



Media Release

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Protecting our district's special environment

Harrogate district's special character looks set to be better protected following the launch of the council's Landscape Character Assessment. This document will help protect and enhance the district's landscape and its provisions will be given a further boost by being designated 'Supplementary Planning Guidance' giving developers a firm steer on what is acceptable in the countryside.

Councillor Richard Cooper, Cabinet Member for Planning, said: "The document provides a detailed breakdown of the district into 106 individual areas, each with their own distinct character and sense of place. Sensitivities and pressures for change are also described along with guidelines designed to protect our rural areas.

"This level of detail in the Assessment will help us to enhance and benefit the local environment protecting it from inappropriate development. The document will influence the formulation of planning policy and have a key role in assessing planning applications."

A broad range of individuals and organisations made contributions during the drafting of the document. These have included local individuals, landowners, businesses, community groups, parish councils, planning authorities, government bodies and non-government organisations.

"There are constant pressures on the council to allow more and more development in the rural areas. We hope that, through the use of this document, these challenges may be faced and the quality of our landscape and environment be preserved and enhanced for future generations to enjoy."

The Harrogate District Landscape Character Assessment may be viewed in a variety of ways that make it easily accessible:

The document is available to download from the council's website at www.harrogate.gov.uk/planning/landscape/index.html

Copies are also available to view at council offices in Crescent Gardens and Knapping Mount, Harrogate; Knaresborough House and Ripon Town Hall.

Alternatively, copies may be purchased from the Department of Technical Services for a charge of £40 (+ postage and packing).

FURTHER INFORMATION: Councillor Richard Cooper is available for comment on 01423 07957 844380. Further technical information is available from David Barker, Landscape Architect, Conservation and Design, Department of Technical Services on 01423 556592.