

Welcome

As part of the emerging Calderdale Local Plan, Calderdale Council is commencing work on a Placemaking and Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document (SPD).

The document will provide guidance to ensure that all development in Calderdale, from new housing developments to town centre regeneration and highway schemes, delivers a consistent and high-quality standard of design and creates a rich legacy for the future.

The council has appointed JTP, architects and community planners, to work with stakeholders and the local community to draw up the SPD. We need your help to identify:

- What it is that makes Calderdale special for the people who live and work here?
- What are the special characteristics of different places within the borough?
- What/where do people find unattractive and how could it be improved?
- What should new development look like?

We want to hear what you think.

Historical Development



Bridge Gate, Hebden Bridge



Town Gate, Heptonstall



Bethel Street, Brighouse



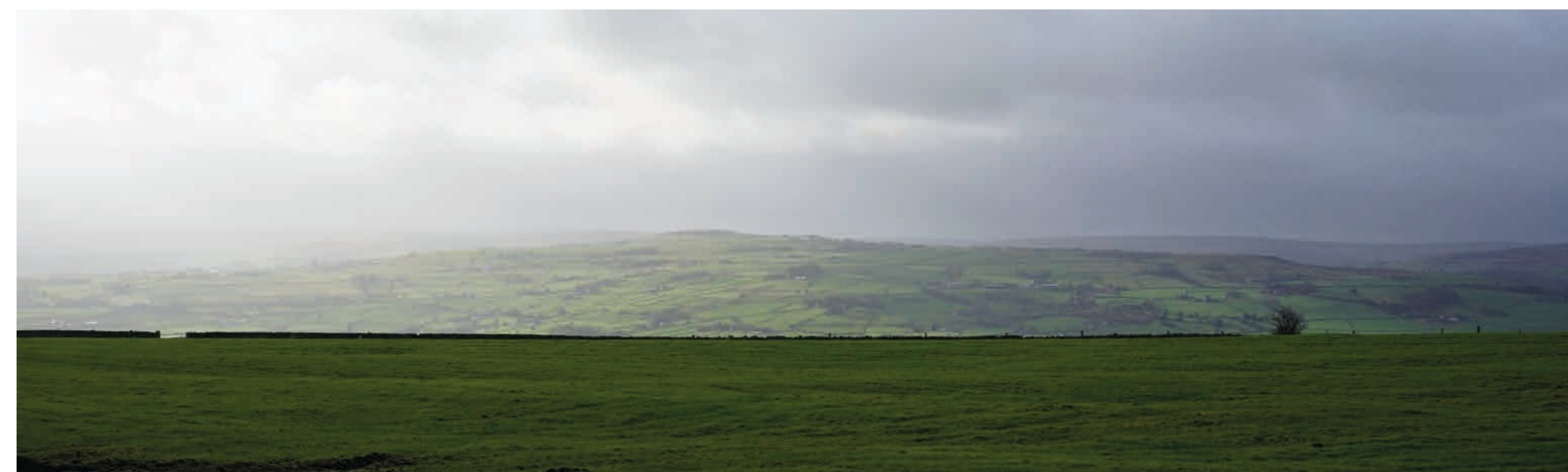
River Calder, Hebden Bridge



Land above Ripponden



Owler Ings Road, Brighouse



Landscape above Ripponden



Old Market, Halifax



Ripponden

Recent Development/Regeneration



Thornhill Road, Brighouse



Clough Lane, Brighouse



Mixenden



Ripponden



Mixenden



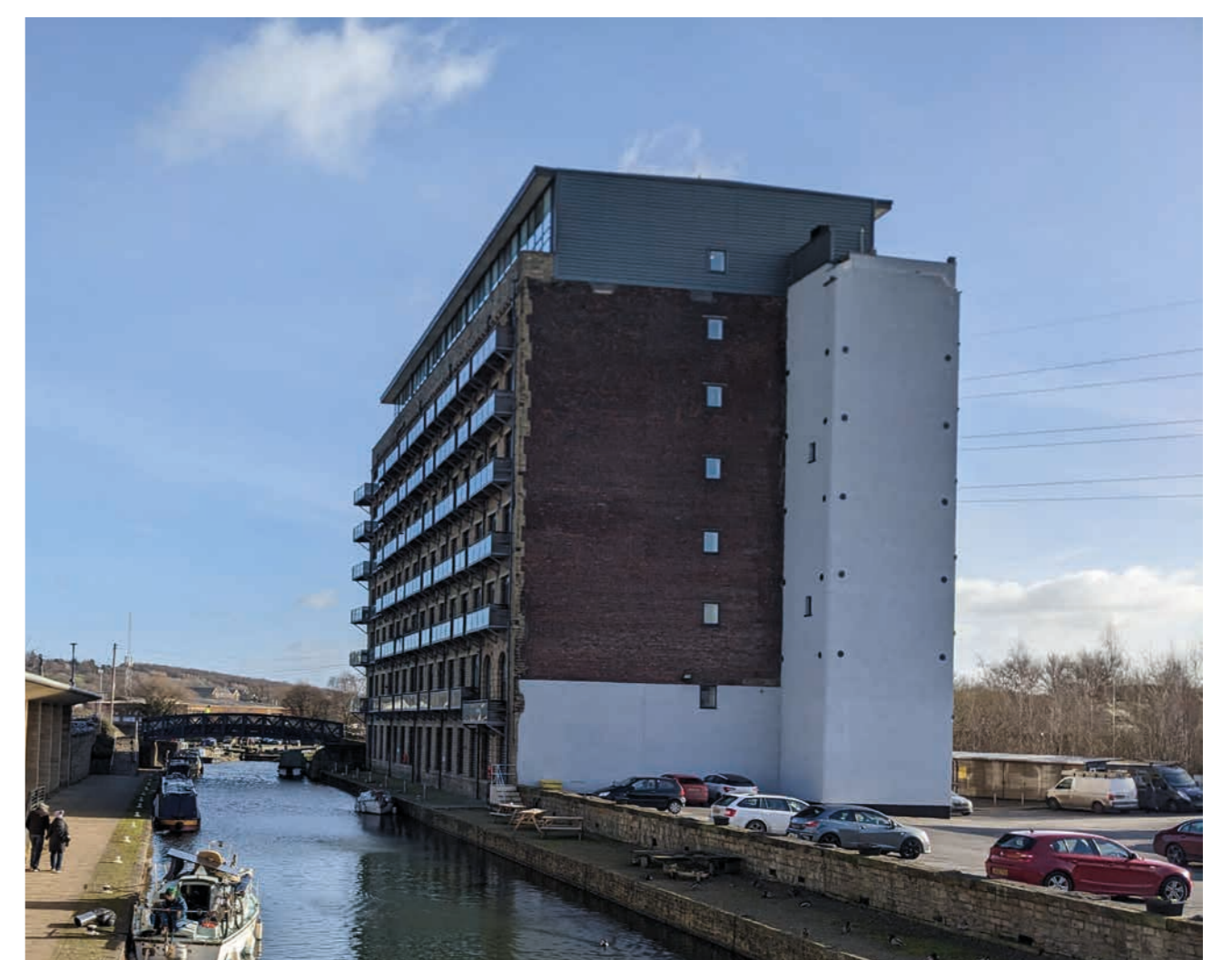
The Vault, Hebden Bridge



Castlegate House, Elland



Old Cawsey, Sowerby Bridge



Mill Royd Mill, Brighouse

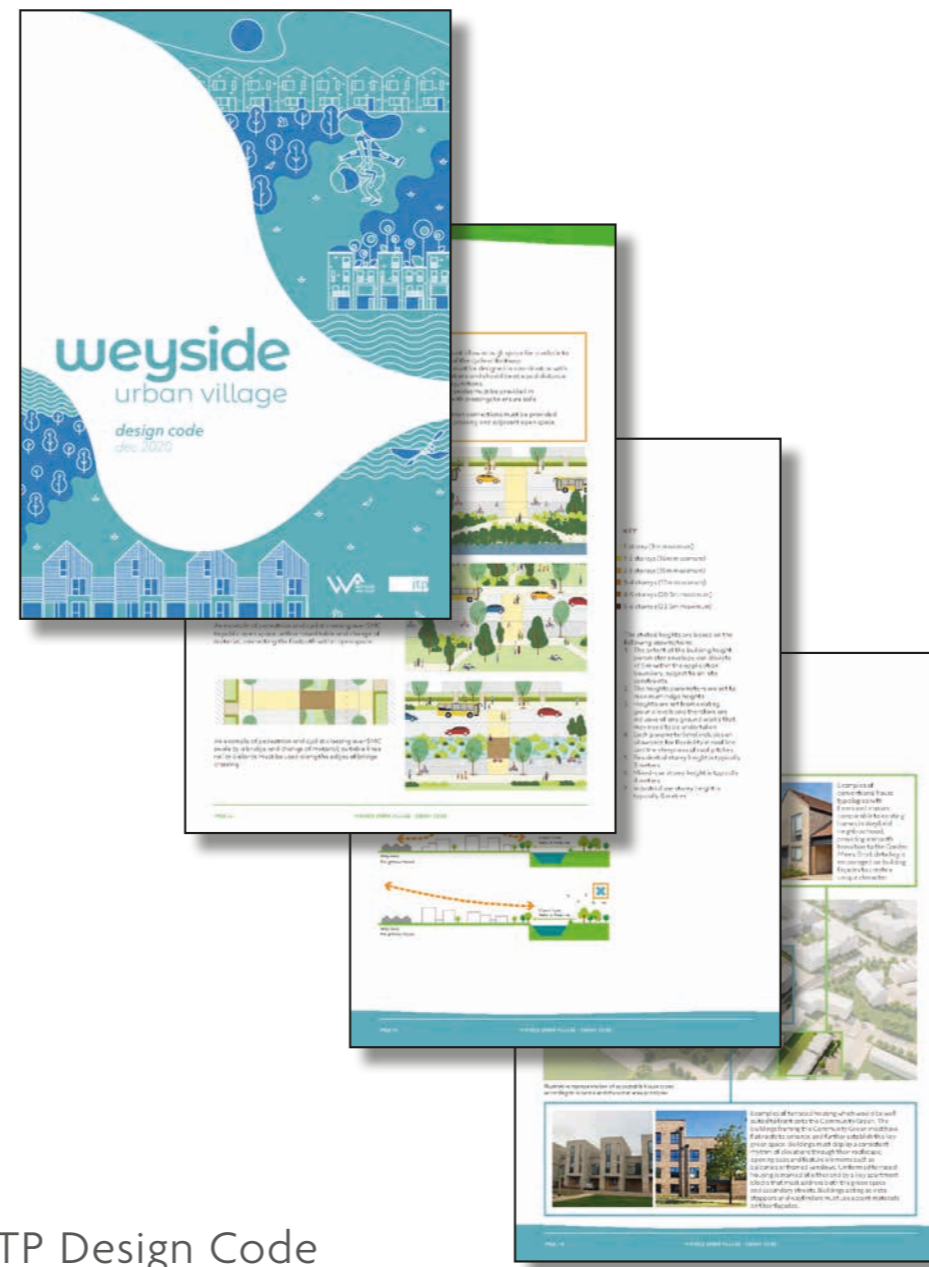
What is a Design Guide?

A Design Guide is a document setting out how development within a particular area can be carried out in accordance with good design principles. Information is presented as a mix of diagrams and supporting text which should be concise and easy to understand.

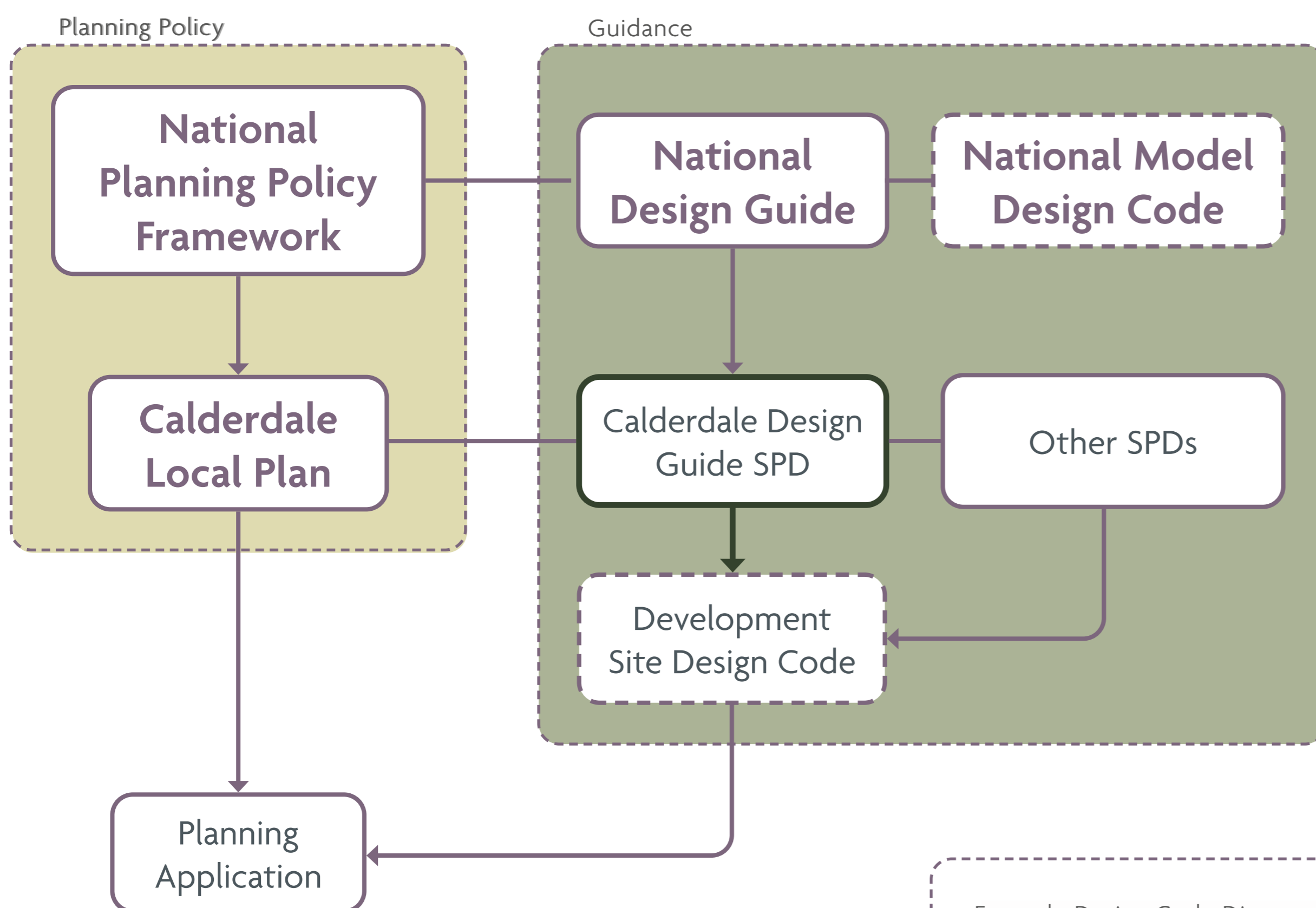
A Design Guide should:

- Provide clarity about what will be acceptable at an early stage of the design process.
- Reflect local character and preferences.
- Help to create places with a consistent and high-quality standard of design.

The guidance effectively sets a benchmark for quality, with an overall ambition of maintaining and creating attractive and successful places which all sections of the community can enjoy.



Example JTP Design Code



Planning Background

National planning policy states that all local planning authorities should prepare design guides consistent with the principles set out in the National Design Guide (2019) and the National Model Design Code (2021), and which reflect local character and design preferences. Central to both these documents are ten interlinked characteristics of a well-designed place, shown in the adjacent circular diagram, which set out a framework for the development of design guides.

At present, the council lacks a locally specific design guide. The Placemaking and Design Guide SPD will provide additional guidance on the implementation of the Local Plan policy on Design, and also be informed by the Council's Corporate Priorities which are as follows:

1. Reduce inequalities.
2. Create strong, thriving towns and places.
3. Tackle the climate emergency.

The guidance will also be influenced by the principles of 'Green and Healthy Streets' and the 'Building for a Healthy Life' assessment methodology.

What will the Design Guide include?

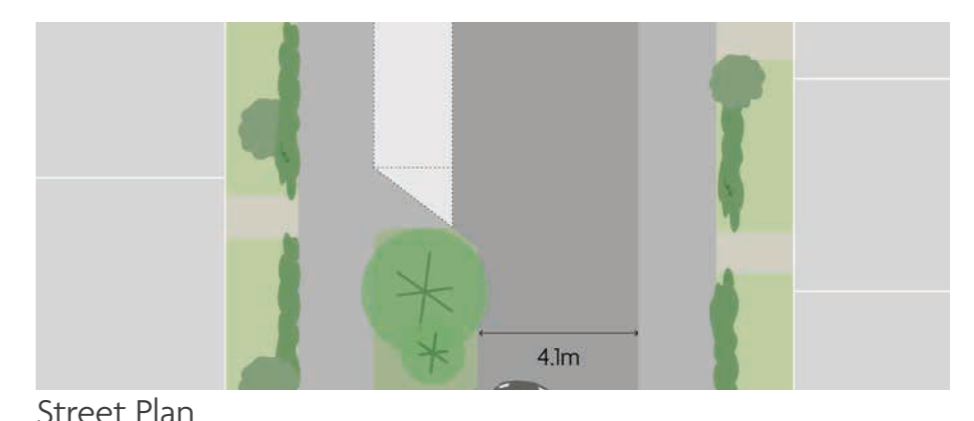
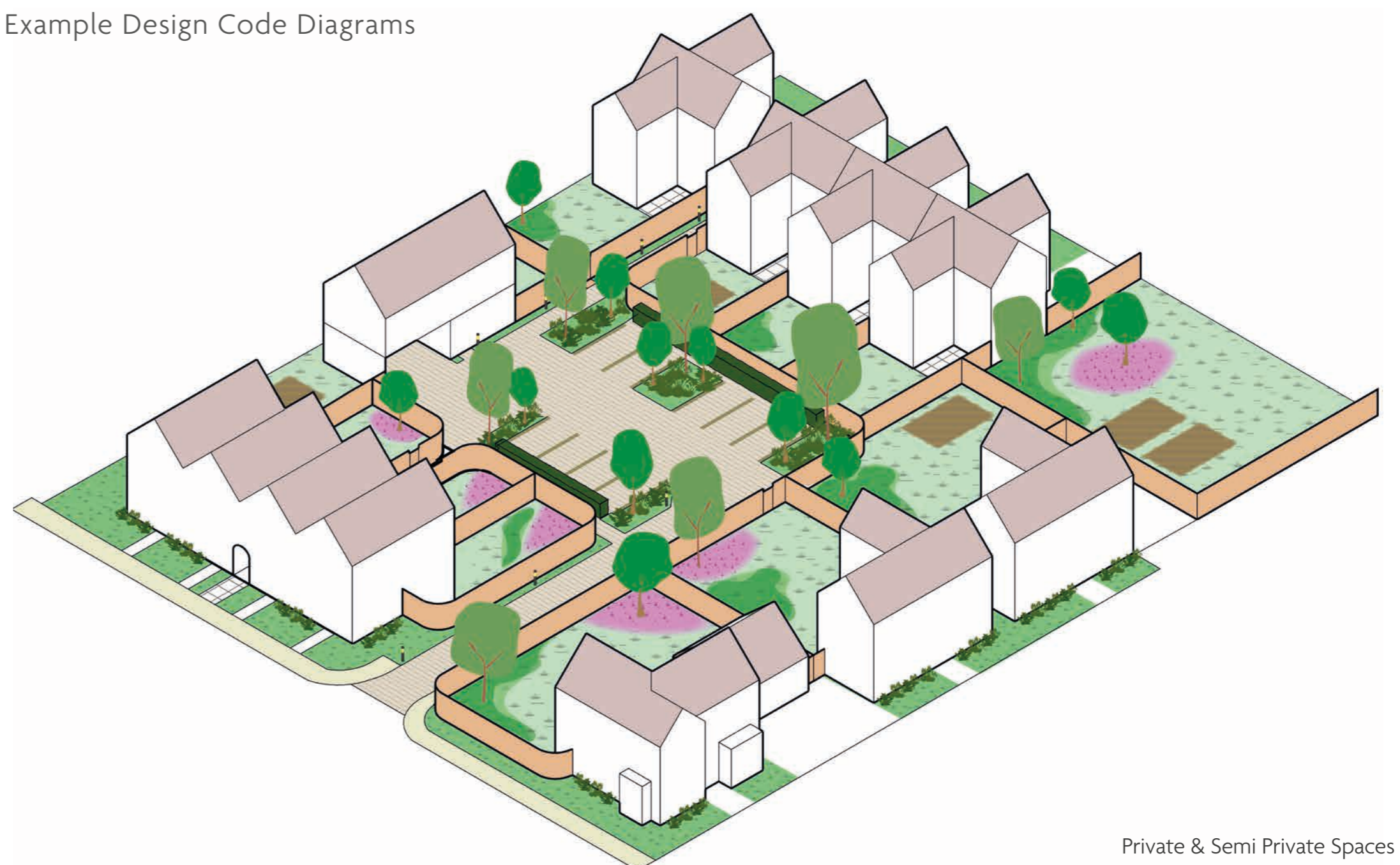
The design guidance will be based on a thorough assessment of the character of the local area including built form, landscape character and cultural context, informed by engagement with the people who live and work in the area. General design guidance will be provided for the whole of the district as well as more specific requirements for particular 'area types' with specific character. The SPD will also provide clear advice on how to prepare and submit planning applications, including the need for appropriate engagement with council officers, key stakeholders, and the public.

Who will use the Design Guide?

Anyone wishing to submit a planning application in Calderdale will need to refer to the Calderdale Placemaking and Design Guide to ensure that their proposals meet the expected design standards.

Council officers assessing applications will also use the document to decide whether development proposals have achieved a sufficient level of quality, and if not, provide clear guidance to applicants on what changes they will need to make.

Example Design Code Diagrams



How Can the Community Get Involved?

Calderdale Council has appointed JTP, architects and community planners, to work with stakeholders and the local community to draw up the SPD.

Through April 2023 you can take part in an online survey and in-person workshops close to where you live. Following the first round of engagement in April, the JTP design team will draw up the draft design guidance, which will be reported back to the community in-person and online for further comment. Once the Design Guide is finalised it will be submitted to Calderdale Council for adoption as a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD).

Online

Take part online to give your initial comments on areas you know via an interactive map or questionnaire. Please visit jtp.co.uk/projects/shapingcalderdale

In-person Workshops

Take part in-person at the Shaping Calderdale workshops which will be an opportunity to share your local knowledge and help shape the places you live.

Participation is on a drop-in basis – there is no need to pre-register and you can stay for a short while, an hour or two or the whole event as you wish.

Workshops will be taking place at five locations (tbc):

- Brighouse (venue tbc)
- Southgate Methodist Church Hall, Elland
- Halifax Town Hall
- The Town Hall, Waterfront Hall, Hebden Bridge
- Halifax RUFC, Function Room



Collaborative Placemaking

We put people at the heart of the planning process, unearthing the real needs of a community, empowering stakeholders, creating goodwill, inspiring community spirit and building consensus.

JTP approach all our projects through a process of Understanding, Engaging, Creating. Together they add up to a process we call 'Collaborative Placemaking':

Understanding the DNA of a place is fundamental to successful placemaking. We don't stop until we truly get under the skin of a place and identify what makes it special.

Engaging stakeholders and the wider community at an early stage encourages understanding, creates shared ownership, and enables the creation of a collective vision.

Creating begins with the visioning process and ends with physical interventions. Along the way there are many issues to resolve and many actions to coordinate. This adds up to a process we call "Collaborative Placemaking".



Site walk about



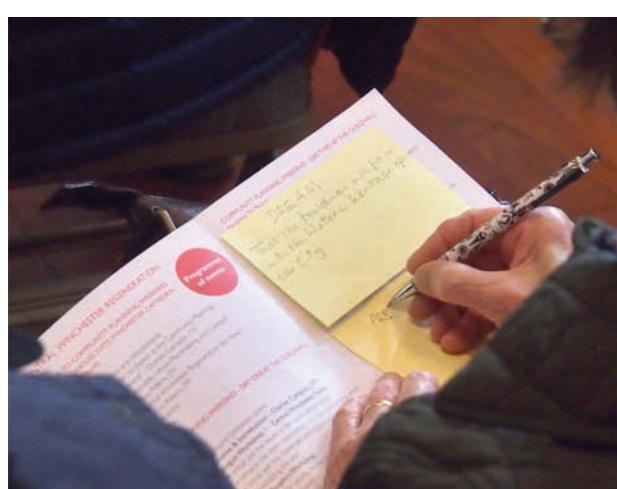
Young People's Workshop



Hands-on Planning Workshop



Hands-on Planning Workshop



Post-it Workshop



Post-it Workshop



Hands-on planning Report Back

District of Calderdale Aerial Map



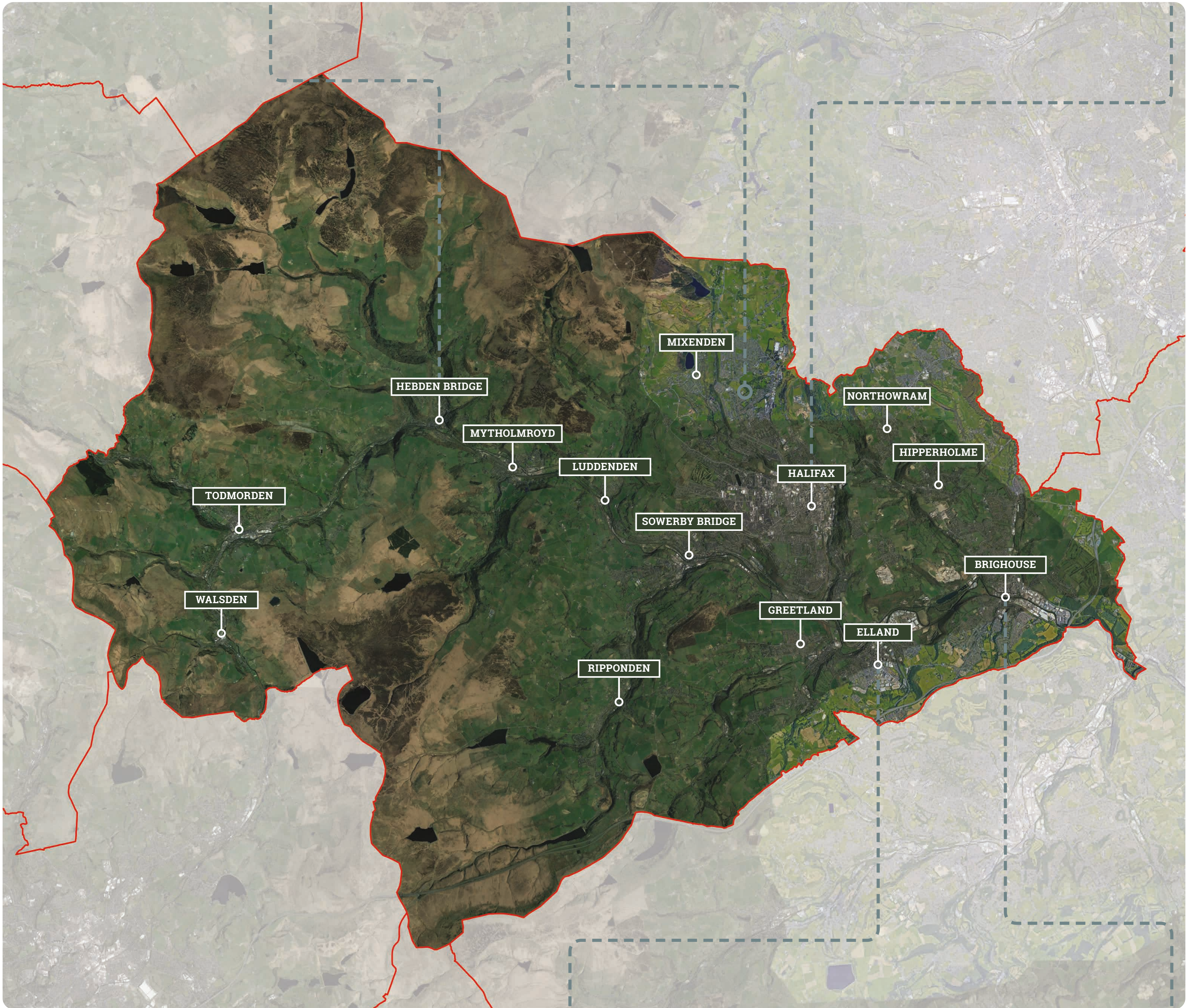
Hebden Bridge



North Halifax



Halifax

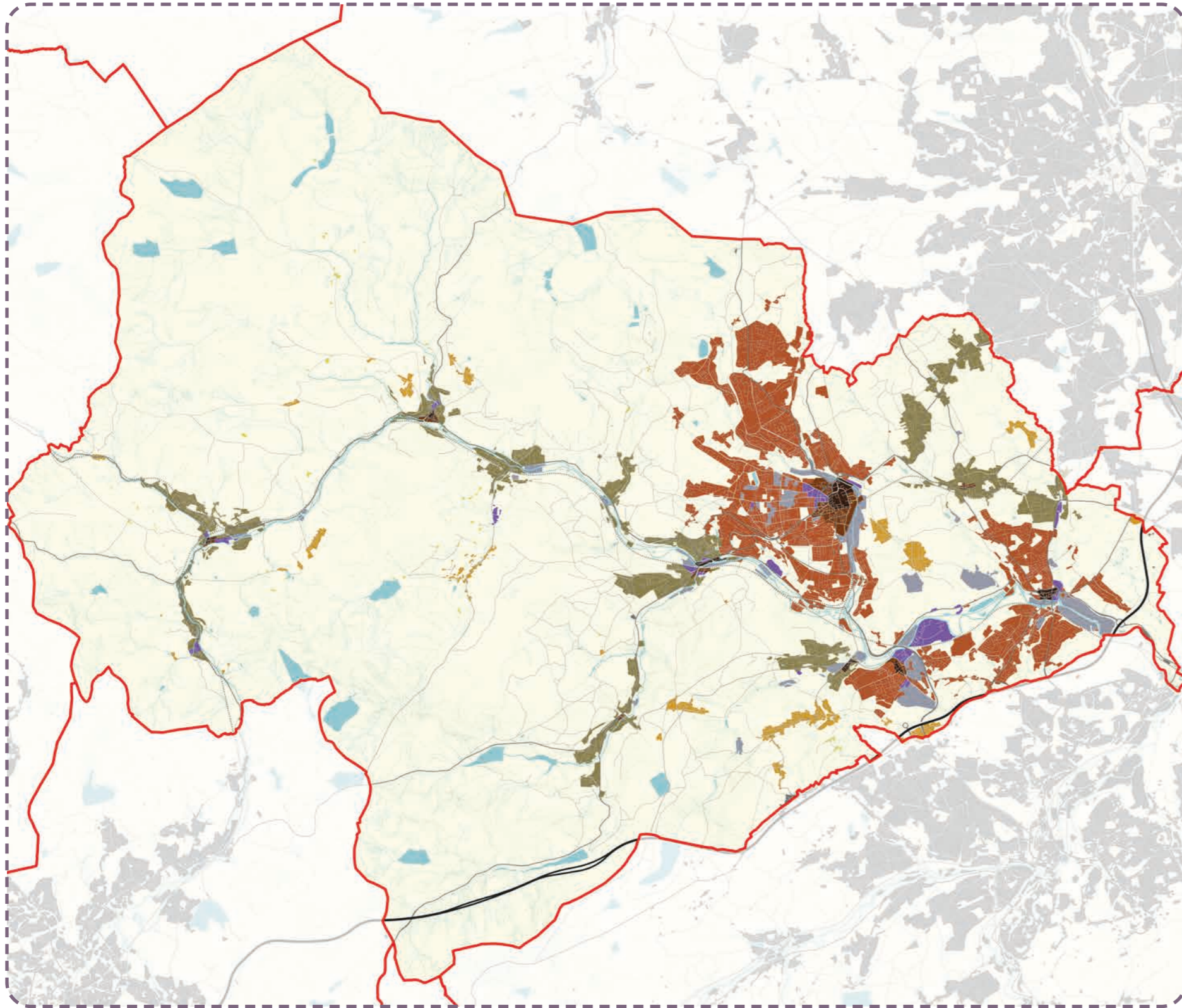


Elland



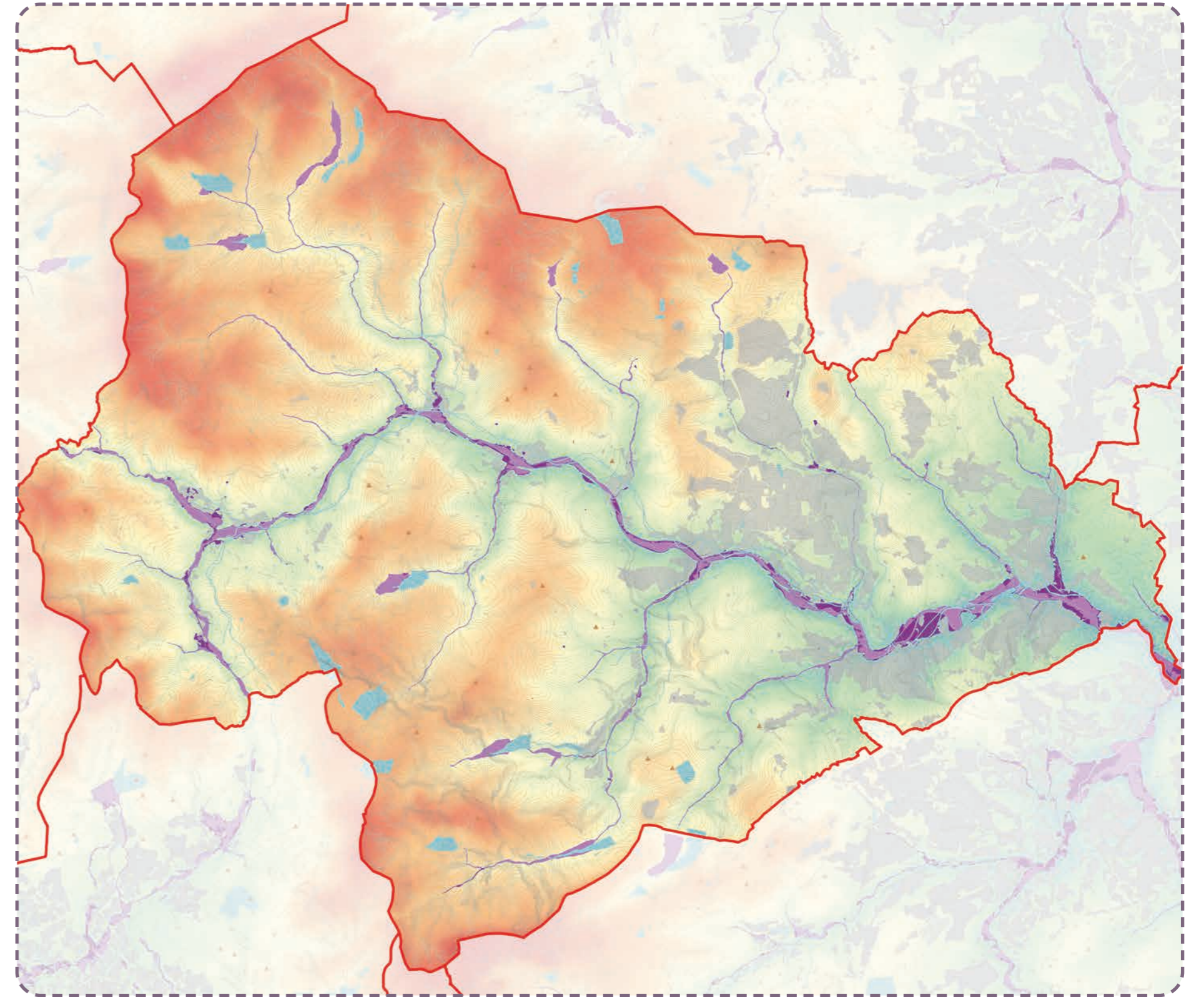
Brighouse

Calderdale District Analysis



Types of Development

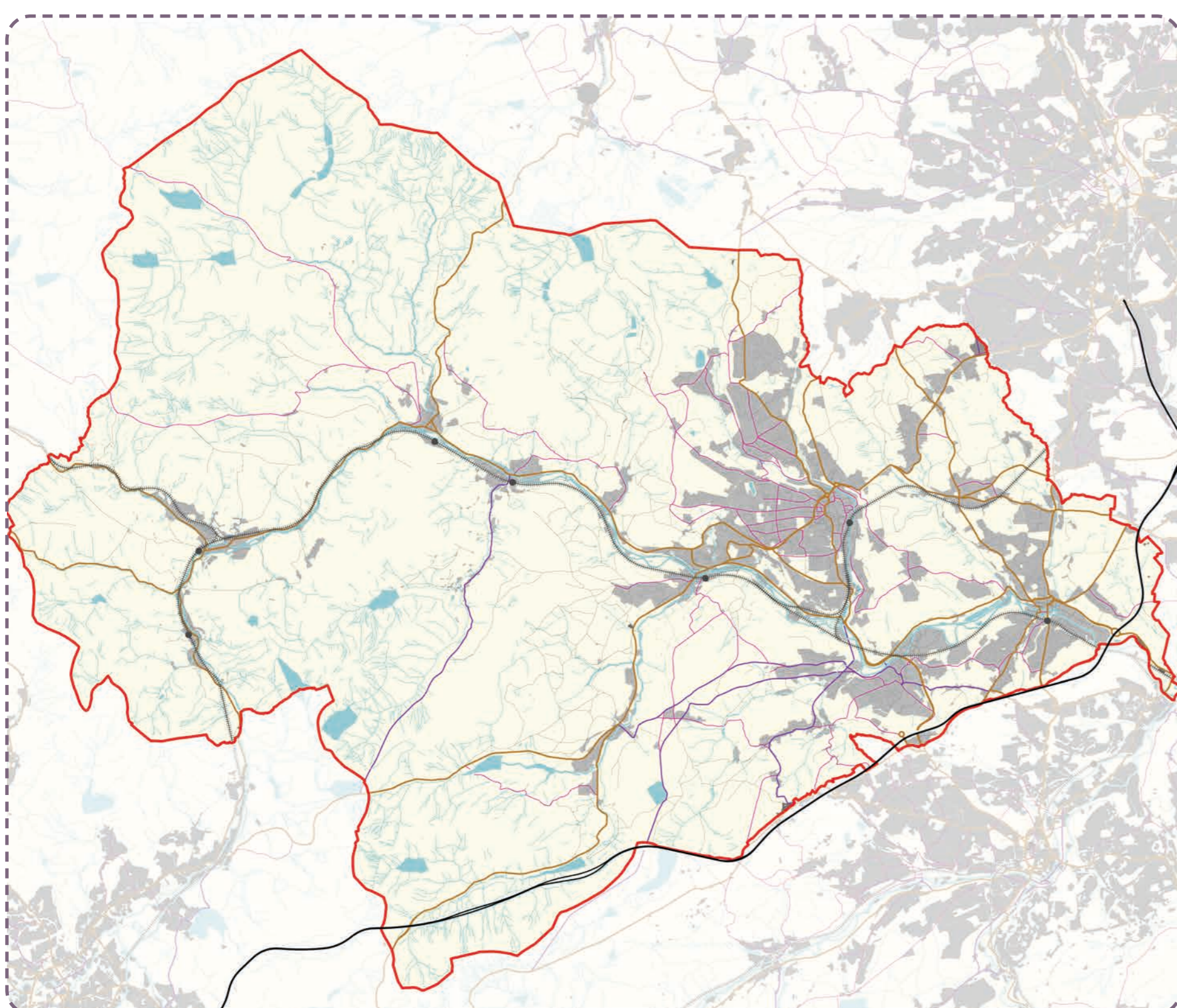
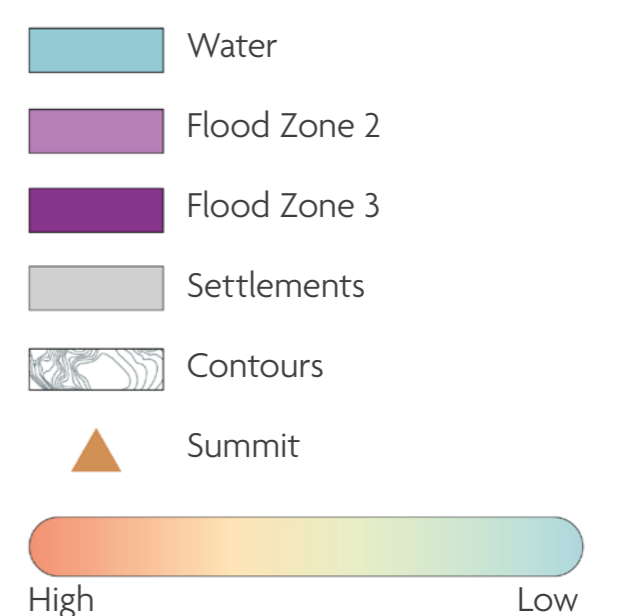
Around 80% of Calderdale's population live in the eastern third of the Borough in Halifax, Brighouse and Elland and the villages associated with those settlements. To the west of Halifax, the high moors, and Calder Valley with the towns and villages of Todmorden, Hebden Bridge, Mytholmroyd and Ripponden have just over 20% of the population. Industrial and commercial activity is predominantly focused on the larger towns and along the valley bottoms.



Topography & Flood Risk

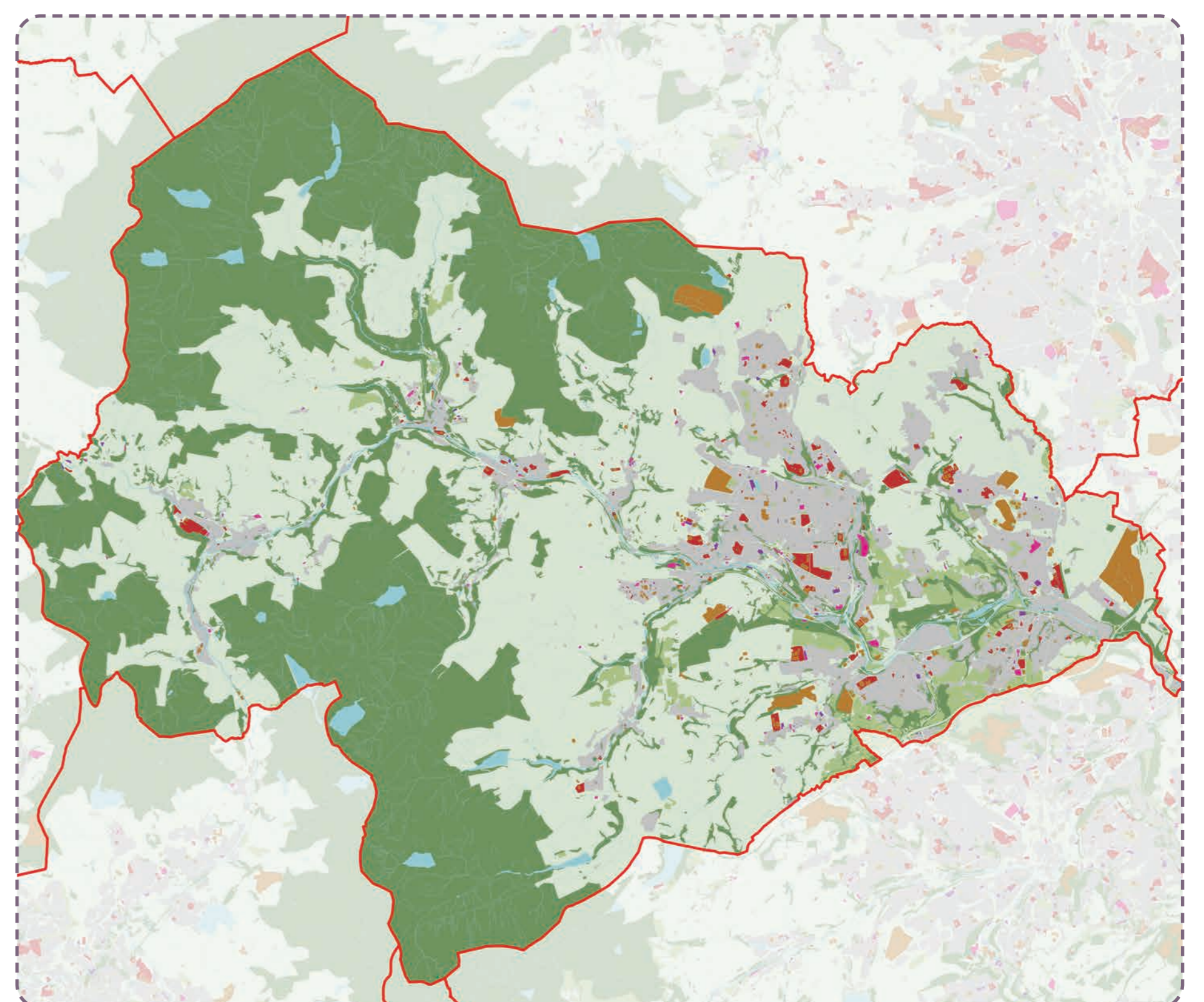
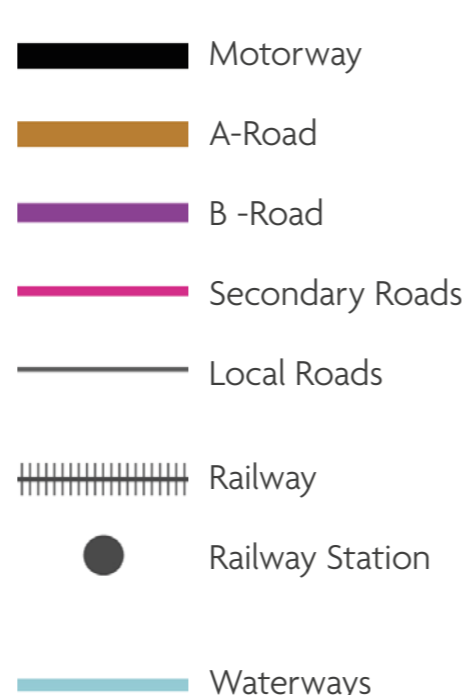
Western Calderdale is characterised by steep incised valleys and high moors with smaller settlements on the hillsides and market towns nestling in the valley bottoms. These can be greatly affected by flooding from the River Calder and its tributaries, or as a result of inefficient drainage within some urban areas. There are large areas of the valley bottom and towns within Class 3 Flood Risk areas.

Eastern Calderdale is generally flatter but is still characterised by development stepping up and down valley sides, creating distinct local landmarks and long views towards distant landscape.



Movement

The topography of the Borough forces the main transport routes including the road and rail network into the valley bottoms, along with the rivers and the Rochdale Canal. Towpaths along the canal encourage cycling along the valley bottom and the wider cycle network is being improved. New development offers the chance to encourage greater numbers of people to walk and cycle on a regular basis for health and recreation.



Open Space

The district has a wide variety of landscape and open spaces, from large open spaces on the tops to small pockets of amenity space in amongst development. Green Belt covers much of the Borough encompassing the urban areas and extends to about 23,000ha. The rivers and canal system bring nature into the heart of the valley, but many communities have poor access to formal amenity space for amenity and recreation.

