



CORE STRATEGY



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FOREWORD



I am very pleased to preface this, the District's first truly spatial planning strategy, with a few words of thanks to all those involved in its preparation and an acknowledgement of its importance.

The Core Strategy provides for the management of change in development and conservation throughout the District over the next 15 years. It sets out the framework to achieve the difficult balance of facilitating the delivery of much needed homes for local people, new jobs, improved sports and recreation facilities and better opportunities for all, whilst minimising the impact on the high quality environment and distinctive character of the District, and avoiding harmful and inappropriate development.

The preparation of the strategy culminated in its adoption by Harrogate Borough Council on 11 February 2009. This makes the Council one of the country's leading authorities in planning for sustainable development. For instance, we now have exemplar policies to assist in the mitigation of climate change and increase the opportunities for affordable housing in rural areas.

The Core Strategy has taken about four years to complete and involved many communities throughout our very large District, as well as key public, private and voluntary sector stakeholders, in five major public consultations. Much of the strategy received a great deal of public support and other representations were heard by a government appointed inspector during a public examination in 2008.

On behalf of the Council, I thank all those who have contributed to the debate about the future planning of the District and look forward to working with you over the next few years as we complete the preparation of the other development plan documents that will make up the Harrogate District Local Development Framework.

Councillor D. J. J. Mackenzie, Cabinet Member Planning and Transport.

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*(Policy deleted in accordance with the report on the Examination into the Harrogate District Core Strategy)

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