

Module 6: Achieving climate change mitigation and adaptation in masterplanning

Group Exercise 3

Leeds Aire Valley

Thinking back to the example of Bath Western Riverside, as well as the technical strategies for the Olympic Park, we would like you to use the example of the Leeds Aire Valley to brainstorm ideas for climate change adaptation and mitigation.

In your groups, using the coloured marker pens provided, diagrammatically mark up the drawing to show some first thoughts about:

1. Connections into the site: vehicles; buses; cyclists; pedestrians
2. Location of neighbourhood centre: primary school; doctor's surgery; shops etc
3. Green infrastructure: public space; parks; allotments etc
4. Energy: orientation; energy centre; waste heat sources
5. Water: flood displacement; sustainable urban drainage (SUDs)

For each of the above, think about the implications for planning process: public consultation; compulsory purchase orders; design codes; S106 and other legal agreements etc.

You have 25 minutes

Some Information on Aire Valley

- Leeds City Council is producing an area action plan for the Aire Valley. This promotes a mix of residential and commercial use. The Aire Valley is also identified as an Urban Eco Settlement (along with a number of other sites in Leeds City Region), which was developed as a Leeds City Region response to the Eco Town proposals. The sites were well-positioned brownfield sites that had the potential to deliver sustainable growth.
- There is a large Waste Water Treatment Works called Knostrop, which is in the middle of the Aire Valley. There are no plans for this site to be moved and Yorkshire Water plan to continue to operate from the site.
- The vacant parts of the Aire valley that are not being considered for housing are part of an Enterprise Zone. This is made up of four sites (which are identified on the map).
- There is an extant consent for a single wind turbine by the Knostrop WwTW site, which is likely to be constructed next year.
- The East Leeds Link Road runs through the site providing connectivity to the city centre and directly to the M1. Whilst this is beneficial it also segregates the area from the community to the north.
- Flood risk is an issue, but Leeds City Council and the Environment Agency have designed a Flood Allevation Scheme that covers much of the Aire Valley.
- The Council's Core Strategy considers the potential for hydro power along the river.
- There are two energy from waste facilities, currently going through planning system. The first is on a large site off the A63 at Newmarket Lane (and would take municipal and commercial waste). The second would process only commercial waste and is located near the river (see map).