8. OTHER MATTERS

8.1 Monitoring and implementation

a. Are the arrangements for monitoring the policies of the Core Strategy adequate, effective and soundly based, including the indicators, baseline information and targets/ milestones used?

Appendix 2 of the Core Strategy sets out a monitoring framework for policies in the document. This Appendix is subject to a proposed change (see Schedule of Changes – Proposed, CS_Sub2.2) which reduces the number of indicators. These indicators will be incorporated into an Annual Monitoring Report.

The indicators are grouped according to the themes that the thematic policies sit in, together with a cross cutting theme ‘climate change’. The range of indicators are considered adequate to measure the policies, for example policy H1 (Housing Mix) is covered by Net additional homes provided (NI 154), Supply of ready to develop sites (NI 159), Housing completions by location, tenure, type and bedrooms (LI Ho1) and Number of new homes built within Council Tax bands F, G, H (LI Ho3). Where appropriate targets have been incorporated.

The monitoring framework is subject to a proposed change that reduces the number of indicators and results in a more concise and focussed framework. The information required to monitor the more extensive range of indicators contained within the Submission version was provided by the Local Area Agreement and National Indicator Set which have been abolished. The Council is mindful that these have been replaced with the ‘single data list’ which contains a much reduced list of data that Local Government needs to provide Central Government. It is also aware of the announcement on 30th March 2011 that withdraws the guidance in relation to Local Plan Monitoring and that it will be a matter for each Council to decide what to include in there monitoring reports.

Appendix 4 also contains a housing trajectory which will be updated on an annual basis through the Annual Monitoring Report.

b. Are the delivery mechanisms, phasing and timescales for the implementation of the policies clearly identified, and does the Core Strategy and supporting evidence clearly identify the key elements of infrastructure which are crucial for the delivery of the strategy, including key delivery partners, funding and implementation arrangements?

1 Letter to Chief Planning Officers by Bob Neill MP, 30th March 2011
Chapter 6 of the Core Strategy addresses phasing of delivery and implementation. It splits the 15 year plan period into three 5 year phases and sets out the major schemes and the preparation of development briefs and Supplementary Planning Document’s that are anticipated to take place in the phases. Appendix 9 of the Core Strategy contains a list of policies, each of which is accompanied by a delivery table. This identifies the key partners, phasing (includes timing where appropriate), risks and contingencies.

The infrastructure required to support the delivery of the policy is also set out in the appendix 9 delivery tables. It also considers factors which may affect the delivery including funding, the prevailing economic circumstances and other factors. The Infrastructure Topic Paper provides greater detail on current infrastructure provision within the Borough, constraints on capacity and required infrastructure.

c. **What provision has been made in the Core Strategy and associated documents for alternative strategies to be implemented, and do the policies include sufficient flexibility and contingencies to take account of unexpected changes in circumstances?**

It is considered that the Core Strategy policies have sufficient flexibility to respond to unexpected change in circumstances. For example, policy H2 is responsive to changing economic climate when seeking the provision of affordable housing as is policy E2 in releasing certain employment sites for alternative uses based on a variety of criteria including changing demand.

Huncoat is a key area of change in the Borough with the Core Strategy proposing a Strategic Employment Site (policy A8) amongst other developments.

Part of the site had been granted planning permission for a Waste Technology Park but a subsequent CPO failed to acquire the land. The submitted Minerals & Waste Site Allocations DPD however still envisages the site to be suitable for a built waste facility. Given the fluidity of proposals and the possibility of further changes, it is proposed (see Schedule of further Proposed Changes) to amend policy A8 so it allows the development of the site for either a waste use and employment uses or both. This is considered to give it flexibility to respond to changing circumstances.

d. **Does the Core Strategy specifically indicate the circumstances when it will need to be reviewed, and identify the remedial actions to be taken if policies are not being successfully implemented?**

The risk section of the table within Appendix 9 sets out the factors that may affect the delivery of the strategy. The contingency section where appropriate sets out the “trigger points” (e.g. the type of housing being built against the required mix) when alternative actions may be taken and this includes a full or partial review of the strategy. The monitoring process will aid this process.
The Core Strategy also commits to review at the end of each 5 year phase, allowing changes to be made if necessary.