

HARROGATE DISTRICT LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

CORE STRATEGY: PREFERRED OPTIONS CONSULTATION

DRAFT CRITERIA FOR MEASURING ACCESSIBILITY OF SITE OPTIONS FOR HOUSING IN THE DISTRICT'S FIVE TOWNS AND THE CITY OF RIPON.

As part of the Core Strategy: Issues and Options Consultation, Autumn 2005 Issue T2 asked the question:

In making decisions on where new development should be located, how can travel be reduced and good accessibility to services and jobs provided for all?

During this consultation views were sought on a wide range of draft tests for deciding whether a site is suitable for new housing in relation to its proximity to jobs, shops and services, including transport services. A list of the draft tests considered during this earlier consultation can be found on the Council's web site.

A significant % of respondents to the Issues and Options consultation were very supportive of the use of the tests suggested. In particular the criteria with the greatest support were: access to a frequent bus service and location near a primary school. However, a number of comments suggested that to use all of the tests suggested would be too complicated. .

Based on the comments received a simplified list of criteria has now been developed and has been used to assess site options for housing. For the purposes of sustainability appraisal, each site has been measured either positively or negatively in relation to each of the criteria set out below:

1 Location within walking distance of a bus stop on the Key Bus Network or a station or rail halt on the Leeds Harrogate York Rail Line.

Positive up to 400m to bus stop (less than 5min walk/ ¼ mile)

Negative Over 400m to bus stop (more than 5min walk/ ¼ mile)

(**Sources:** RSS table 16.9 Accessibility: Access from housing - 5 min walk to bus stop. Local Development Framework Monitoring: A Good Practice Guide ODPM - 400m or 5 mins walk to bus stop on frequent service)

2 Location close to cycle networks.

Positive site located on cycle network (existing or proposed)

Negative site not located on cycle network (existing or proposed)

3 Walking Distance to nearest primary school

Positive	up to 800m (up to a 10min walk/just under half a mile)
Negative	more than 800m (more than 10min walk/more than half a mile)

(Source: based on experience of NYCC/HBC regarding work undertaken on School Travel Plans, in particular 'Park and Stride' and 'Walking Zone' initiatives. Also RSS and LDF Monitoring good practice guide.)

4 Walking distance to nearest major area of employment (six town centres and best/good urban sites as defined in the jobs and businesses chapter)

Positive	up to 1200m (15 min walk/about ¾ mile)
Negative	more than 1200m (more than 15 min walk/about ¾ mile)

(Sources: based on LDF Monitoring: Good Practice Guide ODPM/RSS)

5 Walking distance to nearest GP surgery, and

6 Distance to nearest supermarket or local shopping centre as defined in the Harrogate District Local Plan

Positive	up to 800m (up to a 10min walk/just under half a mile)
Negative	over 800m (more than 10min walk/over half a mile)

(Source: based on LDF Monitoring: Good Practice Guide ODPM and RSS. Assume average walking speed of 3 miles per hour. Distances take into account that shopping may be carried).

Where sites have three or more positive scores, (always including a positive score for proximity to public transport) it has been concluded that any future residents of housing on this site would be able to easily access services and commute to work by non car modes of transport.

These are draft guidelines for measuring site accessibility for housing and may be refined following this consultation exercise. They have been used in the Initial Site Assessments for the Housing and Employment Land Allocations DPD.

