

DRAFT HOLMES ROAD

SPD

Holmes Road

Supplementary Planning Document

SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL SCOPING REPORT

FEBRUARY 2009



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1 Introduction

Purpose of the Scoping Report

- 1.1 Sustainable development requires that economic, social and environmental considerations should play a part in every choice and decision. The sustainability appraisal is a tool to help this and ensure that a consistent approach to incorporating sustainability issues within plan making nationally, regionally and locally.
- 1.2 This scoping report sets out the scope of the Sustainability Appraisal for the Holmes Road Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) as one of the Local Plan Documents (LDD's) forming part of Calderdale's emerging Local Development Framework (LDF).
- 1.3 The report draws heavily on the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report for Calderdale's Core Strategy and Land Allocations and Designations DPD's (November 2008) which provides common elements for appraising the LDD's contained within the Framework, but aims to update this document to reflect the specific sustainability context of Holmes Road.
- 1.4 This scoping report is tailored specifically to development of the Holmes Road SPD and includes:
 - Outline of the process and Holmes Road SPD
 - An update and review of additionally locally relevant plans, policies and programmes
 - The current environmental, social and economic baseline of Calderdale
 - Identification of key sustainability issues specific to the Holmes Road area and development of the SPD
 - Refined locally relevant decision making criteria and indicators
 - Information on consultation and outline of the appraisal process and SA Report.
- 1.5 GVA Grimley Ltd has been commissioned by Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council (CMBC) to produce this Scoping report.

Calderdale's Local Development Framework

- 1.6 The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 ('the 2004 Act') makes a number of significant changes to the planning system, the most significant of which is a new development plans system that is less complex, more accessible and actively engages the community and stakeholders in the plan making process.
- 1.7 The 2004 Act has brought about some important changes to the development plans system. The old system of Local Plans and Structure Plans are replaced with Local Development Frameworks (LDFs) and Regional Spatial Strategies (RSS). The Yorkshire and Humber Assembly is responsible for preparing the RSS and the CMBC is required to prepare a LDF for the borough.
- 1.8 The LDF can be described as a portfolio or 'loose leaf' series of documents, known as Local Development Documents (LDDs), which together provide the planning framework for development in the city over the next 15 to 20 years. There are a number of different types of documents that make up the Local Development Framework:
 - **Development Plan Documents (DPDs)** – these are statutory plans and are subject to independent examination by a Planning Inspector. DPDs will replace existing local plan policies and proposals.

DPDs may be in the form of a Core Strategy, Site Specific Allocations of Land and Area Action Plans (AAPs);

- **Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs)** – these provide further details on the policies and proposals and are not subject to examination. SPDs may be in the form of design guides, found in the DPDs;
- **Sustainability Appraisals (SA)** – need to be carried out for all DPDs and SPDs. This report forms the first stage of the SA process.
- **Statement of Community Involvement (SCI)** – sets out the Council's arrangements for engaging with the general public, private sector businesses and services and other public services such as health and police authorities, in the planning process;
- **Annual Monitoring Report (AMR)** – on the progress of plan preparation and implementation of policies and proposals; and
- **Local Development Scheme (LDS)** – sets out the programme of work and timescales for preparing the documents that make up the LDF.

- 1.9** The LDS identifies the documents that will be prepared to comprise the LDF, the programme for delivering these documents including those times for public participation and the Council's overall approach to preparing each LDD.

Holmes Road Supplementary Planning Document

- 1.10** GVA Grimley Ltd has been commissioned along with Latham Architects to develop a Supplementary Planning Document to promote the future development of the Holmes Road area.
- 1.11** The overall aim of the SPD is to secure the integration of the Holmes Road site and Sowerby Bridge Railway Station with the town centre through its redevelopment. The SPD will provide guidance on the implementation of Replacement Calderdale Unitary Development Plan Policies GS2, E20, NE15, GE3, E5, EP10, EP20, H13 and H11.

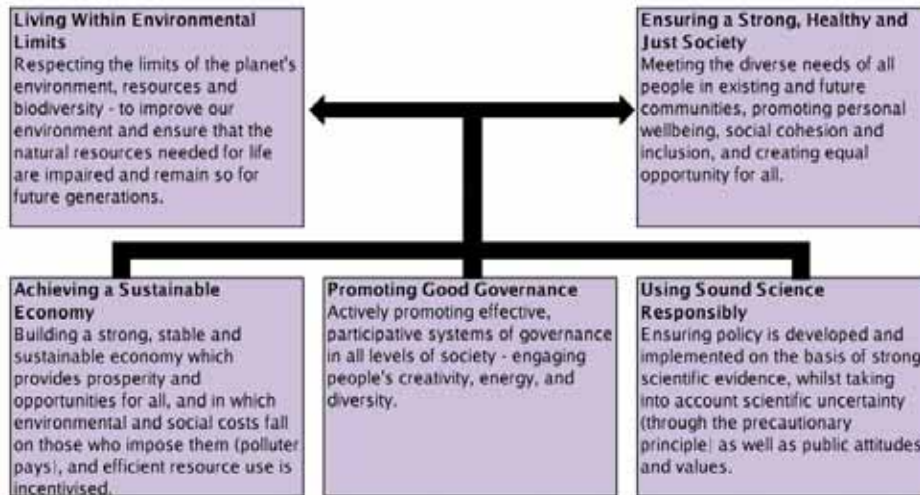
Sustainable Development and the LDF

- 1.12** Sustainable development is a key global and local issue. A commonly used definition of sustainable development is:

'Development that meets the needs of the present without comprising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs' Bruntland Commission, 1987.

- 1.13** The UK Government's sustainable development strategy 'Securing the Future' (March 2005) sets out five key principles for sustainable development as illustrated in Figure 1.1 'Guiding Principles in UK Strategy Securing the Future'

Figure 1.1 Guiding Principles in UK Strategy Securing the Future



- 1.14 Sustainable development is central to the reformed planning system. Spatial plans such as the LDF can have a significant role in achieving the objectives of sustainable development. The 2004 Act requires planning bodies, in preparing plans, to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development.
- 1.15 This Scoping Report is intended to provide the baseline, key issues and set the framework to enable the sustainability appraisal to accompany the Holmes Road SPD.

SA and SEA and Requirements for the LDF

Sustainability Appraisal

- 1.16 The 2004 Act requires that the Regional Spatial Strategy and Local Development Documents be subject to a Sustainability Appraisal which incorporates the requirements of the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive.
- 1.17 In the context of the LDF:

'The purpose of sustainability appraisal (SA) is to promote sustainable development through the integration of social, environmental and economic considerations into the preparation of new or revised Development Plan Documents (DPDs) and Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs).' (Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents, ODPM, November 2005)

- 1.18 Sustainability Appraisal (SA) is an iterative process that identifies and reports on the likely significant effects of a plan. It achieves this by testing the performance of the plan against a series of environmental, social and economic objectives which define sustainable development. This process can identify issues to be addressed as well as enhancement opportunities, and subsequently provides the basis for improving the performance of plans. It is a systematic and transparent process for informing decision making.
- 1.19 As such, the SA can help planning authorities to fulfil the objective to promote sustainable development in the preparation of plans and is a mandatory document for all DPDs and SPDs within the LDF.

1.20 In the case of SPD's paragraph 4.1.10 of the Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents, ODPM, November 2005 states that, in most cases, the SA of SPD's will draw extensively on appraisal undertaken at the higher policy level for policies within the DPD, and the need for new work may be limited. In Calderdale the priority has been the adoption of the Replacement Calderdale Unitary Development Plan (RCUDP). Unfortunately, although these policies were subject to testing by an SA the regulations have moved on. As a result, the SA for this SPD will draw from the Scoping Report produced for the Core Strategy, as this reflects the most up to date Sustainability Appraisal Framework Objectives for Calderdale.

1.21 The Sustainability Appraisal produced to support the Holmes Road SPD will play an important role in demonstrating if the document is sound by ensuring that it reflects sustainability objectives. The results of the sustainability appraisal will contribute to the reasoned justification for the guidance produced in the SPD.

Strategic Environmental Assessment

1.22 As stated in ODPM guidance (2005), Article 13.3 of the SEA Directive (Regulation 3.6) requires that planning authorities conduct an environmental assessment of all plans and programmes adopted after 21st July 2006.

1.23 The objective of the SEA Directive is:

'to provide for a high level of protection of the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans ... with a view to promoting sustainable development' (Article 1, SEA Directive).

1.24 The SEA Directive, Annex II suggests the significance of effects of a plan relates to the characteristics of the plan as well as its implications. Annex II defines the criteria for determining the likely significance of a plan in regard to the following characteristics:

- *the degree to which the plan or programme sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources;*
- *the degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy;*
- *the relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development;*
- *environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme;*
- *the relevance of the plan or programme for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (e.g. plans and programmes linked to waste-management or water protection).*

1.25 In relation to these characteristics it is clear the LDF can have a significant impact and influence on environmental sustainability objectives.

A Combined Sustainability Appraisal and SEA Process

1.26 Whilst the requirement to carry out a Sustainability Appraisal and a Strategic Environmental Assessment are distinct, it is possible to satisfy both through a single appraisal process.

1.27 The ODPM have proposed a SA methodology that ensures SAs meet the requirements of the SEA Directive. This approach widens the Directive's approach to include economic and social issues as well as environmental. This process is outlined in ODPM SA Guidance (2005).

1 . Introduction

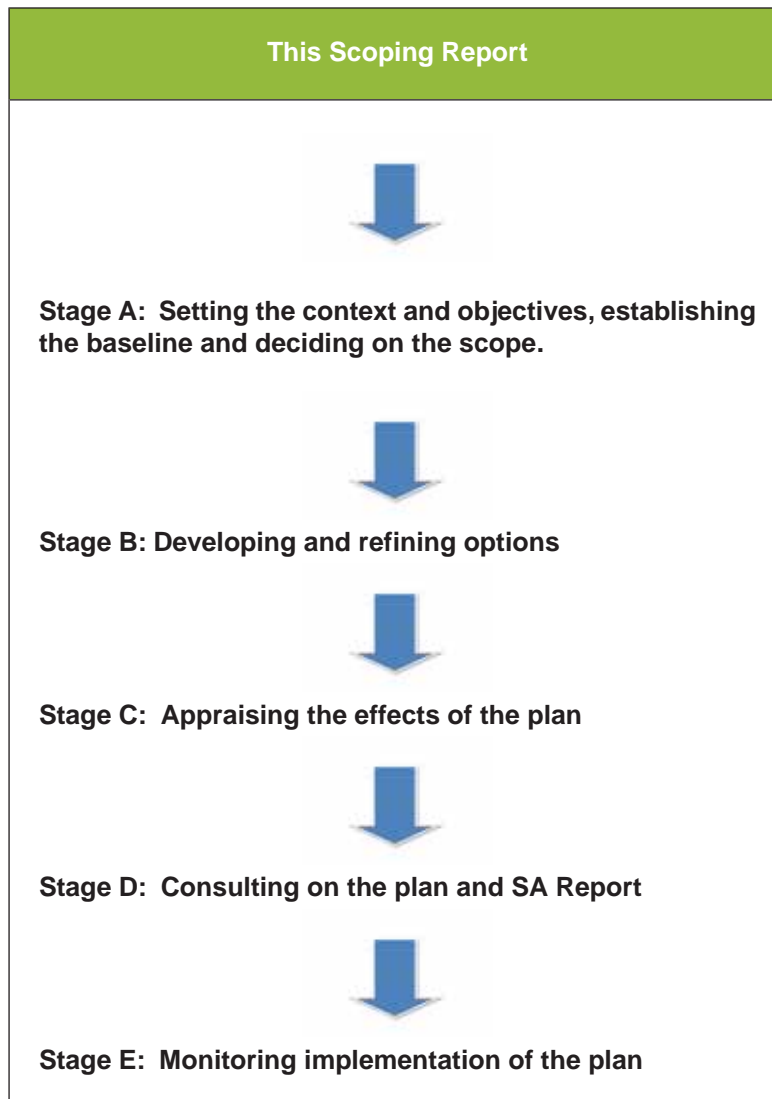
Key Stages of the SA Process

1.28 The SA process must be applied to all DPDs and SPDs. The ODPM SA Guidance (2005) proposes the key areas of emphasis for this approach are:

- collecting and presenting baseline information;
- predicting the significant effects of the plan and addressing them during its preparation;
- identifying reasonable plan options and their effects;
- involving the public and authorities with social, environmental and economic responsibilities as part of the assessment process; and
- monitoring the actual effects of the plan during its implementation.

1.29 This process is set out in Table 1 below:

Table 1 : Five Stages to SA



1.30 A number of defined tasks are involved in each of these stages. Tasks in Stage A are outlined in the next section, and this Scoping Report meets the majority of these requirements. All other Stages and their respective tasks are detailed in Section 6.

Approach, Contents and Structure of the Scoping Report

1.31 The purpose of this Scoping Report is to set the context, objectives, baseline and scope of the SA for Holmes Road. In accordance with SA Guidance (November 2005), the report consists of a number of tasks:

- Task A1: Identifying other relevant plans, policies and programmes and sustainability objectives;
- Task A2: Collecting baseline information;
- Task A3: Identifying sustainability issues and problems;
- Task A4: Developing an SA Framework;
- Task A5: Testing SA Objectives; and
- Consulting on the scope of the SA.

Table 2 : Key Tasks of Stage A

KEY	TASKS
A1	Identifying other relevant plans, policies and programmes and sustainability objectives that will influence the LDF.
A2	Collect relevant social, environmental and economic baseline information.
A3	Identify key sustainability issues for the SA/plan to address.
A4	Develop the SA framework, consisting of the SA objectives, indicators and targets.
A5	Test the LDF objectives against the SA objectives and the degree to which the LDF objectives are consistent with one another.
A6	Produce a Scoping Report and consult relevant authorities, the public and other key stakeholders on the scope of the appraisal.

Structure of the Report

1.32 The Scoping Report provides the information required to complete Stage A of the SA process for the Holmes Road SPD including:

- **Section 2:** A review and update of international, national, regional, sub regional and Calderdale wide plans, policies and programmes relevant to the SPD;
- **Section 3:** A baseline for Calderdale, including specific baseline information relevant to SowerbyBridge;
- **Section 4:** Identification of the key sustainability issues specific to Calderdale and the Holmes Road development site for the SPD to address;
- **Section 5:** A general SA Framework for Holmes Road, including SA Objectives, Decision Making Criteria (DMC), Indicators and Targets;
- **Section 6:** Methodology for testing the plan objectives;
- **Section 7:** Proposals to consult on the scope of the SA Scoping Report

2 . Context Review (A1)

2 Context Review (A1)

Task A1: Identify other relevant plan and programmes and sustainability objectives that will affect or influence the plan.

Requirement and Scope

- 2.1** The Holmes Road SPD and accompanying SA will be influenced by many different plans and programmes. This is recognised by the SEA Directive which requires a review of relevant plans and programmes to be completed in the preparation of documents including LDDs and associated SAs:

'The review should consider guidance at the international, EU or national level on sustainable development, as well as other policy documents such as Planning Policy Statements. Note should be made of any targets or specific requirements included within them, and what these relate to'.

Directive 2001/42/EC - SEA Annex 1 (a), (e)

- 2.2** The first stage of completing the SA for the Holmes Road SPD is therefore to review relevant international, national, regional and local, policy guidance, plans and strategies. This will:
- Ensure the Holmes Road SPD and the SA framework are in line with the requirements of relevant plans and policies and identify inconsistencies or constraints to be dealt with;
 - Ensure that the objectives in the Scoping Report are not in conflict with those in other plans, programmes and policies and highlight areas of potential conflict which may need to be addressed;
 - Identify sustainability objectives, and key targets and indicators that should be reflected in the SA; and
 - Provide baseline data.

Refining the review of Plans, Policies and Programmes for the Holmes Road SPD

- 2.3** A comprehensive list of key international, national, regional and local plans and policies was reviewed as part of the Calderdale Calderdale's Core Strategy and Land Allocations and Designations DPD's Sustainability Assessment Scoping Report (November 2008). Given the overarching nature of this review it is not intended to repeat this assessment here.
- 2.4** A review of all these policies has been carried out and the most relevant to this SPD identified. These are:
- a. **National Policy**
- PPS1 Delivering Sustainable Development (2005)
 - PPS1 Planning and Climate Change: Supplement to PPS1 (2007)
 - PPS3 Housing (2006)
 - PPG4 Industrial, Commercial Development and Small Firms (1992)
 - PPS6 Planning for Town Centres (2005)
 - PPG15 Planning and the Historic Environment (1994)

PPS25 Development and Flood Risk (2006)

b. **Regional Planning Policy**

The Yorkshire and Humber Plan, Regional Spatial Strategy to 2026 (2008)

c. **Local Planning Policy**

Calderdale Futures Plan 2006 – 2016 (Sustainable Community Strategy)

Local Area Agreement (2008 - 2011)

Calderdale Replacement Unitary Development Plan (2006)

Upper Calder Valley Renaissance Strategy (2003)

Question 1

Are there other relevant policies, plans and/or programmes that will affect or influence the Holmes Road SPD Sustainability Appraisal which have not been included in the list above?

3 . Collecting Baseline Information (A2)

3 Collecting Baseline Information (A2)

Task A2: Develop social, environmental and economic baseline information to characterise the Holmes Road area.

Scope and Purpose of the Baseline and Key Issues

- 3.1** Baseline information provides the basis for predicting and monitoring sustainability effects of development plan documents and helps to identify sustainability problems and alternative ways of dealing with them.
- 3.2** Both the SA guidance and SEA Directive require the collection of baseline information on environmental, social and economic conditions of an area to provide the basis for predicting and monitoring effects and aid the identification of sustainability issues and alternative ways of dealing with them.
- 3.3** The SEA Directive requires a discussion of the *'relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme'* (Annex 1 (b)). In the case of SA the baseline and identification of key issues must also consider social and economic aspects.

Collating the Baseline and Identifying Sustainability Issues for Holmes Road

Approach and Format

- 3.4** The review of plans and policies listed in Section 2 provided an initial understanding of the current baseline situation and relevant issues in Calderdale, and where appropriate Holmes Road, and enabled key sustainability issues to be identified. This subsequently helped to inform the development of the SA framework.
- 3.5** The baseline data has been collated from baseline documents produced by Calderdale Council, including the most recent Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) (2006/07) and background documents produced as part of the Copley Valley Redevelopment Project and the Upper Calder Valley Renaissance Strategy. Where possible the data has been drilled down to be specific to the Holmes Road area covered by the SPD. This baseline information has enabled the identification of sustainability issues. The sustainability issues identify positive or negative issues for Holmes Road relevant to the SPD, which has the capacity to influence, optimising enhancement opportunities and minimising detrimental impacts.

Baseline Situation in Holmes Road

- 3.6** A summary of the social, economic and environmental characteristics of Holmes Road is set out below.

Population and Community

- 3.7** Calderdale is a rural metropolitan borough in West Yorkshire. There are many scattered settlements throughout the borough as well as larger towns such as Halifax. Sowerby Bridge is a small rural town situated about three miles south west of Halifax.
- 3.8** According to the latest Online National Statistics (ONS) mid year estimates, the population of Calderdale in 2006 was 198,500 with a projected increase to 207,200 by 2010. This projected rise in population will impact significantly on Sowerby Bridge. As the figures in the AMR demonstrate, Sowerby Bridge is one of the most popular locations in the borough. In 2001 the population of Sowerby Bridge was 26,300 which represents a 22.9% rise from 1991 when the population was 21,396. This is a significant increase when

compared to all the other greater towns in the borough, with Hebden Bridge experiencing the next highest increase in population of only 3.5% and Halifax actually experiencing a fall in population of 6.4%.

- 3.9** Existing social infrastructure in and around Sowerby Bridge includes eight schools, four community centre, doctor and dental clinics and various sport and leisure amenities including a number of local sports clubs (e.g. Halifax Canoe Club) and organised community walks through Halifax Today.

Employment

- 3.10** Traditionally the borough of Calderdale has relied heavily on manufacturing for employment. However, in more recent years the banking, distribution and hotels and catering sectors have seen significant growth. In 2005 24.1% of employment on Calderdale was in the banking sector with 22.8% in public administration and 20.6% in distribution compared to only 18.9% in manufacturing. Second only to Calderdale Council, Halifax Bank of Scotland is the largest employer in Calderdale.
- 3.11** Calderdale exports 20% of it's workforce to the neighbouring authorities of Kirklees and Bradford and imports a further 14.8% of Kirklees total workforce.
- 3.12** Unemployment is comparable to the regional averages and is slightly higher than national figures. In Sowerby Bridge, economic activity is high at 70% of the population (2001 census).

Housing

- 3.13** House prices in Calderdale have risen on average from £192,449 for a detached property in April 2004, to £268,767 in April 2007.
- 3.14** Housing completions up to 2008 have been well above the targets set out in the RSS (580 gross, per annum for 2004-2008), reflecting the growing demand as a result of an increasing population. However, RSS targets increase to 750 gross, per annum for 2008-2026.
- 3.15** There are no residential properties within the site; however there are a number of residential properties to the north of the river, including more recent riverside apartment developments.

Transport and Accessibility

- 3.16** The Holmes Road site is situated between the railway line to the south and the River Calder to the north, and does not enjoy direct access to the local primary road network. Access can be gained via Canal Road from the A6026 Wakefield Road, or via Station Road from the A58 Rochdale Road.
- 3.17** The Canal Road junction with the A6026 suffers from poor visibility to the left and a steep approach from the valley bottom; this results in few vehicles making the left turn towards Sowerby Bridge due to the acute angle of the junction. The road is narrow, with few opportunities for larger vehicles to pass resulting in queuing at the junction in peak times when obstructions occur; the bridge across the River Calder is only 3m wide, with heavy vehicles advised to approach from the offside of the carriageway.
- 3.18** Access via Station Road is also somewhat restricted by a double-arched railway bridge, with a much lower inner arch. A height restriction of 11'3" (3.43m) is in place, whilst a steep right turn immediately after the bridge severely limits visibility. Station Road however is relatively wide, although the junction with Rochdale Road and Sowerby Street is congested at peak times. At present Holmes Road services the businesses located here and acts as an alternative route around Sowerby Bridge Town Centre.
- 3.19** Holmes Road is adjacent to the railway station for Sowerby Bridge which is located on the Leeds-Bradford-Manchester line. There is a half-hourly service running from this station between Leeds and Manchester, via Bradford and Halifax. However, access to the station is restricted by the steep steps

3 . Collecting Baseline Information (A2)

from Holmes Road up to the station platform. Disabled access can be achieved by car, via station road which also inclines steeply.

Cultural Heritage and Urban Character

- 3.20** Sowerby Bridge derived its name from the bridge over the river which took the old pack horse route up to Sowerby. By 1700 nearly all the industry had moved to the valley bottom using water power from the rivers. More efficient means of transport were needed and so new turnpike roads were built, including Wakefield Road, Wharf Street and Rochdale Road. Work started on the Rochdale Canal in 1796 and by 1804 a through route from Liverpool to Hull enabled one barge to transport five hundred times more than one packhorse. By 1841, as the railways spread, Sowerby Bridge also developed and in 1852 became an important junction on the main line from Lancashire to Yorkshire.
- 3.21** Much of the town is a Conservation Area, including part of the site to the north of the river. The character of the area is dominated by the mills which are a by-product of Sowerby Bridge's industrial heritage. Many of these mills are located within close proximity to the Holmes Road site, although the majority are no longer in industrial use. There have been major improvement and refurbishment schemes within the area including the Riverside Project and the Rochdale Canal restoration.
- 3.22** The predominant building materials for the area correspond with the regions character of natural local stone with natural stone slate roofs. The use of stone varies considerably both in terms of surface finish, bonding, coursing and level of detail. The traditional use of stone throughout Sowerby Bridge tends to reflect the status of the building on which it is being used. For example higher status buildings such as chapels and civic buildings often use ashlar stone with narrow joints and elaborate detail. In contrast simple industrial buildings, sheds and workers housing have little detail and are constructed rough or of riven finished stone. New development in Sowerby Bridge has often used stone crudely in a modular fashion which lacks any understanding of the potential of the material.
- 3.23** The Holmes Road site is dominated by the stone built Valley Mills and the residential development Kingfisher Chase; the other ancillary buildings are the largely red brick buildings dating from the early 20th century.

Landscape and Biodiversity

- 3.24** Calderdale Council is committed to protect sites and species of national, regional and local importance and minimise the loss of biodiversity. Calderdale Council's Countryside and Forestry Unit has taken the lead in co-ordinating the production and implementation of the BAP for Calderdale.
- 3.25** The Calderdale Biodiversity Action Plan (2003-2010) identifies habitats and species located within Calderdale and sets targets for their future. A series of actions are then set out which will enable the delivery of these targets. The underlying principles of the Calderdale Biodiversity Action Plan are:
- Implementation of the UK Action Plan in Calderdale;
 - Protection of key habitats and the species which inhabit them;
 - Identification of conservation priorities, since focused action is needed if we are to address declines of wildlife;
 - Targets that clearly identify what we are trying to achieve;
 - Clear actions that identify the steps we need to take to meet the targets;
 - Shared knowledge, because no one person or group has all the answers;

- Precaution, because the environment is a very complex system and we must be wary of tinkering with a system of which we have insufficient knowledge;
- Surveying and monitoring to ensure that our actions will be the right actions to protect and enhance the environment;
- Partnership and co-operation, because together we can make a difference;

3.26 Given the current use of the site, it is unlikely that it is significant in ecological terms. However, the River Calder is allocated as a Wildlife Corridor in the adopted RCUDP. Further, rivers and canals are identified within the BAP as being Priority Habitats with areas along their banks having the potential to form part of this habitat. Therefore, there is some potential for this Priority Habitat, and species living within it, to be affected by the redevelopment of the Holmes Road site. Priority species associated with this habitat in Calderdale area are:

- water shrew (unconfirmed);
- water vole;
- otter (Unconfirmed);
- amphibians;
- fish – bullhead, grayling;
- freshwater sponges;
- white-clawed crayfish (unconfirmed);
- bats (e.g. pipstrelle, daubenton's);
- water plants (e.g. floating water plantain, lesser skullcap, needle spike rush);
- molluscs;
- butterflies and moths (e.g. the butterbur); and
- birds (e.g. bullfinch, song thrush).

Flood Risk

3.27 Holmes Road is located within the 1 in 100 year flood risk area (please refer to the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment 2008) or Flood Zone 3a (as defined in PPS25). White Young Green carried out a Flood Risk Assessment (February 2006)ⁱ including the Holmes Road site; the following is a summary of their findings and recommendations:

3.28 Residential accommodation, in particular habitable rooms, need to be located above the 1 in 100 year flood level taking into account the appropriate allowance for climate change and other uncertainties.

3.29 Flood storage compensation for the developed areas is unlikely to be required on the basis that the proposed area of redevelopment should be less than or equal to the existing development. If the development area is to exceed that of the existing development, compensatory flood plain storage will be required.

i The WYG report was carried out prior to the adoption of PPS25, therefore, the information as provided should be treated with caution.

3 . Collecting Baseline Information (A2)

- 3.30 Yorkshire Water state that surface water flows will not be accepted into the combined sewerage system and it is unlikely that sustainable drainage techniques using infiltration methods would be suitable in this area due to high groundwater levels.⁽ⁱⁱ⁾ Therefore, surface water drainage should be designed on the basis that flows will be discharged into the River Calder via a suitable interceptor and possibly with attenuation. Contamination of the site should also be considered when assessing drainage options.
- 3.31 Calderdale Council have identified a need to significantly increase recycling and reduce the amount of biodegradable waste going to landfill. As a result a combination of measures are being introduced to encourage both households and commercial properties to recycle more.

Pollution

- 3.32 The site does not lie within the Sowerby Bridge Air Quality Management Area (AQMA). However, it is adjacent to it therefore development here could impact on air quality. For example, increases in traffic as a result of the development could negatively impact on air quality, where as the potential to improve links between the town and the rail station could have a positive impact.

Question 2

Do you agree that the baseline data collected is appropriate (ie at the correct level with sufficient coverage)?

Question 3

Do you know of any additional relevant baseline data which should be added to the list?

Question 4

Are there any mistakes in the data presented?

ii This should be confirmed by suitable permeability testing or hydrology review as part of the planning approval process.

4 Identifying Sustainable Issues (A3)

Task A3: Identify key sustainability issues within Holmes Road for the SPD to address.

4.1 The review of relevant policies, plans and programmes and the identification of socio-economic and environmental issues and problems from the baseline review as summarised in Chapter 3 provides an opportunity to define some of the key sustainability issues for the Holmes Road SPD to address.

Key Sustainability Issues for Holmes Road

4.2 The key sustainability issues for consideration within the SPD are based on the issues affecting Holmes Road as identified in the previous chapter and incorporate consideration of the following:

- Baseline review
- SEA Requirements – the SA Framework must include those topics required by the SEA Directive including *‘likely significant effects on the environment including on issues such as biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors’* EU Directive 2001/42/EC (Annex 1)
- UK Sustainable Development Objectives (as set out in Figure 1.1)
- Other international, national and regional sustainability considerations and targets.

4.3 Following the policy review and baseline work, the sustainability issues identified as having significance for Holmes Road and the SPD are summarised in the table below:

Table 3 : Summary of Key Sustainability Issues in Holmes Road

KEY SUSTAINABILITY ISSUE	DESCRIPTION	SOURCE
Travel and Movement	Holmes Road lies between the existing town centre of Sowerby Bridge and the railway station. At present access to the station is hindered by the natural land levels and the industrial nature of the development on Holmes Road which does not provide a safe environment for pedestrians, particularly at night. In addition, access to Holmes Road is constrained by the poor road network.	Policy review and baseline data
Housing	The Holmes Road site currently contains no residential development. However the baseline shows that there is an increasing population in the area creating a demand for additional housing provision.	Policy review and baseline data
Crime	The lack of activity at night time across the area, makes it feel unsafe.	Baseline data

4 . Identifying Sustainable Issues (A3)

KEY SUSTAINABILITY ISSUE	DESCRIPTION	SOURCE
Historic Environment	Part of the site is within the conservation area and the rest will impact on views into and out of the CA given the prominent location.	Policy review and baseline data
Economic Activity	The site is currently occupied by a number of industrial premises, however their future development is constrained by the sites poor access and the lack of space for expansion.	Baseline data
Flood Risk	There is a national need to manage the risk of flooding. The Holmes Road area is within an area at risk of flooding and as such new development must take into account the future flood impact of this site.	Policy review and baseline data
Waste and Recycling	Calderdale area committed to the continued reduction of waste being sent to landfills and as such new development on the Holmes Road site must take account of waste management and recycling.	Policy review
Biodiversity	As desired across Calderdale, there is the need to protect sites and species of national, regional and local importance and minimise the loss of biodiversity in Holmes Road, in particular the contribution that the river corridor can make to biodiversity.	Policy review
Pollution and Climate Change	There is a national need to consider the impacts of climate change and reduce pollution, the use of raw materials and energy production to minimise damage to the local and global environment, and help to ensure their long-term protection. Local air and water quality must also be monitored and protected.	Policy review

Question 5

Do you agree that these are the key sustainability issues for the Holmes Road area?

Question 6

Do you know of any other relevant issues which should be added to the list?

Question 7

Are there any issues which should be removed?

5 Sustainability Appraisal Framework (A4)

Task A4: Develop the sustainability framework consisting of sustainability objectives, indicators and targets.

- 5.1** The SA Framework provides the tool for considering, assessing and comparing the sustainability effects of the Holmes Road SPD.
- 5.2** In order to help assess the sustainability of the SPD, and to monitor its achievement in sustainability terms, it is recommended that SA objectives and indicators are developed to measure the operation of the document (ODPM 2005 Guidance Sustainability Appraisal of RSS and LDFs Consultation Paper). The objectives are, where possible, expressed in terms of targets, the achievement of which should be measurable using indicators selected.

SA Objectives

- 5.3** The baseline information and policy review was used to pull out key sustainability issues for Holmes Road and develop the SPD. This was then used to assess which SA objectives from the Core Strategy were relevant. All the objectives have been found to be relevant.
- 5.4** Table 4 outlines the 18 SA Objectives from the Core Strategy and illustrates how these provide a balance between the three objectives of sustainable development; the environment, the economy and society.

Table 4 : Summary of Draft SA Objectives for the Holmes Road SA.

	SA OBJECTIVE	Env	Econ	Soc
1	To ensure quality housing is available to everyone		x	x
2	To improve safety and security for people and property			x
3	To create and retain vibrant communities that promote good health and social inclusion			x
4	To ensure that cultural, leisure and recreation activities are available to all			x
5	To improve accessibility to essential services, facilities and employment		x	x
6	To provide the education and training opportunities to build skills and capacities		x	x
7	To retain, protect and create a quality, locally distinctive built environment	x		
8	To reduce the risk of flooding and resulting detrimental	x		
9	To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	x		
10	To protect and enhance biodiversity	x		
11	To reduce pollution levels including the carbon footprint of the district	x		

5 . Sustainability Appraisal Framework (A4)

	SA OBJECTIVE	Env	Econ	Soc
12	To protect and enhance the natural, semi natural and manmade landscape	x		
13	To ensure prudent and efficient use of natural resources and energy	x		
14	To ensure efficient use of land	x	x	
15	To reduce the amount of waste produced	x		
16	To provide good employment opportunities for all		x	
17	To achieve business success, economic growth, and continued investment		x	
18	Enhance the viability and vitality of town centres		x	

Compatibility of SA Objectives (Task A5)

- 5.5** Government Guidance requires that the compatibility of the sustainability objectives be assessed to identify any potential tensions between objectives that cannot be resolved. However, guidance in PPS12 (para 4.42) also states that an “SA must be proportionate to the plan in question and should not repeat the appraisal of higher level policy”. Therefore, given that this testing has already been carried out as part of the Core Strategy SA, it is not intended to repeat it here.
- 5.6** The Core Strategy only found there to be one potential tension. This is between objective 1 ‘to ensure quality housing is available to everyone’ and objective 10 ‘to protect and enhance biodiversity’. Given the sustainability issues identified in Section 4, the tensions between these objectives can be tested when appraising the Holmes Road SPD.

The SA Framework

- 5.7** The SA Framework is made up of the SA Objectives with a series of Decision Making Criteria (DMC). Using the decision making criteria set out in the Core Strategy SA Framework as a starting point, the Holmes Road SA Framework also includes locally relevant decision making criteria, where appropriate. This criterion for each of the 18 SA Objectives enables the SA to be continually monitored.
- 5.8** In accordance with SA Guidance (ODPM 2005), the impacts of a plan on sustainability is to be monitored as an ongoing element of the SA process. The SA Framework (comprising SA Objectives and DMC) are therefore supported by a range of indicators and targets intended to form a sensible basis for developing a monitoring system.
- 5.9** The Calderdale Core Strategy SA Scoping Report provides a comprehensive list of indicators and targets. Again, these have been used as a starting point with a series of refined, locally relevant indicators and targets being developed, where appropriate, to enable the effects of the Holmes Road SPD on sustainability objectives to be tested against the SA Framework.
- 5.10** Through application of these indicators and targets, the Holmes Road SPD can be compared or tested against the SA Objectives and DMC, and potential effects predicted and assessed.

5 . Sustainability Appraisal Framework (A4)

Table 5 : Proposed SA Framework

SA Objective	Decision Making Criteria	Indicators	Targets (where available)
To ensure quality housing is available to everyone	Will it reduce homelessness?	Number of households on the housing register in Sowerby Bridge	
	Will it increase the range and affordability of housing for all social groups?	<p>Number of households designated Homeless</p> <p>Total number of residential properties provided</p> <p>Tenure split delivered on the Holmes Road site</p> <p>Mean average house price in Sowerby Bridge</p> <p>House price to income ratio in Sowerby Bridge</p>	Calderdale wide target of: 155 affordable housing completions pa by 2010/11 (Calderdale AMR 2006/7)
	Will it provide an increase in homes fit for life?	Housing quality – rating of new dwellings on site against the CABE building for life indicator The energy efficiency of homes built on site	The Government seeks to end vulnerable households experiencing fuel poverty by 2010 and in all households by 2016.
To improve safety and security for people and property	Will it reduce levels of crime?	Police records in relation to offences committed within the vicinity of Holmes Road and, in particular on route between the town and the train station	
		Records in relation to violence, burglary and theft offences within Sowerby Bridge	
	Will it reduce the fear of crime?	Levels of perceived anti social behaviour	
	Will it improve highway safety?	Accident records for Holmes Road	Calderdale wide target to: reduce the figure of people seriously injured or killed in road traffic

5 . Sustainability Appraisal Framework (A4)

SA Objective	Decision Making Criteria	Indicators	Targets (where available)
			accidents to 79 by 2010/2011
To create and retain vibrant communities that promote good health and social inclusion	Will it foster inclusive communities?	Population growth / change	5% increase from the baseline place survey by 2010/11
		% of people who feel they can influence decisions in Sowerby Bridge	
		% of people who believe people from different backgrounds get on well together in Sowerby Bridge	4% increase by 2010/11
		% of people satisfied with the area as a place to live	
	Will it encourage healthier lifestyles?	% of population claiming incapacity benefit in Sowerby Bridge	Calderdale wide targets to: Increase the life expectancy of men to 78.6 years and 82.5 years for women by 2010 Reduce morality rates among people under 75 from heart disease and strokes by at least 40% and cancer by 20%
		% of population with limiting long term illness in Sowerby Bridge	
		Life Expectancy in Sowerby Bridge	
	Will it reduce health inequalities?	% of population in general good health Indices of deprivation indicator for Sowerby Bridge	
To ensure that cultural, leisure and recreation activities are available to all	Will it improve the accessibility and affordability of cultural, leisure and recreation facilities?	Conditions of Rights of Way?	
		Leisure and recreation facilities provided on site	
		Access / distance to leisure facilities	Calderdale wide targets to:

5 . Sustainability Appraisal Framework (A4)

SA Objective	Decision Making Criteria	Indicators	Targets (where available)
		<p>Access / distance to greenspace</p> <p>Local supply and demand of sports hall within SowerbyBridge</p> <p>% of residents doing 1 x 30 mins of sport or physical activity per week.</p>	<p>Meet 100% of demand for local sports halls</p> <p>Increase by 1% per year the % of adults doing 30mins of sport per week</p> <p>Increase be 4% over 3 years to % of adults doing 1 x 30 mins of moderate physical activity per week</p>
	Will it provide access to the countryside or greenspace for recreation or enjoyment?	Access to and improvements of the riverside / canal	
To improve accessibility to essential services, facilities and employment	Will it ensure good quality accessibility to all the facilities and opportunities needed to support life and the quality of life?	<p>Distance to a bus stop</p> <p>Distance to a Primary and Secondary School</p> <p>Accessibility of the railway station</p> <p>Congestion – average journey time per mile during the morning peak</p> <p>% of the resident population in SowerbyBridge travelling over 20km to work</p> <p>Distance to a range of 3 different sports facility types</p> <p>Distance to a post office</p> <p>Total properties in Sowerby Bridge per doctors surgery</p>	
To provide the education and training opportunities to build skills and capacities	Access to training and education	% of pupils in Sowerby Bridge achieving 5+ GCSEs A* - C	<p>Calderdale wide targets:</p> <p>60% of pupils achieving 5 + GCSEs A* - C by 2010</p>

5 . Sustainability Appraisal Framework (A4)

SA Objective	Decision Making Criteria	Indicators	Targets (where available)
		% of 16-18 year olds, in SowerbyBridge, who are not in education, training or employment Distance to a Primary and Secondary School Accessibility of higher education Potential training and education opportunities on site	Reduce the % of 16-18 years olds who are not in education, training or employment to 6.4% by 2010/11
To retain, protect and create a quality, locally distinctive built environment	Will it lead to a high quality built environment and public realm?	Improved street and environmental cleanliness (levels of litter) Quality of design and materials Greenspace and landscaping on site	Calderdale wide targets: Reduce levels of litter to 12% by 2010/11
	Will it protect and enhance sites, features and areas of historical archaeological cultural value?	Impact on the Sowerby Bridge Conservation Area Impact on the Listed Railway Bridge	
	Will the built environments effect on the planet be reduced through sustainable construction?	% of new development meeting Level 3 of the Code for Sustainable Homes	
	Will it lead to improved levels / quality of greenspace?	Greenspace provided on site Impact on the river / canal % of population satisfied with greenspace in Sowerby Bridge	

5 . Sustainability Appraisal Framework (A4)

SA Objective	Decision Making Criteria	Indicators	Targets (where available)
	Will it reduce the amount of derelict and degraded land?	Area of derelict and degraded land	
To reduce the risk of flooding and resulting detrimental effects on people and property	Will it reduce the risk of flooding?	Properties at risk of flooding	
	Will it prevent inappropriate development at likely risk of flooding or incorporate mitigation measures in areas of high risk?	% of inappropriate uses on site Mitigation measures proposed	
	Will it ensure efficient and appropriate drainage systems to reduce the risk of local flooding?	Use and performance of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems or other appropriate drainage systems?	
To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	Will access to the railway station be increased?	Improvements proposed to pedestrian link between the town and railway Rail passenger journeys	
	Will it increase the proportion of journeys using other modes than the car?	Travel to work data by ward	
	Will it result in greater / improved provision of safe cycle ways and footpaths	New or improved footpaths / cycle paths through the site Impact on the river / canal walkway / cycle route	
To protect and enhance biodiversity	Will it protect, enhance and create diverse habitats for plants and	Impact on the river / canal habitat	

5 . Sustainability Appraisal Framework (A4)

SA Objective	Decision Making Criteria	Indicators	Targets (where available)
	animals to thrive in, including international, national and locally protected species?	Impact on wooded areas adjacent Potential impact on bats / other species benefiting from manmade structures as habitats	
To reduce pollution levels including the carbon footprint of the district	Will it reduce greenhouse gas emissions?	Total CO2 emissions per capita (2003) Monitored NO2 levels (urban areas) PM10 levels thousand tonnes	
	Will it improve air quality?	Impact on Sowerby Bridge AQMA Average number of days air pollution is moderate or high	
	Will it improve water quality?	% of river / canal length that is of good quality (chemical) % of river / canal length that is of good quality (Biological)	
To protect and enhance the natural, semi natural and manmade landscape	Will it protect or enhance the river / canal corridor?	Impact on the river / canal	
	Will it protect or enhance woodlands?	Number of trees lost / retained	
To ensure prudent and efficient use of natural resources and energy	Will it ensure increased use of renewable energy?	Generation on site of energy from renewable resources	
	Will it reduce energy consumptions and lead	% of new development meeting Level 3 of the	

5 . Sustainability Appraisal Framework (A4)

SA Objective	Decision Making Criteria	Indicators	Targets (where available)
	to energy efficient developments?	Code for Sustainable Homes	
To ensure efficient use of land	Will it lead to the re-use of previously developed sites?	% of new development on previously used the land	
	Will it lead to a higher density and / or mixed use development?	% of new dwellings completed at less than 30 dwellings per hectare % of new dwellings completed at between 30 and 50 dwellings per hectare & of new dwellings completed at 50 dwellings per hectare	
To reduce the amount of waste produced	Will it lead to a reduction in waste and an increase in recycling?	% of waste recycled % of waste composted % of waste landfilled	Calderdale wide target: Increased proportion of household waste recycled / composted to at least 30% by 2010
To provide good employment opportunities for all	Will it help to provide good employment opportunities?	Total number of employment opportunities on site % of working age population economically active in Sowerby Bridge	
To achieve business success, economic growth, and continued investment	Will it allow the growth of existing firms? Will it encourage inward investment?	Loss of employment the land Proportion of new business on surviving more than a year Total amount of additional employment floor space – by type	

5 . Sustainability Appraisal Framework (A4)

SA Objective	Decision Making Criteria	Indicators	Targets (where available)
	Will it improve the resilience of businesses and the economy?	New business which survive 3 years Business registration date and business location	
Enhance the viability and vitality of town centres	Will it attract new retailers and other town centre users to Sowerby Bridge?	Shopping floor space per sector Retail vacancy rates	
	Will it allow current traders to remain trading in Sowerby Bridge?	Footfall rates in Sowerby Bridge	

Question 8

Are the draft SA objectives suitable for the Holmes Road SPD?

Question 9

Are there any other objectives that should be included whilst keeping the number of objectives manageable?

Question 10

Should any of the SA objectives be removed?

6 Testing the Plan Objectives (A5)

Task A5: Testing the SPD Objectives against the SA objectives and consistency with one another.

- 6.1** The objectives of the Holmes Road SPD will set out what the plan is aiming to achieve in spatial planning terms for the area. It is important that these objectives reflect sustainable development principles and for this reason they should be ‘tested’ for compatibility with the SA objectives. This process may help in refining the SPD objectives.

Matrices for Appraisal

- 6.2** Whilst developing the SA Objectives the internal compatibility has been tested to identify tensions or inconsistencies.
- 6.3** The SA Framework must be tested against all stages of the appraisal process. The key stages of the appraisal as outlined in the ODPM SA Guidance 2005, and incorporating the requirements of the SEA Directive, are known as Stage B and include:
- B1 Testing plan objectives against SA Framework
 - B2 Developing the plan options;
 - B3 Predicting the effects of the plan;
 - B4 Evaluating the effects of the plan
 - B5 Considering ways of mitigating adverse effects and maximising beneficial effects
 - B6 Proposing measures to monitor the significant effects of implementing the plans.
- 6.4** In accordance with and the requirements of the SA and SEA, the following series of Matrices have been developed to guide the SA process, ensuring that they considered the scope and requirements for each stage of the appraisal. This included the following key aspects:
- Matrix 1: Testing SA Objectives Against Plan Objectives;
 - Matrix 2: Predicting and Assessing the Impacts of the SPD against the status quo;
 - Matrix 3: Predicting and assessing the Impacts of the policies; and
 - Matrix 4: Assessing Secondary Cumulative and Synergistic Impacts of the SPD.
- 6.5** Each matrix guides the process for:
- Predicting and assessing the effects including cumulative and synergistic (not relevant for Matrix 1);
 - Identifying mitigation and enhancement opportunities; and
 - Drawing conclusions on the policy or plan.

Testing the Objectives of the Holmes Road SPD

- 6.6** The Sustainability Appraisal will test the sustainability of the emerging SPD and the policies from the RCUDP, on which it is based. As there are no alternative options being assessed as part of the SPD process, the proposed methodology for this appraisal is to test the SPD proposals and policies against the status quo. This will establish if the SPD will have a positive, negative or neutral impact on the SA Objectives compared to what would happen if no SPD were produced.
- 6.7** The Holmes Road SPD is currently undergoing preparation and the specific objectives for the plan are not yet available for testing.

6 . Testing the Plan Objectives (A5)

- 6.8 Once the Holmes Road SPD objectives have been formulated and confirmed, the individual matrices will be completed for each relevant stage of the plan making process.
- 6.9 The Guidance cautions that whilst the aim should be to achieve consistency between plan objectives, where win-win outcomes cannot be achieved the Guidance advises that decision makers will need to determine where priorities lie and this should be recorded explicitly as part of the SA Process.

Question 11

Do you have any comments to make about the proposed methodology or the content of the draft SA Scoping Report?

7 Consulting on the Scope (A6)

Task A6: Consult on the scope of the SA with the relevant statutory bodies, key stakeholders and the public.

- 7.1** A Scoping Report is a consultation document for the statutory three agencies with environmental responsibilities in England. It is required by the SEA Directive that the scoping report should be referred to:
- English Heritage;
 - Natural England; and
 - Environment Agency.
- 7.2** The Council is keen to ensure that the widest possible consultation takes place and to ensure the SA will be comprehensive and robust enough to support the SPD during public examination. The Council will therefore also be consulting other relevant bodies with a sustainability remit or local environmental or economic interest as considered appropriate.
- 7.3** Consultation on the Scoping report will therefore comprise the following:
- 3 stat bodies (above)
 - West Yorkshire Ecology
 - Calderdale Sustainability Forum
 - Calderdale Friends of the Earth
 - Calderdale Forward
- 7.4** In addition to the consultees above, the Council will place the scoping report on the consultation portal, should members of the public wish to comment. Once the consultation period is complete, the Council will consider all representations and amend the report where necessary.
- 7.5** To help guide consultees through the Scoping Report, specific questions have been posed at the end of each section (and on a separate response form).
- 7.6** Comments on the scoping report can be made via the Councils website, at www.calderdale.gov.uk, or should this not be possible please contact the Spatial Planning Team at the following address for a consultation response form:

Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council
Spatial Planning Team
Regeneration Services
Northgate House
Halifax
HX1 1UN

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