If you would support an alternative to the preferred option, please provide further details and evidence to support this.

3.8 Preferred Option - Strategic Core Policy SC2: Climate Change, Environmental Sustainability and Resource Uses

3.8.1 The NPPF (paragraph 148) makes clear that the planning system should support the transition to a low carbon future in a changing climate. In particular it should help to shape places in ways that contribute to radical reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, minimise vulnerability and improve resilience. More generally, the challenges of climate change and a lower carbon future also provides the opportunity to stimulate business innovation and specialisation.

3.8.2 The 25 Year Environment Plan establishes ten key goals to improve the environment. Goal seven looks specifically at taking all possible action to mitigate climate change, while adapting to reduce its impact. This will involve continuing to cut greenhouse gas emissions including from land use, land use change, the agriculture and waste sectors and the use of fluorinated gases.

3.8.3 The Planning Act 2008 introduced a new duty for local plans to address climate change. In particular it indicates that policies should be designed to secure development that contributes to the mitigation of, and adaptation to, climate change. Key challenges identified in the Act are: securing progress against the UK’s emission targets, delivering the ambition of zero carbon development, and shaping sustainable communities that are resilient to climate change. The Planning Practice Guidance indicates that planning can also help increase resilience to climate change impacts through the location, mix and design of development.

3.8.4 New development should therefore be planned to avoid vulnerability to the impacts arising from changes in the climate. Where development needs to be brought forward in areas that are vulnerable, risks need to be managed through suitable adaptation measures so as to provide sufficient resilience.

3.8.5 Government has recently announced its plan to legislate for a net zero target for all greenhouse gases by 2050. This plan is stronger than the current adopted target under the Climate Change Act 2008 to reduce emissions by 80% in 2050 from 1990 levels3. The Council along with a number of other local authorities has declared a climate emergency and has set out a number of commitments to become a carbon neutral organisation by 2030 and to ensure that the District’s net carbon emissions are reduced by 90% by 2030 compared to 2005 levels.

3.8.6 Addressing climate change is a Strategic Core Policy as it is a priority both for the Council and national government. Ensuring that the local plan responds positively to

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the challenges of climate change is a key feature of the adopted core strategy and is featured across strategic policies and thematic sections of the plan relating to energy, flood risk, biodiversity, green infrastructure, transport and environmental protection provide more detail on addressing impacts.

3.8.7 The preferred policy option builds upon the existing policy and takes a more holistic approach by providing a clearer link to the District's Climate Change Framework, incorporates a focus upon green infrastructure and biodiversity, strengthens policy around air pollution, and introduces policy links for electric vehicle charging and the effective use of land and buildings.

Preferred Option: Strategic Core Policy SC2: Climate Change, Environmental Sustainability and Resource Use.

Planning decisions as well as plans, strategies, investment decisions, and programmes should:

A. Plan for a low-carbon future through the innovation, adaptation and building long-term resilience to the impacts of climate change in the District by:

1. Supporting the implementation of the District’s Climate Change Framework and Accessing the risks designing an appropriate level of adaptation into all aspects of regeneration projects, new development and improvements to infrastructure.

2. Working with partner organisations and local communities to appraise, reduce, design and manage all sources of flooding.

3. Facilitating the management, enhancement and expansion, where appropriate, of vulnerable habitat types, primarily blanket bog and woodland and supporting action plans for habitats and species at risk.

4. Working with developers and partner organisations to ensure that, where appropriate Green Infrastructure is incorporated into all regeneration projects, improvements to infrastructure and new development.

5. Addressing the opportunities and pressures that an increasing population has on the District’s land resource, particularly in key locations for tourism and recreation.

6. Working with partner organisations to address fuel poverty and to stimulate the local-energy all sectors to deliver carbon reduction saving measures.
7. Aiming to improve air quality overall, to integrate road transport emission reduction into decision making and to address the impact of climate change on buildings, public spaces and vulnerable groups. Reduce emissions and improve air quality by working with partners to make walking, cycling and the use of public transport a first choice for all, as well as ensuring that road transport emissions reductions are integrated into decision making. Requiring new development to be located and/or positioned in sustainable well-connected locations in a way that minimises emissions as well as limits its occupants’ exposure to poor air quality.

8. Supporting the roll out of appropriate electric vehicle charging points across the District to promote the uptake of electric vehicle use.

9. Working with the District’s businesses to maximise opportunities from the move to a low-carbon economy, to raise awareness of increasing future costs of energy and water and to minimise potential disruption to local infrastructure.

B. We will seek to mitigate against the impact of climate change and support meeting the Council’s carbon reduction targets as set out in the Climate Change Framework by:

1. Maximising energy efficiency, use of sustainable transport and other forms of infrastructure by focusing development and activity in the Regional City of Bradford followed by the Principal Towns of Keighley, Bingley and Ilkley.

2. Locating development where it will support opportunities for the delivery of renewable and low carbon energy, green infrastructure and improvements to public transport and facilities for walking and cycling.

3. Meeting the local challenges of moving towards low carbon living by engaging with residents and businesses to create sustainable and resilient communities, particularly in Local Growth Centres.

C. Seek to assess and manage the impact of future decisions on the District’s natural resources.

D. Require new development to use resources sustainably and reduce their environmental impact in particular by:

1. Utilising natural light and solar energy.
2. Achieving high standards of energy efficiency.
3. Taking the opportunities to produce and/or access renewable energy.
4. Minimising water consumption and maximising the use of water recycling and sustainable urban drainage systems (SuDS).
5. Making the most effective use of land, through the conversion of existing buildings and reuse of previously developed land.
6. Ensuring new development is located in sustainable locations, helping reduce travel-related emissions and close to local amenities and services.