

Basis for overall approach of DPD

1.2 In general terms is the overall spatial strategy based on a sound assessment of the socio economic and environmental characteristics of the area and are the impacts properly assessed?

Natural England is satisfied that the environmental characteristics of the District have been properly identified and their relative importance soundly assessed. In terms of assessment of impacts we note that in this respect the HRA is of critical importance and are satisfied that the general approach of the HRA is sound.

1.4 In broad terms is the quantum of development proposed for housing, employment and retail properly justified? Is it deliverable over the timescales proposed?

Natural England notes that with regard to housing the environmental constraints in the District mean that it is exceptionally difficult to increase the quantum of development. The justification for the current approach has involved the testing of other potential housing locations through the HRA process and Natural England has been involved in this process.