



Calderdale LDF Evidence Base Summary



Evidence: Spatial Atlas

Date of publication: Version 1 – November 2009

Purpose of the Evidence:

A Local Authorities' vision for an area, and the future of its local places and spaces, should be based on sound evidence of its social, economic and environmental characteristics. The Spatial Atlas serves to highlight the main issues and challenges that currently exist within the borough, demonstrating how Calderdale is now, through an extensive variety of maps, figures and tables.

It brings together key geographic information, helping us to improve our understanding of how Calderdale places inter-relate and function at present, as well as indicating how they may grow in the future. This information will empower the Council to ensure the most effective future strategies and planning policies are put into place.

Main Issues Raised:

The Spatial Atlas uses data from a number of different data sources in its production. It brings together key spatial data from other parts of the LDF evidence base, together with many secondary data sources from outside of Calderdale MBC.

Different data sources are updated at different intervals, meaning that some of the issues covered may be assessed in relation to up-to-date annual figures, whereas other variables may rely on Census data which is now somewhat out of date (2001). Data is also provided at different spatial scales, depending upon the availability of that data.

Maps and data are presented in the spatial atlas under three initial group headings:

- Population;
- Transport and Infrastructure; and
- Housing and Households.

Following these introductory sections, further maps and data are presented and structured in line with the themes identified in the Calderdale Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS);

- Economy and Enterprise
- Environment
- Safer and Stronger Communities
- Healthier Communities
- Older People

- Children and Young People
- Narrowing the Gap

Recommendations/ Conclusions:

The Spatial Atlas presents well over 100 different maps, tables and diagrams together with a brief commentary on data observations or highlighted issues. It is designed as a reference document that will be updated periodically when necessary to help progress the LDF. There are therefore no specific recommendations or conclusions made within the report to summarise here unlike the other LDF evidence base documents that are produced.

Further Work Required:

The Spatial Atlas has been well received by the Planning Inspectorate, LDF peers and the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE) who have all received copies of the document through LDF preparatory work.

The assistance of the Spatial Atlas to help with the 'place-shaping' agenda in the LDF system is widely agreed; however comments have been made relating to using the data in more sophisticated ways to help develop the options in the Core Strategy. More detailed analysis of the data within the Spatial Atlas will therefore be used as the LDF progresses, including overlaying various data layers to help build up a clearer picture of the individual places in Calderdale.

Updated versions of the Atlas will also be published as and when necessary as new or more up to date data becomes available.