

Aberford 'Draft Policy Intentions'

Informal comments

Please note these are informal comments at this stage and are intended to help shape the pre-submission plan. Formal comments will be provided at the pre-submission stage.

General

There are many positive features to this doc but the following comments refer mainly to the planning policies where a wording change, clarity or deletion is recommended.

There are several references in policies to "Leeds Core Strategies". There is only one Core Strategy. But there are Development Plan Documents that sit below the Core Strategy, including Natural Resources and Waste DPD, the Aire Valley Leeds Area Action Plan, and the Site Allocations Plan. References need to be either to the Core Strategy (singular) or collectively all the plans could be known as Leeds' Local Plan

Vision

- it is a good vision but it dates back to 2011
- what is the evidence for the vision?
- has it been endorsed?

Objectives

- there should be themed objectives that sets out the policy context

C1

- This appears to refer to existing or to-be-approved development rather than the granting of planning approval
- "undermine" can be viewed differently by different people
- it may only be some time after PP is granted that the effects of development are known

C2

- any new development?
- what type of facilities and services?
- what is the evidence to support the policy?
- how will this policy help deliver the vision?

H1

- what is this policy really saying? No development in the GB? If so, then this is a repetition of existing strategic policy and should be deleted
- refer to 'development'
- what does retain and reinforce mean in the context of Aberford?

H2

- evidence?
- how will this policy help deliver the vision ?

E1

- evidence?
- does not specifically refer to the Leeds Habitat Network or nature conservation designated sites in the neighbourhood plan area. it would be useful to refer to the “2014 Updated Leeds Habitat Network” which can be received from West Yorkshire Ecology – the relevant part of which should be shown in the Neighbourhood Plan and could be enhanced to show more detail at the local level if available. An up to date nature conservation designations map for the neighbourhood plan area should also be received from West Yorkshire Ecology –Becca Banks has been recently designated as Local Wildlife Site (equivalent to SEGIs in UDP – Local Wildlife sites are the new name for SEGIs).
- this policy should more clearly state that these area are designated Local Green Space
- The wide verges referred to as Drovers Verges south of Bunkers Hill form part of the adopted highway and as such should not be designated as greenspace in policy E1.

E2

- “...General policy for green space provision as set out in Leeds Core Strategies should be improved upon given the open rural nature of the village.” This is saying Leeds’ policy should be improved upon, which implies Leeds’ policy is not good enough for Aberford. It might be better to express this differently, perhaps saying the Core Strategy policy is a starting point for more detailed policy and guidance applicable to the distinct characteristics of Aberford.
- what is a meaningful green space?
- it is unclear what is meant by "where their scale permits"
- what evidence is there for a higher greenspace standard in Aberford?

D1

- this would not apply to Permitted development
- where are the important vistas, skylines and landmarks?
- rather than just cross-ref the doc should set out succinctly local distinctiveness and character

HE1

- evidence
- what would harm mean in the context of, say, the war memorial?
- these should be registered as assets of community value

T1

-appears to be supporting car borne development not reliant on facilities within the village. It would be very difficult to demonstrate compliance with this policy as invariably any development can attract traffic movements to a variety of locations using a variety of routes. I would like to see this policy re-worded.

T2

-this is a good attempt at a local parking standard but not dissimilar to city council guidance.

Other

- opportunities to allocate?
- opportunity to use the plan to bid for funding