growth and manage change in town centres, define a network and hierarchy of centres and plan for new centres where appropriate. Previous retail and town centre policy has not resulted in the level of protection and enhancement of existing town and district centres envisaged by the Council. This is because the major out of centre retail schemes at Meadowhall and Parkgate Shopping were originally developed during the late 1980’s and were already trading before the UDP policy could be applied. Moreover, the impact of these schemes continues to be felt, perhaps even more so, as a result of increasing car ownership (producing increasing levels of shopper mobility), the national trend towards a greater concentration of shopping trips at the more attractive centres, and the recent economic downturn, which has depressed overall levels of consumer retail expenditure. Our Core Strategy policies acknowledge this situation, however continue to seek to direct new development towards the most appropriate centres.
Through our Core Strategy policies we have set out a hierarchy of centres and will ensure that development is directed towards the most appropriate location. We will ensure that proposals contribute towards each centres’ strategy and ensure communities have access to local shopping and service facilities.

**Policy CS 14**

**CS14 Managing Change in Rotherham’s Retail and Service Centres**

To maintain and enhance the vitality and viability of the Borough’s retail and service centres new retail, leisure, service facilities and other main town centre uses as defined in national planning guidance will be directed to the most appropriate centre in line with the hierarchy set out in table 3 having regard to the type and scale of development proposed.

To achieve this and meet forecast need we will plan to accommodate:

a. 9,000 sqm gross of convenience goods floorspace, and  
b. 11,000 sqm gross of comparison goods floorspace (comprising 3,000 sqm gross of non-bulky goods floorspace and 8,000 sqm of bulky goods floorspace).

Proposals will be expected to demonstrate how they contribute towards the strategy for each centre as set out in table 3. Rotherham town centre will be the focus for the majority of new comparison and convenience floorspace proposed to be accommodated in the Borough. However proposals will be supported which address identified convenience goods floorspace needs at Wickersley / Bramley and comparison goods floorspace needs at Parkgate.

Neighbourhood shops and shopping parades that provide for local retail and service needs will be safeguarded and improved to help reduce the need to travel and to maintain accessibility and inclusive communities. New development of an appropriate scale for local shops and community facilities will be supported in areas of housing growth.

**Table 6 Hierarchy of Retail and Service Centres**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hierarchy</th>
<th>Centre</th>
<th>Strategy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Principal Town Centre</td>
<td>Rotherham Town Centre</td>
<td>Maintain and enhance role as the principal town centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town Centre</td>
<td>Dinnington</td>
<td>Maintain the range of retail and service provision, reduce vacancies and improve townscapes and landscaping</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Maltby</td>
<td>Improve pedestrian mobility / accessibility, the quality and range of comparison shopping outlets, and environmental quality</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Wath-upon-Dearne</td>
<td>Maintain the range of retail and service provision</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Improve the quality and range of retail and service provision, and environmental quality

Maintain the quality and range of retail and service uses, improve comparison goods provision

Maintain the quality and range of retail and service uses

Improve environmental and physical quality of the shopping precinct in particular. Improve retail provision and pedestrian movement.

Maintain the range of retail and service provision, improve convenience retail provision

To be defined, but including Bramley, Rawmarsh, Thurcroft, and Waverley

Encourage developments which improve comparison goods and service facilities provision and reduce vacancies.

Reasoned Justification

Policy CS14 policy contributes to achieving Core Strategy objective 4 (retail and service centres) which seeks to improve the viability and vibrancy of Rotherham town centre together with a hierarchy of outlying retail and community service centres. It also contributes to objective 3 by promoting development in sustainable, accessible locations.

Rotherham's 2011 Retail and Leisure Study highlights the competition that Rotherham's retail centres face from neighbouring centres such as Sheffield, and from retail parks and shopping centres. Of the £1,018 million of retail expenditure generated within Rotherham, around one-third leaks out to neighbouring areas, mainly to Sheffield District. The principal area of concern is non-bulky comparison goods shopping which forms the ‘main stay’ of town centres, where half of monies is spent outside of the borough.

Out of centre retailing has expanded considerably over the past 15-20 years, and now accounts for over 70% of the borough’s total retail floorspace stock. Significantly (and very unusually), the proportion is higher for “high street” comparison goods shopping than for convenience goods. Overall, more than three-quarters of retail sales in Rotherham are out of centre. Although a high percentage is common for bulky comparison goods and to a lesser extent convenience goods, it is very rare for non-bulky comparison goods turnover to be so dominated by out of centre retailing.

The 2011 borough wide study, along with the 2010 Rotherham Town Centre Retail and Leisure Study, makes it clear that Rotherham town centre could develop further to reposition itself in the national retail ranking and become more competitive with major rivals. Although the independent quality shopping offer has grown in recent years and the towns enterprising nature has seen several start-up businesses achieved in the retail and leisure sector, there still remains a strong qualitative need for further retail provision. These studies conclude that there appears to be a significant
qualitative and quantitative need for additional retail floorspace to be provided in Rotherham town centre, primarily in non-bulky comparison goods, which would ‘clawback’ expenditure that is currently leaking out of the borough to competitor centres.

8.225 The 2011 study also assessed other centres within Rotherham, finding that there is a wide range in their vitality and viability with those of most concern being located in areas of highest deprivation:

- Centres with Good Vitality and Viability - Wath-upon-Dearne and Wickersley
- Centres with Average Vitality and Viability – Bramley, Dinnington, Kiveton Park, Maltby, Parkgate, Swallownest and Thurcroft
- Centres with Poor Vitality and Viability – Rawmarsh and Swinton

8.226 Wath-upon-Dearne and Wickersley are busy centres with a range of shops, services and community uses appropriate to their status, and low vacancy rates. Rawmarsh is in a very bad state of repair however there are plans to demolish and rebuild the centre, which will clearly improve its ‘health’. Swinton is not nearly as poor as Rawmarsh, yet aside from the Co-op supermarket there is little retail provision in the centre.

8.227 The Retail and Leisure Study has assessed the likely need for additional retail floorspace within Rotherham through to 2027. The findings are summarised below.

**Convenience floorspace (i.e. food shopping)**

- A need for 8,660 sq m (gross)
- The main areas of need are Rotherham town centre, Wickersley / Bramley, and the western (predominantly rural) part of the borough. However we do not identify any need for additional large out of centre superstores especially since existing provision is relatively modern and well dispersed around the borough.

**Non bulky comparison floorspace (i.e. smaller purchases such as clothing)**

- A need for 3,090 sq m (gross).
- There is no floorspace requirement until beyond 2022 and even then it is very modest.
- The principal location where there is a strong need is Rotherham town centre. A material level of need has also been identified in zone 3 (Parkgate, Rawmash, Swinton and Wath), but this is primarily driven by estimated over-trading at Parkgate Shopping. Given that this location is out of centre and there is already a very strong mix of stores, the Council may consider that this qualitative need should not be met unless the provision can be provided nearby and in an existing centre.

**Bulky comparison floorspace (i.e. DIY, furniture, large appliances)**

- A need for 33,090 sq m (gross)
- We forecast modest quantitative requirements by 2022 and 2027. However, adding in the significant over trading which we believe is currently occurring within the borough as a whole
(at the out of centre retail warehouses), substantially boosts the levels of quantitative and qualitative need.

- The substantial need is in zone 3 (Parkgate, Rawmash, Swinton and Wath), with little or no need for any additional retail provision elsewhere. The vast majority of the need is generated by estimated overtrading at the existing out of centre retail parks in Rotherham MB, primarily Parkgate Shopping. The Council must take a view on the extent to which this qualitative need should be planned for in terms of providing new retail floorspace, when there is already a good choice of bulky comparison goods stores within and (close by) outside of the borough.

8.228 In response to the requirements of Planning Policy Statement 4 (Planning for Sustainable Economic Growth), Policy CS14 establishes the network and hierarchy of retail and service centres within Rotherham (illustrated in Map 9). It also establishes where we will plan to accommodate new retail floorspace. It is intended to ensure that new development is directed to centres commensurate with the type and scale of floorspace proposed. It is broadly consistent with Government guidance in that it promotes a town centre first policy and adopts the sequential approach to site selection, whilst also seeking to support and enhance local shops.

8.229 The hierarchy of centres proposed has been derived having regard to the guidance in national planning policy and is considered an appropriate representation the existing and future roles of Rotherham’s centres. As such Rotherham town centre remains the borough’s principal retail and service centre. A network of other town and district centres is proposed, along with local centres which will be defined on the Proposals Map. These will be supported by neighbourhood shopping parades which serve the immediate needs of neighbourhoods.

8.230 Having regard to the findings of the Retail and Leisure Study, it sets out the amount of retail floorspace which the Council will plan for over the LDF period. It is considered appropriate to plan to accommodate 9,000 sqm gross of convenience goods floorspace, and 11,000 sqm gross of comparison goods floorspace. Although the evidence base indicates a qualitative need for around 33,000 sqm gross of bulky goods floorspace, it also notes that much of this is derived from over-trading at existing out of centre retail parks. Given the existing bulky goods provision within the borough including vacant units it is considered more appropriate not to plan to meet all of the the qualitative need. The proposed comparison goods provision of 11,000 sqm gross includes 8,000 sqm gross to broadly meet the quantitative bulky goods floorspace need identified.

8.231 To provide further guidance table 3 includes a broad strategy each centre, based on the findings of the 2011 borough wide Retail and Leisure Study; in particular the healthchecks undertaken for each centre. To ensure that new development contributes positively to the vitality and viability of these centres, proposals should demonstrate how they contribute to the centre strategies outlined.

8.232 The policy also recognises the importance of smaller neighbourhood centres providing local shopping opportunities. It identifies that these will be safeguarded and improved to ensure that Rotherham’s communities continue to have access to local shops and services for day to day needs. It is also recognised that in areas of housing growth there may be a need for new neighbourhood shops and services to meet the needs of growing populations. Where this is the case the Council will support proposals of an appropriate scale to ensure day to day needs are met.
Cross References

8.233 This policy should be read in conjunction with the following Core Strategy Policies: CS1: Delivering Rotherham's Spatial Strategy, CS3: Location of New Development, CS12: Rotherham Regeneration and Flood Alleviation Area, CS13: Accessible Places and Managing Demand for Travel, and CS15: Transforming Rotherham Town Centre.

8.234 Proposals will be considered against relevant policies and guidance set out in national planning policy: Planning Policy Statement 4: Planning for Sustainable Economic Development

8.235 Supporting policies which provide more detail will be provided through the Sites and Policies DPD.

Delivery

8.236 This policy will be delivered through the determination of planning applications and through the support of relevant agencies/stakeholders which include the Council, Rotherham Partnership, Rotherham and Barnsley Chamber of Commerce, major retailers, local traders, commercial leisure operators and developers.

8.237 In line with national planning policy guidance the Council will keep under review the network and hierarchy of centres, the need for further development and the vitality and viability of centres. In particular the Council will continue to undertake annual surveys of town and district centres, and quarterly surveys of vacancies within Rotherham town centre.

8.238 Specific sites for retail and leisure will be allocated, and supporting policies provided through the Sites and Policies DPD.
Map 9 Retail Centre Hierarchy
Transforming Rotherham Town Centre

Context

8.239 Rotherham town centre is the borough’s principal retail and service centre. However over the past few decades it has witnessed a steady drift of people away, resulting in many people living, working and shopping outside of the centre. Much of this impact can be traced to the competition faced from out of centre shopping parks and centres, and town and city centres in adjoining districts.

8.240 Recognising the need to regenerate the town centre, in the autumn of 2001 the Council and its partners launched its urban renaissance programme, identifying a broad 25 year vision and 10 goals for Rotherham town centre. Since then ‘Rotherham Renaissance’ has become a key priority, reflected in the plans, strategies and activities of the Council and its Partners.

8.241 Rotherham’s Community Strategy identifies that Rotherham town centre would continue to decline without targeted public sector investment to stimulate its regeneration and renewal. Revitalising the town centre is a strategic priority. The vision is that “There will be an excellent town centre known for the high quality design of its public spaces and buildings, specialist and quality shops, markets, and cultural life for all age groups.”

8.242 Progress is already underway to improve Rotherham town centre, with new residential and commercial floorspace developed, a new Central Rotherham train station and new Council civic offices under construction, and new and improved public spaces improving the town centre environment. A new community stadium for Rotherham United FC will also help bring a large area of derelict land back into use close to the town centre.
Policy CS 15

CS15 Transforming Rotherham Town Centre

Rotherham town centre is and will remain the borough’s primary retail, leisure and service centre. The Council and its partners are committed to delivering town centre regeneration through developments that improve the quality and diversity of retail and other town centre uses, promote sustainable urban living, enhance the public realm, and address social deprivation.

To maintain its role and help deliver Rotherham’s Renaissance objectives Rotherham Town Centre will be the main focus for the majority of new retail, office and other town centre uses within Rotherham. A sustainable, well integrated extension of Rotherham town centre with good links to public transport interchanges to accommodate longer term retail floorspace requirements will be promoted.

Along with our partners the Council will:

a. seek to deliver a new entertainment, leisure and cultural quarter focused around a redeveloped Forge Island
b. support the development of a community stadium on the former Guest and Chrimes site which is well integrated with the town centre
c. support proposals which improve the range and quality of retail and leisure facilities by
   i. broadening the appeal of the town centre offer
   ii. delivering larger stores and more national retailers
   iii. delivering more quality independent retailers
   iv. raise the profile and improve the physical and environmental quality of the indoor and outdoor markets
   v. providing opportunity for tourism and leisure facilities, such as quality food and drink, cinema and hotel developments
d. require development proposals to demonstrate how they respond to the ten Renaissance goals set out in table 8
e. support development which enhances Rotherham town centre’s appeal as a family friendly destination and require proposals to demonstrate how they contribute towards creating a safe, attractive and accessible town centre.

Table 7 The Ten Renaissance Goals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. Make the river and the canal a key part of the town's future. We want the river and the canal to become much loved parts of the town with public spaces ad walkways lining their banks.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2. Populate the town's centre by creating good quality living. To sustain the long term health of the town centre we want to improve existing housing stock and provide greater choice and accessibility to good quality housing.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3. Place Rotherham within a sustainable landscape setting of the highest quality
4. Put Rotherham at the centre of a public transport network
5. Improve parts of major road infrastructure
6. Make Forge Island a major new piece of the town centre
7. Establish a new civic focus that not only promotes a more open and accessible type of governance but also embraces culture and the arts
8. Demand the best in architecture, urban design and public spaces for Rotherham
9. Improve community access to health, education and promote social well being
10. Create a broadly based, dynamic local economy with a vibrant town centre as its focus

Reasoned Justification

8.243 Policy CS15 sets out how we will maintain and improve Rotherham's role as the borough's primary retail and service centre. In line with the centre hierarchy set out in policy CS14 it will be the primary focus for new retail and leisure floorspace in Rotherham. This policy is required to help us achieve our vision for Rotherham town centre and deliver a 'Rotherham Renaissance'. It contributes to achieving objective 4 (retail and service centres) which seeks to improve the viability and vibrancy of Rotherham town centre and objective 3 by promoting development in sustainable, accessible locations.

8.244 The Regional Strategy indicates that plans, strategies, investment decisions and programmes for the South Yorkshire sub area should: "Develop Rotherham town centre to ensure the town is a brighter and more vibrant place to work, visit and invest in, establishing a new civic focus, capitalising upon public spaces and a new riverside, with the best in architecture and design".

8.245 It supports measures to achieve this, including:

- Achieving a radically more modern and wider range of housing and employment premises.
- Developing a strong sense of place with a high quality of public realm and well designed buildings within a clear framework of routes and spaces.
- Creating new and improving existing networks, corridors and areas of green space, including the urban fringe to enhance biodiversity and recreation.
- Strengthening the identity and roles of city and town centres as accessible and vibrant focal points for high trip generating uses.
- Improving public transport systems and services and increase opportunities for walking and cycling.
- Identifying that town centres will be the focus for health, offices, retail, leisure, entertainment, arts, culture, tourism and more intensive sport and recreation uses.
- Encouraging sustainable development patterns intended to address climate change and resource use.
- Promoting the re-use of previously developed land in urban areas and making the most of existing transport infrastructure.
- Conserve regionally distinctive elements of the historic environment, in particular the former industrial landscapes, housing areas and civic buildings of note.

8.246 Rotherham Renaissance has been a key priority, reflected in the emerging plans, strategies and activities of the Council and its Partners. To achieve this, the Council and its partners have a number of aspirations for the town centre:

- Developing Rotherham town centre as a sustainable destination providing a mixed economy of specialist and quality shops, markets, housing and cultural life for all age groups.
- Further improving cultural and leisure facilities, such as a cinema and new central library facility, and art galleries.
- Enhancing the town centre’s role as a place for urban living, with an emphasis on high quality apartments, live/work homes and other high density housing provision in attractive environments.
- Seeking to reduce crime levels within the Town Centre and its resulting impact on local businesses.
- Creating an attractive, vibrant and re-populated town centre, which is well connected to rejuvenated, high quality and distinctive sustainable neighbourhoods.

8.247 The 2011 Borough Wide Retail and Leisure Study supports the findings of the 2010 Rotherham Town Centre Retail and Leisure Study, concluding that Rotherham town centre could develop further to reposition itself in the national retail ranking and become more competitive with major rivals. Although the independent quality shopping offer has grown in recent years and the towns enterprising nature has seen a number of start-up businesses achieved in the retail and leisure sector, there still remains a strong qualitative need for further retail provision.

8.248 The 2010 Rotherham Town Centre Retail and Leisure Study highlighted that the town centre benefits from high repeat visits and traders report a positive performance. The market is a strong asset as are many of the physical and environmental aspects of the town centre. Many of Rotherham’s competing centres have been improved and developed over the last couple of decades and there is a significant need for an improved retail and leisure offer in the town centre. The town centre’s positive attributes are not being fully utilised and are overshadowed by the negative aspects, such as vacant units. The 2011 borough wide Retail and Leisure Study concurs, noting that unless a positive policy stance is taken towards the promotion of the town centre, it’s relative decline is likely to continue as competing centres, notably Sheffield and Meadowhall, continue to strengthen their retail offers.

8.249 All of the research points to the need for bigger shops providing more choice and variety, clear anchors, more recognisable branded retailers, more clothing retailers, more quality independent operators, more and better quality catering and restaurants, more of a leisure offer – including a cinema and more of a family friendly focus. Existing strengths such as environment, independent retail provision, sense of place and the market can all be built on and further improved so as to provide more people with more reasons to visit Rotherham Town Centre more often.

8.250 Policy CS15 seeks to ensure that new development within Rotherham town centre responds to the key objectives to help improve Rotherham’s retail and leisure offer identified in the 2010 Rotherham Town Centre Retail and Leisure Study:
• Broaden the appeal of the offer
• Provide bigger stores and more national retailers
• More quality independent retailers
• More variety and better quality catering operators
• A stronger and more varied leisure offer
• Raise the profile of the market
• Enhance Rotherham’s appeal as a family friendly destination, and
• Develop and expand on the ‘sense of place’

8.251 Rotherham’s Renaissance presents an opportunity for major transformation of Rotherham town centre. Following the involvement of and consultation with town centre stakeholders and the wider public 10 Renaissance goals have been identified to help guide the long term development of the town centre. Policy CS15 recognises this, requiring proposals to demonstrate how they contribute towards these goals.

8.252 Whilst much of the Renaissance activity is programmed over the longer term, significant development is already underway and will continue to come forward in the short and medium term. New residential and commercial floorspace has already been completed and new and improved public spaces have been created near to the Minster. However there are further opportunities. Policy CS15 therefore supports the following key developments:

**A sustainable town centre extension**

8.253 The 2011 Retail and Leisure Study highlights the need for additional retail floorspace and that as the borough’s principal centre the majority of this need should be directed towards Rotherham town centre. This is reflected in the guidance in Policy CS14 which identifies the need to plan to accommodate 9,000 sqm gross of convenience goods floorspace and 11,000 sqm gross of comparison goods floorspace. It also states that Rotherham town centre will be the focus for the majority of this new floorspace.

8.254 Whilst there are existing vacant units within Rotherham it is considered appropriate to plan to meet the bulk of any floorspace requirements through an extension to the town centre. This needs to be well located with regard to the bus and rail interchanges and well integrated with the existing retail core. This will be taken forward through the Sites and Policies DPD.

**A redeveloped Forge Island**

8.255 Forge Island is identified as part of the town centre which does not live up to its potential. Tesco have aspirations for a larger store which is unlikely to be deliverable on their present site. The 2010 Rotherham Town Centre Retail and Leisure Study highlights that the site is not at the heart of the town centre. Whilst it remains suitable for retail use as part of the town centre it could provide an attractive location for entertainment, leisure or cultural uses. Should Forge Island become available then the Rotherham Renaissance aspiration is for this site to be developed for such uses which will improve facilities for Rotherham’s residents and visitors.
**A new community stadium**

8.256 The former Guest and Chrimes site is being brought back to life through the development of Riverside House, a new civic hub which will provide office space, access to Council services and a new library.

8.257 The remainder of this site and adjoining land, excluding the Listed Building, has outline planning permission for a new community stadium. This would bring Rotherham United Football Club back to the heart of the town. Further Reserved Matters application(s) will be required setting out the detail of proposed development. Proposals which provide good links to the town centre and bring forward new community facilities will be supported.

**Cross References**


8.259 Planning applications will also be considered against the guidance set out in the Regional Strategy, in particular Policy YH4: Regional Cities and Sub Regional Cities and Towns, Policy SY1: South Yorkshire Sub Area Policy, and Policy E2: Town Centre and Major Facilities.

8.260 Planning applications will also be considered against the guidance set out in national planning policy. More detailed guidance will be provided through policies in the Sites and Policies DPD.

**Delivery**

8.261 The delivery of this Policy will be achieved through the determination of planning applications and the work of relevant agencies/stakeholders which include the Council, Rotherham Partnership, Rotherham and Barnsley Chamber of Commerce, major retailers, local traders, commercial leisure operators and developers. Work is underway to prepare a Town Centre Strategy which will help bring together strategies and initiatives intended to help achieve Rotherham's Renaissance.

8.262 The Council's office relocation programme will see the release of a number of sites for development in and around the town centre following the occupation of the new civic offices.

8.263 Currently the Council's Rotherham Town Centre Business Vitality Scheme aims to help attract new, specialist independent retailers to set up business through financial contributions towards both rental and capital improvement costs. The British Retail Consortium recognised the benefits of this scheme in reducing the burden on retailers and contributing to the viability of High Streets (21st Century High Streets, BRC, 2009). The Council will look to continue to support such schemes as this in the future wherever possible.

8.264 Specific sites for development will be identified in the Sites and Policies DPD.
Housing mix and affordability

Context

8.265 We want to make sure that new housing development contributes to creating sustainable communities meeting the diverse needs of present and future residents of the Borough. This means that we must ensure that new development creates a wide choice of high quality homes, both affordable and market housing; new development has to be of the right mix of housing types to address the requirements of the whole community. Housing choice also has a part to play in ensuring that the Borough is attractive to those wishing to re-locate to Rotherham which in turn can contribute to inward investment.

8.266 Communities require a variety of housing, particularly in terms of tenure and price to meet the needs of a mix of different households such as families with children, single person households and older people. New housing must be of the right type and size to meet peoples needs and, where possible, address current imbalances in the proportions of different house types in current housing stock.

8.267 Many households in Rotherham cannot afford suitable accommodation, either to buy or rent, and the Council seeks to provide affordable housing for eligible households. One of the ways that new affordable housing can be secured is by requiring new housing developments to contribute; usually by including a proportion of affordable homes as part of any new development.

8.268 There also needs to be enough housing of the right type for people with special requirements, for example vulnerable young people and adults, and people with disabilities, and for households from minority ethnic backgrounds, including members of the Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Showpeople communities.
Policy CS 16

**CS16 Housing Mix and Affordability**

a. Proposals for new housing will be expected to deliver a mix of house sizes, type and tenure informed by the most up to date Strategic Housing Market Assessment in order to meet the present and future needs of all members of the community.

b. New housing development will include the provision of affordable housing as set out below:
   i. Sites of 15 dwellings or more - 25% affordable houses on site.
   ii. Sites of less than 15 dwellings - 25% affordable houses on site or a commuted sum equivalent value to contribute towards provision off site.

c. Where need for affordable housing has been identified in local service centres and Green Belt villages, which cannot be met on infill sites or in nearby larger settlements small scale 100% affordable housing schemes will be supported as small extensions to the village.

The Council will work with partners to deliver affordable housing and a mix of houses to meet local needs through use of its own land and other initiatives. Detailed policy and implementation guidance shall be laid out in the Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document.

When considering the mix of house types to be included in any proposal regard shall be given to the identified needs of people with special requirements and people from minority ethnic backgrounds.

**Reasoned Justification**

8.269 Government Guidance in the form of Planning Policy Statement 3 (Housing) (PPS3). The Government’s key housing policy goal is to ensure that everyone has the opportunity of living in a decent home, which they can afford, in a community where they want to live. To achieve this, the Government is seeking to achieve a wide choice of high quality homes, both affordable and market housing, to address the requirements of the community and create sustainable, inclusive, mixed communities in all areas, both urban and rural.

8.270 Policy CS16 will help contribute towards achieving Core Strategy Objectives 6 (Design), 7 (Provision for housing), and, through the delivery of affordable housing, 17 (Infrastructure delivery).

8.271 Rotherham's Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) provides the main body of evidence in relation to the required mix of housing and affordable housing need. The Strategic Housing Market Assessment of Rotherham's housing markets, was published in October 2007. In respect of affordable housing, based upon local evidence covering demography, housing stock attributes [e.g. its condition, quality and affordability] and needs arising, the report calculates a borough-wide requirement of 411 affordable housing units per annum. On larger sites affordable housing should normally be provided as units on site, on smaller sites it is accepted that it can be more difficult to provide units on site and commuted sums will be acceptable in these cases. The Council's Housing
Viability Study 2007 examined the impact of various levels of affordable housing on the viability of housing development across the Borough and demonstrated that 25% would be a realistic level. The Council acknowledges that in some cases, particularly for proposals on brownfield sites, this level of affordable housing would not be viable. In these cases the Council will consider evidence in relation to what level of affordable housing would be possible.

8.272 PPS3 states that developers should bring forward proposals for market housing which reflect demand and the profile of households requiring market housing and that proposals for affordable housing should reflect the size and type of affordable housing required. It further states that in planning at site level, Local Planning Authorities should ensure that the proposed mix of housing on large strategic sites reflects the proportions of households that require housing and achieves a mix of households, tenure and price. Policies in the Sites and Policies DPD will give detailed guidance on what is expected across the borough, in terms of the mix of house types required, including how the needs of minority ethnic communities and people with special needs are to be met.

8.273 PPS3 advocates the use of rural exceptions policies, where viable and practical. Under such policies sites can be released for proposals for 100% affordable housing, even in areas of policy restraint such as the Green Belt. Smaller rural settlements often do not have land remaining within the village envelope, making it difficult to provide affordable housing. A rural exceptions policy allows land to be released for affordable housing where there is identified local need that cannot be met within the village or in a nearby larger settlement. The SHMA 2007 states that in rural areas there is enough evidence to justify a rural exceptions policy. This is taken forward through part C of Policy CS16.

Cross References

8.274 This policy should be read in conjunction with the following Core Strategy policies: CS5: New Housing Development and CS17: Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation.

Delivery

8.275 Delivery will be through informing the site selection process in production of the Sites and Policies DPD and the consideration of planning applications in the development management process.

Gypsy and Traveller accommodation

Context

8.276 The Core Strategy seeks to meet the needs of all communities and recognises that mainstream housing provision does not meet the requirements of many people in the Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople communities. This policy seeks to ensure that sufficient land is allocated in the Sites and Policies DPD to meet identified need. As with other types of housing development, new sites need to meet the needs of the people who will live there, have good access to services and facilities, integrate well with existing communities, and be in the most sustainable possible locations.
Policies guiding the determination of applications for new sites must deal with the particular requirements of the Gypsy and Traveller community and acknowledge that any under-provision of authorised sites within the Borough needs to be taken into account.

**Policy CS 17**

**CS17 Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation**

Sufficient land will be allocated in the Sites and Policies DPD to meet identified need for Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Show-people Caravan sites, taking into account any sites that have already been developed.

Land will be allocated for new sites in accordance with the aims of Policy CS3 "Location of New Development" in light of the level of unmet need in the Borough, the particular requirements of the Gypsies and Travellers and the need for integration with the wider community. Applications for new sites will also be determined in accordance with the aims of Policy CS3, in light of the level of unmet need and detailed criteria set out in the Sites and Policies DPD.

**Reasoned Justification**

Planning Policy Statement 3 (Housing) (PPS3) requires that the local planning authority, in developing policies and allocating sites in the development plan, consider the needs of specific groups including Gypsies and Travellers along with other housing needs. Circular 01/06 (ODPM): "Planning for Gypsy and Caravan Sites" requires that needs assessments should be carried carried out and states that land should be allocated to meet the need identified. The Circular further states that development plans should include positive policies for considering new sites. Circular 04/07 Planning for Travelling Showpeople again requires a needs assessment and that allocations are made to meet that need, it also acknowledges the need for sites to residential and commercial uses.

South Yorkshire Gypsy and Traveller accommodation needs assessment 2007 identified a need for 10 Council managed and 6 private pitches for Gypsies and highlighted the fact that there are no permanent, authorised pitches in Rotherham. The study also identifies a need for 8 pitches for Travelling Showpeople.

**Cross References**

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following Core Strategy policies: CS1: Delivering Rotherham’s Spatial Strategy, CS3: Location of New Development, CS5: New Housing Development, and CS13: Accessible Places and Managing Demand For Travel.

**Delivery**

Delivery will be through informing the site selection process in production of the Allocations and Policies DPD and the consideration of planning applications in the development control process.
Transforming Rotherham’s economy

Context

8.282 Rotherham has a rich industrial heritage and over recent years has widened its economic base, attracting investment in areas such as financial services and advanced manufacturing. Whilst it remains vital to support important and successful sectors such as manufacturing, as the world’s economy changes our local economy must adapt to make the most of new opportunities. This requires an improvement in people's skills to enable them to benefit from new jobs, improvements in research and development, and targeting of important sectors for the future. Moving towards a low carbon economy will bring benefits both in terms of addressing climate change and also presenting new opportunities for business.

8.283 Policy CS18 sets out how we will help to support Rotherham's economic performance and move towards a transformation of our local economy.

Policy CS 18

CS18 Transforming Rotherham’s Economy

Rotherham’s economic performance and transformation will be supported by:

a. Protecting existing employment sites and supporting the regeneration and intensification of previously developed land, including proposals which safeguard the viability of established industrial and business areas through improvements to buildings, infrastructure and the environment.

b. Safeguarding our manufacturing base and targeting the following priority sectors:
   i. Creative and Digital Industries
   ii. Advanced Manufacturing and Materials
   iii. Environmental and Energy Technologies
   iv. Construction Industries
   v. Business, Professional and Financial Services; and
   vi. Food and Drink

c. Encouraging developments which support small and start-up businesses, business incubation schemes, and low carbon industries and developments, including those which support the Dearne Valley Eco-vision.

d. Supporting innovative and flexible schemes, such as live/work developments, which diversify Rotherham's employment opportunities

Reasoned Justification

8.284 This Policy is required to help achieve Core Strategy Objectives 8: Provision for Employment, and 16: Carbon Reduction and Renewable Energy.
8.285 The Regional Strategy at Policy E1 sets out a range of ways in which plans should contribute towards creating a successful and competitive economy including:

- investing where development will have maximum benefit and secure competitive advantage
- improve links between job opportunities, skills and the needs of excluded communities
- moving away from traditional employment sectors whilst creating a modern manufacturing sector
- acknowledging the potential of economic sectors not based primarily on traditional employment land

8.286 Rotherham's Community Strategy vision is that: Rotherham will be a prosperous place, with a vibrant, mixed and diverse economy, and flourishing businesses. Inequalities between parts of the borough and social groups will be minimised. There will be an excellent town centre known for the high quality design of its public spaces and buildings, specialist and quality shops, markets, and cultural life for all age groups. Rotherham will be accessible from other areas and will have a wide choice of integrated transport options available. Rotherham will be a place where the conditions are right to sustain economic growth, and its environments, people and businesses will be protected and nurtured.

8.287 The Community Strategy places an emphasis on providing land and accommodation for the needs of our increasingly modern, innovative economy targeting the advanced manufacturing and metals, creative and digital industries, low carbon and environmental technologies and food and drink manufacturing sectors. In addition, it promotes provision for the creation and sustenance of small business within local communities.

8.288 Rotherham plays an important role within the Sheffield City Region (SCR). The Development Programme identified key priorities for Rotherham as taking forward the Advanced Manufacturing Park at Waverley, to support implementation of the Rotherham Town Centre Renaissance programme, and to ensure that the planning system provides support in linking deprived communities to economic opportunities. The need to build on the achievements in the Dearne Valley is also acknowledged.

8.289 Rotherham and Sheffield have the closest relationships within the City Region in terms of commuting and supply chain links. Manufacturing links are particularly strong with Rotherham acting as supplier of inputs to Sheffield. Rotherham is identified as having particular potential to create complementary firm links with Sheffield. Advanced Manufacturing and Metals continues to play an important role in the economy (City Relationships: Economic Linkages in Northern City Regions - Sheffield City Region", November 2009).

8.290 The recently established Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) vision is for the Sheffield City Region to make a greater contribution to the UK economy by having a local economy less dependent on the public sector, providing conditions for businesses to grow and by giving the nation its prime centre for advanced manufacturing and materials, and low carbon industries. We will offer people a great place in which to live, work, invest and visit. It identifies the need to address:

- Investment and innovation in priority sectors, including advanced manufacturing, creative and digital, low carbon industry and healthcare
- enterprise and business growth
- skills and employment
• unlocking the economic potential of key development areas
• improving national and international transport connections, and
• improving the housing offer and creating attractive city and town centres

8.291 At a more local level Rotherham’s Economic Plan sets out the vision for Rotherham’s economy to 2020. It looks to build upon the successful transition from the economic and industrial downturn of the 1980’s by providing a strategic steer for the second stage of economic transition. The main strands of the Economic Plan are:

• providing infrastructure for the 21st century
• securing productive and enterprising business
• ensuring that we have the skills for an advancing economy
• raising aspirations and encouraging enterprise
• increasing employability
• focusing on young people who are our future workforce
• creating economic conditions for sustainable development
• delivering quality neighbourhoods; and
• improving the image and perception of Rotherham

8.292 To help deliver this economic vision and address identified priorities the Core Strategy policies are intended to:

• Ensure a sufficient number, range and quality of sites are available for economic development
• Support development within key economic sectors
• Support new and growing businesses along with improving skills and employment opportunities
• Deliver sustainable communities by encourage new development in accessible locations

8.293 Policy CS18 seeks to ensure that sufficient land is available for new sustainable economic development by protect existing employment employment sites and supporting the regeneration and intensification of previously developed land. It is acknowledged that some of Rotherham’s existing employment areas and industrial estates will require improvement and investment to ensure that they continue to meet the needs of a wide range of businesses. This policy supports proposals which would help achieve the safeguarding of established industrial and business areas through improvements to buildings, infrastructure and the environment

8.294 However the transformation of Rotherham’s economy requires more than just the provision of land. We need to move towards an economy less reliant on traditional forms of industry, look to the opportunities that an evolving national and regional economy can bring and ensure that people within our communities have the skills to benefit from these new opportunities. To do this we have identified the priority sectors which we will target to help improve economic performance. We will help support businesses in these and other economic sectors by supporting business start up schemes, incubator units and other schemes which secure local business and employment opportunities. We will also encourage activities which help move us towards a lower carbon economy and contribute towards broader climate change, including low carbon / energy efficient buildings. In particular we will support proposals which seek to deliver the Dearne Valley Eco-vision, which envisages a transformed economy based on growing and managing natural assets and developing new low carbon infrastructure. It is also recognised that to assist in achieving economic transformation we need to
supporting innovative and flexible schemes, such as live/work developments, which diversify Rotherham's employment opportunities.

Cross References

8.295 This policy should be read in conjunction with the following Core Strategy policies: CS6: Employment Land Requirement, CS12: Rotherham Regeneration and Flood Alleviation Area, CS19: Tourism and the Visitor Economy, CS22: Freight, CS27: Renewable Energy Generation, and CS29 Improving Skills and Employment Opportunities

8.296 This Policy should also be read in conjunction with the policies in the Regional Strategy (in particular the Economy chapter), and also the policies set out in national planning policy (in particular Planning Policy Statement 4 (Planning for Sustainable Economic Growth)).

Delivery

8.297 Delivery of this policy will be achieved through the determination of planning applications and through the support of the Council, its partners and other stakeholders. The Sheffield City Region LEP will play an important role in assisting the transformation of Rotherham’s economy.

Tourism and the visitor economy

Context

8.298 Tourism and the visitor economy have an important role to play in contributing to the diversification of Rotherham’s economy, providing employment opportunities in urban and rural locations and enhancing Rotherham’s image as a visitor destination. It can also help conserve the built and natural environment and provide facilities which can be enjoyed by Rotherham’s residents as well as visitors from further afield.

8.299 Rotherham already has a number of existing attractions, together with a wealth of untapped resources which could be developed in order to expand the visitor and tourist economy. The Borough has an attractive rural character, a wealth of historic and heritage interest, good access to the motorway network and to neighbouring areas with established visitor attractions such as Sheffield, Nottinghamshire and the Peak District.
Policy CS 19

**CS19 Tourism and the Visitor Economy**

The Council recognises the contribution that tourism can make to sustainable economic development and job creation. The Council will support development proposals for hotels, conference centres, leisure-related tourism facilities, transport facilities, camping and caravanning sites and visitor accommodation in appropriate locations. Proposals focused on the borough’s canal’s and rivers will be supported where they can be delivered safely and in line with flood risk policy set out in national planning guidance.

Tourism and visitor developments will be supported which

a. improve the quality and offer of Rotherham’s visitor economy 

b. improve the image and perception of Rotherham and promote the borough as a visitor destination 

c. attract investment to the local area and increase job creation 

d. increase the skills base in tourism associated areas 

e. enhance and conserve the Borough’s urban and rural heritage, and 

f. utilize existing or replacement buildings wherever possible, particularly outside of existing settlements

In considering the appropriateness of the location of proposed development regard will be had to the proximity to existing and connectivity with other visitor attractions, destinations and amenities, particularly by public transport, walking and cycling.

**Reasoned Justification**

8.300 Policy CS19 contributes towards achieving Core Strategy Objective 5: Landscape and settlement identity. This seeks to protect, enhance and manage the distinct historical features and natural character of the landscape. It supports Objective 8: Provision for employment, by contributing towards the diversification of Rotherham’s economy, providing job opportunities and the creation of new enterprises. It also draws on the requirements of Planning Policy Statement 4: Planning for Sustainable Economic Growth to plan for tourism in rural areas.

8.301 The Borough enjoys a range of existing visitor attractions including natural and built heritage (such as the Country Parks, the trans Pennine trail and historic buildings such as Roche Abbey, Rotherham Minster and Boston Castle), industrial heritage (Magna Visitor Centre), and libraries, museums, theatres, and art galleries. Rotherham’s rivers and canals also provide leisure opportunities. The Borough also hosts a number of festivals and events including the Rotherham Show, a town centre events programme and one of the largest walking festivals in the country.

8.302 In addition to existing facilities the Council has granted permission for a regional entertainment complex which could provide significant new visitor attractions. If delivered, the YES Project, adjacent to Rother Valley Country Park, would provide a mix of themed leisure and recreation
experiences, an extreme sports complex and other sports facilities, conference/convention space and hotel accommodation.

8.303 However alongside some of these assets the borough does face pressures which could be detrimental to improving Rotherham’s visitor economy. Rotherham’s Tourism Plan 2005/08 identified the key strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats of Rotherham as a visitor destination:

Table 8 Rotherham as a Visitor Destination: S.W.O.T. Analysis

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strengths</th>
<th>Weaknesses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Location and accessibility of Rotherham</td>
<td>• Image and perception of the area as a visitor destination</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Large area of countryside</td>
<td>• Lack of infrastructure (coach parking, self catering accommodation, venues, cuisine, rail links, specialist gift shops)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Established events and attractions (Magna, Festivals)</td>
<td>• Lack of good quality small Guest Accommodation that are inspected</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Walking and cycling provision</td>
<td>• Unable to cater for large numbers of conference market in the Borough who wish high quality accommodation at one time e.g. for Magna conferences / launches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Good selection of hotels for business and group markets</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Opportunities</th>
<th>Threats</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Robin Hood, Doncaster, Sheffield Airport</td>
<td>• Expiry of funding regimes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Canal developments on Chesterfield Canal and South Rotherham eco tourism</td>
<td>• Increased competition at Regional, National and International level</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Town Centre regeneration</td>
<td>• Affordable and convenient air travel encouraging people to travel elsewhere</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Increasing affluence and increase in disposable income, along with growth in day trips/short breaks focused on culture, heritage and hobbies and growth in overseas business tourism.</td>
<td>• More sophisticated tastes and increased expectations of tourists</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• New and proposed leisure facilities and expansion of existing facilities – Clifton Park Museum, YES Project, Manvers Lakeside</td>
<td>• Domestic tourists wanting to travel to further destinations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Spectator and participation sports Football, Rugby, Inline Roller Hockey, Golf</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Trans Pennine Trail / Pennine Cycle Trail</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

8.304 Yorkshire Forward’s regional Visitor Economy Strategy 2008 - 2013 seeks to develop the region’s tourism offer, to ensure that the development of great places in our region maximises the potential for growth of the visitor economy, and to promote a positive image of the region in a contemporary way that inspires visitors to experience Yorkshire. The Community Strategy indicates that through the LDF we will aim to portray a positive external image of Rotherham and promote
tourism based on Rotherham’s cultural and heritage assets alongside our aim of creating sustainable communities of distinctive local identity.

8.305  This policy supports proposals which contribute positively towards Rotherham’s visitor economy. Appropriate development to provide more places to visit, suitable accommodation and supporting infrastructure such as shops, catering and transport facilities will be encouraged. It is considered that the urban areas and in particular the defined town and district centres will meet many of the Borough’s tourism service needs. However, in some instances due to the type, nature and location of the attraction it will be necessary to consider the need for such facilities in the Green Belt. In considering the appropriateness of the location of proposed development regard will be had to the proximity to existing and connectivity with other visitor attractions, destinations and amenities, particularly by public transport, walking and cycling.

8.306  Farms may be suitable for appropriate forms of tourism and visitor development such as holiday accommodation, farm trails, working holidays, rural leisure pursuits or rural crafts. Such developments would assist rural economic diversification and provided that they are modest in scale and comply with other policy requirements, particularly environmental and transportation requirements, they are likely to be supported by the Council. In view of their inherent characteristics, their attractive surroundings, and frequently their heritage interest, canals, rivers, and other water bodies provide considerable potential for leisure and recreational uses. These activities together with associated developments will provide a variety of employment opportunities, related to such pursuits as canal boating, fishing, water sports and a variety of waterside activities. However it is also recognised that such developments must be delivered safely and in line with national planning policy regarding flood risk. It is accepted that facilities such as small-scale gift shops and tea-rooms might be appropriate in association with or in close proximity to recognised tourist attractions. Provided that a proposed facility of this type has a predominantly tourism function, is small-scale and ancillary in nature to the tourist attraction, and complies with other relevant policies it is similarly likely to be supported by the Council.

8.307  Tourism and visitor economy developments can help achieve a wide range of benefits. Policy CS19 sets out the criteria against which proposals will be considered. Proposals will be supported which improve the quality and offer of Rotherham’s visitor economy, and which improve the image and perception of Rotherham and promote the borough as a visitor destination. Development also has the potential to help attract investment to the local area and increase job creation, as well as increasing the skills base in tourism associated areas. As such proposals which help contribute towards transforming the economy and local skills will be supported. Depending upon its location, tourism related development can enhance and conserve the Borough’s urban and rural heritage, and the Council will support proposals which achieve this, having regard to other relevant planning policies. The Council will support sustainable development which minimises environmental impact and re-uses previously developed land. Recognising this, proposals will be supported which utilise existing or replacement buildings wherever possible, particularly outside of existing settlements.

Cross References

8.308  This Policy should be read in conjunction with the following Core Strategy Policies: CS3: Location of New Development, CS7: Green Belt, CS9: Landscape, CS10: Valuing the Historic Environment, CS11: Sustainable Design, CS13: Accessible Places and Managing Demand for Travel, CS14: Managing Change in Rotherham’s Retail and Service Centres, CS15: Transforming Rotherham
This Policy should also be read in conjunction with national planning policy set out in Planning Policy Statement 4 (Planning for Sustainable Economic Growth), and Policies in the Regional Strategy, in particular Policy E6: Sustainable Tourism.

It is recognised that in developing the visitor economy there may well be pressures for development in sensitive locations. The Sites and Policies DPD will include more detailed policies to ensure that support for developing the visitor economy is balanced with the need to protect, conserve and enhance the natural and built environment.

Delivery

This policy will be delivered primarily through the consideration of planning applications, however the Council and its partners will also support partnership working wherever possible to help bring forward schemes to improve the visitor economy.

Green space

Context

Green space, sport and recreation are essential elements of sustainable communities that contribute towards health, quality of life, sense of place and overall well-being. In addition they can add to an area’s uniqueness, making it a place that is distinctive, stimulating and an exceptional place to live and work. Such places need to be well looked after to ensure they continue to meet the needs of the communities they serve. From time to time they may also need realignment or improvement to suit changing circumstances.

The Council has undertaken an audit (2005) of green space in Rotherham and this raises the following issues with respect to green space provision in the Borough:

- Compared to some other metropolitan districts Rotherham has a large amount of accessible green space per person, with extensive reclaimed former mineral and industrial sites contributing to this.

- Some areas contain significantly more green space per person than others, and the proportions of different types of green space vary from one part of the borough to another.

- The value of green spaces can be enhanced by linking them together, although further work needs to be done to identify where this is feasible.

- There are variations in the quality of green space, and a significant number of sites have been assessed as being high value but only low quality, highlighting the need for further site improvement.

- The MORI survey (2003 & referred to in the audit) found that Rotherham residents considered themselves lucky in having so much green space. There is little perceived need for extra provision but instead a desire for what already exists to be improved, maintained and protected.
From this work a Green Spaces Strategy (2010) has been developed, which identifies a vision for green space in Rotherham. This vision is based on Rotherham having a network of accessible, high quality greenspaces, sport and recreational facilities. This network will enhance the 'livability' of the town, support regeneration and bio-diversity, promote sustainability and make the best use of land.

**Policy CS 20**

**CS20 Green space**

The Council will seek to improve the quality and accessibility of green spaces available to the local community and provide clear and focused guidance to developers on the contributions expected.

Rotherham’s green spaces will be protected, enhanced and created by:

a. Requiring development proposals to address local deficiencies in accessible green space where there would otherwise be a gap in provision (in particular major development) or where open space is required to remedy a need for natural and semi natural flood storage.

b. Where new green space is required developers will have regard to the detailed policies in the Sites and Policies DPD that will establish a standard for green space provision.

c. Protecting and enhancing existing green space that could serve areas allocated for future residential development.

d. Considering the potential of currently inaccessible green space to meet an identified need.

Links between green spaces will be preserved, improved and extended by:

a. Retaining and enhancing green spaces that are easily accessible from strategically important routes as identified in the Public Rights of Way Improvement Plan, and those that adjoin one or more neighbouring green spaces to form a linear feature.

b. Creating or extending green links where feasible as part of green space provision in new developments.

**Reasoned Justification**

Rotherham has a wealth of green spaces that have been provided for the enjoyment of local people. Such places need to be well looked after to ensure they continue to meet the needs of the communities they serve. Widespread changes in Rotherham over the last thirty years have been brought about by decline in traditional industries, migration, technology and cultural changes. The result has been new lifestyles and pressures on the community and environment. This means that the provision of parks and green spaces today faces many challenges, for example the need to renew ageing facilities and maintain high standards within limited resources. Increasing housing provision will result in extra demand for play, sport and access to nature. A balance needs to be struck; new development has major positive impacts in regeneration and economic activity within an area but this needs to be balanced with people’s need for green space and recreation.
8.316 Green space makes a valuable contribution to local communities and should not be sacrificed for development where it is required to fulfil a local green space need. A community’s use of green space depends on the quality of the green space and how easy it is for people to get to it. This could require developers to provide new green space, to enlarge existing green spaces to extend their catchment areas, to make improvements needed to upgrade a Local site to a Neighbourhood site, or to make positive changes to a road or other crossing to overcome lines of severance.

8.317 However, there are circumstances where the development on green space would generate benefits for the local community. It may be appropriate that open space is developed where it is proposed to directly replace green space within the local area. Any such replacement should be equivalent to or better than the green space that is lost, in terms of its quality, as well as being at least as accessible. Similarly, it may be appropriate that part of a green space is developed if it secures improvements to the quality of the remaining open space.

8.318 It is recognised that green spaces can provide for a variety of recreational functions and an open space should not be developed if it is required to fulfil an alternative green space function. In situations where there is sufficient green space to cater for local needs, some green spaces of low value from which the community derives little benefit may be considered surplus to requirements, and their loss acceptable. This will require careful consideration of the local context and the potential benefits that could be achieved through development.

8.319 Improving green space provision is not just about individual sites. The value of green spaces can be greatly enhanced by linking them together in corridors giving safe, attractive access for pedestrians and, in some cases, cyclists. In this way, the recreational opportunities offered by one site can be expanded to include those at other linked green spaces, as well as the enjoyment and health benefits of walking or cycling between them. To successfully achieve this enhancement measures could include creation of new access between adjacent green spaces, or between a green space and a public right of way, or new planting along such a route to improve its wildlife and landscape value.

8.320 The contributions green spaces make to people’s quality of life are varied and extensive. By acting as ‘green lungs’ they can assist in improving air quality. Well planned and maintained open spaces can play a major part in improving people’s sense of well being in the place they live. As a focal point for community activities, they can provide opportunities for people to socially interact.

8.321 The recognition of the value of green spaces for biodiversity and nature conservation has grown in recent years. Country parks aim to provide places where wildlife flourishes whilst being easily accessible to visitors, providing opportunities for environmental education and life-long learning. Woodlands, local nature reserves and other countryside sites are generally managed for biodiversity as well recreational value. The potential for urban green spaces to be managed in a similar way is gaining recognition, bringing environmental, recreational and educational benefits of nature closer to where people live.

8.322 The landscape value of green spaces is linked to recreational value, with high quality planting being provided in more important parks for the enjoyment of visitors. However, landscape value can be much wider; green spaces often affect the appearance of adjacent streets and homes, and in some cases they are dominant features that help to create the distinct character of a neighbourhood. Green spaces can also define the edges of neighbourhoods, separating them from the next community.
In such cases loss of a green space could lead to the erosion of a community’s unique identity. The landscape quality of green spaces can have a significant impact on the economic prosperity of the borough. National studies have shown that the appearance of the physical environment is an important factor affecting the location of businesses. It has also been shown that house prices rise around good quality green spaces; Examples of this can be seen in the marketing of houses adjacent to Rother Valley Country Park and Bradgate Park.

8.323 Green spaces can play a valuable role in reducing the effect that climate change has on people’s lives. Recent experience has highlighted the growing threat to homes and businesses in Rotherham from flooding. Whilst the increasing frequency of extreme rainfall events appear to be a factor in this, the spread of the built environment and hard surfacing also contributes to increased run off which results in a rapid increase in river levels. Green spaces can help to reduce these effects by storing rainwater. Warmer summers particularly affect urban areas as buildings and road surfaces heat up quickly increasing the local temperature. This can lead to increased energy consumption through the use of air conditioning which adds to the overall heating effect. Green spaces can help to reduce these effects because they heat up more slowly. Trees are particularly valuable as they offer protection from the potentially damaging effects of sunlight.

Cross-references

8.324 This policy should be read in conjunction with the following Core Strategy policies: CS7: Green Belt, CS8: Green Infrastructure, CS9: Landscape, CS11: Sustainable Design, CS19: Tourism and the Visitor Economy, CS23: Community Health & Safety, CS24: Biodiversity & Geodiversity, CS26: Managing the Water Environment, and CS28: Infrastructure Delivery & Developer Contributions.

8.325 Regional Strategy Policy ENV11 seeks to safeguard and enhance sports and recreation facilities and maximise opportunities for cycling and walking to improve health, in line with the Strategic Framework for Health ‘Our Region, Our Health’ (2004).

8.326 Through Planning Policy Guidance 17 (Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation), the Government promotes the vital role that open spaces, sports and recreational facilities have to play in promoting healthy living and preventing illness, and in the social development of children of all ages.

8.327 Policy CS20 will help achieve the aims of Core Strategy objectives: 5 (Landscape and settlement identity), 6 (Design), 10 (Greenspaces, sport and recreation), 12 (Biodiversity/Geodiversity), 15 (Managing the water environment), and 17 (Infrastructure delivery).

8.328 This policy will also contribute to the Community Strategy cross-cutting theme of Sustainable Development through making sure there is a high quality environment sustained through minimising harm from development. Allied to this, the strategic themes of Rotherham Alive and Safe will be satisfied.

Delivery

8.329 The delivery of the policy will be informed by updated audits of open space that will highlight deficiencies in quality and accessibility. Other technical studies such as the Allotments & Playing Pitch Strategies will also be used to justify future provision levels. Through the process of development
management, improvements to the quality and accessibility of open space will be achieved primarily through developer contributions. Partnership arrangements with local organisations including Groundwork Dearne Valley may also be explored. The Sites and Policies DPD will provide further policies and detail on the expected standards and contributions to be achieved.

8.330 The policy requires explicit definitions in order to be implementable:

Green space - a wide range of public and private areas that are predominantly open in character and provides, or have the potential to provide direct or indirect environmental, social and/or economic benefits to communities. This comprises:

Formal open space

- outdoor sports facilities (with natural or artificial surfaces and either publicly or privately owned) - including tennis courts, bowling greens, sports pitches, golf courses, athletics tracks, school and other institutional playing fields, and other outdoor sports areas
- provision for children and teenagers - including play areas, skateboard parks, outdoor basketball hoops and teenage shelters

Informal open space

- parks - including urban parks, country parks and formal gardens (these may also consist of elements of formal provision);
- natural and semi-natural urban open spaces – including accessible natural green space, woodlands, urban forestry, scrub, grasslands (e.g. downlands, commons and meadows), wetlands, open and running water, wastelands and derelict open land and rock areas;
- river and canal banks, cycleways, and rights of way;
- small green or landscaped areas (public or private) which provide a setting for built development and which may offer opportunities for informal recreation close to home or work;
- allotments;
- churchyards, cemeteries and gardens of rest (associated with crematoria);
- accessible countryside in urban fringe and rural areas – including woodlands.

Flood risk within the Rotherham Regeneration Area

Context

8.331 Policy CS12 establishes the importance of revitalising Rotherham town centre and its surrounding areas, identified as the Rotherham Regeneration Area. Lying at the heart of Rotherham’s urban area it faces a specific challenge in terms of flood risk which it is vital to address to ensure
that existing and new development is protected and which also allows for continued development of previously developed land, and in particular key sites along the riverside which will contribute towards Rotherham’s Renaissance.

8.332 To address these issues the Council has taken a number of key actions to reduce flood risk in the Town Centre. In partnership with the Environment Agency a Rotherham Renaissance Flood Alleviation Scheme is being developed. Phase 1 has been completed and phase 2 is expected to be developed incrementally in the future. In addition the Council is encouraging a pro-active approach to developers by providing a ‘Flood Risk Toolkit’ so there is a clear process and protocol for assessing and mitigating flooding in the Town Centre.

### Policy CS 21

**CS21 Flood Risk within the Rotherham Regeneration Area**

When considering new developments within the Rotherham Regeneration Area, the Council will support proposals which demonstrate that they have assessed, and, where necessary, mitigated flood risk taking into account as a starting point the Flood Risk Toolkit.

The areas of lowest flood risk as indicated in the Level 2 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment which is part of the Flood Risk Tool Kit are not restricted on the types of land use which can be implemented in terms of flood risk. Applicants in medium or high risk flood zones seeking to implement land uses that are more vulnerable to the impacts of flooding will be required to demonstrate the benefits of developing these sites if suitable alternative Town Centre sites in lower flood risk zones are available (taking into account the analysis provided in the Level 2 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment). Where these benefits can be demonstrated, applicants must also set out the flood risk mitigation measures incorporated into the design and demonstrate how these reduce flood risk to an acceptable level and maintain safe access both to the site and its surroundings during times of flood. Any flood risk management measures implemented through development must be compatible with the requirements of the Council’s community wide Rotherham Renaissance Flood Alleviation Scheme.

### Reasoned Justification

8.333 By ensuring that new development takes account of the Flood Risk Toolkit, and has regard to the Flood Alleviation Scheme, this Policy will help ensure that new development is delivered in sustainable locations in line with Core Strategy Objective 3: Sustainable locations, and that the risks of flooding are minimised in line with Core Strategy Objective 15: Managing the Water Environment.

8.334 Rotherham’s borough-wide Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) identified that parts of the Rotherham Regeneration Area are at a medium to high risk of river and surface water flooding. Given the importance of this area to the function and goals for the Borough, a Level 2 SFRA has been produced to identify more specifically the cause, risk and measures to mitigate and reduce the risk from flooding. This has been produced as part of a wider Flood Risk Toolkit to assist developers when bringing forward developments within this area, and also ensuring that new development is compatible with the wider Flood Alleviation Scheme.
In recent times Rotherham Town Centre and the areas surrounding it have experienced two serious flood events; in November 2000 and again in June 2007. Flooding occurred as a result of water overflowing from the River Don and River Rother (these two rivers join together south of the Town Centre) and following natural flow routes through the Town Centre. In addition, exceptionally heavy rainfall events also cause surface water flooding where water flows overland and ponds in lower lying areas.

Since the first flood event, the Council and the Environment Agency have been proactive in reducing the risk of flooding in the Town Centre. This has included investing £15 million in the first phase of the Rotherham Renaissance Flood Alleviation Scheme (RRFAS) and removing physical obstructions to improve the flow of the River Don. The Council has also undertaken work to model and research how the Borough is affected by flood risk.

The focus on flood risk is particularly aligned to the regeneration aspirations of the Council and its partners, especially to reinvigorate the Town Centre economy which is integral to the future success of the whole Borough. The Town Centre also contains many existing businesses which will benefit from reduced flood risk.

The second phase of the Flood Alleviation Scheme, which runs through the town centre, will be developed incrementally. However the community-wide Scheme will only deliver its full benefits providing that it is implemented consistently along its full length. Policy CS21 is therefore required to ensure that where new flood risk management measures are implemented through new development, they are compatible with the Flood Alleviation Scheme. Policy CS31: Contributions Towards New Flood Infrastructure in the Rotherham Regeneration Area sets out how new developments will be expected to contribute towards the implementation of the Flood Alleviation Scheme.

Policy CS21 sets out how the Council expects flood risk to be addressed within the Rotherham Regeneration Area. It indicates that the Flood Risk Toolkit should be used as a starting point as this sets out how the Sequential Approach will be applied by the Council and how flood risk mitigation measures should be incorporated into development proposals and demonstrated in planning applications. Guidance is included as to how proposals will be assessed by the Council as the Local Planning Authority. The Toolkit also includes a design guide which will ensure that new flood risk management measures, when implemented, are compatible with the Flood Alleviation Scheme.

Cross References

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following Core Strategy policies: CS1: Delivering Rotherham’s Spatial Strategy, CS3: Location of New Development, CS12: Rotherham Regeneration Area, CS13: Accessible Places and Managing Travel Demand, CS15: Transforming Rotherham Town Centre, CS18: Transforming Rotherham’s Economy, CS26: Managing the Water Environment, CS28: Infrastructure Delivery and Developer Contributions, and CS31: Contributions Towards New Flood Infrastructure in the Rotherham Regeneration Area.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following Regional Strategy Policy ENV1: Development and Flood Risk. Planning applications will also be determined having regard to flood risk guidance set out in national planning policy.
8.342 Supporting policies will also be set out in the Sites and Policies DPD

8.343 Delivery

8.344 Delivery of this policy will be achieved through the determination of planning applications.

8.345 It is intended that this Flood Risk Took Kit will be adopted as a Supplementary Planning Document. Until this time it will be used as best practice guidance.

8.3 Climate change and managing natural resources

8.346 The consequences of climate change are long-term, global and in some cases already irreversible; making climate change one of the most pressing environmental, social and economic challenges that faces the planet today.

8.347 In recent years, storms and droughts have shown how vulnerable the UK is to the weather, making climate change a priority for central Government, with legislation and guidance rapidly evolving. In particular, Planning Policy Statement 1: Delivering Sustainable Development (PPS1), new building regulations and mandatory assessments such as the Code for Sustainable Homes, have confirmed the role of local authorities in meeting this new challenge.

8.348 These different aspects are of particular significance given the flood event in 2007 which caused widespread damage in Rotherham and elsewhere in the region, with the likelihood that in the future more extreme weather events will become more frequent and destructive. The results of the modelling carried out for the Yorkshire and Humber Regional Climate Change Adaptation Study suggest that the following changes are likely for the borough by 2050:

- An increase in summer daily mean temperatures within the study area of 2.5°C
- Annual minimum temperatures are projected to rise by 1.6°C but to remain below 0°C;
- Winter rainfall to increase by 14%; and
- Annual snowfall days are predicted to decrease by over 3 days per year.

8.349 The Climate Change Action Plan for Yorkshire and the Humber sets a strategic direction for managing and combating climate change in the region up until 2014. Within Rotherham, the draft Environment and Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan has been produced to demonstrate the importance of climate change as well as to set the direction for managing, combating and preparing for climate change across the Borough. This complements the aspirations of the Local Strategic Partnership in Rotherham’s Community Strategy, through the cross-cutting theme of Sustainable Development.

8.350 The Core Strategy incorporates policies relating to climate change through a number of mechanisms and topics such as: sustainable transport and reducing the need to travel; the location of new development and its accessibility; renewable energy, energy efficiency, waste reduction and flooding. Tackling all these issues collectively; developing ways to monitor positive change; and mitigating against, and adapting to, climate change will be paramount in responding to the challenge.

8.351 Opportunities may also emerge with the development of new ‘green’ technologies, such as advanced manufacturing of products for climate change mitigation and adaptation, being a growth
industry. The needs of these industries must be considered to ensure maximum advantage can be taken in the Borough to benefit from the growth and attract new businesses, and encourage retention through ensuring expansion is possible and attractive in the Borough.

**Freight**

**Context**

8.352 The efficient movement of freight by rail, road and canal is essential to the South Yorkshire economy. A move toward a sustainable freight distribution network is a key aim but, for the short to medium term, we have examined current commercial and retail practices and we do not expect to be able to influence any material changes to the way freight is moved. Therefore, freight will continue to be moved as follows:

- The movement of ‘bulk’ loose goods and longer distance hauls will remain a key function of the rail and canal network, particularly between Rotherham and the Humber ports.
- The movement of non-bulk freight will be mainly road-based and concentrated on the key route network.

8.353 The Yorkshire and Humberside Regional Freight Strategy (RFS) provides a framework for developing a sustainable regional freight distribution strategy. The framework will be used to develop a sub regional freight strategy which will address freight issues in Rotherham and South Yorkshire.

**Policy CS 22**

**CS22 Freight**

The Council will promote improvements to the freight network accruing from strategic road and rail improvements especially for links to the Humber Ports and the north via the M1/M62 Active Traffic management proposals.

The transfer of freight from road to canal will be encouraged and the potential of the Sheffield and South Yorkshire Navigation and rail network will be maximised by safeguarding sites with potential canal wharfage and rail sidings.

The impact of the movement of road based freight will be minimised through the concentration of freight onto key routes.

**Reasoned Justification**

8.354 Policy CS22 will contribute towards achieving Core Strategy Objective 8: Provision for Employment by safeguarding sites with potential canal wharfage and rail sidings.

8.355 Ideas and problem sharing between Rotherham MBC, South Yorkshire Local Authorities, the Integrated Transport Authority and representatives of the freight industry will form the basis of a Freight Strategy for South Yorkshire. There is common agreement that road infrastructure for
freight in South Yorkshire is fit for purpose although rail has some limitations. The following will be
given priority over the next 10-15 years:

- Mapping and signage of freight routes.
- HGV routeing, including south west Sheffield (and relationship with Derbyshire).
- Information on events and significant delays, including liaison with the HA (particularly in respect
  of adverse weather conditions).
- Lorry parking, particularly in relation to standards / security of facilities.
- Enforcement.
- Interchange of freight modes.
- Collisions / incidents involving HGVs, particularly on the HA “National Network” and the South
  Yorkshire “Strategic Network”.
- Use of bus lanes / gates by goods vehicles.
- Optimising rail freight trunk routes to minimise passenger/freight conflicts.
- Make the rail freight network available 24-hours a day, all year round.
- Eliminate rail pinch points.
- Promote the upgrading of the rail network capability via the Rail Network Utilisation Strategy

8.356 Policy CS22 focuses road freight on to key routes which are the most suitable for the vehicles
and types of journey associated with this activity. It also recognises that rail and canal routes provide
alternatives to road based freight trips which may have sustainability benefits. As such the policy
seeks to safeguard sites with suitable canal wharfage and rail sidings.

Cross References

8.357 This policy should be read in conjunction with the following Core Strategy policies: CS4:
Key Routes and the Strategic Road Network, CS13: Accessible Places and Managing Demand for
Travel, and CS18: Transforming Rotherham’s Economy.

8.358 This policy should be read in conjunction with the Policies set out in the Regional Strategy,
in particular those within the Regional Transport Strategy chapter and with:

- Local Transport Plan 2011-26
- Sustainable School Travel Policy
- Highways Asset Management Plan
- Transport Asset Management Plan
- Air Quality Management Action Plan
- South Yorkshire Congestion Delivery Plan
- South Yorkshire Park and Ride Strategy
- Regional Freight Strategy
- Yorkshire and Humberside Rail Network Utilisation Strategy
- South Yorkshire Rail Strategy
- South Yorkshire Freight Strategy (Draft as of April 2011)

8.359 In determining planning applications regard will also be had to guidance in national planning
policy, in particular Planning Policy Guidance 13 (Transport).
Delivery

8.360 This Policy will be delivered through the allocation of sites for development in the Sites and Policies DPD and through the determination of planning applications.

Community health and safety

Context

8.361 New development should not have an adverse impact on existing neighbours, future occupants or the environment. It should help to create and maintain quality environments that are clean, safe, healthy and pleasant. The LDF can make a significant contribution to protecting people and the environment from various forms of pollution by controlling the type and location of new development. This is particularly meaningful for Rotherham owing to its legacy of activities such as mining, quarrying and heavy industrial activities which have resulted in the degradation of environmental quality in the past and have potential to cause further pollution or damage to amenity. Associated concentrations of deprivation and ill-health following the demise of many of these industries further serves to vindicate an approach whereby developments should maximise opportunities to contribute to well-being, including supporting opportunities for improved life chances and healthier lifestyle choices.

Policy CS 23

CS23 Community Health and Safety

Development should protect or contribute to securing a healthy and safe environment, including minimising opportunities for crime, the risk of terrorism and addressing any specific risks to health or safety from the local environment. Development should avoid or, if not possible, mitigate potential air, soil, noise, light, surface and ground water pollution or public safety and health risks directly arising from in-situ operations and/or from potential indirect or cumulative impacts on surroundings areas and sensitive land uses. Particular regard should be taken of potential adverse effects of additional development near to hazardous installations and upon Air Quality Management Areas and in developing contaminated sites.

Reasoned Justification

8.362 Crime and the fear of crime are amongst the most important concerns of local communities, which has been exacerbated over recent years by the risk of terrorism. Community safety is essential to creating sustainable communities and is one of the key objectives of sustainable development identified in national planning policy. The design of buildings and spaces can make a significant contribution towards reducing the scope for crime, and for creating more pleasant and reassuring environments to live in. Removing or reducing opportunities for crime is essential to good design and should be the aim when designing all communal spaces in residential areas, town centres, employment areas and in all transport schemes.
Pollution in its various forms can cause stress, damage buildings, devalue and degrade nearby properties and communities, deter new ‘cleaner’ development, create a poor image, damage crops and result in a waste of potential recreation resources. Ultimately, of course, it can damage health and take on a global dimension. Control of pollution is a complex subject involving several agencies, none of which can operate to maximum effect in isolation. Similarly it involves a range of Council powers and responsibilities, including smoke, noise and litter abatement and waste disposal, as well as less direct but equally important measures such as traffic management.

Development has the potential to harm the environment in a variety of ways, including the emission of pollutants to the air, water courses and soils. The Council will consider the possible polluting affects of a development proposal on aspects such as amenity and surrounding land-uses. These considerations will be complemented by legislation outside the planning process, such as the Pollution Prevention and Control Regulations.

The impact of existing sources of pollution should also be taken into account when locating new development. New development sensitive to pollution will not be appropriate where existing sources of noise or other pollution cannot be satisfactorily mitigated. New development will also not be appropriate where it would prejudice the viability of other important land uses by reason of its sensitivity to pollution. Residential development, for example, will not usually be appropriate in locations where the presence of residential uses is likely to give rise to the imposition of undue operational constraints on existing safeguarded industrial uses that might prejudice their ability to continue operation.

Noise and vibration can be a serious cause of nuisance. Planning can make sure that new noise sensitive development such as housing and schools is not close to existing sources of noise, including industrial uses and noise created by vehicles and other forms of transport. It can also make sure that potential noise creating uses, including industrial processes or some recreational activities, are not in places where they would be likely to cause nuisance. Measures can sometimes be incorporated into development to reduce noise to acceptable limits. Buildings can be sited away from the noise and constructed with materials that reduce noise. Externally recreation areas and gardens can be sited away from highways, and protected by planting, mounding or fencing.

Safeguarding water supplies and their quality now and for the future is essential. It is a legal duty not to cause or allow water pollution. The Water Framework Directive introduces a new system for water protection, improvement and sustainable use. Its objectives are to prevent and limit pollution, mitigate the effects of floods and droughts, balance abstraction and recharge, and achieve good ecological and chemical water quality by 2015. The Environment Agency is responsible for ensuring the delivery of water quality objectives through programmes of action in new statutory River Basin Management Plans.

Floodlighting and other forms of artificial lighting are often a key component of security, safety and design. External lighting and security floodlights can however also cause significant amenity problems. Poorly situated or badly designed lighting can have an adverse impact on residential amenity, the sky at night and wildlife such as birds.

Planning Policy Statement 1 (Delivering Sustainable Development), Planning Policy Statement 23 (Planning and Pollution Control) and Planning Policy Guidance 24 (Planning and Noise) set out the government’s national policy on sustainable development and pollution control. In all cases where
development is likely to have a significant effect on the environment through the creation of pollution, developers will be expected to undertake an Environmental Impact Assessment.

8.370 Air quality is a concern in parts of the Borough, particularly in the M1 corridor and close to Rotherham town centre, mostly caused by traffic. A number of Air Quality Management Areas have been designated where pollution levels may exceed guidelines set by the government. Town centres and urban areas are the places where the LDF spatial strategy concentrates most new development, so that without action air quality in these areas might deteriorate. The Council’s Neighbourhood and Adult & Environmental and Development Services has prepared an Action Plan (for the period 2007-2011) to address pollution levels in Air Quality Management Areas. Nevertheless, it is important that new development throughout the Borough does not worsen air quality. Promoting the use of public transport, walking and cycling as alternatives to the car, will help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution.

8.371 The Council is concerned to ensure that all new development, particularly commercial, industrial and traffic generating uses, does not result in an unacceptable level of air pollution to the detriment of public health and other land uses. Developers will be expected to take proper account of air quality issues when drawing up their proposals.

8.372 The reuse of previously developed land and buildings is encouraged to ensure the efficient use of scarce land resources. This includes the re-use of sites which have been contaminated by previous activity. Therefore, it is important to ensure that any contamination is dealt with as part of the redevelopment process, to ensure there are no adverse effects on future occupants or the environment. The Council has a duty to regulate the re-development process, but there is also a duty for developers to ensure the safe development of their site.

8.373 Redevelopment of previously developed land is an important element in the plan to achieve regeneration and sustainable development objectives and to improve the environment generally. Much has been done to improve environmental quality within the borough such as the restoration of collieries including Dinnington, decontamination and redevelopment of sites at locations such as Templeborough and the Dearne Valley. Nonetheless there are remaining areas where significant improvements are still required, particularly the Croda site in Swinton.

8.374 Planning Policy Statement 1 (Delivering Sustainable Development), Planning Policy Guidance 14 (Development on Unstable Land) and Planning Policy Statement 23 (Planning and Pollution Control) sets out the government’s national policy on sustainable development and contamination.

8.375 Where hazardous processes are carried out the implications extend beyond the boundaries of the site. The release of toxic chemicals or effects of an explosion could be serious not only for those people working on the premises, but to the wider community living and working in the vicinity. The Health and Safety Executive has identified a number (8 in total) of Hazardous Installation Consultation Zones in the Borough within which development proposals need to be assessed in terms of their location and proximity to hazardous operations. A cluster of these is located within the traditional heavy industrial locations of Rotherham’s main urban area, as well as in Hellaby and Aston.

8.376 Planning Policy Statement 1 (Delivering Sustainable Development) and Planning Policy Statement 23 (Planning and Pollution Control) set out the government’s national policy on sustainable development and environmental protection and enhancement.
Taking account of all aspects of the above it is necessary to state that an important consideration in the planning process is the precautionary principle. This means that where there is significant risk of damage to the environment, planning and pollution controls will take into account the need to prevent or limit harm, even where there is no definite scientific knowledge.

**Cross References**

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following Core Strategy policies: CS3: Location of New Development, CS11: Sustainable Design, CS13: Accessible Places and Managing Demand for Travel, CS26: Managing the Water Environment, and CS27: Renewable Energy Generation.

Aspects of this policy align with the Core Approach of the Regional Strategy, in particular through YH1, environmental policies ENV1 and ENV3 and the South Yorkshire sub-area policy SY1.

This policy will help achieve the aims of Core Strategy objectives: 1 (Scale of future growth), 2 (Green Belts), 3 (Sustainable locations), 5 (Landscape and settlement identity), 6 (Design), 7 (Provision for Housing), 8 (Provision for employment), 9 (Local transport connections), 11 (Community well-being), 12 (Biodiversity/Geodiversity), 15 (Managing the water environment), 16 (Carbon reduction/renewable energy), and 17 (Infrastructure delivery).

This policy will also contribute to the Community Strategy cross-cutting theme of Sustainable Development through making sure there is a high quality environment sustained through minimising harm from development. Allied to this, the strategic themes of Rotherham Alive and Safe will be satisfied.

**Delivery**

This policy will be delivered through the determination of planning applications. Where necessary planning conditions and/or legal agreements will be utilised to help limit the impact of the various aspects identified above or benefit the wider community. Dialogue with the relevant expert body including the Environment Agency and the Health & Safety Executive will be undertaken to inform the approach taken. This will be facilitated by policies against which planning applications will be judged, to be made within the Sites and Policies DPD.

**Biodiversity and geodiversity**

**Context**

Biodiversity encompasses the whole variety of life on earth; all species of plants and animals and the ecosystems of which they are part. It includes the whole of the natural world from the commonplace to the endangered.

Geodiversity is the variety of rocks, fossils, minerals, landforms and soils, and all the natural processes that shape the landscape.

Biodiversity and geodiversity are hugely important in their own right and together form our natural environment which provides us with the essentials for life and underpins our health, wellbeing and prosperity.
8.386 The natural environment is a precious resource and there are many pressures on it; the cumulative impacts of development, population growth and climate change are making these challenges more complex. It is essential that we secure a diverse, healthy and resilient natural environment to maintain our quality of life; this will require a coordinated and strategic approach to policy making and delivery.

8.387 Within Rotherham a framework of valuable biodiversity and geological assets is formed by the network of nationally, regionally and locally designated sites, by the presence of priority habitats and geological formations and by the presence of features that support protected and priority species. This framework of sites and features has helped to generate a Green Infrastructure network in which future development will be expected to contribute to the enhancement of the network including the natural environment.

8.388 The Yorkshire and Humber Biodiversity Forum has led work to identify biodiversity opportunity areas of both regional and local scale in which it has been identified that restoration and creation of priority habitats will have the greatest benefit. National planning policy states that Local Development Frameworks should identify these areas and should include policies that support delivery.
Policy CS 24

CS24 Biodiversity and Geodiversity

The Council will protect and enhance Rotherham’s natural environment. Biodiversity and geodiversity resources will be protected and measures will be taken to enhance these resources in terms of nationally and locally prioritised sites, habitats and features and protected and priority species. Priority will be given to:

a. Protecting the integrity of nationally designated sites for nature conservation from inappropriate development;
b. Supporting the positive management and protection of nationally, regionally and locally designated sites for nature conservation;
c. Protecting populations of protected and prioritised species from harm and disturbance;
d. Supporting the delivery of objectives set out in the Rotherham Biodiversity Action Plan;
e. Protecting sites and features which have biodiversity value, including ancient woodland, important trees, hedgerows, watercourse, caves and structures, but which are not included in designated sites;
f. Supporting the delivery of objectives set out in the Yorkshire and Humber Biodiversity Strategy and Delivery Plan, and other relevant biodiversity strategies, to restore and expand priority habitats within identified biodiversity opportunity areas;
g. Ensuring that the effects of climate change on biodiversity and geodiversity are monitored and that green infrastructure and biodiversity enhancement work allows habitats and species to adapt to these effects;
h. Managing land use sympathetically and in accordance with the naturally functioning processes of habitat succession, natural flood & water management and climate change adaptation;
i. Ensuring that development will safeguard the natural environment and will incorporate best practice including biodiversity gain, green construction, sustainable drainage and contribution to green infrastructure

Reasoned Justification

8.389 The aim of this policy is to provide a framework for conserving and enhancing the total natural environment resource and diversity both for its own sake but also the positive contribution that it makes to Rotherham’s quality of life and sense of place. It will contribute towards achieving the aims of Core Strategy objectives 5 (Landscape and settlement identity), 12 (biodiversity / geodiversity), and 15 (Managing the water environment).

8.390 The sites, features and species noted below will be used as the basis for interpreting this policy. Statutorily protected and designated sites will be shown on the proposals map; however, due to the dynamic character of the natural environment and conservation activity additions or amendments to site interests and boundaries may occur in future and the most up to date information should be sought.
8.391 The Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 places a duty on all public authorities to have regard to the purpose of conserving biodiversity (the 'biodiversity duty'); a key aim of this duty is to make biodiversity conservation a natural and integral part of policy and decision making.

8.392 Rotherham contains a wide and varied range of sites and features of nature conservation importance. There are 7 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), which are representative examples of nationally important wildlife and geology. SSSI are of special value for nature conservation and are legally protected under national legislation. Local Nature Reserve (LNR) is also a statutory designation made under national legislation.

8.393 Local Sites, including Local Wildlife Sites (LWS) and Regionally Important Geological Sites (RIGS), are non-statutory areas of local importance for nature conservation that complement nationally and internationally designated geological and wildlife sites. Local Sites are protected within the planning framework and are a material consideration when planning applications are being determined.

8.394 Throughout the borough there are sites and features which are important for species protected by national and European legislation and which require protection against harm and disturbance.

8.395 Habitats and Species of Principal Importance for Biodiversity in England are the habitats and species in England that have been identified as requiring action in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UK BAP). The Rotherham Biodiversity Action Plan (RBAP) provides a local delivery mechanism for the protection and enhancement of these habitats and species, as well as others that are considered to be of local significance.

8.396 The Borough contains a rich variety of important sites and features which contribute to the natural environment; many of these will have been identified and some designated. Other sites and features remain unknown or little studied. Ancient woodlands, mature trees, hedgerows, watercourses, gardens and green spaces all form important elements of the wider biodiversity resource. Throughout the Borough, and not simply within defined sites, this resource needs protection, management and expansion.

8.397 Tree Preservation Orders (TPO) will be declared to protect individual and groups of trees and, where applicable, the Hedgerow Regulations 1997 will be employed to protect important hedgerows. Linear features such as watercourses and hedgerows will form key elements of the borough’s green infrastructure with particular importance as wildlife corridors. Gardens, parks and other green spaces will provide stepping stones and connections within the green infrastructure and should be encouraged to incorporate natural habitats; new green spaces should be located where they will create the maximum connective benefit.

8.398 National biodiversity priorities have been used to inform the Yorkshire and Humber Biodiversity Strategy and Delivery Plan (2009) which set targets for the creation and expansion of priority habitats. The Yorkshire and Humber Biodiversity Forum has also produced a Biodiversity Opportunity Areas map (2009) which provides a framework of core areas where biodiversity action will have the greatest benefits. They are centred on existing areas of biodiversity interest and on areas which offer strategic opportunities for biodiversity enhancement and are expected to contribute towards the targets identified in the Strategy and Delivery Plan.
The natural environment is inextricably linked with climate change and will play a key role in both adaptation and mitigation. Land management should encompass naturally functioning processes such as natural flood alleviation capacity, natural regeneration of brownfield sites and natural succession of habitats and should employ best practice in terms of land stewardship in order to maximise the ability of the natural environment to respond to climate change.

Planning Policy Statement 12 (Local Spatial Planning) section 2.4 states that spatial planning provides a means of safeguarding the area’s environmental assets, both for their intrinsic value and for their contribution to social and economic well being. Planning Policy Statement 1 ( Delivering Sustainable Development) (PPS1) section 27 states that development plans should seek to enhance as well as protect biodiversity, natural habitats, the historic environment and landscape and townscape character. Rotherham’s natural environment resource will be illustrated on the proposals map along with identified opportunity areas and green infrastructure corridors; the Core Strategy and Sites and Policies DPD will form the delivery framework for environmental enhancement and will ensure the protection of species, designated sites and priority habitats and features.

Section 9 of the Planning and Climate Change Supplement to PPS1 states that all planning authorities should prepare, and manage the delivery of, spatial strategies that conserve and enhance biodiversity, recognising that the distribution of habitats and species will be affected by climate change. Rotherham’s identified biodiversity opportunity areas and green infrastructure network have the ability to accept distribution change and expansion and this, and other relevant policies, will provide the framework for delivery.

Planning Policy Statement 9 (Biodiversity and Geological Conservation) (PPS9) states that local authorities should take an integrated approach to planning for biodiversity and geodiversity when preparing local development documents. They should ensure that policies in local development documents reflect, and are consistent with, national, regional and local biodiversity priorities and objectives (including those agreed by local biodiversity partnerships).

Further guidance and more detailed policies will be provided through the Sites and Policies DPD, including the designation of locally important sites, identifying areas for the creation or restoration of priority habitats, and setting out the criteria against which development proposals will be considered. Development will be required to make a positive contribution to the natural environment by incorporating biodiversity gain, sustainable design, renewable energy technology and, where appropriate, direct contribution to the green infrastructure network and biodiversity opportunity areas.

Habitat Regulations Assessment

This Core Strategy has been assessed under the provisions of the Habitats Regulations 1994, and it has been concluded that the plan would not have an adverse effect on any European or Ramsar site. The Habitats Regulations Assessment record accompanies, and should be read in conjunction with this Core Strategy when considering potential impacts on European or Ramsar sites. In the context of section 38 (6) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, any development project that could have an adverse effect on the integrity of a European or Ramsar site, alone or in combination with other plans or projects, would not be in accordance with this Core Strategy. Subsequent development plan documents will also be subject to assessment and will be careful to
avoid promoting or allocating development that is likely to have such effects on European or Ramsar sites.

**Cross Reference**

8.405 This policy should be read in conjunction with the following Core Strategy policies: CS1: Delivering Rotherham's Spatial Strategy, CS2: Release of Major Greenfield Sites, CS3: Location of New Development, CS5: New Housing Development, CS6: Employment Land Requirements, CS7: Green Belt, CS8: Green Infrastructure, CS9 Landscape, CS10 Valuing the Historic Environment, CS11 Sustainable Design, SS19 Tourism and the Visitor Economy, CS20: Green Space, CS23 Community Health and Safety, CS25: Minerals, CS26 Managing the Water Environment, CS28 Infrastructure Delivery and Developer Contributions

8.406 Planning applications will be considered against the guidance set out in the Regional Strategy and in relevant national planning policy. More detailed guidance will also be provided through policies in the Sites and Policies DPD.

**Delivery**

8.407 The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 places responsibility on all public authorities to protect and enhance biodiversity in the exercising of the authority’s functions. As a competent authority under The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 Regulation the Council must have regard to the requirements of the Habitats Directive in the exercise of any of its functions.

8.408 Policy CS24 will be delivered through the determination of planning applications, and through the allocation and designation of sites through the Sites and Policies DPD. More detailed policies will also be provided as part of the Sites and Policies DPD.

8.409 The Council is a partner in the Rotherham Biodiversity Forum and the Yorkshire and Humber Biodiversity Forum indicating a commitment to the delivery of associated targets.

**Minerals**

**Context**

8.410 In simplified form, the solid geology of Rotherham Borough comprises outcropping rocks of the Coal Measures Series in alternating seams of sandstone, mudstone and coal generally dipping to the north-east. The exception is in the south east of the Borough (and extending into Doncaster) where the coal measures are overlain at the surface by more recent Permian strata - principally magnesian limestone. This indicates that Rotherham has workable reserves of coal (both deep-mined and opencast), brick clay and magnesian limestone together with limited deposits of sandstone. The Borough has had a significant history of mineral working activity dominated by coal mining. However, there is now only one deep mine remaining at Maltby producing high quality coal for coking and power station use. The main area of recent opencast mining at Waverley has now ceased and has been restored. Brick-making plants at Thurcroft and Maltby closed some time ago and clay working has virtually ceased with only intermittent and limited clay extraction at Maltby for use at other brick manufacturing plants outside the Borough. Rotherham is not a major producer of aggregate minerals.
and production is limited to a single medium sized quarry at Harry Crofts near South Anston. The Borough’s legacy of mineral working gives rise to proposals for the reworking of former tips which can provide a valuable source of recovered coal and secondary aggregates. There is a small (Rotherham Red) Sandstone quarry at Green Lane, Ulley which is a potential intermittent source of supply of indigenous building material for local vernacular and historic building projects. There are no sand and gravel workings. Despite past geological investigations, to date there has been no commercial exploitation of oil and natural gas although there may be potential to tap mine methane, coal bed methane and to utilise underground coal gasification subject to viability considerations.

8.411 In Rotherham the main minerals in terms of output are of limestone aggregate (from Harry Crofts quarry), deep-mined coal from Maltby Colliery (around 1.2mt per annum) and small amounts of clay at the former Maltby Brickworks for blending and manufacture of bricks which now takes place outside the Borough.
**Policy CS 25**

**CS25 Minerals**

Provision will be made in the Borough to ensure market competition, contributions to the sub-regional apportionment for the supply of aggregates and an adequate and steady supply of other minerals in the Borough in accordance with the principles of Sustainable Development, including protection of the environment and the prudent use of natural resources and quality site restoration, as set out in national planning policy. More specifically:

**Mineral Safeguarding Areas**

Mineral Safeguarding Areas will be defined around all deposits of aggregate limestone within the Magnesian Limestone belt, in the south-eastern part of the Borough between Thorpe Salvin and Maltby, and brick clay, between Hellaby and Maltby, that are considered to be of current or future economic importance.

In these Areas there is no presumption that safeguarded resources will be worked but any potentially incompatible development should not sterilise underlying mineral resources. Planning permission for alternative uses will be permitted provided that:

- a. development is of a temporary or minor nature
- b. there is an overriding need for the development
- c. minerals can be extracted in a timely and environmentally satisfactory manner prior to development taking place
- d. underlying minerals can be shown to be of no current or future economic value

**Limestone Aggregates**

Preferred Areas for the future working of limestone aggregates will be suitable extension(s) to the existing Harry Crofts Quarry. Proposals for additional new quarries will be considered on their merits taking into account:

- a. the economic value of proven reserves within extensions to Harry Crofts Quarry
- b. the need to maintain capacity to meet contributions to the sub-regional apportionment
- c. the need to avoid prejudicing competition
- d. the safeguarding of local amenity, the protection and enhancement of natural and built environments, mineral waste minimisation and the desirability of achieving sustainable transport solutions

**Other Minerals**

- a. Brick Clay - Areas of extant planning permission for the extraction of remaining brick clay resources adjacent to the former Maltby Brickworks will be protected from inappropriate development that could result in their sterilisation.
b. Natural Building Stone - Proposals for the extraction of Rotherham Red Sandstone for notable building conservation and restoration projects will be considered on their merits in accordance with national planning policy.

c. Energy Minerals - Proposals for underground coal mine extensions (including colliery spoil disposal) and opencast mining in addition to proposals for the exploration, appraisal and production of onshore oil and gas, including the gasification of coal, coal mine methane and coal bed methane will be assessed on their merits against all material planning considerations including national planning policy.

d. Efficient use of minerals, substitutes and recycled materials - Proposals for the recycling of aggregates, recovery of material from waste tips, use of surplus soil making material from mineral workings and locally sourced fill materials from borrow pits will be supported where:

i. Recovered materials are utilised for appropriate purposes avoiding use of primary minerals and assist in the reduction of unnecessary transportation movements

ii. Recovery operations are of a limited scale and duration with no adverse amenity or environmental impacts and are subject to suitable site management and timely restoration measures

The use of surplus fill or soil making materials from mineral workings will normally be utilised in situ for restoration purposes. Proposals involving the importation and utilisation of such material on other sites will be subject to the assessment of separate planning applications. Proposals for sites for the blending, processing and distribution of substitute and secondary materials will be supported in appropriate locations without adverse amenity and environmental impacts and where sustainable transport by rail and canal can be optimised.

Reasoned Justification

8.412 At a strategic level government policy advocates the need for sustainable mineral extraction and national policy (Minerals Policy Statement 1 (Planning and Minerals) (MPS1) provides guidance on defining and identifying mineral safeguarding areas, and existing and future mineral sites. The guidance also requires authorities to contribute to the regional supply of aggregates and provide an adequate and steady supply of other minerals (excluding energy minerals). The Regional Aggregates Working Party (RAWP) is responsible for allocating the sub-regional aggregate apportionments. Rotherham lies within the South Yorkshire sub-region which also comprises Barnsley and Doncaster.

8.413 This Policy will help achieve the aims of Core Strategy objective 13 (Minerals).

Mineral Safeguarding Areas (MSA)

8.414 Minerals are a finite resource and can only be worked where they occur so it is important that they are not needlessly sterilised by other development. MPS1 requires the definition of MSAs to ensure adequate and effective protection of mineral resources. The extent of any identified MSAs and the current permitted reserves for all minerals will be identified on the Proposals Map to accompany the Sites and Policies DPD and will be safeguarded from sterilisation from non-minerals development.
The presence of a MSA does not preclude other forms of development but provides an alert that minerals may be sterilised by proposed development. Conversely, there is no planning presumption that any areas within in MSAs will ultimately be acceptable for mineral extraction.

Rotherham now has relatively limited deposits of minerals of economic value including limestone aggregates, brick clay and coal worked at three separate locations in the borough. These minerals are in a list of minerals that were required to be safeguarded under the Regional Spatial Strategy (Policy ENV4) and in particular it requires Mineral Planning Authorities to make provision for the sub-regional apportionment of aggregates, emphasising the importance of safeguarding potential sources of limestone aggregates.

There is only one remaining source of brick clay which is subject to an extant planning permission. This is only worked intermittently to supply brick manufacturing outside the Borough and therefore this policy therefore looks to safeguard only a limited area immediately adjacent to the current quarry at Maltby.

There are currently no opencast coal workings and only one remaining deep coal mine in the Borough at Maltby. The identification of coal safeguarding areas is not considered feasible due to the prejudicial effect on development of widespread coal deposits. Proposals for coal and related energy products such as the coal gasification, coal mine methane and coal bed methane will be assessed on their merits against all material planning considerations including regional and national policy.

**Limestone Aggregates**

The policy accounts for the Yorkshire and Humber Regional Aggregate Working Party sub-regional apportionment for South Yorkshire which is summarised below for limestone (sand and gravel resources exist only in Doncaster) from the latest 2008 Monitoring Report.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Annual Apportionment (million tonnes)</th>
<th>Current Reserve (2008) (million tonnes)</th>
<th>Estimated Reserve in 2012 (million tonnes) *</th>
<th>15 Year requirement (plan period) (million tonnes)</th>
<th>Additional requirement to cover the plan period (million tonnes)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3.34</td>
<td>58.8</td>
<td>45.44</td>
<td>50.1</td>
<td>4.66</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Equates to four years extraction at the annual apportionment rate

The most substantial resources of limestone aggregates exist within the magnesian limestone belt straggling the Doncaster / Rotherham administrative boundaries. By far the largest resource occurs in Doncaster (figures for Rotherham alone are not available to respect commercial confidentiality) and given only a minor shortfall this situation is likely to continue during the course of the Plan period. Rotherham’s contribution will continue to be met from the remaining permitted reserves at the Borough’s only quarry at Harry Crofts, being supplemented by Preferred Areas comprising possible future extension(s) at Harry Crofts.
8.421 It is not therefore considered appropriate to identify Areas of Search for limestone aggregates in Rotherham due to the current levels of reserves that exist in Doncaster. However, in exceptional circumstances, proposals for additional new quarries will be considered on their merits taking into account all material planning considerations including regional and national policy. Provision is made to contribute to a land bank of at least 10 years of permitted reserves for aggregate limestone, with provision for an adequate and steady phased supply of aggregate limestone based on the most up to date information available from the RAWP and in continuing consultation with the industry and Doncaster Council as adjacent Minerals Planning Authority.

Other Minerals

8.422 Government guidance in MPS1 recognises that a wide variety of minerals other than aggregates are worked with in England. All are covered under general guidance in MPS 1.

8.423 Apart from aggregate minerals, other potential mineral resources within Rotherham include, brick clay, natural building stone, coal and other energy minerals (including natural gas, oil, coal gasification, coal-mine and coal-bed methane). Unlike aggregates, there is no formal framework for the future supply of these minerals, and no areas for future extraction have been designated.

8.424 Proposals for "minerals development", including development and the use of land for mineral exploration, the winning and working of minerals and the erection of associated ancillary plant and buildings will be assessed on the basis of national policy.

8.425 Proposals to work Rotherham Red Sandstone will be considered on their merits in accordance with national policy (Annex 3 of MPS1 states that Mineral Planning Authorities should identify quarries of importance to the built heritage).

8.426 Maltby Colliery is the only remaining coal mine in the Borough. The present owners acquired the mine in 2007 and are investing to access additional reserves that would allow the mine life to be extended as far as 2025 at current production levels. Within the plan period there could be a need for additional capacity for the disposal of colliery waste and there is likely to be additional opportunity for the capture of methane should the mine close. These and other proposals for coal working and the recovery of other energy minerals will be considered on their merits in accordance with Minerals Planning Guidance 3 (Coal Mining and Colliery Spoil Disposal) and MPS1 Annex 4.

8.427 To reduce dependency on the extraction of primary minerals, the efficient use of secondary and recycled materials and substitutes is promoted. Proposals for the recycling of aggregates, recovery of material from waste tips, use of surplus soil making material from mineral workings and locally sourced fill materials from borrow pits in addition to sites for the blending, processing and distribution of substitute and secondary materials, will be considered on their merits and assessed in accordance with national policy. The Joint Waste Plan (being carried out with Barnsley and Doncaster) provides a policy framework for proposals outside mineral sites to recycle construction and demolition wastes and recover secondary and recycled aggregates.

Cross References

8.428 This Policy should be read in conjunction with the mineral policy in the Regional Strategy (ENV4) and also the policies set out in national planning policy (in particular MPS1).
Delivery

8.429 Delivery of this policy will be achieved through the determination of planning applications and continuing joint working through the Regional Aggregates Working Party (RAWP).

Waste management

8.430 Rotherham’s Core Strategy sets the policy context for all planning issues except waste management and recycling. These issues will be addressed in a separate document called the Joint Waste Plan. Doncaster, Barnsley and Rotherham councils are working together to prepare the Joint Waste Plan, which will provide a detailed planning framework to manage all types of waste in the three boroughs, including commercial and industrial waste, construction, demolition and excavation waste, hazardous waste and agricultural waste. It was previously called the Joint Strategic Waste Development Plan Document during earlier rounds of consultation and will have the status of a core strategy in the context of government guidance as part of each borough's LDF.

Managing the water environment

Context

8.431 Flooding can result not only in costly damage to property, but can also pose a risk to life and livelihood. It is essential that future development is planned carefully, steering it away from areas that are most at risk from flooding where possible, and ensuring that it does not exacerbate existing known flooding problems.

8.432 Historically development in Rotherham has concentrated around the river and canal network, providing critical water supplies and transport linkages to support the coal mining and steel industries. As such, the Borough faces a particular risk of flooding. This is due both to the close proximity of its key urban centres to major waterways, and also a legacy of urban drainage systems that are ageing, limited in their capacity to carry runoff from rapidly developing catchment areas, and often susceptible to blockage by debris.

8.433 Recent experience in Rotherham has shown the devastating impacts that flooding can have on lives, homes and businesses. A considerable number of people live and work within areas that are susceptible to flooding, and ideally development should be moved away from these areas over time. It is recognised however that this is often not a practicable solution. For this reason, careful consideration must be taken of the measures that can be put into place to minimise the risk to property and life posed by flooding. These should address the flood risk not only in the short term, but throughout the lifetime of the proposed development.

8.434 It is also important to recognise that planning boundaries do not necessarily coincide with river catchment boundaries. There are areas at risk of flooding downstream of Rotherham, and future development within the Borough could influence the risk of flooding posed to neighbouring areas if not carefully managed. It is imperative that all local authorities clearly understand the core issues that flood risk raises within their respective Boroughs, and adapt their decision making accordingly. The Don Catchment Flood Management Plan (2010) will aid this process.
Policy CS 26

CS26 Managing the Water Environment

The Council will adopt a pro-active approach to managing the water environment which seeks to ensure that new development is not subject to unacceptable levels of flood risk, does not result in increased flood risk elsewhere and, where possible, achieves reductions in flood risk overall.

The Council will seek to ensure that any proposal:

a. Is in accordance with the principles set out in national planning guidance regarding flood risk and the accompanying practice guide;

b. Is in accordance with the recommendations set out in the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment level 1 and level 2 documents (the latter is part of a more comprehensive Flood Risk Tool Kit);

c. Is supported by a detailed Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) having regard to the guidance in national planning policy and where development is located in the Rotherham Regeneration and Flood Alleviation Area the RMBC Flood Risk Tool Kit

d. Conserves the ecological value of the water environment, including watercourse corridors;

e. Improves water efficiency through incorporating appropriate water conservation techniques including rainwater harvesting and grey-water recycling;

f. Connects to the main sewer network wherever possible.

The extent and impact of flooding will be reduced by:

a. Requiring that all developments significantly limit surface water run off

b. Requiring the use of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems or sustainable drainage techniques on all sites where practical and feasible taking account of the location and the scale of the development proposed.

c. Encouraging the removal of culverting and not culverting or building over watercourses wherever practicable

d. Protecting areas of functional floodplain as shown in the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment level 1 and level 2 documents and not increasing, and where possible reducing, the building footprint within the developed floodplain and where necessary designing new buildings to take into account flood risk

e. Requiring appropriate mitigation and construction methods for developments in areas with known surface water flooding issues as well as not increasing the likelihood or extent of surface water flooding

Reasoned Justification

8.435 National planning policy on development and flood risk, set out in Planning Policy Statement 25 (Development and Flood Risk) (PPS25) aims to avoid inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding, and to direct development away from areas at highest risk. Where new development is,
exceptionally, necessary in such areas, the aim should be to make it safe without increasing flood risk elsewhere and where possible, reducing flood risk overall.

8.436 It is important to recognise that some of those areas that are at risk of flooding from rivers within the Borough are under pressure from future development. It is essential therefore that the Council are in a position to take informed decisions, providing a careful balance between the risk of flooding and other unrelated planning constraints that may place pressure upon ‘at risk’ areas. The Rotherham Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (2008) endeavours to provide specific advice to assist the Council in this regard, taking due consideration of the scale and nature of flood risk affecting the Borough.

8.437 The Borough has been broken down into zones of ‘high’ (Zone 3), ‘medium’ (Zone 2) and ‘low’ (Zone 1) probability of flooding in accordance with PPS25, providing the basis for the application of the PPS25 Sequential Test. It is recognised that there may be other, non flooding related, planning ‘needs’ that may warrant further consideration of those areas that are susceptible to a degree of flood risk. Should this be the case, and following the application of the Sequential Test, the Council and potential future developers are required to work through the Exception Test (PPS25 Appendix D) where applicable.

8.438 In addition to fluvial (river) flooding, properties and infrastructure within Rotherham are also at risk of flooding from other, more localised, sources. These include the surcharging (or overloading) of the underground sewer system, the blockage of culverts and gullies (which results in overland flow), and surface water flooding. It is clear that many of the localised incidents that have occurred in recent years are situated outside of the high probability flood zones. This is an important reminder that the risk of flooding must always be carefully considered when planning future development, irrespective of the site’s proximity to a local river or watercourse.

8.439 Importantly, one should recognise that the absence of flooding in the past in no way guarantees that a site will not be susceptible to localised flooding in the future. It is considered unreasonable to restrict future development within areas that may have suffered a localised flooding incident in years past. It is essential however not to overlook the potential risk of localised flooding during the design process. Whilst the incidents that have been identified will typically not result in widespread damage or disruption, a proactive approach to risk reduction through design can mitigate the potential for damage, both to the development itself and elsewhere.

8.440 The management of rainfall (surface water) is considered an essential element of reducing future flood risk to both the site and its surroundings. Indeed reducing the rate of discharge from urban sites to greenfield runoff rates is one of the most effective ways of reducing and managing flood risk within the Borough.

8.441 Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS) is a term used to describe the various approaches that can be used to manage surface water drainage in a way that mimics the natural environment. The integration of sustainable drainage systems into a site design can also provide broader benefits, including an improvement in the quality of runoff discharged from the site, the capture and re-use of site runoff for irrigation and/or non potable uses, and the provision of greenspace areas offering recreation, biodiversity and/or aesthetic benefits. Collectively, the effective application of SuDS as part of all future development has the potential to reduce the risk of flooding within Rotherham.
Sustainable drainage and the use of SuDS is supported by the Government's policy direction in Future Water (2008), Making Space for Water (2005), the Pitt Review (2008) and the Flood and Water Management Act (2010) that provides for more sustainable management of the water cycle, working in partnership across different agencies and new responsibilities for local flood risk management. In particular, the Flood and Water Management Act (2010) requires developers where practical, to include sustainable drainage in new developments to reduce flood risk and improve water quality.

The appropriate application of a SuDS scheme to a specific development is heavily dependent upon the topography and geology of the site and its surrounds. For example, infiltration techniques are unlikely to function effectively in areas of impermeable and/or particularly shallow soils (e.g. areas overlying shallow coal measures). This is significant as the impervious nature of the soils (and underlying bedrock) throughout the River Don catchment (which flows through Rotherham town centre in a northerly direction towards Doncaster) would suggest that perhaps infiltration techniques may not always be suitable for sustainable drainage design (SuDS). Further analysis of these issues will occur through the Surface Water Management Plan which will be produced over the next three years.

Increases in the anticipated extent of flooding as a result of climate change may mean that areas that are currently situated outside of Zone 3 High Probability will be at risk of flooding in future years, particularly within the River Rother corridor (i.e. Rotherham town centre). Recognising this increased risk, positive steps have already been made, such as the Rotherham Renaissance Flood Alleviation Scheme, which has been designed to enable raising of the defence system to mitigate the impacts of climate change through the town centre in future years. More information on this can be found by referring to Policy CS21: Rotherham Regeneration Area, and its supporting text.

It is also emphasised that the potential impacts of climate change will affect not only the risk of flooding posed to property as a result of river flooding, but it will also potentially increase the frequency and intensity of localised storms over the Borough. This may exacerbate localised drainage problems. These issues emphasise the importance of the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment being seen as a living document, which will be reviewed on a regular basis to reflect both emerging knowledge with respect to flood risk, and changing policy.

Cross References

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following Core Strategy policies: CS8: Green Infrastructure, CS11: Sustainable Design, CS21: Flood Risk within the Rotherham Regeneration and Flood Alleviation Area, CS23: Community Health & Safety, CS24: Biodiversity & Geodiversity, CS28: Infrastructure Delivery & Developer Contributions, and CS31 Contribution Towards New Flood Infrastructure in the Rotherham Regeneration and Flood Risk Area.

Aspects of this policy align with the Core Approach of the Regional Strategy, in particular through YH1 & YH2, environmental policy ENV3 and the South Yorkshire sub-area policy SY1.

PPS25 has been developed to underpin decisions relating to future development (including urban regeneration) within areas that are subject to flood risk.
8.449 This Policy will help contribute towards achieving the aims of Core Strategy objectives: 6 (Design), 10 (Greenspaces, sport and recreation), 11 (Community well-being), 12 (Biodiversity/Geodiversity), 15 (Managing the water environment), and 17: (Infrastructure delivery).

8.450 This policy will also contribute to the Community Strategy themes of Rotherham Alive and Safe, and the cross-cutting theme of Sustainable Development through making sure there is a high quality environment sustained through minimising harm from development.

Delivery

8.451 This policy will be delivered through the determination of planning applications. The Council will work with partners, developers, the private sector and agencies to deliver appropriate water management features. Recognising that planning boundaries do not necessarily coincide with river catchment boundaries, it will be important to collaborate with adjacent local authorities to ensure that the risk of flooding is not increased in these neighbouring areas as a result of future development within Rotherham. This will be facilitated as necessary by policies against which planning applications will be judged, to be made within the Sites and Policies DPD. Supplementary Planning Documents may also be adopted to set out water management requirements further.

Renewable energy generation

Context

8.452 There is compelling evidence that greenhouse gas emissions (particularly CO2) from domestic, industrial and transport-related energy uses are causing climate change, and will continue to do so for decades to come. This has potentially devastating consequences to the global environment, and poses a significant threat to social cohesion and economic systems. Everyone, including local authorities, need to be aware of the predicted impacts of climate change and plan to adapt to the resulting effects. They also need ensure that their actions do not continue to contribute to climate change by adopting and implementing sustainable policies.

8.453 Action to reduce the impact of climate change is therefore a key part of the overall vision of the Core Strategy and two key strands towards mitigating these impacts is through a reduction in carbon emissions and by increasing the amount of renewable energy produced. Sustainable design (see Policy CS11) and management of the demand for travel (see Policy CS13) will both go towards reducing energy consumption and reducing emissions of CO2, but these must be complemented by the generation of energy from renewable sources.
Policy CS 27

CS27 Renewable Energy Generation

Include renewable energy in developments

All significant developments will be required, unless this can be shown not to be feasible or viable, to

a. provide a minimum of 10% of their predicted energy needs on-site; and
b. generate further renewable or low carbon energy, or incorporate appropriate design measures, to reduce the development’s overall predicted carbon dioxide emissions by 20% [including the requirements to satisfy (a)]

Where it is not appropriate to incorporate such provisions within the development, an off site scheme, or contribution to such may be acceptable.

Developments that produce renewable energy

We will encourage development that produces renewable energy as long as there are no significant harmful effects on:

a. Residents living conditions and quality of life
b. The character and appearance of the landscape / surrounding area
c. Biodiversity, geodiversity and water quality
d. Historical and archaeological features
e. Highway safety and infrastructure

Any proposals will be accompanied by supporting information to clearly show how the surrounding environment will be protected and how site restoration will be carried out when production ends.

Reasoned justification

8.454 Renewable energy generation technologies offer an effective means of mitigating climate change. The main sources of renewable energy are wind, solar, moving water, and heat extracted from the air, ground or water. These are all sources that are continuously replenished by nature. The Climate Change Act has committed the government to reducing gas emissions by at least 80% by 2050, and reducing CO2 emissions by at least 26% by 2020, set against a 1990 baseline. A regionally commissioned report 'Low carbon and renewable energy capacity in Yorkshire and Humber' (currently in draft form) is intended to provide an evidence base to assist sub-regions and local authorities in the preparation of their own targets and strategies for renewable energy development at the sub-regional and local levels. The low carbon and renewable energy technologies that have been considered in this study are:

- District heating and Combined Heat and Power
- Large scale wind energy;
- Hydro energy (small scale);
- Biomass (including use in co firing and energy generation from dedicated energy crops, managed woodland, industrial wood waste and agricultural arisings, or straw);
- Energy from waste (including slurry, food and drinks waste, poultry litter, municipal solid waste, commercial and industrial waste arisings, landfill gas production and sewage gas production);
- Microgeneration (including small scale wind energy, solar, heat pumps and small scale biomass boilers).

8.455 For Rotherham the study concluded that the town centre has sufficient heat density to support heat networks and the borough has significant potential for commercial scale wind power - potentially an additional 65MW above the current capacity. Other potential resources included hydro, solar, heat pumps, biomass and energy from waste.

8.456 In order to meet the Government’s carbon-cutting ambitions, both higher levels of energy efficiency and much greater use of renewable energy is required. The recently published Consultation on Planning Policy Statement (PPS): Planning for a Low Carbon Future in a Changing Climate (2010) reviews and consolidates the Planning Policy Statement (Planning and Climate Change) and Planning Policy Statement 22 (Renewable Energy). The consultation encourages local authorities to plan for low carbon and renewable energy on a strategic level through the development of planning policies that encourage the introduction of decentralised energy systems served by low carbon and renewable energy supplies.

8.457 The suggested carbon emission target reduction on new developments of 20% is to be partly achieved by a 10% renewable energy generation, which reflects national policy and the Regional Strategy (RS). The overall target, expressed in terms of reduced carbon emissions, is considered feasible with current technology and is in line with the Code for Sustainable Homes Level 3, which requires residential developments to achieve a 25% reduction on Part L of the Building Regulations (2006). Significant developments applies to both new-build and conversions of 5 or more dwellings, or more than 500 sq m gross internal floorspace.

8.458 Increased development of renewable energy resources is vital to facilitating the delivery of international and national commitments on both greenhouse gas emissions and renewable energy. It will also assist in greater diversity and security of energy supply. Renewable energy can also deliver substantial economic, social and environmental benefits at the local and regional level, by creating jobs, through the manufacture, installation, operation and maintenance of renewable energy as well as providing a new impetus for rural diversification and regeneration. The council will therefore support renewable energy proposals unless they would have unacceptable adverse effects which are not outweighed by the local and wider environmental, economic and social benefits of the development. This includes wider benefits arising from a clean, secure energy supply; reductions in greenhouse gases and other polluting emissions; and contributions towards meeting Rotherham’s target for use of renewable energy sources.
The RS has set targets for renewable energy generation for individual local authorities in Yorkshire and the Humber. The target for Rotherham, and these are minimum targets, are 11MW by 2010 and 36MW by 2021. These figures refer to “installed grid-connected capacity” and not actual energy generation since that would be impossible to monitor with any accuracy. This policy is intended to apply to all renewable energy technologies. Such technologies can be used at different scales ranging from those which contribute to the national grid, to micro-generation schemes which serve one property. Renewable resources can be used to supply Combined Heat and Power Schemes (CHP) to serve groups of properties, existing or new, including housing schemes.

Cross References

This Policy should be read in conjunction with Core Strategy Policies CS13: Accessible places and managing demand for travel, and CS Sustainable design. It should also be read in conjunction with Policy ENV5: Energy in the Regional Strategy.

Infrastructure

National planning policy in Planning Policy Statement 12 (Local Spatial Planning) requires that the Core Strategy should be supported by evidence of what physical, social and green infrastructure is needed to enable the amount of development proposed for the area, taking account of its type and distribution. This evidence should cover who will provide the infrastructure and when it will be provided.

An Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) will be prepared and be published as part of the submission Core Strategy.

The purpose of the IDP will be to identify the various forms of infrastructure that are required to meet the level of growth anticipated in Rotherham over the plan period to 2027. To inform this, a baseline assessment of the existing infrastructure within the Borough will be carried out to identify the current infrastructure provision, variations of the level of provision across the Borough and the level of growth that can be supported by that existing infrastructure. Where a shortfall exists to meet the forecast growth, the required infrastructure will be identified. The IDP will also identify a broad cost estimate for that infrastructure, the appropriate funding mechanism and an outline programme for delivery.

The Council is likely to seek to introduce a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) to fund infrastructure improvements that are required as a result of cumulative growth of the Borough up to 2027. If so, the Council will consult on the principle of establishing CIL and associated charging schedule which would require its own independent examination. Specific infrastructure requirements and measures to mitigate impacts from individuals development will continue to be required via Planning Obligations in line with national policy in Circular 05/05.

Infrastructure delivery and developer contributions

Context

Creating sustainable communities is about providing the necessary supporting ‘infrastructure’ which includes, amongst others, utility services (such as electricity and gas, water, sewerage),
transport, schools, open space, community, health and leisure services. These services are provided by a range of organisations but provision needs to be integrated so it can meet the needs of existing and future communities.

8.466 In some cases, applications can be granted planning permission if accompanied by planning obligations which are capable, subject to safeguards set out in National Policy (Circular 05/05) of making development acceptable which would otherwise be unacceptable in planning terms, by for example mitigating adverse impacts.

8.467 The following policy sets out the Council’s developing approach to infrastructure delivery and developer contributions.
Policy CS 28

CS28 Infrastructure delivery and developer contributions

Where appropriate and necessary, development proposals will be required to provide contributions (including financial contributions and planning obligations) in order to meet the needs arising from the development itself and/or compensate for any adverse impact of the development on local amenity or resources. Such contributions will relate to the provision of:

- affordable housing;
- the provision, enhancement and maintenance of any greenspace and play equipment on-site or the enhancement of off-site facilities where these would serve the development’s open space needs;
- new and/or improvements to infrastructure including public and/or private transport infrastructure including footpaths and cycle lanes, travel plans, highways and public transport improvements;
- the progressive introduction of network management technology to maximise benefits for public transport, cycling and to reduce congestion and delay;
- improvements to the quality of individual green infrastructure assets and the broader green infrastructure corridor network;
- new and/or improvements to existing sport, leisure, recreation and other community facilities such as health facilities, places of worship, community building provision;
- provision of educational infrastructure to accommodate anticipated demand arising from development;
- workplace facilities and support, such as training plans and programs, and childcare facilities;
- the provision of education programmes, training and local employment opportunities;
- countryside access arrangements, woodland planting/management and local landscape and environmental improvements schemes;
- habitat creation/enhancement on and off site as the result of either direct or indirect impact of development;
- flood mitigation and/or construction of parts of, or contributions towards the construction of, the Rotherham Renaissance Flood Alleviation Scheme;
- the provision of utilities infrastructure;
- renewable energy generation.

Reasoned Justification

8.468 National planning policy in Planning Policy Statement 12 requires the Core Strategy be supported by evidence of what physical, social and green infrastructure is needed to enable the amount of development proposed for the Borough, taking account of its type and distribution. This evidence should cover who will provide the infrastructure and when it will be provided.

8.469 An Infrastructure Delivery Plan will be prepared to accompany the submission version of the Core Strategy and will identify as far as possible:
• Infrastructure needs and costs;
• phasing of development;
• funding sources; and
• responsibilities for delivery.

8.470 Through the Planning Act 2008, the Government has introduced the Community Infrastructure Levy, which, if implemented by the Council as part of the Local Development Framework, will allow it to raise funds from new development in the Borough. The money can be used to fund a wide range of infrastructure that is needed as a result of development.

8.471 The levy is intended to provide infrastructure to support the development of an area rather than to make individual planning applications acceptable in planning terms. As a result, there may still be some site specific impact mitigation requirements without which a development should not be granted planning permission. Some of these needs may be provided for through the levy but others may not, particularly if they are very local in their impact.

8.472 Further planning for infrastructure will be undertaken to inform the submission version of the Core Strategy. In the meantime, the above policy is provided as an indication of the range of issues that are likely to be considered in ensuring that sufficient infrastructure is provided to meet the needs of new developments and to mitigate any site specific impacts.

8.473 This policy will help contribute towards achieving the aims of Core Strategy objectives 5 (Landscape and settlement identity), 6 (Design), 7 (Provision for housing), 8 (Provision for employment), 9 (Local transport connections), 10 (Greenspaces, sport and recreation), 12 (Biodiversity/geodiversity), 15 (Managing the water environment), 16 (Carbon reduction and renewable energy) and 17 (Infrastructure delivery).

Cross References


8.475 Planning applications will also be considered against the guidance set out in the Regional Strategy and in national planning policy.

8.476 More detailed guidance will be provided through policies in the Sites and Policies DPD.
Delivery

8.477 The aims of this Policy will be achieved through the determination of planning applications and by the Council working with infrastructure providers, partners and agencies to establish infrastructure needs and ensure that infrastructure necessary for development is programmed and deliverable. The infrastructure required to achieve the spatial strategy for the Borough will be set out in an infrastructure Delivery Plan (to be submitted alongside the Submission Core Strategy).

8.478 Developer contributions will be sought for infrastructure and anything considered necessary to make a development acceptable. We will consider whether these will be sought via planning obligations or through the Community Infrastructure Levy. The specific requirements, type of contribution and how it will be secured will be determined through negotiation with the Local Planning Authority working in partnership with the appropriate public, private and voluntary agencies. Details of how this will work, and examples of the types of things contributions will be sought for, will be set out in a Supplementary Planning Document.

Improving skills and employment opportunities

Context

8.479 To ensure that people across all of Rotherham's communities can take advantage of new economic opportunities they need to have the right skills and have access to jobs. To support this we will promote access to employment, education and training and seek to ensure that new developments contribute towards this by proving training, education and local employment opportunities which benefit both businesses and local communities.

Policy CS 29

CS29 Improving skills and employment opportunities

The Council will work with its partners to improve skills in all of Rotherham’s communities through the promotion of access to training, education and local employment opportunities. Planning conditions, obligations and other mechanisms will be used to improve the links between local communities, developers and employers by:

a. Ensuring that new developments contribute to the provision of education and training
b. Promoting local employment opportunities, and securing construction training experience through employment on site, through financial contributions or through other training programmes

Reasoned Justification

8.480 By promoting access to employment, education and training Policy CS29 will help contribute to Core Strategy Objective 8: Provision for employment, which seeks to achieve a more modern, diverse and enterprising economy and provide a wide range of accessible job opportunities.
8.481 Policy CS18 sets out how the Council will support the transformation of Rotherham’s economy. Ensuring people have the right skills and ability to access jobs is key to delivering this transformation. Learning and skills are priority themes in Rotherham’s Community Strategy, which identifies a need to:

- Ensure high quality of education for all children and young people.
- Increase the employability of working age adults, by reducing the number of adults lacking essential skills around using computers, reading, writing and maths.
- Maximise participation in adult learning, particularly in disadvantaged communities.
- Raise attainment across the Borough for all children and young people.
- Increase the number of young people in education, employment or training.

8.482 Whilst Rotherham’s Economic Plan 2008 – 2020 identifies that there has been progress in the numbers of people in Rotherham achieving qualifications, it recognises that the Borough continues to trail behind the national and regional average. If the skills to support higher level industries are not evident then this could limit economic growth by making potential investors reluctant to invest. Improving employability is one of the Economic Plan’s priorities. Key challenges identified are:

- A need to improve the achievement of higher skills levels
- Poor skills levels mean that many residents can only achieve low paying jobs, a significant factor for those in the most disadvantaged neighbourhoods
- There is particular under-representation in Rotherham’s economy of disabled people, the over 50s, people from Black and Minority Ethnic backgrounds and young people, partly because of poor skills

8.483 Progress is being made. In 2010 Rotherham’s status as a leader in enterprise education was recognised at a national awards ceremony that named the borough as the most enterprising place in the UK. Part of the Government’s drive to increase entrepreneurial activity in the UK, this national award recognised the achievements of the Rotherham Ready project which has trained teachers to develop enterprise in schools and colleges, and harnessed the passion of the business community to promote enterprise and entrepreneurship in education.

8.484 Policy CS29 sets out how we will seek to build on this progress by working with our partners to promote education, training and local employment opportunities. The Economic Plan also recognises that the move to a high-value-added and knowledge-based economy requires a major commitment from businesses and will require the close co-operation of employers. We will therefore look for new developments to contribute through the provision of education and training opportunities. We will also look for new developments to promote employment opportunities for local people. It is recognised that these could include opportunities both at the construction phase of development, and in subsequent occupation.

8.485 These opportunities could be provided in a variety of ways, including direct provision of training or employment, or through financial contributions and could be achieved through planning conditions, obligations and other mechanisms.

8.486 We will look for these opportunities to be taken at all phases of the development process, from construction through to eventual occupiers. We will work to promote the benefits that skills and
local employment opportunities bring to both employers and local communities, and a Supplementary Planning Document will be produced to provide more guidance.

**Cross Reference**

8.487 This policy should be read in conjunction with the following Core Strategy Policies: CS18: Transforming Rotherham’s Economy, and CS28: Infrastructure Delivery and Developer Contributions.

8.488 Planning applications will be considered against the policies set out in national planning policy guidance; in particular Policy EC10 of Planning Policy Statement 4 which identifies the impact on local employment as one of the considerations when determining applications for economic development.

**Delivery**

8.489 This Policy will be delivered through the determination of planning applications, including the negotiation of planning obligations where appropriate.

8.490 The Council and its partners will continue to support and explore funding opportunities to improve skills and training opportunities, and access to employment.

8.491 A Supplementary Planning Document providing more detail of how Policy CS29 can be implemented will be produced.

**Contribution towards new flood infrastructure in the Rotherham Regeneration Area**

**Context**

8.492 The Rotherham Regeneration Area is a key area of change. However it faces particular flood risk challenges from both river and surface water sources. Since the first serious flood event in 2000 the Council, along with the Environment Agency, has been working on a coordinated response to flooding, resulting in being recognised as a leading local authority in tackling flood risk in the Planning Policy Statement 25 (Development and Flood Risk) Good Practice Guidance. A key response has been the development of the Rotherham Renaissance Flood Alleviation Scheme (RRFAS). This represents crucial infrastructure required to ensure that flood risk is minimised for new and existing developments within the Regeneration Area, and will help ensure that previously developed land can be brought forward for development.

8.493 An award winning £15 million first phase of the Flood Alleviation Scheme has been delivered. This has included

- 2km of new defences on both banks of the River around the Templeborough Area, which has been designed to withstand climate change,
- the installation of flood release mechanisms should overtopping of the defences occur, to allow standing water can be released back into the River as soon as water levels in the main channel start to fall;
• Creating a new area of functional flood plain Centenary Riverside, which is urban wetland; and
• Removing Don Bridge which improves the flow of the River and reduces flood risk over a significant length upstream of it.

8.494 The next phase of the Scheme will be delivered incrementally as development on sites comes forward and funding from other sources becomes available. To deliver the remainder of the Flood Alleviation Scheme Policy CS31 sets out how contributions from developments within the Rotherham Regeneration Area will be sought.

Policy CS 30

CS30 Contribution Towards New Flood Infrastructure in the Rotherham Regeneration Area

All developments within the Rotherham Regeneration Area, to be defined on the Proposals Map, will be required to contribute towards the creation of new flood risk management infrastructure in the form of the Rotherham Renaissance Flood Alleviation Scheme (RRFAS). This could either be through the direct construction of segments of the RRFAS as part of development proposals or through financial contributions towards its future construction and maintenance. Such contributions are required to protect all existing users and to maintain and enhance the function of the Town Centre and surrounding areas. Contributions will be secured on a case by case basis commensurate with the scale and nature of the proposal, the level of flood risk and in consultation with the applicant.

Reasoned Justification

8.495 By ensuring that new development contributes to the implementation of the Rotherham Renaissance Flood Alleviation Scheme, this Policy will help ensure that new development is delivered in sustainable locations in line with Core Strategy Objective 3: Sustainable locations, that the risks of flooding are minimised in line with Core Strategy Objective 15: Managing the Water Environment, and that necessary infrastructure is provided as identified in Core Strategy Objective 17: Infrastructure Delivery.

8.496 Once complete, the Rotherham Renaissance Flood Alleviation Scheme will extend from Templeborough to Frank Price Lock just downstream of Parkgate Shopping Park.

8.497 Insert image of flood allev area

8.498 The completion of Phase 1 of the Flood Alleviation Scheme at Templeborough has resulted in:

• The area upstream of Tembleborough being protected and flood risk reduced. This has attracted new investment on a number of development sites in close proximity to the Town Centre. It
also protects major infrastructure in this area, in particular transport access into the Town Centre;

- The combination of Centenary Riverside and the removal of Don Bridge compensating for any floodplain lost as a result of development in the Town Centre. This means that if new development is designed to be fully compatible with Flood Alleviation Scheme, then individual development sites in flood risk areas of the Rotherham Regeneration Area will not need to create their own on-site compensatory floodplain (thus maximising the developable area in each site).

8.499 The Council and its partners will continue to explore funding opportunities to deliver the remaining works, however it is recognised that incremental delivery is most realistic, and that contributions from new developments will be required.

8.500 In some cases, the protection of specific sites will give rise to a wider benefit in that it will then protect the whole flood cell (these are areas where the extent of flooding can be clearly defined). However, the full flood risk protection benefits of the scheme will only occur once it is fully completed. The fully completed scheme will provide a 1 in 100 year level of protection from river flooding throughout this area (i.e. a flood event which has a 1% chance of occurring in any year would be defended against).

8.501 Policy CS30 sets out how the Council will seek contributions from new developments within the Rotherham Regeneration Area. This may take the form of direct construction of parts of the flood alleviation scheme where appropriate, or financial contribution towards future construction and maintenance. Contributions will be secured on a case by case basis commensurate with the scale and nature of the proposal, the level of flood risk and in consultation with the applicant. Where direct construction takes place then this should have regard to Policy CS21 and the Flood Risk Toolkit to ensure that any flood risk management measures are compatible with the requirements of the Rotherham Renaissance Flood Alleviation Scheme.

Cross References

8.502 This policy should be read in conjunction with the following Core Strategy policies: CS21: Flood Risk within the Rotherham Regeneration Area, CS26: Managing the Water Environment, and CS28: Infrastructure Delivery and Developer Contributions.

8.503 This policy should be read in conjunction with the following Regional Strategy Policy ENV1: Development and Flood Risk. Planning applications will also be determined having regard to flood risk guidance set out in national planning policy.

8.504 Supporting policies will also be set out in the Sites and Policies DPD

Delivery

8.505 Delivery of this policy will be achieved through the determination of planning applications. The Council and its partners will also continue to explore funding options to assist in the delivery of the Flood Alleviation Scheme.

8.506 The Flood Risk Took Kit will be adopted as a Supplementary Planning Document. Until this time it will be used as best practice guidance.
New roads

Context

8.507 New roads do not address the root causes of traffic congestion and they may create adverse environmental impacts – for example by damaging land, environment and natural resources or by inducing more traffic onto the road network. However, some limited road building may be required to support our economic competitiveness, to remove traffic from unsuitable routes, to address serious road safety problems or to improve the movement of public transport, pedestrians and cyclists. Many of the plans for new or extended employment sites within Rotherham aim to assist in the revitalisation of disadvantaged communities many of whom suffered from the decline of local industries. Where other transport options cannot provide the required level of access, new roads are proposed. Any new road building will be subject to rigorous assessment of its environmental impact including:

- Noise
- Local Air Quality
- Greenhouse Gases
- Landscape
- Townscape
- Local heritage
- Bio diversity
- Water environment
- Physical fitness
- Journey Ambience

Policy CS 31

CS31 New roads

There will be no significant increase in the physical capacity of the highway network. Proposed new roads are set out in Table 10 'Proposed New Roads'.

Table 10 Proposed New Roads

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Schemes Already Submitted for Major Scheme Funding:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M1 Widening (J28-31) &amp; M18 Widening (Highways Agency Project)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M1 (J31-35) Active Traffic Management Proposals (Highways Agency Project)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waverley Link Road</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A57 Todwick to M1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Schemes Not Submitted for Major Scheme Funding That Require Further Evaluation: |
Reasoned Justification

8.508 By seeking to deliver a number of new roads Policy CS31 will help achieve Core Strategy Objective 3: Sustainable Locations, which is intended to deliver new development in sustainable locations. It also contributes towards Objective 17: Infrastructure Delivery, which seeks to ensure that the necessary infrastructure to support new development is provided in appropriate locations.

8.509 The link between employment growth and regeneration may cause tensions between sustainable transport ambitions on one hand and traffic growth on the other but since employment growth is key aim of the Sheffield City Region Transport Strategy and our Corporate Plan, some new road building is fundamental to our growth plans.

8.510 The Department for Transport have offered support (in 2011) for the Waverley Link Road and the A57 Todwick to M1 road schemes on the premise that both enable regeneration in deprived areas on employment sites formerly occupied by the coal industry. Most other long term road based projects from the former UDP have been reviewed by the Council and subsequently amended to reflect the principles of sustainable travel or abandoned entirely.

Cross References

8.511 This policy should be read in conjunction with the following Core Strategy policies: CS4: Key Routes and the Strategic Road Network, CS13: Accessible Places and Managing Demand for Travel, CS18: Transforming Rotherham’s Economy, CS22: Freight and CS28: Infrastructure Delivery and Developer Contributions

8.512 This policy should be read in conjunction with the Policies set out in the Regional Strategy, in particular those within the Regional Transport Strategy chapter and with:

- Local Transport Plan 2011-26
- Sustainable School Travel Policy
- Highways Asset Management Plan
- Transport Asset Management Plan
- Air Quality Management Action Plan
- South Yorkshire Congestion Delivery Plan
South Yorkshire Park and Ride Strategy
Regional Freight Strategy
Yorkshire and Humberside Rail Network Utilisation Strategy
South Yorkshire Rail Strategy

8.513 In determining planning applications regard will also be had to guidance in national planning policy, in particular Planning Policy Guidance 13 (Transport).

Delivery

8.514 This Policy will be delivered through the allocation of sites for development in the Sites and Policies DPD and through the determination of planning applications. Working with partners such as the Department for Transport, the Council will seek to secure funding to implement Policy 31 and proposed new roads.

Passenger rail connections

Context

8.515 Rotherham is served by local rail services only although these provide links to East and West Coast Mainlines services at Doncaster and Sheffield Stations. There around 3 direct hourly services to Sheffield with an additional services at peak times. Doncaster is served by 2 trains per hour to Doncaster with one hourly service to Leeds. Some peak hour trains suffer from overcrowding and are susceptible to delays related to line capacities and bottlenecks.

8.516 Local rail infrastructure should ideally be improved but there is limited scope for any major improvements within the lifetime of the LDF. Nevertheless, Rotherham Central passenger throughput has grown by 200,000 passengers per annum (ppa) since 2005 and it now handles 630,000 ppa. It is therefore an important part of the sustainable transport infrastructure in Rotherham.

8.517 Rail services are enhanced by well used rail based Park and Ride at Rotherham Central, Swinton and Kiveton Bridge Stations.
Policy CS 32

CS32 Passenger Rail Connections

The Council will support development of the rail network and will safeguard land for local rail projects including:

a. Rotherham mainline rail capacity improvements – principally the doubling of Holmes Chord on the Sheffield Main Linenear near Tinsley.
b. Increases in train frequency and rolling stock capacity.
c. Examination of new stations where appropriate.
d. Improvements to existing stations and park and ride facilities
e. The Sheffield – Rotherham Tram Train trial route.
f. Land within and adjacent to existing and historical rail alignments for rail, cycleway and/or walking route development.

Reasoned Justification

8.518 By seeking to improve Rotherham's rail network and infrastructure Policy CS32 will help achieve Core Strategy Objectives 3: Sustainable Locations, and 9: Local Transport Connections which are intended to deliver new development in sustainable locations and improve public transport interchanges and services. It also contributes towards Objective 17: Infrastructure Delivery, which seeks to ensure that the necessary infrastructure to support new development is provided in appropriate locations.

8.519 Much of the operation and management of the rail network is beyond the scope of the LDF - the passenger rail network in Rotherham is operated by Northern Rail, although some services are supported by the South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive (SYPTE). Track and infrastructure are operated by Network Rail who have outlined limited improvements for future improvements to local infrastructure and rolling stock in the Yorkshire and Humber Rail Network Route Utilisation Strategy.

8.520 Whilst much of the future development of the rail network is pre-determined, our aim is to continue to promote improved rail services through Rotherham Central Station with particular emphasis on improving our connectivity with the Sheffield, Manchester and Leeds City Regions and promoting better access to the inter regional train services passing through those major centres. The Council also supports any localised improvements to the rail network contained in the South Yorkshire Rail Strategy which includes improvements to platform waiting areas, ticketing and information and extensions to park and ride facilities.

8.521 Whilst new rail tracks are unlikely to be delivered in the lifetime of the LDF, there are numerous disused former railway lines in the Borough that may have a future transport use for either rail, walking or cycling. These routes offer ideal terrain for walking and cycling routes (reasonable gradients, direct and traffic free and it will be prudent to safeguard these routes for the foreseeable future. Therefore, in the main, the Council’s key role will be limited to safeguarding former rail routes for use by other travel modes and any required for rail infrastructure improvements.
The Department for Transport has announced plans to trial the country's first tram-train route between Sheffield and Rotherham in South Yorkshire. The feasibility study of the line is being conducted in 2010/11 and, subject to funding, it is hoped the service could start within the lifetime of the LDF.

**Cross References**

8.523 This policy should be read in conjunction with the following Core Strategy policies: CS1: Delivering Rotherham’s Spatial Strategy, CS3: Location of New Development, CS13: Accessible Places and Managing Demand for Travel, CS22: Freight, and CS28: Infrastructure Delivery and Developer Contributions.

8.524 This policy should be read in conjunction with the Policies set out in the Regional Strategy, in particular those within the Regional Transport Strategy chapter and with:

- Local Transport Plan 2011-26
- Sustainable School Travel Policy
- Highways Asset Management Plan
- Transport Asset Management Plan
- Air Quality Management Action Plan
- South Yorkshire Congestion Delivery Plan
- South Yorkshire Park and Ride Strategy
- Regional Freight Strategy
- Yorkshire and Humberside Rail Network Utilisation Strategy
- South Yorkshire Rail Strategy

8.525 In determining planning applications regard will also be had to guidance in national planning policy, in particular Planning Policy Guidance 13 (Transport).

**Delivery**

8.526 This Policy will be delivered through the allocation of sites for development in the Sites and Policies DPD and through the determination of planning applications.
9 Monitoring and implementation

9.1 Review and monitoring are key aspects of the planning system with emphasis on delivering sustainable development and sustainable communities. They are crucial to the successful delivery of the vision and strategic objectives set out in the Core Strategy. Monitoring and reviewing policies set out in LDF documents will indicate: what impact the policies are having in respect of national, regional and local policy targets and other specific targets set out in the LDF. They will also indicate whether policies need adjusting or replacing because they are not working as intended, or whether they need to be changed in the light of changes to national or regional policy.

9.2 In accordance with the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, the Council produces an Annual Monitoring Report. This contains an assessment of LDF documents that are being prepared against the milestones set out in the Local Development Scheme, and the extent to which policies are being achieved and targets met. The Annual Monitoring Report is the main mechanism for assessing the LDF’s performance and effect. As well as linking with spatial objectives and policies, indicators in the Annual Monitoring Report also link to sustainability appraisal objectives in order to identify the significant effects of implementing the policies.

9.3 The Annual Monitoring Report also includes the latest updated housing trajectory showing housing delivery in terms of net additional dwellings, within the context of past achievement and estimated future performance.

9.4 The indicators in the following tables set out the indicators, targets and an indication of who and how the policy will be implemented. The indicators are based around national guidance on monitoring and include the key LDF Core Output Indicators as currently specified by central government data requirements. Other national indicators are currently in the process of being abolished and/or greatly reduced which may also reduce the availability of national datasets - the initial indicators set out in this document will need to be regularly reviewed to take into account new sources of information and to take advantage of more locally developed monitoring systems. These indicators should therefore be considered a ‘starting point’ and indicators included in future Annual Monitoring Reports are likely to be amended or replaced as better or additional data becomes available.

9.5 The tables below set out the initial indicators to be monitored for each of the Core Strategy core policies under the broad headings of 'Spatial Strategy', 'Sustainable Communities', 'Climate Change & Managing Natural Resources' and 'Infrastructure'.

Table 11 Spatial Strategy Policies Monitoring and Implementation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SPATIAL STRATEGY</th>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Target / Aim</th>
<th>Delivery / Implementation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CS1: Delivering</td>
<td>Percentage of new development within the Rotherham Urban Area</td>
<td>Encourage development within the main urban areas in line with apportionments by settlement type.</td>
<td>Active management of planning applications and allocation of land through the LDF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rotherham's Spatial Strategy</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Core Strategy Final Draft
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Policy Area</th>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Target / Aim</th>
<th>Delivery / Implementation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Percentage of new development within the defined Principle Settlements for Growth</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CS2: Release of major greenfield sites</td>
<td>Any monitoring indicator to be determined</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CS3: Location of new development</td>
<td>Percentage of dwellings on previously developed land</td>
<td>Maximise the amount of new housing which is built on previously developed land - aim for at least 65%.</td>
<td>Active management of planning applications and allocation of land through the LDF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Accessibility to a range of places using public transport</td>
<td>Ensure that new housing is within easy reach of services by public transport</td>
<td>Active management of planning applications - indicator from South Yorkshire Local Transport Plan (LTP3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CS4: Key Routes and the Strategic Road Network</td>
<td>Congestion - average journey time per mile during the morning peak</td>
<td>Mitigate the impact of increasing car ownership and usage on congestion on the key routes around Rotherham</td>
<td>South Yorkshire PTE - LTP3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Public transport punctuality, reliability and journey times.</td>
<td>Improve public transport</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CS5: New Housing Development</td>
<td>Plan Period and housing targets (DCLG Core output indicator)</td>
<td>Housing Trajectory - maintain build rate over the plan period</td>
<td>Delivered through housebuilders / Registered Social Landlords and RMBC - active management of planning applications and allocation of land through the LDF.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Net additional dwellings during the year (DCLG Core output indicator)</td>
<td>To ensure dwellings built reach 100% of annual housing requirement</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Five year supply of land for housing (DCLG Core output indicator)</td>
<td>Have deliverable land to accommodate at least five times the annual housing requirement</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### SPATIAL STRATEGY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Policy Area</th>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Target / Aim</th>
<th>Delivery / Implementation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>CS6: Employment Land Requirement</strong></td>
<td>Amount of floorspace developed for employment by type</td>
<td>Increase employment floorspace and ensure availability of a variety of sites.</td>
<td>Active management of planning applications and allocation of land through the LDF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Employment land available</td>
<td>To ensure sufficient for long-term development</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Employment land review undertaken</td>
<td>An ELR to be undertaken every 3 years to ensure requirements and suitability of sites are regularly maintained and reviewed.</td>
<td>RMBC / RiDO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CS7: Green Belt</strong></td>
<td>Extent of Green Belt</td>
<td>Maintain general extent of the Green Belt (none to be lost to development)</td>
<td>Allocation of land through the LDF and planning application management.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Planning permissions granted on Green Belt</td>
<td>No planning permissions to be granted for an inappropriate use.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CS8: Green infrastructure</strong></td>
<td>Number of new green infrastructure projects developed</td>
<td>No target set</td>
<td>Planning application management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CS9: Landscape</strong></td>
<td>Amount of land covered by woodland</td>
<td>Increase the percentage of area in the borough covered by woodland</td>
<td>South Yorkshire Forest / RMBC - active management of planning applications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Amount of land covered by environment stewardship schemes</td>
<td>Increase the area of land under environmental management</td>
<td>Natural England agri-environment scheme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CS10: Valuing the historic environment</strong></td>
<td>Number of listed buildings in Rotherham and percentage at risk</td>
<td>Number of listed buildings in Rotherham and percentage at risk</td>
<td>English Heritage / RMBC</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### SPATIAL STRATEGY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Policy Area</th>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Target / Aim</th>
<th>Delivery / Implementation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Listed buildings and Ancient Monuments lost to development</td>
<td>None to be lost to development</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CS11: Sustainable Design</td>
<td>Density of completed dwellings - % completed at &lt;30, 30 to 50, &gt;50 dwellings per hectare</td>
<td>Avoid development of less than 30 dph</td>
<td>Management of planning applications.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Housing Quality - Building for Life assessments (DCLG Core output indicator)</td>
<td>Increase proportion of new builds reaching standards against the Building for Life Criteria</td>
<td>RMBC / developers - assessments for new developments against standards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Percentage of non residential floorspace (schemes including at least 500m2 floorspace) granted planning permission that achieves or exceeds the required levels against the BREEAM standard</td>
<td>Increase the number of developments that meet the standard.</td>
<td>RMBC / developers - assessments for new developments against standards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CS12: Rotherham Regeneration and Flood Alleviation Area</td>
<td>Number of planning applications granted contrary to advice of the Environment Agency on flood defence or water quality grounds (DCLG Core output indicator)</td>
<td>None to be granted against sustained EA advice.</td>
<td>Environment Agency / RMBC planning application management</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 12 Sustainable Communities Policies Monitoring and Implementation

### SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Policy Area</th>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Target / Aim</th>
<th>Delivery / Implementation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CS13: Accessible places and managing demand for travel</td>
<td>Percentage of completed non-residential</td>
<td>All developments to be in compliance</td>
<td>Planning application management</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Policy Area</th>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Target / Aim</th>
<th>Delivery / Implementation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>development complying with car parking standards set out in the RTS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Public transport patronage and modal share</td>
<td>Increase in public transport usage</td>
<td>SYPTE - LTP3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Accessibility to a range of places using public transport</td>
<td>Ensure that new development is within easy reach of services by public transport</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Walk / cycle modal share</td>
<td>Increase walking and cycling share of journeys made</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Numbers killed or seriously injured on the Borough’s roads</td>
<td>Reduce numbers being killed or seriously injured</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CS14: Managing change in Rotherham’s Retail and Service Centres</td>
<td>Vacancy rates in the boroughs town and district centres</td>
<td>Reduce the number of empty properties across the main retail / service centres in the borough</td>
<td>RMBC / Parish Councils - attract new retailers / retain existing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Vacancy rates in primary shopping areas of town and district centres</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Amount of new floorspace in town and district centres</td>
<td>New retail floorspace to be encouraged in town centres, discouraged in out of town locations</td>
<td>Management of planning applications.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CS15: Transforming Rotherham Town Centre</td>
<td>Vacancy rate on primary shopping area in the town centre</td>
<td>Reduce the number of empty properties within Rotherham town centre</td>
<td>RMBC town centre team - attract new retailers / retain existing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CS16: Housing Mix &amp; Affordability</td>
<td>Gross affordable housing completions (DCLG Core output indicator)</td>
<td>To increase the number of affordable homes built and meet identified requirement for the year</td>
<td>RMBC housing / Developers / Registered Social Landlords through planning application</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Policy Area</th>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Target / Aim</th>
<th>Delivery / Implementation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Management / developer investment</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Management of planning applications.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Density of completed dwellings - % completed at &lt;30, 30 to 50, &gt;50 dwellings per hectare</td>
<td>Provide a range of housing types to meet identified need.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CS17: Gypsy and traveller accommodation</td>
<td>Net additional Gypsy and Traveller pitches (DCLG Core output indicator)</td>
<td>Meet identified needs</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CS18: Transforming Rotherham's economy</td>
<td>New business registration rate</td>
<td>Increase the number of start-up businesses in Rotherham.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CS19: Tourism and the visitor economy</td>
<td>Number of rural diversification schemes</td>
<td>Encourage increase in rural diversification schemes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CS20: Green Space</td>
<td>Proportion of population living within easy walking distance of green spaces meeting defined quality standards</td>
<td>To be set</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CS20: Green Space</td>
<td>Net gains / losses in green space provision.</td>
<td>To be set</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

RMBC / RiDO, Economic Strategy
To close the gap to the regional and national averages

RMBC / RiDO - marketing of units and attracting new investment & business.

RMBC / RiDO, Economic Strategy

Planning application management

Core Strategy Final Draft
### SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Policy Area</th>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Target / Aim</th>
<th>Delivery / Implementation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CS21: Flood risk within the Rotherham Regeneration and Flood Alleviation Area</td>
<td>See Policy CS12 for indicators.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 13 Climate Change and Managing Natural Resources Policies Monitoring and Implementation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CLIMATE CHANGE &amp; MANAGING NATURAL RESOURCES</th>
<th>Policy Area</th>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Target / Aim</th>
<th>Delivery / Implementation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CS22: Freight</td>
<td>Amount of goods carried</td>
<td>To be set</td>
<td>SYPTE via LTP3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CS23: Community Health &amp; Safety</td>
<td>Air Quality - harmful emissions measured in the Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA)</td>
<td>Reduce emissions (target to be set)</td>
<td>RMBC/ SYPTE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>CO2 emissions</td>
<td>Reduction in CO2 emissions per head - see Policy CS27</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CS24: Biodiversity / Geodiversity</td>
<td>Condition of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI's) in the borough</td>
<td>National target is to reach 95% favourable (or unfavourable recovering)</td>
<td>English Nature / RMBC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Changes in areas of biodiversity importance (DCLG Core output indicator)</td>
<td>Increase proportion of local sites where positive conservation management has been or is being implemented.</td>
<td>Local Wildlife System</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CS25: Minerals</td>
<td>Production of primary and secondary / recycled aggregates (DCLG Core output indicator)</td>
<td>Maintain a supply of aggregate minerals to contribute to the regional and sub-regional demand</td>
<td>Mineral operators / RMBC management of planning applications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Policy Area</td>
<td>Indicator</td>
<td>Target / Aim</td>
<td>Delivery / Implementation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waste Management - Policies in the joint waste DPD for Rotherham, Barnsley &amp; Doncaster</td>
<td>Capacity of new waste management facilities in the borough (DCLG Core output indicator)</td>
<td>Increase recovery capacity in line with borough needs</td>
<td>Waste Operators / RMBC management of planning applications and allocation of land.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Amount of municipal waste arising and managed by management type (DCLG Core output indicator)</td>
<td>Reduce landfill and reducing total municipal waste</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CS26: Managing the Water Environment</td>
<td>Number of planning applications granted contrary to advice of the Environment Agency on flood defence or water quality grounds (DCLG Core output indicator)</td>
<td>None to be granted against sustained EA advice.</td>
<td>Environment Agency / RMBC planning application management</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Percentage of river length in Rotherham assessed as being of good quality</td>
<td>Regional target was for all water to reach 'good' status by 2015.</td>
<td>Environment Agency</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CS27: Renewable Energy Generation</td>
<td>Renewable energy generation in the year (DCLG Core output indicator)</td>
<td>Increase renewable energy generation year on year in the borough - reach 11.0Mw by 2010 and 36Mw by 2021.</td>
<td>Developers / housebuilders / renewable energy operators - RMBC via planning application management</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Carbon Dioxide (CO2) emissions per capita</td>
<td>Reduce overall CO2 emissions per head.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 14 Infrastructure Policies Monitoring and Implementation
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CS28: Infrastructure Delivery and Developer Contributions</th>
<th>Any monitoring indicator to be decided as part of Infrastructure Delivery Plan</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CS29: Improving skills and employment opportunities</td>
<td>Percentage of working age population educated to at least NVQ2+, NVQ3+, NVQ4+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CS30: Contribution towards new flood infrastructure in the Rotherham Regeneration and Flood Risk area.</td>
<td>Any monitoring indicator to be decided</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CS31: New roads</td>
<td>No significant increase in capacity expected / no indicator-measurement suggested.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CS32: Rail connections</td>
<td>Land for local rail projects not to be lost for other development</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Appendix A Replaced Unitary Development Plan policies

The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 provides for the saving of policies in adopted Unitary Development Plans for a period of 3 years from the commencement of the Act, which was on 28 September 2004. Policies in plans adopted or approved at that date expired on 27 September 2007 unless extended by the Secretary of State. The Secretary of State issued a direction for Rotherham, listing those UDP policies which are saved. Those policies not listed in the direction expired on 27 September 2007. The saved policies will gradually be replaced as the Core Strategy and subsequently the Sites and Policies documents are adopted.

The table below sets out Rotherham’s saved UDP policies and indicates which of these are superseded by Core Strategy policies. Following adoption of the Core Strategy the remaining saved policies will continue to form part of Rotherham’s development plan until superseded by subsequent LDF documents.

Table 15 Superseded Saved UDP Policies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Saved UDP Policy</th>
<th>Superseding Core Strategy Policy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Housing</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HG1 Existing Housing Areas</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HG2 Existing Housing Stock</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HG4.1 Existing Housing Sites</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HG4.2 Proposed Housing Sites</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HG4.3 Windfall Sites</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HG4.4 Back Land and Tandem Development</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HG4.5 Special Needs Housing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HG4.6 Sheltered and Supportive Housing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HG4.8 Flats, Bedsitting Rooms and Houses in Multiple Occupation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HG4.9 Sites for Travelling People</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HG5 The Residential Environment</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Economic Development</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EC1.1 Safeguarding Existing Industrial and Business Areas</td>
<td>CS18 Transforming Rotherham’s Economy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EC1.2 Inappropriately Located Industry or Business</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EC2.1 Sites for New Development</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saved UDP Policy</td>
<td>Superseding Core Strategy Policy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EC3.1 Land Identified for Industrial and Business Uses</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EC3.2 Land Identified for Business Use</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EC3.3 Other Development within Industrial and Business Areas</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EC3.4 Small Businesses</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EC3.5 Industrial and Business Development in Relation to Sensitive Areas of Land-Use</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EC3.6 Rural Diversification</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EC4 Service Sector Employment</td>
<td>CS18 Transforming Rotherham’s Economy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EC5 Mixed Use Areas</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EC5.1 Land Identified for Mixed Use Development</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EC6 Tourism and Visitor Developments</td>
<td>CS19 Tourism and the Visitor Economy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EC6.4 Tourism and Visitor Developments and the Environment</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Environment</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENV1 Green Belt</td>
<td>CS7 Green Belt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENV1.1 Areas of High Landscape Value</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENV1.2 Development in areas of high landscape value</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENV1.3 Extensions to Dwellings in the Green Belt</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENV1.4 Land Adjacent to the Green Belt</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENV1.5 Infilling Within Green Belt Villages</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENV1.6 Villages in the Green Belt</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENV2 Conserving the Environment</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENV2.1 Statutorily Protected Sites</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENV2.2 Interest Outside Statutorily Protected Sites</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saved UDP Policy</td>
<td>Superseding Core Strategy Policy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENV2.3 Maintaining the Character and Quality of the Environment</td>
<td>CS11 Sustainable Design</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENV2.4 Enhancing Environmental Resources</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENV2.6 Alterations to Listed Buildings</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENV2.7 Changes of Use to Listed Buildings</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENV2.8 Settings and Curtilages of Listed Buildings</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENV2.9 Demolition of Listed Buildings</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENV2.10 Conservation Areas</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENV2.11 Development in Conservation Areas</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENV2.12 Development Adjacent to Conservation Areas</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENV3 Borough Landscape</td>
<td>CS9 Landscape</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENV3.1 Development and the Environment</td>
<td>CS11 Sustainable Design</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENV3.2 Minimising the Impact of Development</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENV3.3 Tree Preservation Orders</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENV3.4 Trees, Woodlands and Hedgerows</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENV3.5 Alternative Uses for Rural Buildings and Buildings in the Green Belt</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENV3.6 Agricultural Land Quality</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENV3.7 Control of Pollution</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENV3.8 Advertisement Hoardings</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENV4.1 Improvement Schemes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENV4.3 Unstable Land</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENV4.4 Contaminated Land</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENV5.1 Allocated Urban Greenspace</td>
<td>CS20 Green Space</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENV5.2 Incidental Urban Greenspace</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENV6.1 Provision of Facilities</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saved UDP Policy</td>
<td>Superseding Core Strategy Policy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T2 Major Road Schemes and Highway Improvements</td>
<td>CS4: Key Routes and the Strategic Road Network, CS13: Accessible Places and Managing Demand for Travel, and CS32: New Roads</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T3 Public Transport</td>
<td>CS13: Accessible Places and Managing Demand for Travel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T3.1 Bus Priority Measures and New Systems</td>
<td>CS13: Accessible Places and Managing Demand for Travel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T3.2 Local Rail Infrastructure</td>
<td>CS33 Rail Connections</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T4 Traffic Management</td>
<td>CS4: Key Routes and the Strategic Road Network, and CS13: Accessible Places and Managing Demand for Travel,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T5 Freight Transfer to Rail and Canal</td>
<td>CS22: Freight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T5.1 Road Freight</td>
<td>CS22: Freight, CS4: Key Routes and the Strategic Road Network, and CS13: Accessible Places and Managing Demand for Travel,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T6 Location and Layout of Development</td>
<td>CS13: Accessible Places and Managing Demand for Travel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T7 Public Rights of Way</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T8 Access</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T9 Motorway Service Areas</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Retailing</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RET1.1 Shopping Environment</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RET1.2 Prime Shopping Streets</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RET1.3 Amusement Centres</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RET4 Out-of-Centre Retail Warehouses</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RET6 Local Shopping Provision</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RET6.1 Farm Shops</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RET6.2 Garden Centres</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Community and Recreation</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CR1 Community and Social Provision</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CR1.5 Community Facilities</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saved UDP Policy</td>
<td>Superseding Core Strategy Policy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CR2.1 Outdoor Playing Space Standards</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CR2.2 Safeguarding Recreation Areas</td>
<td>CS20 Green Space</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CR2.4 Canals</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CR2.5 Proposals for New Outdoor Sport and Recreation in the Countryside</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CR2.6 Indoor Recreation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Minerals</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MIN2 Aggregate Minerals</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MIN2.1 Areas of Search</td>
<td>CS25: Minerals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MIN2.2 Buffer Zones</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MIN3.2 Opencasting Proposals</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MIN4 Oil and Natural Gas</td>
<td>CS25: Minerals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MIN5 Criteria in the Assessment of all Mineral Extraction Proposals</td>
<td>CS25: Minerals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MIN6 Methods and Control of Working</td>
<td>CS25: Minerals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MIN7 Recycling</td>
<td>CS25: Minerals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MIN7.1 Waste Tips and Embankments</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MIN7.2 Limitations on Reworking</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MIN7.3 Control of Reworking Operations</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MIN8 Advance Extraction</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Waste Management</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WM1.1 Land Reclamation Schemes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WM1.2 Assessment of Waste Management Proposals</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WM1.4 Agricultural Tipping</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WM1.9 Landfill Gas</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Utilities</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UTL1 Safeguarding Utility Infrastructure</td>
<td>CS28 Infrastructure delivery and developer contributions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saved UDP Policy</td>
<td>Superseding Core Strategy Policy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UTL2 Utility Services for New Development</td>
<td>CS28 Infrastructure delivery and developer contributions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UTL3 Environmental Impact of Service Installations</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UTL3.1 Development close to High Voltage Power Lines</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UTL3.2 Telecommunications Development</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UTL3.3 Energy Conservation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UTL3.4 Renewable Energy</td>
<td>CS27 Renewable Energy Generation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Appendix B Evidence base

The Core Strategy has been produced having regard to a wide range of evidence to ensure that it is robust. As well as drawing on nationally available data such as the Census, and population and household projections, regard has been had to a number of other documents and studies which are identified and summarised below.

#### Table 16 Evidence Base Documents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Document</th>
<th>Brief Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Settlement Strategy</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Yorkshire Settlement Study, Jacobs Babtie, 2005</td>
<td>This study assesses the existing sustainability of settlements and their potential to provide sustainable change. It compares the strengths, opportunities, threats and weaknesses of each settlement and identifies if they could be a focus for sustainable change.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spatial Options Report - preliminary assessment of potential site allocations and capacities/ development of Core Strategy Revised Spatial Options, Jacobs, 2009</td>
<td>This study updates the 2005 Settlement Study and presents a review of the order and priority of settlements, which decisions on the scale and distribution of development will be tested against (settlement hierarchy). It considers how much additional housing and employment development must be planned for up to 2026, what options for growth could be pursued and the spatial choices which exist within each settlement.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Core Strategy Preferred Options Feedback Report, 2007</td>
<td>This presents the findings of consultation undertaken on the Core Strategy Preferred Options</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Core strategy Revised Options Final Feedback Report, 2010</td>
<td>This presents the findings of consultation undertaken on the Core Strategy Revised Options</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Settlement Capacity Report, 2009</td>
<td>Reviews the ability of settlements to accommodate new development including settlement characteristics and development constraints, a survey of sites and a consideration of the development potential for a range of potential uses. It provides conclusions on the ability of settlements to achieve their identified Settlement Role</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Housing</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building Better Homes and Lives: Housing Strategy 2011-14 (Draft), RMBC, 2010</td>
<td>Sets out how the Council would like to improve existing housing, how we will build new homes in Rotherham in a way that is kind to the environment and how this will improve the quality of life for Rotherham's</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
residents. It also sets out how and where we plan to provide good quality places to live and it explains how we will work with our neighbouring Councils.

This urban housing capacity study is intended to establish the extent to which the urban area can accommodate additional housing development, and provide the basis for future land allocations and brownfield targets in development plans.

Identifies land with potential for future housing development.

Identifies land with potential for future housing development.

Utilised financial appraisals for actual or notional housing developments on a range of sites in order to assess the impact of affordable housing requirements upon development viability.

This study helps provide a better understanding of housing markets, housing need and affordable housing in Rotherham. It helps improve the understanding of housing demand, supply, market dynamics and interventions, affordability and the needs of different sectors of the Borough’s population.

Produced with the other South Yorkshire Authorities and Transform South Yorkshire, this Guide is intended to provide a clear and consistent approach to design in the development management process – an approach that will result in higher quality neighbourhoods and efficiency savings for developers.

This study provides an assessment of the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers living in and travelling through South Yorkshire.

This report considered the housing market in Rotherham town centre and potential opportunities to deliver new dwellings.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Document</th>
<th>Brief Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rotherham Urban Potential Study, RMBC, 2004</td>
<td>This urban housing capacity study is intended to establish the extent to which the urban area can accommodate additional housing development, and provide the basis for future land allocations and brownfield targets in development plans.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joint Rotherham and Sheffield Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment - Rotherham Results, April 2009</td>
<td>Identifies land with potential for future housing development.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joint Rotherham and Sheffield Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (including emerging LDF sites) 2010 / 2011</td>
<td>Identifies land with potential for future housing development.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing Viability Study, UWE at Bristol, 2007 &amp; 2011</td>
<td>Utilised financial appraisals for actual or notional housing developments on a range of sites in order to assess the impact of affordable housing requirements upon development viability.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing Market Assessment, Fordham consultants, Sept 2007 &amp; 2010</td>
<td>This study helps provide a better understanding of housing markets, housing need and affordable housing in Rotherham. It helps improve the understanding of housing demand, supply, market dynamics and interventions, affordability and the needs of different sectors of the Borough’s population.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Yorkshire Residential Design Guide, Roger Evans Associates Limited, 2011</td>
<td>Produced with the other South Yorkshire Authorities and Transform South Yorkshire, this Guide is intended to provide a clear and consistent approach to design in the development management process – an approach that will result in higher quality neighbourhoods and efficiency savings for developers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Study and Assessment of the Accommodation Needs of Gypsies and Travellers in South Yorkshire, Northern Housing Consortium, Marion Horton Associates and Access Matrix, 2007</td>
<td>This study provides an assessment of the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers living in and travelling through South Yorkshire.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rotherham Town Centre Residential Strategy, Knight Frank, 2008</td>
<td>This report considered the housing market in Rotherham town centre and potential opportunities to deliver new dwellings</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Employment and Economy**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Document</th>
<th>Brief Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Joint Sheffield/Rotherham Economy Report, CURS, 2007</td>
<td>This report considered the Rotherham and Sheffield economies and the links between them, finding that the Sheffield/Rotherham was a distinct economic entity within both the broader South Yorkshire subregion and Sheffield City Region.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employment land Review, RMBC, 2007 &amp; 2010</td>
<td>This takes stock of the borough's local economy, considers how it might change in the future and how much land may be required for new development to 2027. It also reviews the suitability of a range of sites for economic development.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Economic Assessment, RMBC, 2010</td>
<td>Provides an overall picture of the state of Rotherham's economy, its history and an indication of where that economy is heading.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visitor Economy Strategy 2008-2013, Yorkshire Forward</td>
<td>This identifies priorities for the growth of the visitor economy in the region over the next five years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rotherham Tourism Plan 2005 - 2008, RMBC, 2005</td>
<td>Sets out Rotherham's tourism plan to 2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Economic Plan for Rotherham 2008 - 2020, RMBC, 2008</td>
<td>Sets out the vision for Rotherham's economy up to 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City Relationships: Economic Linkages in Northern City Regions: Sheffield City Region, The Work Foundation, Centre for Cities and SURF, 2009</td>
<td>This examined the economic relationships of five of the most significant economic centres in the North - Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester, Newcastle and Sheffield - and a selection of cities and towns nearby, looking in particular at labour market linkages and the connections between businesses. It considered barriers to more complementary economic relationships and what public policy might do to foster them.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Better Places to Work, Objective 1 Programme Directorate and Yorkshire Forward, 2002)</td>
<td>Presents a framework and checklist of issues to be explored and addressed at all stages of the design and development process, from initial concept through to internal layout</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Retail, Leisure & Regeneration**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Document</th>
<th>Brief Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rotherham Town Centre Retail and Leisure Study, Colliers International and The Retail Group, 2010</td>
<td>This study considered Rotherham town centre's retail and leisure market including an assessment of how much land may be required for future development. It also provided recommendations to inform LDF policies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rotherham Retail and Leisure Study, Colliers International, 2011</td>
<td>This study considered Rotherham's borough wide retail and leisure market including an assessment of how</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Document</td>
<td>Brief Description</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>much land may be required for future development. It also provided recommendations to inform LDF policies</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rotherham Strategic Development Framework, RMBC and Yorkshire Forward, 2005</td>
<td>Sets out a long term vision for Rotherham town centre and a series of goals against which future development proposals can be tested.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Transport</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sheffield City Region Transport Strategy / Local Transport Plan 2011-26</td>
<td>This document explains how our Transport Shared Priorities will be addressed and sets out our longer term vision of what local transport will look like in the future and identifies how local transport plays a key role in supporting the transformation of South Yorkshire and delivering the wider vision of the Sheffield City Region</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Yorkshire Second Local transport Plan 2006 - 2011</td>
<td>Prepared as a joint plan by the four Councils in South Yorkshire and the Passenger Transport Authority (PTA). It contains our longer term vision for transport in supporting our aspirations for transformational economic growth in the sub-region.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Park &amp; Ride Strategy 2006 - 2011, South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Authority, 2006</td>
<td>The purpose of this strategy is to determine where Park &amp; Rid can make a valuable contribution to South Yorkshire and ensure that facilities and services are optimised to successfully realise the benefits shown above and make an effective contribution towards achieving LTP targets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yorkshire and Humber Regional Freight Strategy, Yorkshire Forward / Yorkshire &amp; Humber Assembly, 2004</td>
<td>This forms the most strategic guidance on freight policy within the region and sets the policy direction for a period of fifteen years. An integral role of this strategy is to set out an action plan.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Yorkshire Rail Strategy, South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive, 2009</td>
<td>This plan brings together work that has been carried out on the development and enhancement of the existing rail network to form a coherent and achievable plan in more detail within South Yorkshire and inform the strategic priority interventions for rail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yorkshire and Humber Route Utilisation Strategy, Network Rail, 2009</td>
<td>This strategy considers issues affecting the railway in this part of the country over the next decade and gives a view on longer-term issues in the years beyond</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sustainable Schools Travel Strategy, RMBC, 2009</td>
<td>Developed in response to new duties set out in the Education and Inspections Act 2006, this Strategy brings together elements of existing policies and plans, insofar as they relate to school travel, and suggests</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Document</td>
<td>Brief Description</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>how we and our partners might maximise benefits arising from them:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Highway Asset Management Plan 2007-2010, RMBC, 2007</td>
<td>This establishes the framework for delivering highway maintenance and management across our network</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Yorkshire Congestion Delivery Plan, Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham and Sheffield Councils and the the Passenger Transport Executive, 2007</td>
<td>This Plan describes how the South Yorkshire Local Authorities will address congestion throughout South Yorkshire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Environment and Biodiversity</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rotherham Regionally Important Geological Sites (RIGS) selection and boundary update work 2010</td>
<td>Information on current Regionally Important Geological Sites operation in Rotherham.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rotherham’s Biodiversity Action Plan, 2004</td>
<td>Identifies Rotherham’s conservation priorities and a programme of activities to ensure the protection and enhancement of Rotherham’s important biodiversity.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yorkshire and Humber Regional Biodiversity Strategy, Yorkshire and Humber Biodiversity Forum, 2009</td>
<td>This sets a framework for the integration of biodiversity into our policies, programmes and processes, and promotes a more joined up approach to biodiversity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biodiversity Opportunity Areas Map, Yorkshire and Humber Biodiversity Forum, 2009</td>
<td>The map provides a framework/overview of the core areas where biodiversity action would have the greatest benefits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Character of England: landscape, wildlife and natural features, Countryside Agency, 1996</td>
<td>At a national level computer based statistical analysis was combined with landscape character assessment to identify 159 character areas based on physical and human influences.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Countryside Character: Volume 3; Yorkshire and The Humber, Countryside Agency, 1999</td>
<td>Provides descriptions for the character areas in Yorkshire &amp; The Humber. It seeks to evoke what sets each character area apart from any other and also provides an explanation of how that character has arisen and how it is changing, and gives some pointers to future management issues.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Yorkshire Historic Environment Characterisation Project, South Yorkshire Archaeology Service, 2008</td>
<td>Describes the historic characteristics of every part of South Yorkshire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Document</td>
<td>Brief Description</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rotherham Landscape Character Assessment and Landscape Capacity Study,</td>
<td>Identifies Landscape Character Areas within the whole of the Borough and the key characteristics present. It also provides a more detailed consideration of the landscape sensitivity and landscape capacity of the key potential urban extensions/urban expansion areas.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Landscape Partnership, 2010</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Yorkshire Regional Forestry Strategy, Forestry Commission, 2005</td>
<td>Sets out a strategy to guide future development and management of our tree and woodland resource</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Air Quality Action Plan: Rotherham Town Centre 2007-2011, RMBC, 2007</td>
<td>This presents the measures being adopted or encouraged by the Council in pursuit of the National Air Quality Objectives in the town centre.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Green Space / Green Infrastructure</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Yorkshire Forest Plan, South Yorkshire Forest Partnership, 2002</td>
<td>Sets out a strategic plan for a Community Forest in South Yorkshire. Expected to be superseded by the South Yorkshire Green Infrastructure Strategy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Yorkshire Green Infrastructure Mapping Project, Natural England, 2010</td>
<td>Natural England, working in partnership with all the local authorities in the region as well as other partners, has produced a consistent evidence base for green infrastructure in the Yorkshire and Humber Region which can be used to inform policy and investment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Yorkshire Green Infrastructure Strategy, South Yorkshire Forest Partnership, 2011</td>
<td>Sets out a 20 year vision for improving the sub-region’s network of key green infrastructure, and sets out proposals for preparing a detailed delivery plan for the coming period up to 2015.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rotherham Green Spaces Strategy, RMBC, 2010</td>
<td>This Strategy is intended to take stock of current Green Spaces provision across the borough, to agree new Green Space standards, and to recommend how these can be achieved.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green Spaces Audit for Rotherham, Scott Wilson, 2005</td>
<td>This establishes a framework for planning a delivering green spaces to predetermined standards, and for making decisions about future changes in their ownership and management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Our Region, Our Health, Regional Director of Public Health 2004</td>
<td>The aim of this report is to support the Regional Framework for Health and provide some recommendations and suggestions for action. The focus of this report details what can be done at a regional level to improve health and reduce health inequalities, adding value to local work.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Document</td>
<td>Brief Description</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allotments Strategy (draft), RMBC, 2010:</td>
<td>This strategy sets out a vision for allotments in Rotherham over the 10 year period 2011-2020. Flowing from that vision are aims, objectives and recommendations. The recommendations and standards of this strategy are intended to guide development of allotment sites owned and managed by Rotherham Council.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Playing Pitch Strategy, RMBC, 2009:</td>
<td>The Strategy focuses on the role the Council has to play in ensuring that future playing pitch provision meets changing patterns of demand, not only as a service provider but also as a planning authority. The Strategy looks at the current and future requirements for pitches in different sports, and advocates the setting of qualitative and quantitative standards for these.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Flooding and the Water Environment</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rotherham Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (Level 1), Jacobs, 2008</td>
<td>This report considers, at a strategic level, a number of key questions: what may flood, how, where, when and how often. They also consider the likely extent of flooding. It will provide information to guide the allocation of land in order to limit flood risk to people and to new and existing properties.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flood Risk Toolkit (including a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (Level 2)), Jacobs, 2011</td>
<td>This includes a Level 2 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment for Rotherham town centre and surrounding areas, and provides guidance to inform planning decision making, as well as a design guide to inform developments contributing to the Rotherham Renaissance Flood Alleviation Scheme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don Catchment Flood Management Plan, Environment Agency, 2010.</td>
<td>The role of CFMPs is to establish flood risk management policies which will deliver sustainable flood risk management for the long term.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Renewable Energy</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low carbon and renewable energy capacity in Yorkshire and Humber, AECOM, 2011</td>
<td>This study assesses the potential for low carbon and renewable energy generation in the Yorkshire and Humber region between 2010 and 2026. It is being undertaken in three stages. Part A: Scoping Study and Part B: Opportunities and Constraints Mapping have been completed. Part C: Delivery is currently in draft form.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Climate Change</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Document</strong></td>
<td><strong>Brief Description</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yorkshire and Humber Climate Change Adaptation Study, Royal Haskoning</td>
<td>This study looks at how climate change may impact on the region and, most importantly, what needs to be done to tackle the predicted impacts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Climate Change Plan for Yorkshire &amp; Humber 2009 – 2014, Yorkshire &amp; Humber Climate Change Partnership, 2009</td>
<td>This action plan sets a strategic direction for managing and combating climate change in the Yorkshire and Humber region over the next five years.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Minerals</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Waste</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pre Publication Joint Waste Plan DPD, Rotherham, Barnsley and Doncaster Borough Councils, 2010</td>
<td>The Joint Waste Plan will provide the framework to guide and assess new waste proposals. It will also allocate suitable sites to manage different types of waste, to meet future needs. Once adopted it will form part of each borough's new development plan - the Local Development Framework.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Municipal Waste Management Strategy 2005 - 2020, RMBC, 2005</td>
<td>The strategy addresses the short term strategy and the options for the medium to long term strategy. It sets out the final Waste Strategy, under current DETR Guidance, the recommended strategy for achieving performance standards for recycling; and potential options for achieving ongoing diversion of biodegradable waste from landfill, in line the EU Landfill Directive and the resultant Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sustainability Appraisal</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LDF Sustainability Appraisal General Scoping Report, Jacobs, 2011</td>
<td>This provides a description of the current baseline for Rotherham and identification of the Borough’s key sustainability issues. It updates the 2005 Scoping Report produced by Arup which established a general Sustainability Appraisal Methodology and Framework for Rotherham, including Sustainability Appraisal objectives, 'Decision Guiding Questions', indicators and targets, as well as appraisal matrices and guidance for completing appraisals.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sustainability Appraisal of Core Strategy Revised Spatial Options, WSP, 2009</td>
<td>This report presents the outcome of a Sustainability Appraisal / Strategic Environmental Assessment of the</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Document</td>
<td>Brief Description</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------</td>
<td>-------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Core Strategy Revised Options. It identifies the potential impact options will have in social, economic and environmental terms. It looks at issues such as what the impact of growth will be on landscape, sensitive sites, transport, local communities and economies. It also provides recommendations to mitigate and enhance impacts that should be taken forward into a preferred option.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Core Strategy Integrated Impact Assessment Report, Jacobs, March 2011</td>
<td>This report presents the outcome of a Sustainability Appraisal / Strategic Environmental Assessment of the Final Draft Core Strategy, including Health Impact Assessment, Equalities Impact Assessment and Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Council and Partner Documents / Strategies</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rotherham's Corporate Plan, RMBC, 2010</td>
<td>This identifies five new high level priorities, along with the principles by which the we will do business. This reflects the things that councillors, partners and stakeholders see as priorities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rotherham Community Strategy 2005-11 (Updated 2008), Rotherham Partnership, 2008</td>
<td>Sets out the visions and ambitions for Rotherham and how they will be achieved, based on the priority themes of Achieving, Learning, Alive, Safe, Proud and two cross cutting themes of Fairness and Sustainable Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rotherham Rural Strategy, RMBC, 2006</td>
<td>The key aims of this strategy are to address the challenges facing rural communities in Rotherham, to respond to the needs of the people who live in rural Rotherham, and to enhance and preserve the countryside for those who live in the Borough and further a field.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rotherham's Draft Environment and Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan, 2009 - 2012</td>
<td>Sets out how the Council and it’s partners will reduce Rotherham’s contribution to climate change, improving Rotherham’s resilience to current and future climate change and provide a proactive framework for action across the Local Strategic Partnership</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dearne Valley Eco-Vision, Urbed, 2009</td>
<td>The Dearne Valley vision aims to transform the Dearne Valley into a green, eco-valley. It envisages a move to a high quality, low carbon environment. This will attract businesses specialising in leading technologies and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Document</td>
<td>Brief Description</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sheffield City Region Local Enterprise Partnership Proposal, 2010</td>
<td>The proposal document sets out how the Sheffield City Region LEP will bring together the region’s businesses and local authorities to lead and coordinate action and investment to strengthen economic growth and rebalance the economy to increase private sector investment and job creation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sheffield City Region Development Programme (Draft update August 2010)</td>
<td>This sets out the challenges and opportunities the City Region faces and the strategic priorities where there is greatest value from working together. It focuses on three core issues where action is essential and appropriate at the City Region level.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transform South Yorkshire 2nd Prospectus, Transform South Yorkshire, 2005</td>
<td>This set out the revised vision and funding requirements for 2006 - 2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Yorkshire and Humber Plan. Regional Strategy to 2026, DCLG, 2008</td>
<td>Provides a broad and long term development strategy for the Region and aims to guide development over the next 15 to 20 years. It includes the Regional Transport Strategy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monitoring</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual Monitoring Reports, RMBC, 2005 to 2010</td>
<td>Prepared to monitor progress in achieving the programme of LDF documents together with the monitoring of performance in implementing the policies supporting Rotherham’s strategy for spatial development as well as the findings of Sustainability Appraisal monitoring</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Appendix C Glossary

**Accessibility:** The ability of people to move around areas and reach places and facilities.

**(The) Act:** The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.

**Affordable housing:** Housing accessible to households who cannot afford open market rental or purchase. It includes a range of tenures, i.e. shared ownership, discounted market housing, key worker housing, subsidised social renting etc.

**Aggregates** - the mineral materials, such as sand or stone, used in making concrete.

**Air Quality Management Area (AQMA):** Air Quality Management Areas have to be declared by Local Authorities for any parts of their areas where the air quality is unlikely to meet Government objectives as set out in the Environment Act 1995, and where people are expected to be exposed to the poor air quality.

**Allocations** - Sites to meet future development

**Annual Monitoring Report (AMR):** Part of the local development framework, the annual monitoring report will assess the implementation of the local development scheme and the extent to which policies in local development documents are being successfully implemented.

**Area Action Plan:** A type of Development Plan Document focussed upon a specific location or an area subject to conservation or significant change (for example, major regeneration).

**Area of High Landscape Value:** A local landscape designation used to identify land of particularly high landscape quality.

**Biodiversity:** The whole variety of life on earth; all species of plants and animals and the ecosystems of which they are part.

**Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP):** A plan which sets out proposals to protect and improve the places where trees, plants, animals and insects live.

**Biomass:** Plants and trees when used to create energy.

**Broad locations for growth:** Indicative areas of major development.

**Brownfield (previously developed) land:** Land that is or was occupied by a permanent structure.

**Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM):** This is a tool to measure the sustainability of non-domestic buildings.

**Bulky goods:** Retail categories that include furniture, whitegoods, electrical equipment, bedding, lighting, automotive parts, camping and outdoor equipment, tools, building materials and DIY and homemaker products.
**Carbon emissions:** Gasses, such as carbon dioxide, caused by burning fossil fuels in transport and energy generation which contribute to global warming and climate change.

**Chain of Conformity:** It is important that we make sure the inter-relationships between different LDF documents are clear and that the LDF as a whole is consistent with national policy. This consistency is commonly referred to as the ‘chain of conformity’.

**Code for Sustainable Homes:** Provides a set of national standards for the design and construction of new homes to reduce carbon emissions.

**Combined heat and power:** The use of a heat engine or a power station to simultaneously generate both electricity and useful heat.

**Community Infrastructure Levy:** A form of planning gain tax, where a proportion of the increase in value on land as a result of planning permission is used to finance the supporting infrastructure, such as schools and will ‘unlock housing growth’.

**Community Strategy:** Local authorities are required by the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 to prepare these, with aim of improving the social, environmental and economic well being of their areas. Through the Community Strategy, authorities are expected to co-ordinate the actions of local public, private, voluntary and community sectors. Responsibility for producing Community Strategies may be passed to Local Strategic Partnerships, which include local authority representatives.

**Comparison goods:** These can be described as goods that consumers buy at infrequent intervals and normally would compare prices before buying eg. TV, fridges, clothes etc.

**Conservation Area:** An area, usually part of a settlement, designated by a local planning authority for preservation or enhancement because of its special architectural or historic interest under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act, 1990.

**Contextual indicators:** Measure changes in the wider social, economic, and environmental background against which policies operate. They help to relate policy outputs to the local area.

**Convenience goods:** A consumer item that is widely-available, purchased frequently and with minimal effort. Examples of convenience goods include newspapers and sweets.

**Core Strategy:** Sets out the long-term spatial vision for the local planning authority area, the spatial objectives and strategic policies to deliver that vision. The core strategy will have the status of a development plan document.

**Density:** The number of buildings in a given area. In the LDF it is used mainly in relation to housing, being expressed as dwellings per hectare or ‘dph’.

**Department for Communities & Local Government (DCLG):** Established in 2006 as the successor to the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, DCLG is the Government department for communities and local government and has policy responsibility for (amongst others) planning, urban regeneration and building regulations.
**Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs (Defra):** The government department responsible for environmental protection, food production and standards, agriculture, fisheries and rural communities.

**Designations:** Areas of land where specific policies apply.

**Development Plan:** As set out in Section 38 of the Act, an authority’s development plan consists of the relevant regional spatial strategy (for Yorkshire and the Humber Region) and the development plan documents contained within its local development framework. It sets out the local planning authority’s policies and proposals for the development and use of land and buildings in the authority’s area.

**Development Plan Documents (DPD):** Spatial planning documents that undergo independent examination. They can include a core strategy, site specific allocations of land, generic development control policies, and area action plans (where needed). Proposals will all be shown on a proposals map for the Borough. Individual development plan documents or parts of a document can be reviewed independently from other development plan documents. Each authority must set out the programme for preparing its development plan documents in the local development scheme. A development plan document within the LDF is used to make decisions on proposals for development.

**Ecosystem:** A biological environment consisting of all the organisms living in a particular area, as well as all the physical components of the environment with which the organisms interact, such as air, soil, water and sunlight.

**Energy crops:** Energy crops are a carbon neutral energy source and when substituted for fossil fuels can help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and contribute to renewable energy generation. An examples of an energy crop is short rotation coppice (e.g. willow and poplar), which is densely planted and then harvested on a 2-5 year cycle.

**Equality impact assessment:** A process designed to ensure that a policy, project or scheme does not discriminate against any disadvantaged or vulnerable people.

**European Landscape Convention:** This promotes the protection, management and planning of European landscapes and organises European co-operation on landscape issues.

**Evidence base:** Information gathered by a planning authority to support preparation of local development documents. It includes quantitative and qualitative data.

**Front loading:** Front loading encourages more active involvement of communities, stakeholders and commercial interests earlier in the LDF process than under the previous planning system. The aim is to seek agreement on essential issues early in the process. Where agreement is difficult to achieve, front loading allows the maximum opportunity for participants to understand each others’ positions and to negotiate a way forward.

**Flood alleviation:** The avoidance of the possibility of flooding by controlling the flow of water in rivers.

**Flood and Water Management Act 2010:** The Act aims to improve both flood risk management and the way we manage our water resources.
Geodiversity: The variety of rocks, fossils, minerals, landforms and soils, and all the natural processes that shape the landscape.

Green Belt: An area of open land where strict planning controls apply in order to check the further growth of a large built-up area, prevent neighbouring towns from merging or to preserve the special character of a town.

Greenfield: Land (or a defined site) that has not previously been developed. (Not to be confused with Green Belt.)

Greenhouse gas: Components of the atmosphere that contribute to the greenhouse effect (the process by which an atmosphere warms a planet).

Greenspace: Breaks in the urban environment formed by open areas such as parks, playing fields, woodlands and landscaped areas. These spaces may exist as definable linear routeways, forming part of a network linking urban areas to the surrounding countryside.

Green infrastructure: The network of multi-functional green space, both new and existing, both rural and urban, which supports the natural and ecological processes and is integral to the health and quality of life of sustainable communities.

Gross Value Added (GVA): This measures the contribution to the economy of each individual producer, industry or sector - the value of outputs (goods or services) less the value of inputs (labour & materials) used.

Habitats and Species of Principle Importance for Biodiversity: The habitats and species in England that have been identified via the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 as requiring action in the England Biodiversity Action Plan and which Local Authorities have a duty to protect and enhance.

Hazardous installations: Installations that use, manufacture or store significant quantities of hazardous substances that have the potential to cause serious harm to people on and surrounding the site.

Health impact assessment: The process by which a policy, program or project may be judged as to its potential effects on the health of a population, and the distribution of those effects within the population.

Hectare: A metric unit of measurement equivalent to 100 metres x 100 metres or 2.47 acres (i.e. approximately one and a half football fields).

Housing Market Renewal (HMR): There are some areas of the borough where houses are unpopular, sometimes because of the design of the houses or the housing estate. This can result in houses becoming so unpopular that no-one wants to live in them. This is known as housing-market failure. Housing-market renewal is when we or the Government takes action to solve this problem. This can involve refurbishing existing houses, replacing existing houses with new ones or improving the local environment to make it more attractive to live in.
Housing trajectory: A means of showing past and future housing performance by identifying the predicted provision of housing over the lifespan of the local development framework.

Independent Examination: An independent process where formal objections to a DPD made at Submission stage are considered by a government inspector. The Examination itself will be run by a government inspector. Many objections to DPDs will be considered through written comments made by the objector and the council. However, objectors have a right to make their case in person at the Examination if they choose.

Infill: Housing development that goes in the gaps between existing buildings.

Infrastructure: Physical services including water, gas, electricity, telecommunications supply and sewerage. It can also refer to community facilities, for example, schools, shops and public transport.

Infrastructure Delivery Plan: This will help direct growth to the most appropriate locations, and ensure that the different economic, social and environmental infrastructure needs of the borough’s residents and businesses are met.

Inspector’s Report: A report produced by the inspector (from the Planning Inspectorate) following the Independent Examination. This sets out the inspector’s conclusions on the issues considered at the Examination. The report will recommend to us if the DPD needs to be changed as a result and in what way.

Issues and Options: Produced during the early stage in the preparation of development plan documents.

Key Diagram: The diagrammatic interpretation of the spatial strategy, as set out in a local authority’s core strategy.

Landscape Character Area: A unique geographic area with a consistent character and identity, defined by geology, landform, soils, vegetation, land use, settlement and field pattern.

Landscape Character Assessment: A way of assessing the appearance and essential characteristics of a landscape in terms of particular combinations of geology, landform, soils, vegetation, land use and human settlement.

Listed Building: A building that has been placed on the Statutory List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest.


Local Development Framework (LDF): The name for the portfolio of local development documents and related documents. It consists of development plan documents, supplementary planning documents, a statement of community involvement, the local development scheme and annual monitoring reports. It may also include local development orders and simplified planning zone schemes. Together all these documents will provide the framework for delivering the spatial planning strategy for a local authority area.
**Local Development Scheme (LDS):** Sets out the programme for preparing local development documents.

**Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP):** The LEP is based on a relationship between the public and private sector and a strong commitment to work together to ensure the growth of a rebalanced local economy. The LEP will be led by the private sector and will contribute significantly to the renewal of the national economy as a whole.

**Local Nature Reserve (LNR):** A statutory designation made under Section 21 of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949, and amended by Schedule 11 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006.

**Local Service Centre:** Where there are opportunities for sustainable development these will be pursued, but the settlement and growth strategy is mindful that the social infrastructure in these communities is more limited.

**Local Sites:** Including Local Wildlife Sites (LWS) and Regionally Important Geological Sites (RIGS). Non-statutory areas of local importance for nature conservation that complement nationally and internationally designated geological and wildlife sites. Local Sites are protected within the planning framework.

**Local Strategic Partnership (LSP):** Representatives from the public, voluntary, community and business sectors brought together with the objective of improving people’s quality of life.

**Localism Bill:** A proposed act of Parliament (2010-11) to change the powers of local government in England.

**Microgeneration:** The production of heat and/or electricity on a small scale from a low carbon source, e.g. solar panels.

**Monitoring:** Regular and systematic collection and analysis of information to measure policy implementation.

**National Character Areas:** Describes how England has been divided up into areas with similar landscape character.

**Non-bulky goods:** Includes items such as clothes and footwear.

**Non-potable water:** Water that is not of drinking quality, but which may still be used for many other purposes.

**Outcomes:** Macro-level (global, national and regional), real world changes which are influenced to some degree by the local development framework.

**Output indicators:** Measure the direct effect of a policy. Used to assess whether policy targets are being achieved in reality using available information.

**Outputs:** The direct effects of a policy, e.g. number of houses built, amount of employment floorspace developed, etc.
**Plan, Monitor and Manage (PMM):** Means of measuring and reviewing policy, involving the adjustment of policy through monitoring if necessary.

**Planning Act 2008:** This legislation was intended to speed up the process for approving major new infrastructure projects such as airports, roads, harbours, energy facilities such as nuclear power and waste facilities. The Localism Bill (2010-11) will make changes to the regime under the Planning Act.

**Planning gain:** The benefits and safeguards, often for community benefit, secured by way of a planning obligation as part of a planning approval and usually provided at the developer’s expense, e.g. affordable housing, community facilities or mitigation measures.

**Planning Inspectorate:** A government organisation which makes recommendations about the policies and proposals in DPDs through a formal Independent Examination. The inspectorate is a neutral organisation which arbitrates where people and organisations do not agree with the Council. They also check whether our proposals are in line with relevant government policy.

**Planning obligations and agreements:** A legal agreement between the Council and a developer which is needed before a development can go ahead. It will usually deal with things that need to happen away from the development site, including improvements to roads and open spaces.

**Planning Policy Statement (PPS)/Planning Policy Guidance (PPG):** National statements of planning policy prepared by the Government and which councils are expected to take into account when preparing LDFs.

**Policy implementation:** Assessment of the effectiveness of policies in terms of achieving their targets. Measured by use of output and contextual indicators.

**Policy directions:** These pulled together broad issues that were taken into account in preparing the final policies for the Core Strategy.

**Preferred Options document:** Produced as part of the preparation of development plan documents for formal public participation.

**Principal Settlement:** Where there is a full range of social and community infrastructure to meet current needs but the opportunities for growth are limited.

**Principal Settlement for Growth:** Where new social infrastructure and community services exist, or are able to be provided as part of a major development scheme to support new growth opportunities.

**Proposals Map:** A plan which shows policies and proposals for specific sites and locations. These are shown on an Ordnance Survey map.

**Recycling:** The reprocessing of waste either into the same product or a different one.

**Regional Development Agency (RDA):** Government-funded organisations in England that aim to ‘spread economic prosperity and opportunity’. This mission is delivered through a number of initiatives, including events, advice services and funding. The RDA’s are being replaced by Local Enterprise Partnerships.
Regional Econometric Model (REM): The Regional Econometric Model is an economic database and model used within the Yorkshire & Humber region to provide historic and projected labour market information on employment, output, and productivity.

Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS): Sets out the region’s policies in relation to the development and use of land and forms part of the development plan. Prepared by the Regional Planning Body. Planning Policy Statement 11, ‘Regional Spatial Strategies’ provides detailed guidance on the function and preparation of regional spatial strategies. On 6 July 2010, the Government announced the revocation of the Regional Spatial Strategy, with the intention to abolish it completely through the Localism Bill. At that point, the RSS will legally cease to be part of the Development Plan.

Register of Historic Parks & Gardens: The register aims to ‘celebrate designed landscapes of note, and encourage appropriate protection’, so safeguarding the features and qualities of key landscapes for the future. Each park or garden included is of special historic interest.


Renewable energy: Energy obtained from naturally occurring sources that are essentially inexhaustible, unlike, for example, the fossil fuels, of which there is a finite supply. Renewable sources of energy include wood, wind and solar thermal energy.

Rotherham Renaissance: A project aimed at creating a vibrant Rotherham town centre which includes proposals for apartments, shops, outdoor cafés, and enhanced public spaces.

Safeguarded land: This is land which is set aside in case it is needed for development in the long term. It is not available for development in the short term because it is not needed. The need to develop safeguarded land will be considered when the Local Development Framework is reviewed.

Saved policies or plans: Existing adopted development plans are saved for a time period agreed with Government. The local development scheme should explain the authority’s approach to saved policies.

Scheduled Ancient Monument: This is a 'nationally important' archaeological site or historic building, given protection against unauthorised change.

Sequential approach: Considering options for sites for development in a particular order. For example, in terms of new shops, we would first look for sites within a shopping centre and then for sites on the edge of the shopping centre before looking at sites outside the centre. The same approach is applied to finding land for housing.

Settlement hierarchy: A way in which towns, villages and hamlets are categorised depending on their size and role. It can help make decisions about the amount and location of new development.

Sheffield City Region: This covers an area spanned by local authorities within South Yorkshire and the northern part of the East Midlands region. Over recent years, the Sheffield City Region Forum has overseen work in the City Region to increase the pace of economic growth through
collaboration. Following Government's invitation to come forward with proposals to establish a Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP), a LEP was set up and the Forum stood down in 2010.

**Significant effects:** Effects which are significant in the context of the plan. (Annex II of the SEA Directive [see later definition] gives criteria for determining the likely environmental significance of effects).

**Significant effects indicators:** An indicator that measures the significant effects of the plan or programme.

**Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI):** Representative examples of nationally important wildlife and geology. SSSI are notified by Natural England under section 28 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 as being of special value for nature conservation and are legally protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act, as amended by the Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000 and the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006.

**Sites & Policies Development Plan Document:** This will show specific development sites and contain policies to guide the release of land and design of new development.

**Social inclusion:** Making sure that everyone has access to services and opportunities no matter what their background or income.

**Soundness:** At the Independent Examination, the inspector must assess whether the DPD is 'sound'. This includes assessing whether the DPD has been prepared in the right way using the right procedures and if it is broadly in line with national planning guidance.

**South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive (SYPTE):** Responsible for the various public transport services in the sub-region.

**Spatial planning:** Goes beyond traditional land use planning to bring together and integrate policies for the development and use of land with other policies and programmes that influence the nature of places and how they function. Spatial planning includes policies that can impact on land use, for example by influencing the demands on, or needs for, development, but that are not capable of being delivered solely or mainly through the granting or refusal of planning permission.

**Spatial planning zone:** These are defined by considering various characteristics including housing markets and travel to work factors.

**Statement of Community Involvement (SCI):** Sets out the standards that authorities will work to by involving local communities in the preparation of local development documents and development control decisions.

**Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA):** This term is used internationally to describe the environmental assessment of plans, policies and programmes. This environmental assessment (the SEA Directive) looks at the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment.

**Strategic Flood Risk Assessment:** These are a required part of the planning process and are intended to form the basis for preparing appropriate policies for flood risk management at the local level.
**Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment:** This provides information on the opportunities that exist to meet housing need within a specified area over the LDF period. The information from the assessment will inform the Local Development Framework, but will not actually allocate land for housing.

**Strategic Housing Market Assessment:** Housing Market Assessments establish the level of need and demand for housing examining issues such as the particular accommodation requirements of specific groups, for example Gypsies and Travellers.

**Strategic Road Network:** This consists of motorways (such as the M1 & M18) and significant trunk A roads (such as the A57).

**Sub-region:** The administrative areas of Rotherham, Barnsley, Doncaster and Sheffield.

**Submission:** This is the stage at which people and organisations have the legal right to make a formal objection that will be considered by a government inspector. Submission also refers to the point at which the DPD is formally sent to the Secretary of State – which happens at the start of the submission consultation.

**Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD):** Provide supplementary information in respect of the policies in development plan documents. They do not form part of the development plan and are not subject to independent examination.

**Surface Water Management Plan:** A framework through which key local partners with a responsibility for surface water and drainage in their area work together to understand the causes of surface water flooding and agree the most cost effective way of managing that risk.

**Sustainability Appraisal (SA):** Describes the form of assessment that considers social, environmental and economic effects of the proposed policy directions. It includes the requirements of the SEA Directive, referred to above. This has to be produced at each main consultation stage when preparing these documents.

**Sustainable communities:** A sustainable community is one in which most of the services and facilities people need, including schools and shops, are easy to get to, preferably without the need to use a car.

**Sustainable development:** Development that has an acceptable or positive effect on the economy, the environment and social conditions, and which uses natural resources carefully. Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. This concept offers the prospect of reconciling the pressures for growth with the need for conservation.

**Sustainable settlements:** See Sustainable Communities.

**Targets:** These are thresholds used to identify the scale of change to be achieved by policies over a specific time period (e.g. number of affordable homes to be built by a set date).

**Transport nodes:** Areas where transport links are concentrated or cross each other, e.g. bus and train stations, interchanges.
**Tree Preservation Order:** These are used to protect specific trees or a particular area, group or woodland from deliberate damage and destruction.

**Unitary Development Plan (UDP):** A document which is used to make decisions on proposals for development. The Rotherham UDP covers all the borough. Under the Act, the UDP will be replaced by DPDs.

**Urban cooling:** Cooling and shading provided by green open spaces can help counter the tendency of buildings, structures and hard surfacing to retain heat in urban areas as temperatures increase with climate change.

**Urban Extensions:** Significant development sites which have the potential to yield more than 500 dwellings.

**Urban Potential Study (UPS):** Studies undertaken to establish how much additional housing can be accommodated within urban areas.

**Waste hierarchy:** The principle that there are different levels of dealing with waste, ranging from the higher (more sustainable) levels such as reducing waste, re-using then recycling or composting, to the lower (less sustainable) levels such as burning and finally to landfill.

**Wildlife corridor:** An area, usually linear, of undeveloped land that links two or more sites or areas of natural or semi-natural habitat providing a safe route for movement of wildlife.

**Windfalls:** Sites for new housing that are not identified when allocating land in a development plan document but that may come forward for development during the Plan period. For example, the redevelopment of former industrial premises following unanticipated closure or relocation of a business.

**Yorkshire and Humber Plan:** See Regional Spatial Strategy

**Yorkshire Forward:** See Regional Development Agency
“If you or someone you know needs help to understand
or read this document, please contact us.”

☎ 01709 823869  📧 forward.planning@rotherham.gov.uk  Minicom 01709 823536

Slovak
Ak vy alebo niekoľko ľudí poznáte potrebujete pomoc pri pochopení alebo čítaní
tohto dokumentu, prosím kontaktujte nás na vyššie uvedenom čísle alebo nám
pošlite e-mail.

Kurdish Sorani
بەگەر تو یان کەسەکەکە تو دەیینەیەی بەپیوستی بەبەرەمەتی بەبەستی بە ناوەندی لەم بەڵگەیەکەی بە تێبیکەتی بان بیکەوتەکەیەوە.

Arabic
إذا كنت أتى أي شخص تعرفه بحاجة إلى مساعدة لفهم أو قراءة هذه الوثيقة، الرجاء الاتصال على الرقم أعلاه أو
مزالتنا عبر البريد الإلكتروني.

Urdu
اگر آپ یا ایک دوسرے کیوں ہیں جنہوں نے کسی شخص کو اس دستاویز کو سمجھا ہے یا پہلے کوئی اہم ہے تو
برائے مہربانی مندرجہ بالا نمبر پر رہے سے رابطہ کریں یا اہم ایک میل کریں.

Farsi
اگر جهت علیکی یا شخص نیگری که شما اورا می شناسید برای خواندن یا فهمیدن این مدارک تیزی کمک دارد لطفا با
ما بوسیله شماره بالا یا ایمیل تماس حاصل فرمایید.