



Spatial Report of the Community Plan for Hambleton

Introduction

This spatial report is based on the Community Plan for Hambleton, published in 2003 by the Hambleton Strategic Partnership. There will be a further opportunity to review this report, when the Community Plan is reviewed in 2006. The report also considers the five Action Plans produced by the Area Groups of the Hambleton Strategic Partnership.

The purpose of this report is to highlight the potential linkages between the Community Plan and the LDF at an early stage, to inform its preparation. It will do this by undertaking a comprehensive evaluation of the Community Plan and Area Group Action Plans to identify the land use related aspects that could be delivered through the LDF. Following this there will then be a need to agree the purpose, weight and certainty of the linkages identified.

Structure of the Report

This report will inform the LDF at a number of levels, from the long-term vision and strategic themes of the Community Plan through to the more detailed issues and actions that have been identified, where they have a spatial dimension.

The structure of the report is as follows:

1. Background and Context
2. Shared Vision
3. Strategic Themes
4. Consultation
5. Monitoring
6. Conclusions

Annex A – Spatial Projects in the Community Plan for Hambleton

Annex B – Spatial Projects in the Area Group Action Plans

1. BACKGROUND & CONTEXT

What the guidance from Government says.....

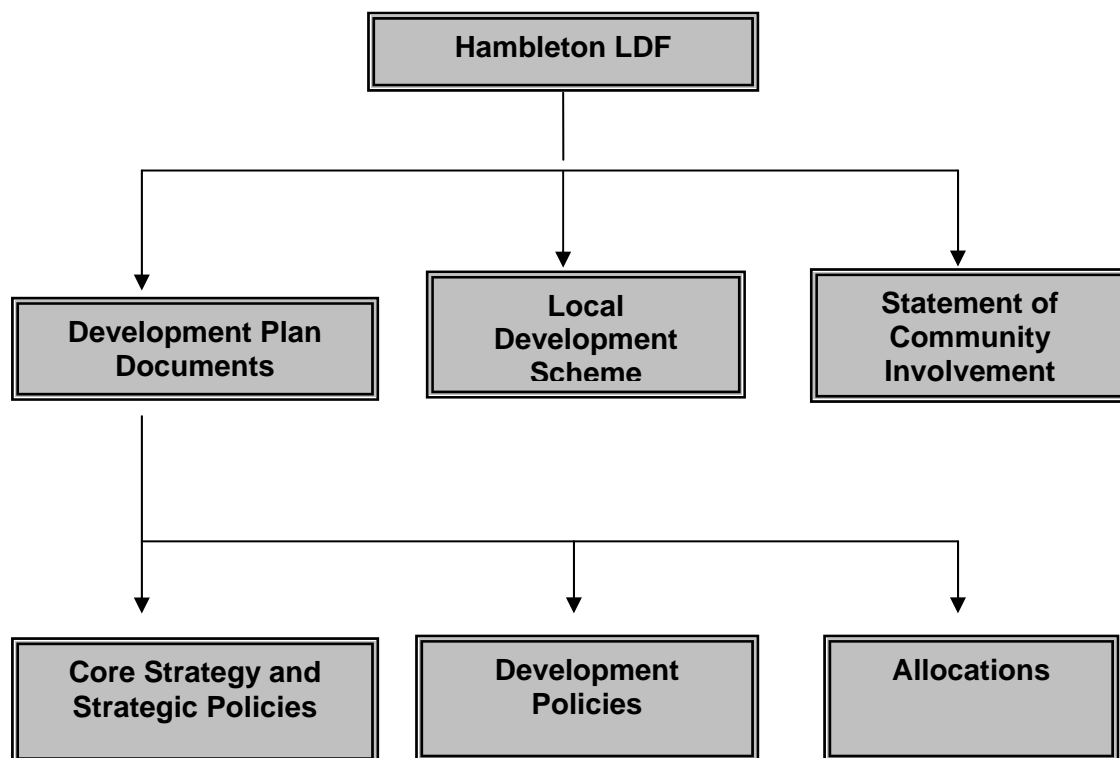
A key aspect to the new approach to producing district local plans is the fact that the LDF will look beyond the regulation and control of land, this is being termed as 'spatial planning'. The definition of this is given below.

The guidance states that the LDF must **have regard** to the Community Plan and other relevant local plans and strategies. The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004) has a key requirement for LDF's to give spatial expression to those aspects of the Community Strategy and other local initiatives that relate to the use and development of land. PPS12 states that 'the LDF should be a key component in the delivery of the community strategy setting out its spatial aspects where

appropriate and providing a long term spatial vision', but what does this mean and how will it work?

To give spatial expression to the Community Plan means that the LDF will consider the physical aspects of land use and location, but that it will also take account of social, economic and environmental issues such as access and movement, health, education, employment, crime prevention etc and work towards sustainable development.

There are a number of ways in which this can be achieved. The LDF itself is a suite of documents and the linkages can be made at a number levels, from the broad strategic level to the detailed local level documents:



These documents are further defined below:

- **Local Development Scheme** is the 3 year project plan which sets out the programme for preparing the LDF
- **Statement of Community Involvement** sets out how the community will be consulted during the production of the LDF
- **Core Strategy and Strategic Policies** sets out the vision, objectives and strategy for the spatial development of the area and the strategic policies and proposals that deliver that vision
- **Development Policies** a range of policies to be used in Development Control to ensure that all development within the District meets the vision and strategy set out in the core strategy e.g. promoting recreation and leisure, promoting vital and viable market towns
- **Allocations** for housing, employment, social/community transport, retailing, recreation etc. These will be structured into geographic areas based on the five market towns and their hinterlands

Why the linkages are important?

The linkages between the Community Plan and the LDF are important for a number of reasons. It will help to ensure that the LDF is based on a greater understanding of the community needs as identified through the Community Planning process. Also the new spatial approach to preparing the LDF requires the consideration of a much broader range of issues than has previously been the case, including the principles of sustainable development. There is also a need to demonstrate community involvement from the early stages of the work and throughout the whole process, this is another area that can benefit from a joined up approach.

The 2003 ODPM report 'The Relationships between Community Strategies and Local Development Frameworks' identifies a number of benefits from creating more effective relationships including:

- An integrated approach towards future development, based upon sustainable development objectives
- Recognition of LDF as a delivery mechanism for Community Strategies and other local initiatives aims and objectives
- Economies of scale in terms of working corporately and sharing resources in the preparation of Community Strategy and LDF, particularly processes e.g. consultation, monitoring, sustainability appraisal etc
- Potential to resolve conflicts between community aspirations and national and regional policy objectives by engaging with a wide range of stakeholders
- Positive contribution that planners can make to the community planning process

In Hambleton there is the potential to integrate the consultation processes for the LDF set out in Regulation 25 on the Core Strategy, Allocations and Development Policies and the review of the Community Plan, programmed to be completed by 2006.

2. SHARED VISION

The main underlying principle of the Community Plan is that it should deal with the issues that the local community feel are important to their economic, social and environmental well-being. The Community Plan sets out a long-term community vision for Hambleton and is based on the principles of community involvement, sustainable development and promoting diversity. It defines the shared vision of the Hambleton Strategic Partnership:

'A Hambleton of sustainable, safe, healthy and prosperous communities where people feel part of their communities and work together to improve quality of life for all and participate in decisions that affect them, which is welcoming, values diversity and supports the disadvantaged.'

The proposed vision of the Local Development Framework will be set out in the Core Strategy, it is important that it builds on the vision of the Community Plan to ensure a high level and long term integration in these two areas of work.

3. STRATEGIC THEMES

The Community Plan vision can be broken down into five strategic themes, which reflect the priorities expressed by local people and together will help us achieve our vision. The themes listed below, provide a focus for action and each one is covered in detail by a chapter within the Community Plan.

- **Prosperous Community** – business, farming, tourism, skills in the workforce, market town regeneration & transport
- **Vibrant Community** – access to services, community development, education, older people & young peoples issues
- **Sustainable Community** – conserving the natural & historic heritage, sustainable development, air quality, waste management, housing
- **Safe Community** – fear of crime, burglary and home safety, designing out crime, police visibility, road safety, diversionary activities for young people, fire related deaths and injuries
- **Healthy Community** – Improving health care, culture, leisure and sports opportunities

The LDF also takes a theme-based approach to group its policies together, the LDF themes can be found in the draft Core Strategy and are currently as follows:

- **Meeting local development needs**
- **A balanced housing market**
- **A prosperous community**
- **Accessibility**
- **Making a quality environment**

These are the initial themes which will be further developed as the work progresses.

In the Community Plan each strategic theme has an overall aim, a number of objectives together with a number of specific issues and actions to be addressed. Annex A to this report highlights the spatial elements of each of these. Annex B to the report outlines the spatial issues and projects of each of the Area Group Action Plans.

4. CONSULTATION

There will be an opportunity during 2005 to undertake joint consultation work with the LDF as work is initiated on the review of the Community Plan, which aims to be completed by 2006. This will involve Hambleton Strategic Partnership partners and the Area Groups (local community partnerships). The Strategic Partnership has established a consultation forum which aims to encourage a more joined up approach to consultation between key partners and currently involves NYCC, Hambleton & Richmondshire PCT, North Yorkshire Police Authority, Connexions and the Hambleton Association of Local Development Agencies. Further details of how this will be achieved will be incorporated into the Statement of Community Involvement which is currently being drafted as part of the LDF. It is therefore important that the Partnership contributes to the SCI.

In Hambleton it is clear that there are a number of benefits in undertaking joint consultation in terms of sharing of resources and information, but also in terms of benefits to the community in reducing the numbers of consultations they receive or become involved with.

5. MONITORING

Monitoring systems need to be integrated with the Community Plan to enable progress to be measured and there is a need to adopt common targets and indicators.

7. CONCLUSIONS

The detailed review of spatial issues in the Community Plan and Area Group Action Plans has highlighted clear synergies at the level of overall vision and strategic themes. At the level of actions and projects there are again clear linkages with proposed development policy themes and possible development policies in terms of land use.

This evaluation has however identified a number of spatial issues that may need to be picked up by development policies as they are developed and refined. These relate to the accessibility of key services such as housing, health, education, training and employment to the population, this links in with the concept of supporting the development of sustainable communities. Another issue is in relation to quality of life and meeting the needs of certain sectors of the population such as young people and older people. This could be in terms of young people to retain young people in the area, to maintain a balanced population and in terms of older people, considering the specific needs of this group. There is also currently scope to focus in on objectives around reducing waste, promoting recycling and renewable energy production across the District.