

2: Harrogate District in 2021



Introduction

- 2.1 This chapter sets out the Vision for the District in 2021. It describes briefly what the District should be like in 2021 and then sets out key changes and improvements envisaged in the different parts of the District. The vision is followed by a list of the Core Strategy Objectives which seek to achieve the vision.

Vision: Sustainable Living, Prosperity & Access for All

By 2021:

- *the residents of Harrogate District will enjoy an exceptionally high quality and diverse environment, a prosperous urban and rural economy, and better access to affordable homes, community facilities, including public open space and sport, and public transport and other facilities to encourage walking, cycling and less travel by car;*
- *the special character of the District's natural and built assets will be protected and enhanced, particularly through increased wildlife, increased woodland, more locally distinctive and high quality designed buildings, fewer historic buildings at risk, and more resource efficient development which minimises energy consumption, waste production and maximises renewable energy;*
- *the urban and rural economies of the District, including town centres will be more buoyant, more diverse, more complementary with neighbouring economies and more 'environmentally friendly'.*

Within the District:

- *The town of Harrogate will be the focus for new housing and commercial development in the District. Greenfield land extending the built up area of the town will be required to provide for some of this new housing. The town will expand its international conference facilities, its town centre retail, office and residential offer, as well as its digital and food industries. It will provide significantly improved sports and public open space for its residents and the District as a whole;*
- *The high level of need for affordable housing in the town of Knaresborough will be significantly reduced. Providing for this need will require new housing on greenfield land extending the town's built up area. This new housing and an increased population will support the town's renaissance through increased spending in the town centre, including the riverside area, and will complement the development of the St James Business Park and further employment land for the town;*

- *Harrogate and Knaresborough will benefit from a significant improvement to their bus and rail services, improving accessibility within the two towns and with other towns, particularly Leeds, York and Ripon. An integrated land use and transport plan will have implemented measures to minimise car usage and traffic congestion in the two towns;*
- *The City of Ripon will continue its successful regeneration and the redevelopment for housing of its underused and vacant land will minimise or possibly avoid the need to develop greenfield land. The completion of the city centre's revitalisation with retailing and residential development will herald a significant boost to its service centre role and tourism industry. The city will benefit from improvements to its local cycling and pedestrian environments and bus services to Harrogate and Leeds;*
- *Boroughbridge will enhance its service centre role for the surrounding area and provide more affordable homes for local people. Better access to, and recreation facilities within, the nearby riverside and countryside and additional employment land will be provided;*
- *Pateley Bridge and Masham will continue to provide for their surrounding areas' service needs and make the most of underused land to enhance the character and appearance of the two towns and provide homes for local people and any necessary community facilities;*
- *The District's villages and countryside will accommodate more homes for local people at affordable prices, particularly in those settlements with the best range of services and access to jobs, shops, and community facilities by public transport, foot, and bicycle. A more diversified rural economy will provide local jobs and maintain the character of the countryside.*

Strategic Objectives

- 2.2 The objectives of the Core Strategy are set out below under the six themes identified during community involvement on the preparation of the strategy.
- 2.3 The objectives have been the subject of public consultation and sustainability appraisal. All, apart from objective 1, were drafted at the earliest stage of plan preparation and were formulated to ensure integration with other relevant plans and strategies, particularly the Community Plan and Local Transport Plan. Objective 1 under Settlement Growth was introduced following the support expressed at the preferred options consultation on this approach to the distribution of housing.
- 2.4 Since the drafting of these objectives, revised national planning policy has been published and further progress has been made on the revised Regional Spatial Strategy. The objectives have been reassessed in the light of these changes and are considered an appropriate reflection of national and regional planning policy.



Harrogate's urban fringe.

1. Settlement Growth

- 1 To distribute the District's housing requirement broadly in proportion to each settlement's or area's need for affordable housing.
- 2 To seek the use of appropriate previously developed land within the District's six largest settlements in preference to developing greenfield land.
- 3 Subject to the provision of appropriate traffic management and new infrastructure to focus the District's growth in the town of Harrogate,
- 4 To ensure that Ripon, Knaresborough, Borough-bridge, Masham and Pateley Bridge are the main

focus for housing, developing local services and employment in the rest of the District,

- 5 To provide small scale housing growth in the District's smaller settlements, mainly to meet local needs and support local services whilst minimising travel to work by car.
- 6 To manage the release of land for housing to prioritise the use of previously developed land and control the pattern and speed of growth in general conformity with the Regional Spatial Strategy and integrated with the provision of infrastructure.
- 7 *(Note: This objective deleted in accordance with the report into the Examination of the Harrogate District Core Strategy.)*
- 8 To protect the countryside and Green Belt from inappropriate development.

2. Homes for Local People

- 9 To maximise the provision of homes for local people, with particular priority given to affordable housing.

3. Jobs & Business

- 10 To promote a robust and varied economy for the benefit of local people.
- 11 To significantly improve the prospects of the rural and market town economy, including the diversification of the agricultural industry.
- 12 To provide an adequate supply of readily available employment land to meet identified employment needs.
- 13 To protect and enhance the District's town centres, conference, business and holiday tourism, and the digital and food cluster industries.

4. Travel

- 14 To retain and improve access for all, particularly those disadvantaged groups, to key services of health, education, employment, food shopping, community facilities and recreation.
- 15 To integrate development and transport provision and locate development where it is accessible to key services and facilities by a range of transport modes.
- 16 To improve the provision of bus and rail services and facilities, pedestrian and cycle networks, community transport schemes, park and ride and traffic management measures to reduce traffic congestion, with priority given to Harrogate and Knaresborough.

5. Environment

- 17 To provide enhanced care for the environment, with particular emphasis on the reduction of waste and CO2 emissions, climate change and renewable energy.
- 18 To protect and enhance the built and natural environment, including biodiversity and landscape character, giving special protection towards those areas and buildings of recognised importance.
- 19 To encourage exemplar design quality which safeguards the distinctive character of the District's settlements and minimises impact on the environment, particularly in sensitive areas.

6. Communities

- 20 To reduce crime, anti social behaviour and the fear of crime.
- 21 To increase work, housing, cultural and leisure opportunities for young people.
- 22 To reduce social isolation for the elderly and those with long term health disadvantage
- 23 To improve accessibility to services and improvements in the quality of life in areas of the District and to those groups and individuals with greatest social disadvantage or need.

Key Diagram

- 2.5 The diagram on page 12 illustrates some of the main planning policy elements of the District's Core Strategy.

Core Strategy Policies

- 2.6 The Core Strategy policies which seek to deliver the above objectives are contained in the next six chapters under the themes of:
- **Settlement Growth;**
 - **Homes for Local People;**
 - **Jobs and Business;**
 - **Travel;**
 - **Environment; and**
 - **Communities.**
- 2.7 The last chapter of the Core Strategy, entitled 'Measuring Success', sets out how the Council intends to monitor the effectiveness of each policy. It identifies relevant indicators to measure the policy's effectiveness and sets out targets to reach during the plan period.

- 2.8 ***It is important to note that the policies of the Core Strategy should be read together as a whole and not in isolation from each other.*** Wherever appropriate within each policy specific cross references to other policies in the Core Strategy is given to assist the reader.
- 2.9 The Core Strategy policies provide the spatial planning framework to deliver the strategic vision. The table below indicates how the various aspects of the Core Strategy vision will be delivered through the implementation of the Core Strategy policies.

Strategic Vision	Core Policy
District wide	
Social	SG1, SG2, HLP3, HLP4, TRA1, TRA2, TRA3, C1, C2
Environmental	SG3, SG4, EQ1, EQ2
Economic	JB1-JB4, EQ1
Harrogate town	
Harrogate to be the focus for new housing and commercial development. Greenfield land extending the built up area of the town will be needed for some of this housing.	SG1, SG2, JB3, TRA1, TRA3
The town will expand its conference facilities, its town centre retail, office and residential offer, as well as its digital and food industries	JB1, JB2, JB4, TRA3
The town will provide significantly improved sports facilities and public open space	EQ2, C1
Knaresborough	
The high level of need for affordable housing will be significantly reduced through the building of many new homes for local people. Greenfield land extending the town's built up area will be needed	SG1, SG2, TRA1, TRA2
New housing and an increased population will support the town's renaissance, and complement the development of St James Business Park and further employment land for the town.	SG1, SG2, JB3

<p>Harrogate and Knaresborough Harrogate and Knaresborough will benefit from a significant improvement to their bus and rail services</p> <p>An integrated land use and transport plan will have implemented measures to minimise car usage and traffic congestion.</p>	TRA2, TRA3
<p>Ripon Continued regeneration and re-development for housing of underused/vacant land meaning that little or no greenfield land will be required</p> <p>Boost its service centre role and tourism industry through completion of the city centre revitalisation</p> <p>Improvements to cycling/pedestrian environment and bus services</p>	<p>SG1, SG2, JB1, JB3, TRA1</p> <p>JB1, JB4</p> <p>TRA2, TRA3</p>
<p>Boroughbridge Enhance its service centre role for surrounding area and provide more affordable homes for local people</p> <p>Better access to and recreation facilities within the nearby riverside and countryside</p> <p>Additional employment land provided</p>	<p>SG1, SG2, JB1, JB4</p> <p>C1, EQ2</p> <p>JB3</p>
<p>Pateley Bridge and Masham Provide for their surrounding areas' service needs, making the most of underused land</p> <p>Provide homes for local people and any necessary community facilities</p>	<p>JB4</p> <p>SG1, SG2, HLP3, C1</p>
<p>Villages and countryside Accommodate homes for local people at affordable prices, focussing on those settlements with the best range of services and facilities</p> <p>A more diversified rural economy and maintain the character of the countryside</p>	<p>SG1, SG2, SG3, HLP3, HLP4</p> <p>SG3, JB1, EQ2</p>

2.10 Appendix 9 sets out those policies of the Harrogate District Local Plan which have been replaced by the Core Strategy.

Core Strategy Linkages

The Yorkshire and Humberside Plan (The Regional Spatial Strategy – RSS)

2.11 The RSS uses a sub area approach as the basis for spatial planning across the region. This provides a framework for responding to the issues facing different parts of the region. Harrogate District forms part of four regional sub areas and these are shown on the Key Diagram. The key spatial policy elements relevant for the District for these sub-areas are summarised as follows:

Leeds City Region

- Develop enhanced and complementary roles for the Sub Regional Cities and Towns and focus most development in these settlements;
- Develop complementary conference roles for Harrogate and Leeds;
- Strengthen the service centre roles of the Principal Towns by promoting development where necessary for regeneration or to provide more affordable housing;
- Spread the benefits of the Leeds economy, particularly to the Sub Regional Cities and Towns and Principal Towns;
- Improve public transport in the Leeds-Harrogate-York Corridors;
- Implement stronger (transport) demand management in Leeds and Sub Regional Cities and Towns and in relation to the strategic road network;
- Manage growth across the north of the City Region with a greater emphasis on delivering affordable housing;
- Managing the release of land for housing in a manner which will support interventions to address both fragile and failing housing markets and affordability;
- Work with sub regional housing partnerships and the initiatives they are supporting including the Golden Triangle;
- Protect and enhance the Nidderdale AONB- Protect the integrity of internationally important biodiversity sites;
- Enhance the historic value of the City Region's historic towns.

York

- Spread the benefits of York's economic success to other parts of the sub area and ensure that all members of the community have access to employment opportunities;
- Improve public transport links between Local Service Centres and other rural communities and York and the sub area's Principal Towns;
- Outside York focus on meeting local housing needs and economic diversification.

Vale and Tees Link

- Develop the complementary roles of Northallerton, Thirsk, Ripon and Richmond as Principal Towns to ensure their effectiveness and sustainability;
- Diversify the sub area economy to lessen dependency on the agricultural sector and reduce out-commuting;
- Improve the public transport connections between Principal Towns, smaller settlements and rural areas;
- Protect and enhance the historic character of the sub area's Principal Towns, Local Service Centres and countryside;
- Reduce the risk of flooding in settlements adjacent to the sub areas rivers and control development in 'at risk' areas;
- Provide in Principal Towns and Local Service Centres an appropriate scale of housing and employment opportunities to meet local needs (focusing development in the principal towns);
- Ensure an appropriate level of housing provision within the sub area to support regeneration and growth in the Leeds and Tees Valley Regions and reduce long distance commuting.

Remoter Rural

- Retain local services and maintain the role of Local Service Centres with an appropriate level of market and affordable housing and job opportunities;
- Encourage creative, diverse and low impact enterprises which provide employment opportunities and contribute to meeting local needs;
- Encourage economic diversification, including tourist-related development whilst not compromising the environmental, landscape and heritage interests of the sub area;
- Protect and enhance the unique character, heritage and biodiversity of the sub area's natural and built environments;
- Retain and improve public transport;



Lofthouse, a remote rural settlement in Nidderdale.

- Encourage appropriate planting and management measures in the sub area to ameliorate downstream flood risk.

2.12 This Core Strategy is in general conformity with the RSS.

2.13 Taken together, the Yorkshire and Humber Plan (RSS) and the DPDs in the Harrogate District LDF will form the main transport and land use provisions of the Development Plan for the District of Harrogate. They should be read in conjunction with each other. Appropriate cross references are made in the Core Strategy to relevant policies of the RSS.

2.14 North Yorkshire County Council is responsible for the production of the Minerals and Waste Development Framework, which also forms part of the development plan for this District.

The Community Plans

2.15 (See Appendix 2)

Realising the Potential: A Strategic Plan for Harrogate Borough Council 2005 – 2008

2.16 In developing the Core Strategy account has been taken of the Council's Strategic Plan "Realising the Potential": A Strategic Plan for Harrogate Borough Council 2005-2008. The Strategic Plan identifies seven Corporate Priorities:

- Caring for the Environment - ensuring the enhancement and protection of the natural and built environment District-wide (Top corporate priority);
- Affordable Housing - ensuring people have access to housing opportunities throughout the District;

- Traffic and Transport - ensuring the provision of a transport network that will provide access to public transport in all areas and provide integrated facilities including car parks;
- Keeping the District Safe - ensuring communities across the District are safe and secure and that they feel safer;
- Supporting our Local Economy - ensuring a robust and varied economy that benefits local people and creates employment opportunities in rural areas and the market towns across the District;
- First Class Public Services - ensuring that the services delivered throughout the District meet the needs of customers, are accessible and of a high quality;
- Organisational Improvement - a commitment to invest in improving the organisation by being a good employer and building its organisational capacity to deliver first-class services and increase its service performance.

2.17 The Strategic Plan identifies the preparation of the LDF (and the implementation of its policies and proposals) as a strategic priority action to deliver these Corporate Priorities.

Emerging Development Plan Documents (DPDs)

2.18 The Core Strategy, the Regional Spatial Strategy, and the Minerals and Waste Core Strategy will together form the strategic framework of the Development Plan for Harrogate District. A number of other DPDs are in the process of being prepared and their purpose will be to deliver the strategic framework through the implementation of appropriate planning policies and proposals.

2.19 The Site Allocations (Homes and Jobs) DPD will be prepared within the strategic framework provided by Policies SG1 to 5 of the Core Strategy which identifies broadly where and how much land should be allocated for new homes in those settlements in the District with the best access to jobs shops and services. The identification of specific sites within the Site Allocations (Homes and Jobs) DPD will be guided by Core Strategy Policies SG4, HLP3, TRA1, and EQ2; having regard to an assessment of their relative sustainability and other material considerations. The release and phasing of allocated housing land will also be determined in the Site Allocations (Homes and Jobs) DPD taking its lead from Policies SG1, SG4 and SG5. The framework for the provision of accommodation for gypsies and travellers through the allocation of land in this DPD is given in Policy C2.

2.20 Core Strategy Policies SG4 and JB3 provide the main LDF strategic framework for the Site Allocations (Homes and Jobs) DPD to identify appropriate new land for employment in the District.

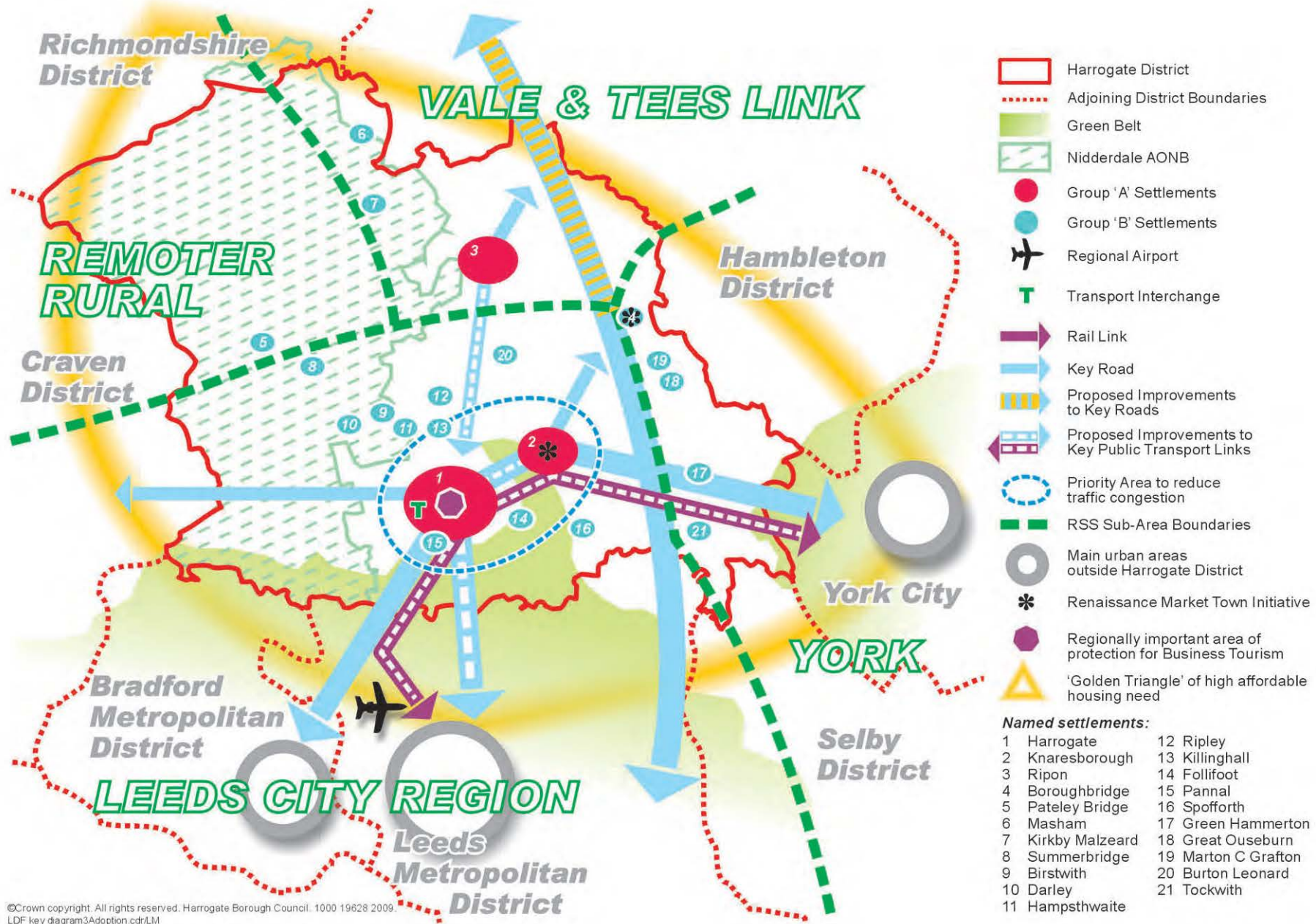
2.21 The Core Strategy framework provided in Policies SG2 to 4, HLP4, JB1 to JB4, TRA2, EQ2, and C1 will guide the preparation of the Development Control Policies DPD.

2.22 Core Strategy Policies SG4, JB1, JB2, JB4, TRA1 to TRA3, EQ1 and 2, and C1 provide the main LDF strategic framework for the preparation of the Harrogate and Knaresborough Area Plan DPD. This DPD will draw upon and develop these Core Strategy Policies and use the latest relevant evidence base available to:

- Ensure transport and other appropriate infrastructure, including public transport provision are integrated with the areas growth and development, with particular attention to any larger urban extensions requiring master planning.
- Allocate or safeguard land for:
 - New retail development;
 - Mixed use town centre developments;
 - Conference centre expansion;
 - A transport interchange at Station Parade, Harrogate;
 - Other transport infrastructure, including town centre and out of town centre requirements e.g. park and ride provision, pedestrian priority areas; and
 - Local land use requirements such as open space and community facilities.
- Make provision for environmental improvements throughout the two towns, but with particular emphasis on town and local shopping centres;
- Make provision for improvements transport modes particularly for walking, cycling and public transport;
- Ensure the above measures and allocations are integrated with the policies and proposals of the North Yorkshire Local Transport Plan, the proposed District wide parking strategy and the strategies of neighbouring planning and transport authorities.

2.23 All the above emerging DPDs are to be prepared by the Borough Council with its partners. In addition to the above, North Yorkshire County Council is preparing the Minerals and Waste Site Allocations DPDs.

Figure 1. Key Diagram



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