Barnsley Education Sites Development Plan Document

Adopted January 2009
Contacts

If you would like more information about the Barnsley Education Sites Development Plan Document or the Local Development Framework you can do the following:

Visit our website: www.barnsley.gov.uk

Email the Planning Policy Team: planningpolicy@barnsley.gov.uk

Write to the Planning Policy Team:

Planning Policy Team
Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council
Westgate Plaza One
PO Box 604
Barnsley
S70 9FE

Phone the Planning Policy Team: 01226 772606

Yorkshire Planning Aid provides a free, independent and professional planning advice service to individuals and groups from within the Yorkshire and Humber region who cannot afford professional fees. Yorkshire Planning Aid is part of a network of nine Planning Aid Services throughout the country, all of which are part of the Royal Town Planning Institute, a registered charity.

Yorkshire Planning Aid runs a telephone advice line Mondays to Fridays between 9am and 4pm on 0870 850 9808. The organisation also provides a community planning service which helps groups and individuals to understand the planning system and influence what happens in their area. The main parts of the programme include training events and presentations, such as a ‘Planning Crash Course’, and advice and support on contributing to development plans.

The service is targeted at disadvantaged communities, and at groups which represent or work with people who need support and guidance to get involved with the planning system, for example young people, disabled people or ethnic-minority communities. Planning Aid aims to raise awareness about the planning system within these communities, and help groups and individuals to work more effectively with local authorities and the development plan process.
# Remaking Barnsley

## Barnsley Local Development Framework for Education Sites

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1 Introduction

The Local Development Framework

1.1 The Government has asked us to produce a development plan which we will use when considering planning applications and plans for developing or using land. The development plan in Barnsley includes the development plan documents in the Barnsley Local Development Framework. These documents include the following.

- The Core Strategy (our overall strategic planning framework for Barnsley)
- Policies (our general policies which proposals for development will be considered against)
- Barnsley development sites (our specific plans for transport proposals and employment, housing and waste-management sites that we have set aside for development to meet Barnsley’s needs)
- Barnsley Town Centre Area Action Plan (our specific policies and proposals to improve the town centre)
- Education sites (the specific education sites we have set aside for development to meet Barnsley’s needs)

1.2 We will show the policies and plans from these documents on a Proposals Map.

1.3 The Barnsley local development framework also includes Supplementary Planning Documents (which provide more details on planning guidance for specific policies or sites). These documents are not part of the development plan for Barnsley.

1.4 The development plan for Barnsley also includes the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS). This is prepared in draft form by the Yorkshire and Humber Regional Assembly and then approved by the Government. The current Regional Spatial Strategy for Yorkshire and the Humber for up to 2016 (which was published in 2004) will be replaced in 2008 by a Regional Spatial Strategy for Yorkshire and the Humber for up to 2021 (called the ‘Yorkshire and Humberside Plan’). This draft RSS identifies Barnsley as a ‘sub regional centre’ (see the glossary) and aims to develop Barnsley and make its role as an important focus for growth stronger.

1.5 In our Local Development Scheme we have set out in more detail the purpose of these documents and how long we will take to produce them. The Local Development Scheme also provides information about resources and management arrangements (Section 12 and Appendix 3), pre-production work (Section 13 and Appendix 4) and stakeholder involvement and public consultation (Sections 11 & 15). (This document is
on our website or you can get a copy by contacting us. Please see the inside of the front cover for our contact details.)

1.6 We have also published a ‘Statement of Community Involvement’ explaining how people and organisations can get involved in preparing the Local Development Framework.

2 Relationship between the Core Strategy and other strategies

Development plan and Core Strategy

2.1 One of the borough’s ambitions is to invest in education and skills to help develop the economy. One of the ways we are promoting this is by developing new learning centres as part of reorganising the education system.

2.2 The Education Sites Development Plan Document will form part of the Local Development Framework. We have prepared the Education Sites Development Plan Document alongside the Core Strategy. The Development Plan Document is made up of three site plans and does not affect how we prepare or consider the Core Strategy.

2.3 The existing development plan is made up of the Barnsley Unitary Development Plan (adopted in December 2000) and the Regional Spatial Strategy (approved in December 2004). The Development Plan Document and its associated processes – including consultation – puts the UDP policies CF1 (Location of Community Facilities) and CF2 (Existing Community Facilities) as well as RSS policy SOC2 (Education) into practice.

2.4 Eventually, the Barnsley Local Development Framework will replace the Unitary Development Plan and become the legal development plan for the borough.

2.5 Together with the Development Plan Document, we have also produced a sustainability appraisal and background paper (which sets out the issues and options we have considered).

Other strategies

2.6 The Development Plan Document for Education Sites sets out planned sites for secondary schools across the borough which have come about due to the reorganisation as set out in:

- One Barnsley Community Plan; and
- The Barnsley Building Schools for the Future programme.
3 Background to the ‘Remaking Learning’ programme

‘Remaking Learning’ and the Government’s school-building programme

3.1 Through the ‘Remaking Learning’ programme, we are promoting the options for reviewing the secondary-school education we provide in Barnsley.

3.2 This will be supported by funding from the Government’s ‘Building Schools for the Future’ programme. The conditions attached to the funding mean building will start in 2008/2009 and be finished by 2011/2012.

3.3 The time limits set for the Government’s programme means that we have to put planning applications forward for the new advanced-learning centres before we start this Development Plan Document.

The reasons for reorganising Barnsley’s secondary schools

3.4 There are too many school places in Barnsley which have not been filled. By 2012, the number of pupils enrolled at secondary schools we maintain will be 11,499, leaving 2164 empty places. This is almost 16% of the total secondary-school capacity (in other words, the maximum number of pupils a school can take). We must manage school places so that the total percentage of empty places does not go beyond 10%. The effect of current trends for some schools is for school rolls (the official record of the children that go to a school) to fall to a level well below the school capacity.

3.5 Some schools have poor-quality buildings which need replacing. We also need to improve pupils’ educational achievements at school.

Advanced-learning centres

3.6 We plan to create nine advanced-learning centres to replace the 13 secondary schools currently in the borough. We are also providing a special-needs advanced-learning centre and Elmhirst School is being replaced by an academy which is not included in the Barnsley Schools for the Future programme.

3.7 See plan 1 (in the appendix) for where we plan to build these advanced-learning centres.

3.8 The proposed number and location of the new advanced-learning centres we have planned for is influenced by our responsibility to meet educational and community needs within our financial limits.
3.9 Each new centre will offer facilities and teaching to provide:

- advice and support for children;
- specialised education;
- longer hours for teaching;
- extra learning and community facilities; and
- help to pupils to gain a wide range of qualifications and skills.

3.10 Six of the new advanced-learning centres will be developed on existing secondary-school sites where they serve the people who use them and there would not be any benefit in moving to a new site. These six sites are as follows.

- Darton High School
- The Dearne High School
- Kirk Balk Secondary School
- Holgate School and Kingstone School
- Penistone Grammar School
- St Michael’s Catholic and Church of England High School

3.11 Three new advanced-learning centres will replace the following combinations of existing schools.

- Edward Sheerien School and Royston High School
- The Foulstone School and Wombwell High School
- Priory School and Sports College and Willowgarth High School

3.12 These advanced-learning centres will need sites which are not currently used as schools. We have considered whether one of the existing school sites would best meet children’s needs or whether we need to find new sites. We have considered each of the options to assess whether they:

- provide enough land for us to develop the advanced-learning centre;
- allow students and staff to get to the centre by walking, cycling or by bus, rather than by car; and
- meet a number of important conditions for sustainable development (see the glossary) and ‘deliverability’ (how likely it is that we can develop the site).

3.13 Our consultants identified options for new sites and you can see their reports if you ask us. These documents are also on our website.
4 The sites

4.1 This section sets out the new sites for the three advanced-learning centres.

**Policy EDS1: Sites planned for the new advanced-learning centres**

We plan to use the following sites to create advanced-learning centres to meet the conditions set out in the Barnsley core strategy.

- 14.06 hectares of land east of Royston Lane in Carlton.
- 11.40 hectares of this land will be used for playing fields.
- 13.69 hectares of land at Low Valley to the south of Pitt Street and currently within the Netherwood Country Park.
- 10.14 hectares of this land will be used for playing fields.
- 11.17 hectares of land west of Engine Lane in Shafton.
- 8.67 hectares of this land will be used for playing fields.

4.2 You can see plans of these three sites in the appendix (on page 12). For each of the advanced-learning centres, the buildings, access and playing fields will be within the site shown on the plans.

Our reasons for choosing these sites

4.3 We have carried out consultation throughout the issues and options and preferred option stages of the preparation of this Development Plan Document. However, before these consultations, our education service appointed planning consultants to develop a system for assessing alternative sites. They then used that system to identify sites in line with the issues and options that came out of the consultations.

4.4 For each advanced-learning centre which needs a new site, we identified and consulted on a number of options throughout the issues and options stage (the first stage in the preparation of a development plan document). The sites were chosen using information from that process and the preferred options (the second stage in the production of a development plan document) consultation we carried out together with the work Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council Education Service carried out.

4.5 We have thoroughly assessed the alternative sites in line with our priorities for sustainable development. The results of these assessments were included as part of the issues and options stage and preferred options stage consultations we carried out.
Development in the green belt

4.6 All three of the preferred sites are in the green belt (see the glossary). Most of Barnsley’s countryside is green belt. In the Education Sites Development Plan Document background paper we explain why we have partly reviewed the boundary of the green belt as part of preparing the overall Local Development Framework and identifying land for development within the period of time the plan applies to and in the future.

4.7 The initial findings of the partial green belt review are included in the green belt shown on the Local Development Framework Preferred Options Proposals Maps, which we consulted on, in accordance with our Statement of Community Involvement, in October and November 2005. This showed around 177 hectares of extra land we could allocate to the green belt.

4.8 Although we are planning to develop the three advanced-learning centres in the green belt, we will only develop 8.71 hectares of land with buildings and access. The 30.21 hectares of playing fields and green space at the advanced-learning centres will be in the green belt. This meets Government planning guidance on using the green belt, which you can find in ‘Planning Policy Guidance note 2: Green belts (PPG2)’. This guidance note says that the green belt can be used to provide outdoor sport and play facilities near urban areas. As a result, the proposal to include the playing fields in the green belt does not go against national and regional policies.

4.9 In the ‘Barnsley Policies Development Plan Document – Preferred Options’ there is a policy specifically about where to build new schools. One of the factors we need to consider is the effect the plan will have on the green belt. As mentioned above, 8.71 hectares of the 38.92 hectares of land we need to build the three advanced-learning centres will be built on, leaving 30.21 hectares to be used for sport and recreation.

4.10 The work and consultation we have carried out so far (which is discussed in more detail in the Development Plan Document Background Paper Section 3: Issues and Options Considered pages 7 – 12) shows that there are very special circumstances which justify using green-belt land to provide sites for the three advanced-learning centres and allow the ‘Building Schools for the Future’ programme to go ahead.
5 Mitigation issues

5.1 It is important that, when we develop the sites, we respect the area and the landscape as well as contribute to making places interesting and pleasant to work and live in.

5.2 National planning policies now say that applications such as the proposals for advanced-learning centres must also include design and access statements (see the glossary). The consultations have highlighted mitigation issues (see the glossary) for the three sites. We have set out these issues below and we will consult on them in line with our Statement of Community Involvement when we make outline and detailed planning applications.

5.3 Mitigation issues relevant to the advanced-learning centre replacing the Royston and Edward Sheerien schools include reducing the effect of development on:

- the green belt;
- Carlton conservation area; and
- living conditions for residents on Royston Lane and Cronkhill Lane.

5.4 Mitigation issues relevant to the advanced-learning centre replacing Foulstone and Wombwell schools include reducing the effect of development on:

- the green belt; and
- Netherwood Country Park.

Planning applications will need to show how any loss of woodland, habitat or country park land will be replaced. Any land lost will be replaced within the ‘area of search’ shown on plans 3 and 3a. Applications must also show how links to the local nature reserve will be created and how a separate access for vehicles coming from the Wombwell bypass will be included in any scheme.

5.5 Mitigation issues relevant to the advanced-learning centre replacing Willowgarth and Priory schools include reducing the effect of development on:

- the green belt; and
- living conditions for nearby residents.
6. Implementation & Monitoring.

6.1 The Development Plan Document will be implemented by the Remaking Learning initiative. Remaking Learning is a partnership between the Council and a range of key partners including education, health, social care, voluntary and business groups. More information about Remaking Learning can be found in Section 3 of this Development Plan Document (paragraph 3.1 – 3.3).

6.2 Each Advanced Learning Centre will be built through a public private partnership. The most common form of public private partnership is the private finance initiative which will be used to build and manage Barnsley’s advanced learning centres. This involves the delivery of public services through private sector investment in infrastructure.

6.3 We will monitor how this programme is implemented and make sure we achieve the targets in table 1 below. We will report our progress towards these targets in the annual monitoring report.

Table 1 Monitoring Targets for the Implementation of the Education Sites Development Plan Document

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site</th>
<th>Target</th>
<th>Outline permission</th>
<th>Detailed permission</th>
<th>Construction starts/ finishes</th>
<th>ALC &amp; Facilities in use</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Carlton</td>
<td>12 December 2006</td>
<td>December 2008</td>
<td>January 2009/ May 2010</td>
<td>June 2010</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Darfield</td>
<td>To be determined (expected January 2009)</td>
<td>November 2009</td>
<td>February 2010/ August 2011</td>
<td>September 2011</td>
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7. Flexibility

7.1 We have made the Development Plan Document flexible through extensive consultation and reference to strategic policy processes (such as the Regional Spatial Strategy) along with robust individual site appraisals to find out what we need to do now and in the future.

7.2 The Development Plan Document takes account of the Regional Spatial Strategy spatial priorities (see policy YH4: Regional cities and sub-regional cities and towns; policy YH5: Principal towns; and Figure 2.3: The region’s settlement network) and level of housing growth (see policy H1: Provision and distribution housing; and Table 12.1). The sites selected are associated with Barnsley Sub-Regional Town (Carlton ALC) and the
Principal Towns of Cudworth (Shafton Two Gates) and Wombwell (Darfield Low Valley), as defined in the Regional Spatial Strategy.

7.3 The Yorkshire and Humber Assembly spoke to others about the Regional Spatial Strategy before it was adopted. By appraising sites and speaking to others about the DPD we have found sites that will be able to meet current and future requirements for the advanced learning centres.
## 8. Glossary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Explanation</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Adopt</strong></td>
<td>When the document has been considered by a government inspector, we produce a final version in line with the inspector’s comments, which we will then 'adopt'. This means the document will fully come into force.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Advanced-learning centre</strong></td>
<td>Secondary schools which have longer opening hours together with extra facilities.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Building Schools for the Future programme</strong></td>
<td>The Government’s investment programme for improving schools. You can find out more information about this programme on our Building Schools for the Future website at <a href="http://www.barnsley.gov.uk/bguk/education_skills/schools/bsf">www.barnsley.gov.uk/bguk/education_skills/schools/bsf</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Consultation</strong></td>
<td>This is a process which involves asking people and organisations for their views about planning decisions, including the local development framework (LDF).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Design and access statement</strong></td>
<td>A document that explains the design ideas behind a planning application.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Development plan document (DPD)</strong></td>
<td>A document within the LDF which we use to make decisions on proposals for development. In Barnsley, DPDs are the same as the old Unitary Development Plan (UDP). Most DPDs include policies and proposals which apply to specific areas or sites – these are shown on a proposals map.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Green belt</strong></td>
<td>Land which is protected from development except in very special circumstances.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Issues and options</strong></td>
<td>This is the first consultation stage for producing a development plan document. It aims to ask for people’s views on the issues the development plan document needs to deal with and the options for dealing with them.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Local development framework (LDF)</strong></td>
<td>A set of documents we will use to make decisions on proposals for development over the next 10 years or so. It will be made up of a number of different documents. The LDF will be made up of development plan documents, supplementary planning documents and a statement of community involvement. The documents in the LDF will set out how much development we plan to carry out in Barnsley and where it should be.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mitigation issues</strong></td>
<td>Matters which need to be addressed to make sure any harmful effects of development are reduced or compensated (made up) for.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>One Barnsley Community Plan</strong></td>
<td>A document that sets out the long-term ambitions for the borough and provides an overarching framework for other plans and strategies such as the LDF. You can downloaded it from <a href="http://www.onebarnsley.com/pdf/communityactionplan.pdf">www.onebarnsley.com/pdf/communityactionplan.pdf</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Preferred options</strong></td>
<td>The second consultation stage for producing a development plan document. It aims to ask for people’s views on our preferred policies and proposals. It also explains how we have chosen these options and gives reasons why we did not choose others.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Proposals map</strong></td>
<td>A plan which shows policies and proposals for specific sites and locations. These are shown on an Ordnance Survey map.</td>
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<td><strong>‘Remaking Learning’</strong></td>
<td>The programme for reorganising Barnsley’s schools</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sustainable development</strong></td>
<td>Development that has a positive effect on the economy, the environment and social conditions, and which uses natural resources carefully.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sub-Regional Centre</strong></td>
<td>A term used to classify settlements in the regional spatial strategy.</td>
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9 Appendix

Plan 1 – Where the advanced-learning centres will be

Plan 2 – Location plan for the replacement advanced-learning centre for Edward Sheerien and Royston schools

Plan 2a – Site plan for the replacement advanced-learning centre for Edward Sheerien and Royston schools

Plan 3 – Location plan for the replacement advanced-learning centre for Foulstone and Wombwell schools

Plan 3a – Site plan for the replacement advanced-learning centre for Foulstone and Wombwell schools

Plan 4 – Location plan for the replacement advanced-learning centre for Priory and Willowgarth schools

Plan 4a – Site plan for the replacement advanced-learning centre for Priory and Willowgarth schools
PROPOSED DISTRIBUTION OF ADVANCED LEARNING CENTRES (ALC'S)

Key
- ALC based on existing school site
- Proposed Barnsley Academy
- ALC's based on new sites
- Denominational ALC

BARNESLEY EDUCATION SITES DEVELOPMENT PLAN DOCUMENT
BARNESLEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
PLANNING & TRANSPORTATION SERVICE

PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION SERVICE
July 2008

Assistant Director: Stephen Moralee BA(Hons) MBA
PO Box 604, Barnsley. S70 9FETel: (01226) 772601

Drawing : T0085

PROPOSED DISTRIBUTION OF ADVANCED LEARNING CENTRES (ALC’S)

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REPLACEMENT ALC FOR EDWARD SHEERIEN & ROYSTON HIGH SCHOOLS

Drawing: T0085
Date: July 2008

Barndales Metropolitan Borough Council
Planning and Transportation Service
Assistant Director: Stephen Moralee BA(Hons) MBA
PO Box 604, Barnsley, S70 9FE
Tel: (01226) 772801

Barnsley Education Sites Development Plan Document
Plan 2

Key
- Existing School Sites
- Proposed New Site 14.06 Ha
- UDP Green Belt Area

Barndales Metropolitan Borough Council
Planning and Transportation Service

- EDWARD SHEERIEN
- ROYSTON HIGH

Planning and Transportation Service
Assistant Director: Stephen Moralee BA(Hons) MBA
PO Box 604, Barnsley, S70 9FE
Tel: (01226) 772801

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REPLACEMENT ALC FOR FOULSTONE & WOMBWELL HIGH SCHOOLS

Key

- Existing school sites
- Proposed new site
- 13.69 Ha and access road
- UDP Green Belt Areas
- Area of Search for Addition to Netherwood Country Park/Nature Reserve

Drawing: T0085

Drawn by: AKI
Date: July 2008