

Appendix A

Responses of the Natural and Built Environment Scrutiny Panel to the Questionnaire in the Local Development Framework (LDF) Issues Paper

- Q1. *What do you like about the District of Blaby?*
It was not felt appropriate to answer as a Panel. Members felt this needed a personal response.
- Q2. *What do you dislike about the District of Blaby?*
It was not felt appropriate to answer as a Panel. Members felt this needed a personal response.
- Q3. *Do you think that the policies and proposals of the LDF should consider not only current needs, but also needs of future generations?*
Sustainability should be taken into account where appropriate.
- Q4. *Do you think that new development in the District should take place on brownfield land before greenfield sites are developed?*
The Panel recognises that brownfield land is preferable to greenfield sites, however, the Panel expressed concern that undue development should not occur in one area and that rural sustainability could be affected by this policy.
- Q5. *Should the LDF encourage mixed use development in the District of Blaby?*
There is unlikely to be great opportunity for such mixed-use development but if it is to be allowed, care must be taken not to impact on quality of life of residents in the area.
- Q6. *What are your views on the quality of design of new developments in the District of Blaby, and do you think that the LDF should place a strong emphasis on better design quality?*
The Panel felt that quality of design is a very important issue, even on small scale developments and extensions.
- Q7. *Do you think that crime and anti-social behaviour can be influenced by the design of new developments, and if so, should the LDF include policies that encourage developments that design out crime?*
The Panel supports the concept of the LDF in trying to design out crime.
- Q8. *Do you think that new housing required to meet the District's needs should be provided on previously developed or under-used land (brownfield sites) or on previously unused/agricultural land (greenfield sites)?*

The Panel recognises that brownfield land is preferable to greenfield sites, however, the Panel expressed concern that undue development should not occur in one area and that rural sustainability could be affected by this policy.

- Q9. *Where do you think are the best locations for new housing?*
No comment made by Panel.
- Q10. *Do you think there is a need to provide specific types of housing such as affordable housing, elderly persons or any other specific housing type in the District of Blaby. If so, which types?*
The Panel recognises the increasing need for affordable housing in both rural and urban areas.
- Q11. *Do you think that all new housing development should be built at as high a density as possible, taking into account the character of the area?*
The Panel had considerable splits and differences over this item.
- Q12. *Do you feel that the Council should identify a specific site(s) to meet travellers' needs?*
The Panel feels that this Council may need to be more pro-active in meeting travellers' needs.
- Q13. *Do you consider that, where possible, new employment sites should be built within existing settlements or on greenfield land?*
Existing settlements are preferable to greenfield sites.
- Q14. *Do you think that new employment uses should be mixed in with new and existing housing areas in the District of Blaby, or on sites specifically designed for employment (often on the edge of existing towns and villages)?*
The LDF should not preclude employment uses, however, the amount of employment required will mean inevitably some large-scale employment sites will be necessary.
- Q15. *Should the Council allow existing employment sites in towns and villages to be re-developed for housing?*
The Panel recorded that this was a highly controversial question and no consensus was reached.
- Q16. *What type and scale of employment land/buildings should be provided for in the District of Blaby?*
The Panel feels that the consultation process will give more information on this question.
- Q17. *What buildings/areas do you think are in need of protection in the District of Blaby and why?*
The Panel welcomed the protection of conservation areas including the rolling programme of areas proposed to be added.

- Q18. *What areas and features of the natural Environment need protection from inappropriate development in the Local Development Framework?*
It was felt that the urban fringe at Blaby, as well as other key areas of open space used by residents for recreational activities such as Croft Hill and Mill Lane need protection from inappropriate development.
- Q19. *Do you think it is important to have policies that encourage energy conservation and recycling in the Local Development Framework?*
The Panel would welcome policies encouraging energy conservation and recycling.
- Q20. *Are you aware of any town or village centres that are no viable or well-used because of the mix of uses (too many take-aways/non-retail uses for example)?*
The Panel endorses the current policy of protecting the viability of town and village centres.
- Q21. *Are more shops required in the District? If so, where should these be located?*
The Panel felt that growth at Fosse Park would not be in the best interest of Blaby District residents due the increase in traffic congestion and deterioration in air quality. However, the Panel would welcome anything that encouraged diversity for shopping areas within the District.
- Q22. *What additional leisure facilities would you like to see in the District and where would you like to see these?*
The Panel would want to see that opportunities for the creation of additional parks and facilities and the development of existing facilities are taken when they arise.
- Q23. *Do you consider there are enough play and open spaces? If not, where do you think more open spaces should be provided?*
The Panel felt that where new play areas and open space are created on development sites, care should be taken that these spaces do not impact negatively on residents.
- Q24. *Do you think that there are sufficient community facilities such as Leisure Centres, health centres and community halls in the District? If not, where do you think that new facilities should be provided?*
The Panel had no specific facilities in mind, but would encourage a policy that supports existing facilities and encourages any opportunities that may arise for additional facilities where needed.
- Q25. *Do you think that less emphasis should be given to the car in transport policy and in the design of streets?*

The Panel recognises that the car is an integral part of transport within Blaby District but would welcome policies that protected children and residents in built up areas.

Q26. *Are public car parks in the District of Blaby of the right size and in the right place? If not what actions need to be taken?*

The Panel endorses the provision of public car-parking and would also welcome more parking space for Narborough train station.

Q.27 *Should the potential for additional Park and Ride facilities be explored?*

The Panel would welcome Park and Ride facilities in the correct location. The location must not exacerbate the traffic and air quality issues for Blaby District residents.

Q28. *Is there a need for additional cycling facilities within the District, and if so, where?*

The Panel would welcome additional cycling facilities within the District and would welcome working in co-operation with the Highways Authority to establish locations.

Q29. *Is there a need for new passenger railway station in the District and if so, where?*

The Panel believes that there will be a continued increase in pressure from the public for access to the public rail network.

Q30. *Do you think that the amount of car parking spaces in new developments should be limited, or would this result in greater levels of on-street parking?*

The Panel does not feel that car parking spaces should be reduced.

Q31. *Are there any other issues, not covered in this paper, which you think should be considered in the LDF?*

No comment made by Panel.

Q32. *Which one issue, from questions 1-31 above, do you think should be top priority for the LDF?*

No comment made by Panel.

Q33. *Do you have suggestions as to the best way of consulting people on the LDF in the future, and who do you think should be consulted?*

The Panel endorses the current approach taken, however it feels that scrutiny should review the approach in the future to consider the various options available such as the use of e-mail, the website and DVD and delivering presentations to different focus groups, e.g. the business community and retailers.