



**Planning & Compulsory Purchase
Act 2004**

Consultation Statement

**North East Derbyshire Development
Framework**

Core Strategy

(April 2009)

Contents

Consultation on North East Derbyshire's Core Strategy up to April 2009

- 1. Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report**
- 2. LDF Leaflet with Council Tax 2007**
- 3. Early engagement with CHART LSP Theme Groups**
- 4. Workshop sessions with Neighbourhood Partnerships and Parishes**
- 5. Visioning workshop with officers and members**
- 6. Citizen's Panel, Youth Panel and Opinion Meter**
- 7. Initial Issues and Options Questionnaire**
- 8. LDF Leaflet with Council Tax 2008**
- 9. Joint Consultation exercise with CHART LSP and Chesterfield Borough Council**
- 10. LDF Leaflet with Council Tax 2009**

Appendices

- 1a. Consultation List for Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report**
- 1b. Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report Workshop**
- 1c. Schedule of Representations to Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report**
- 2. LDF Leaflet with Council Tax 2007**
- 3. Community Strategy Aims**
- 4a. Neighbourhood Partnership Questions**
- 4b. Neighbourhood Partnership Respondents**
- 4c. Neighbourhood Partnership Workshop Issues**
- 4d. Publicity on Neighbourhood Partnership workshops**
- 5. Visioning Workshop**
- 6a. Citizen's Panel questionnaire**
- 6b. Citizen's Panel results**
- 6c. Youth Panel Questionnaire**
- 6d. Youth Panel results**
- 6e. Opinion Meter Questionnaire**
- 6f. Opinion Meter Results**
- 7a. Initial Issues and Options Questionnaire**
- 7b. Consultation List for Initial Issues and Options Questionnaire**
- 7c. Publicity on Initial Issues and Options Questionnaire**
- 7d. Initial Issues and Options Questionnaire results**
- 8. LDF Leaflet with Council Tax 2008**
- 9a. Joint consultation event programme**
- 9b. Joint consultation event comments**
- 10. LDF Leaflet with Council Tax 2009**

1. Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report

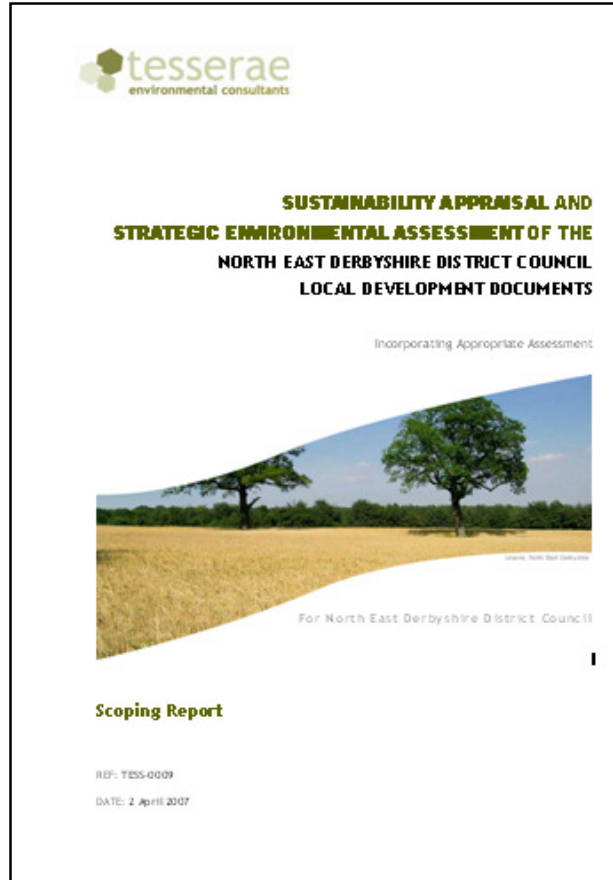
1.1 The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires local planning authorities to carry out a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) of all Local Development Documents that form part of the Local Development Framework. The purpose of a Sustainability Appraisal is to promote sustainable development through the integration of environmental, social and economic considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans. The first stage in the process is the production of a Scoping Report, which assesses the potential effects of the Core Strategy. Consultation on the Scoping Report took place between the 2nd April and 11th May 2007.

1.2 The scoping consultation for the Core Strategy was undertaken as part of wider scoping consultation which was carried out for the Housing and Employment Allocations Development Plan Documents and Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document as well. The work was carried out by consultants, Tesserae. The Scoping Report was sent to the three main statutory bodies: Natural England, English Heritage and the Environment Agency, as well as to other relevant bodies. Appendix 1a provides the consultation list.

1.3 A workshop to discuss the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Document was held on 24 April 2007. The aim was to introduce partners to ongoing sustainability

appraisal work being undertaken by North East Derbyshire District Council and Chesterfield Borough Council in relation to the Local Development Framework process and to get as much input as possible from these partners to help shape and direct the Local Development Frameworks in these two areas. Appendix 1b includes the minutes of the workshop.

1.4 Representations were received from four respondents. The schedule set out at Appendix 1c gives a summary of each representation and an action comment in response to the issues raised in the representation.



2. LDF Leaflet with Council Tax 2007

- 2.1 In March 2007, a leaflet about the Local Development Framework was sent to all households and businesses in the district (about 45,000), together with the Council Tax and Business Rates bills. The leaflet explains the Local Development Framework documents, states when the opportunities for involvement in 2007/08 are and provides a contact form that people can send back if they would wish to be informed. A copy of the leaflet is included in Appendix 2.

3. Early engagement with CHART LSP

- 3.1 A joint Community Strategy has been developed for North East Derbyshire and Chesterfield for the period of 2005 to 2015, which aims to improve the quality of life for people living, working and visiting the area. CHART, the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) for both authorities, manages the Community Strategy and through its partners works to deliver safe, healthy, diverse and prosperous communities. The priorities of the Community Strategy are delivered by a number of theme groups comprising representatives from public, private, voluntary and community organisations in the area. The theme groups are entitled:

- Crime and Community Safety (via the respective Community Safety Partnerships for North East Derbyshire and Chesterfield)
- Economic Regeneration
- Environment
- Healthy Communities and Wellbeing
- Homes and Neighbourhoods
- Leisure and Culture
- Lifelong Learning
- Transport (jointly with Bolsover Local Strategic Partnership)

- 3.2 In April/May 2007, the Forward Planning Team worked with the theme groups to get consensus on the spatial elements of their respective aims and objectives. The team attended their meetings to discuss how the Core Strategy and the wider Local Development Framework can contribute to achieving the Community Strategy aims. This enables to identify which parts of the Community Strategy the Local Development Framework can help to deliver. It also helps raise the profile and importance of the Local Development Framework with Community Strategy Partners.

- 3.3 Appendix 3 includes a table which sets out how Local Development Framework policies can contribute to the Community Strategy's overall objectives, aims and sub-aims. A snapshot of some of the aims have been listed in the table below, together with information on how these have been taken into account in the Core Strategy Issues and Options document.

Community Strategy aims	Core Strategy Issues and Options document
Encourage the adoptions of crime reduction methods to new and existing buildings and environments	Issue 13
Promote positive and constructive activities for young people	Issue 15
Boost the attractiveness and secure the long term viability of the area's town and village centres	Issue 10
Develop a high quality infrastructure to support businesses and visitors	Issue 11
Develop appropriate levels of affordable housing across the area	Issue 9
Protect and improve the natural environment	Issue 3
Promote renewable energy initiatives, such as solar power	Issue 2
Develop housing on previously used land and put new development within existing settlements	Issues 3 and 7
Encourage more journeys by cycling and walking	Issue 6

4. Workshop sessions with Neighbourhood Partnerships and Parishes

4.1 In June/July 2007 the Forward Planning Team worked with the Neighbourhood Partnership Groups and Parishes through a series of workshops. These workshops were aimed at helping the team understand the local issues, constraints and opportunities to inform the Core Strategy. Questions such as 'what do you like and dislike about your area' and 'what changes would you like to make to your area' were asked.

4.2 The workshops were held with the following groups:

- South Eastern Parishes Neighbourhood Partnership Group – 6th June 2007
- Clay Cross Parishes Neighbourhood Partnership Group -12th June 2007
- Rural Parishes and Eastern Parishes Neighbourhood Partnership Groups – 28th June 2007
- Eckington Neighbourhood Partnership Group – 5th July 2007
- Wingerworth Parish - 12th July 2007
- Killamarsh Regeneration Partnership – 18th July 2007

4.3 The main issues people raised included:

- Community spirit and local identity
- Access to countryside
- Traffic
- Need for Affordable housing
- Loss of jobs
- Retention of local shops
- Need for youth facilities

- Issue of dormitory villages –small workspaces should be introduced into villages to create local employment, therefore increase skills and opportunities, a more sustainable way of living
- Good balance between settlements and countryside, need to improve access to countryside via paths and greenways.
- Better public transport, more integrated services to Sheffield/Chesterfield.
- Create strong town centres

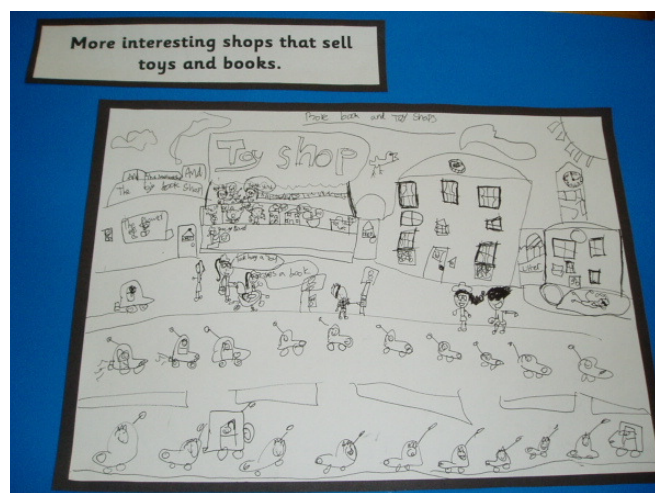
4.4 Further comment forms were handed to attendees for distributing to others. The form asked similar questions to those discussed at the workshops. A copy of the comments form is included in Appendix 4a. Appendix 4b provides a list of list of people attending the workshops and those responding to the comments form



4.5 The table below sets out how the results of this consultation have been incorporated within the Core strategy Issues and Options document.

Issues identified during Neighbourhood Partnerships and Parish consultation	Core Strategy Issues and Options document
Need for affordable housing	Issue 9
Reducing anti-social behaviour and increasing community safety	Issue 13
Community facilities are needed	Issue 1
The community spirit needs to be preserved	Issue 1
The countryside needs to be protected and development should be prevented	Issue 3
There are few job opportunities	Issue 11
Eyесоres, litter and graffiti should be dealt with	This can be dealt with indirectly through the LDF, but will be included within a more detailed document than the Core Strategy.
Access to the countryside is important. Residents like the semi-rural location of the towns and villages in the district	Issue 3
Protect and enhance the natural environment	Issue 3
There is insufficient parking	Issue 5
Public transport needs to be improved in some areas	Issues 4, 5, 6
More children's play areas and youth facilities are needed	Issue 15
Recycling is important	Issue 2
Redevelopment of many town centres are needed	Issue 10
Heavy and speeding traffic is an issue	Issue 5

4.6 In addition to the above groups, Birk Hill Infants School pupils in Eckington also gave their view on the issues in their local area. Over 160 children took part in the consultation – the whole school. They drew pictures and used their school council meetings to discuss how they would improve the town. They came up with a wish list which included new play facilities, a book shop, extra litter bins and ‘Keep Eckington Tidy’ signs, more trees and measures to tackle vandalism.



4.7 Appendix 4d includes the publicity the workshops and school children received.

4.8 Unfortunately some parishes were either under represented or not represented at all. Therefore another letter was sent to these parishes, enclosing a summary of the issues raised within their relevant Neighbourhood Partnership area and asking them whether the issues raised are applicable to their parish and whether there are any additional issues that need to be added to the list. A few of the parishes responded to this and their comments are also included in the schedule at Appendix 4c.

4.9 This leaves seven parishes unrepresented, including Dronfield. Because Dronfield is the largest town in the district, the Town Council was also contacted by email and telephone. No response from them has been received since.

5. Visioning workshop with officers and members

5.1 On the 11th October 2007, the Forward Planning Team held a visioning workshop for Members and Key Officers of the Council to develop a spatial vision for the District, which will form the main element of the Council's LDF. The event was endorsed by the Chief Executive and Senior Management Team and officers and members were encouraged to attend to ensure that their service's views are included in the Council's emerging planning policies.

5.2 The attendees discussed issues such as the location of housing, regeneration and economic development, town centres, infrastructure, community facilities, the value of the countryside, renewable energy and public transport. A lot of good ideas and suggestions were identified. Additionally, the attendees talked about what makes North East Derbyshire special and what would the attendees like to see in 20 years time. The minutes of the workshop can be found in Appendix 5.



5.3 The key points that resulted from the visioning workshop are summarised in the table below, including how these points have been taken into account in the Core Strategy Issues and Options document.

Issues identified during the visioning workshop	Core Strategy Issues and Options document
When allocating land for housing consider the infrastructure needs of the site.	Issue 1
Clay Cross could be a major hub for the area.	Issue 10
Renewable energy sources should be developed and the Council should act as a leader e.g. incorporating renewable technology into Dronfield Sports Centre	Issue 2
Housing can act as a driver for regeneration, may have to consider the release of countryside/greenbelt land. Especially as not all brownfield sites are in the most sustainable locations (e.g. coal mines located outside of villages), need to link the development of settlements to community 'need'.	Issue 1
Family homes are required, especially as the District has an ageing population	Issue 8
Major job growth is expected in the Sheffield City Region (75,000 jobs in the next 20 years), houses will be needed in the North of the District, again there is the problem of Greenbelt restraint. As a result of this if houses are located in the south of the District jobs need to be created there or the District will suffer from higher levels of out commuting.	Issue 11
Have more housing in town centres, this will increase the number of people in town centres, perhaps have affordable housing located in town centres.	Issue 8
Job density will affect the need for employment land, office space needs less hectares than manufacturing sites.	Issue 11
Countryside is an undervalued asset of the District (increase tourism)	Issue 3

6. Citizen's Panel, Youth Panel and Opinion Meter

6.1 In November 2007, seven questions on planning were included on the Citizen's Panel questionnaire (see appendix 6a). The Citizen's Panel consists of 1,000 North East Derbyshire residents chosen at random from the electoral register, who have agreed to take part in regular postal surveys and other research activities, three or four times a year for a maximum of three years. These residents reflect the diversity of the area to ensure that all types of people can give their views. The information provided by the Panel is made available to the relevant Council services only so that they can make improvements and changes.

- 6.2 The detailed results of the Citizen's Panel questionnaire are included in appendix 6b. They show that for the question 'where should new development be located?' there is not one option which is clearly considered most preferable. The option 'mostly in the 4 main towns, 6 larger villages and smaller villages with sufficient services' scores highest with 16.5%, followed by 'mostly in the 4 main towns with some additional development in the 6 larger villages' (14.7%) and 'focused on the main 4 towns' (14.6%). These results have been used in drawing up slightly revised spatial options for future development within the Core Strategy Issues and Options document.
- 6.3 Other results are included within the table below, together with information on how they have been taken into account in the Core Strategy Issues and Options document.

Results from Citizen's Panel Questionnaire	Core Strategy Issues and Options document
The majority of respondents believe that the Green Belt boundaries should not be changed.	Issue 3
Encouraging a range of uses into town centres is considered the best way of improving the district's town centres.	Issue 10
Providing for the housing needs of the elderly population and providing a range of housing types and sizes is considered most important for future housing developments.	Issue 8
The majority of respondents believe that an extension to the existing Gypsy and Traveller site at Corbriggs would be the best option to solve future needs.	Issue 8
Respondents consider that the economy of the area needs new high skilled manufacturing and technology based industry and that vacant former employment sites should be used for other uses such as housing.	Issue 11
The majority of respondents consider that youth shelters should be located either just outside of the built up area, or within the built up area but with a buffer zone between shelter and houses.	Issue 15

- 6.4 In February 2008, the Youth Panel was also asked some planning questions. This Panel was set up only recently (October 2007) in conjunction with Chesterfield Borough Council, as a way of involving more young people in improving their local area as a place to live and grow up. The youth panel is made up of young people aged between 11 and 19 and In December 2007, the Panel included 82 members.
- 6.5 Four planning questions were included (see appendix 6c) and the detailed results can be viewed in Appendix 6d. The Youth Panel members were asked what they like about the area in which they live. They were particularly positive about the area's closeness to the countryside (69%) and its bus links to Chesterfield or Sheffield (58%). They also felt that protecting the countryside was much more important than building more affordable housing or building more workplaces. They felt there should be more wildlife areas (63%), sports facilities and parks (53%) and

youth shelters (54%). These comments are taken into account in the Core Strategy Issues and Options document under issues 3, 4 and 15.

- 6.6. Between November 2007 and January 2008, the opinion meter was used to gauge people's opinions on planning issues. The opinion meter is a mobile keypad which can be placed anywhere. Programmed into the opinion meter were 10 "Dilemmas" which provided people with the choice of two different answers (see Appendix 6e). The table below shows where the opinion meter was located and how many respondents gave their views.

Location	Dates at the location	Number of Respondents
Disabled Go Launch Day	28 November 2007	24
Eckington Pool (1)	7- 31 January 2008	169
Eckington Pool (2)	26 November - 3 December 2007	70
Sharley Park Leisure Centre	3 - 10 December 2007	86
Councils Main Reception at Saltergate	10 December 2007 - 1 January 2008	4
Planning Administration Reception at Saltergate	1 - 31 January 2008	18

- 6.7 This canvassing of local opinion resulted in 371 completed set of answers for the dilemmas posed by the opinion meter. A complete set of results can be found in Appendix 6f.

- 6.8 The conclusive points that came out from the opinion meter were;

- Protect the countryside and Greenbelt
- Protect the environment from cars

These have been taken into account in the Core Strategy Issues and Options document under issue 3 (The need to secure the protection of the countryside whilst allowing necessary development) and issue 6 (Reduce the use of the car).

7. Core Strategy Initial Issues and Options Questionnaire

- 7.1 On 21st December 2007, consultation on Initial Issues and Options on the Core Strategy was started. It took the form of a questionnaire booklet, which is included in appendix 7a. The booklet containing the questionnaire provides information about the Core Strategy and how the community and stakeholders can get involved. It also provides an explanation to some technical terms which are often used to describe different types of land, such as Greenfield land and Green Belt land. In addition to this information, the booklet contained a total 17 questions, covering a range of issues, such as the location of development, climate change, town centres and rural issues.

- 7.2 Letters/emails were sent to everyone on the LDF mailing list, except those who indicated that they did not want to be contacted about the Core Strategy. Appendix

7b lists the consultees in detail. It also identifies who was sent a letter or an email (specific consultation bodies by their identified preference, interested parties by the availability of an email address, unless told otherwise). A total of about 750 letters/emails were sent out. All contacts on the Neighbourhood Partnerships mailing list (about 550) were also provided a questionnaire, as well as District Councillors and Council staff.

7.3 The questionnaire booklets were also distributed throughout the Council Offices and to Local Libraries, Sports Centres and Area Housing Offices. It was also available on the Council's website (see appendix 7c). Additionally, the consultation was advertised on the media screen in the reception area of the Council House on Saltergate.

7.4 A total of 204 questionnaires were returned. An additional two were received after the analysis of the questionnaire responses had already begun and could therefore not be included within the results. The summary of responses to all questions is included in appendix 7d. The main results are listed in the table below, including how they have been taken into account in the Core Strategy Issues and Options document.

Results from Initial Issues and Options Questionnaire	Core Strategy Issues and Options document
A third of respondents choose for Clay Cross and the A61 corridor as the best option for future development. However, when analysing these respondents, it was discovered that the majority (53%) actually live or have interests in the north of the district and therefore away from Clay Cross. A new settlement was the least favourite option.	These results have been used in drawing up slightly revised spatial options for future development. For example, the option of a new settlement has been left out because it wasn't supported. Clay Cross and A61 are included as option four.
Development in the Green Belt should only be seen as a last resort and should only be used unless it is demonstrated that supply cannot be met elsewhere.	Issue 3
With regards to what the Council can do to reduce the effects of climate change, none of the options provided scored very low. This indicates that all options are considered relevant in some cases.	Issue 2
Using previously developed land and re-using empty properties are the most preferred options in terms of future housing locations. Using open space within built up areas for housing developments and developments of more than 30 homes per hectare (i.e. high density development) are not considered favourable;	Issue 7
In relation to design, 'design that is energy efficient' is considered most favourable. Design which respects local tradition in terms of building style and use of materials is more preferable over new and innovative design. Low rise development is considered more preferable than high rise development.	Issue 2 and 8

The most preferable option for the location of future Gypsy and Travellers sites is as an extension to existing sites.	Issue 8
The town centre is considered to be most likely improved if a range of different uses is encouraged.	Issue 10

8. LDF leaflet with Council Tax 2008

- 8.1 In March 2008, another leaflet about the Local Development Framework was sent to all households and businesses in the district (about 45,000), together with the Council Tax and Business Rates bills. The leaflet aims to get people interested in planning by including some of the questions we need to answer, such as where should be built affordable housing. It also includes information on when consultation will take and how to get involved. A copy of the leaflet is included in Appendix 8.

9. Joint Consultation with CHART LSP and Chesterfield Borough Council

- 9.1 On the 18th June 2008, North East Derbyshire District Council held a joint consultation event with Chesterfield Borough Council and CHART staff. CHART members and community groups were invited to the event and asked for their views on a range of topics. This information will not only inform North East Derbyshire's Core Strategy, but also Chesterfield's Core Strategy and the joint Sustainable Community Strategy. The table below sets out some of the main comments received and how they have been taken into account within the Core Strategy Issues and Options document. For more detailed information about the event, see Appendix 9a and b.

Results from joint consultation	Core Strategy Issues and Options document
Greenfield sites should be designated for protection, although eventually development may need to occur. There are not enough brownfield sites in the districts to cater for development.	Issue 3
There is a need to change peoples' attitudes towards the car, suggestions to achieve this was increasing the awareness of cycle routes and for larger companies to promote cycling within the workplace.	Issue 6
The councils should consider local materials on new developments.	Issue 1
Need improved cycle routes across the area and more bike stands/secure parking in town centres and near developments	Issue 5
New housing developments should be attractive and developers should be discouraged from providing dwellings made to the same specification and stereotype.	Issue 8
Local economy should concentrate on local produce,	Issue 11

perhaps develop the concept of a “slow” town (eg Ludlow) encourage local, independent shops. This could attract people into the smaller town centres of North East Derbyshire.	
Planning restrictions in the countryside can stop the growth and development of the rural economy. Some villages such as Holmewood, Pilsley and Mickley need to increase employment opportunities so to make the villages more sustainable.	Issue 11
The right design and location of buildings and spaces can help reduce crime	Issue 13
Recreation facilities are considered important to the quality of life	Issue 15

10. LDF leaflet with Council Tax 2009

- 10.1 In March 2009, a flyer on the Core Strategy Issues and Options was sent to all households and businesses in the district (about 45.000), together with the Council Tax and Business Rates bills. The flyer provided information about the forthcoming consultation on the Core Strategy Issues and Options, including a list of exhibition dates at which the public can discuss their ideas or concerns with planning officers. A copy of the flyer is included in Appendix 10.