

# **Hyndburn Local Plan Core Strategy Review**

## **Core Strategy Policies Scoping Assessment**

**February 2018: Consultation Paper 1 of 3**

## Executive Summary

The Council's Core Strategy was adopted in January 2012 and provides the overarching planning policy framework for guiding growth and development in the Borough up to 2026 in the most sustainable way.

This consultation paper is the first stage of consultation on the review of the individual policies of the Core Strategy. It seeks to stimulate discussion and input at the beginning of the process about the scope and content of the Core Strategy and establish which policies and matters need to be reviewed. It considers whether each of the existing policies of the Core Strategy are still considered "sound" in terms of national planning guidance and whether there are other factors which need to be taken into account e.g. more up to date evidence which underpins the policy is now available. It sets out which policies, in the Council's view, are in need of review at this stage. It also sets out two new matters which the Council believes that the Core Strategy Review should address (air quality and highway safety) which are not fully covered at present.

No final decisions have been made about which policies are going to be reviewed. This consultation is a key way in which views on these matters will be gathered so the Council is very keen to receive feedback at this early stage to feed into the plan making process. You can tell us whether you think we have identified the correct policies for review or not and whether there are other matters that the Core Strategy Review should consider.

Please use the Council's Response Form to respond to this consultation.

**Note:** This paper forms the first of three consultation papers that the Council is seeking views on at this stage. The other papers include the Core Strategy Growth Options and Spatial Options (Paper 2) and the Site Allocations Scoping and Site Assessment Methodology (Paper 3)

# 1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Hyndburn Core Strategy was adopted in January 2012, just prior to publication of the National Planning Policy Framework. In the Core Strategy the Council committed to assessing the implementation of policies in three five-year phases. It is now over five years since adoption and the Council has therefore undertaken this initial scoping assessment of policies within the Core Strategy.
- 1.2 The scoping assessment is intended to identify the policy areas of the adopted Core Strategy that may require review. It considers whether the existing policies are ‘sound’ in line with the appropriate parts of paragraph 182 of the NPPF, specifically are they:
- Justified – is each policy still justified in light of the latest evidence base?
  - Effective – has each policy been effective over the last 5 years, i.e. is it being implemented?
  - Consistent – is each policy still consistent / compliant with national policy?
- 1.3 Table 1 below sets out the Council’s conclusion for each section/policy of the Core Strategy, on whether there is a need to consider that element further in a Core Strategy Review. Policies that are identified as requiring review will then be subject to public consultation in line with the Council’s latest published Local Development Scheme.
- 1.4 The outcome of the Core Strategy review process will be a single, consistent and comprehensive new strategic planning document (an updated Core Strategy) against which planning applications in Hyndburn will be assessed. The Accrington Area Action Plan, Development Management DPD and Site Allocations DPD will continue to form the complete Hyndburn Local Plan, providing the more detailed policies for decision making.
- 1.5 As well as identifying policies that are due for review, the Scoping Assessment also considers potential new policies that may be needed to fill any gaps in policy. New policies will be considered where necessary to ensure conformity of the Local Plan with national planning policy. These are presented in Table 2 below.

**TABLE 1: Scoping Assessment of the adopted Core Strategy (2012)**

Policy ref.	Title	Justified	Effective	Consistent	Comments	Policy Review required?
-	Foreword	-	-	-	General update of text required to reflect the Core Strategy Review process	-
<b>Chapter 1: Introduction</b>						
-	Introduction	-	-	-	General update of text required to reflect latest policy landscape nationally, regionally and sub-regionally	-
<b>Chapter 2: The Borough and its People</b>						
-	Spatial Portrait	-	-	-	General update of text required to reflect latest data in spatial portrait	-
<b>Chapter 3: The Future for Hyndburn</b>						
-	Vision & Strategic Objectives	-	-	-	Minor text updates necessary and spatial portrait may impact on overall 'vision' and 'strategic objectives'	-
BD1	The Balanced Development Strategy (including the key diagram)	?	?	✓	New OAN evidence implies that reasonable alternatives may now differ due to potential new growth requirements. E.g. Green Belt may be required. Extension of the plan period out to 2033 (adopted Core Strategy only to 2026) also impacts	✓
<b>Chapter 4: Thematic Policies</b>						
<b>ECONOMY</b>						
E1	Future Employment Provision	?	?	✓	New OAN evidence presented in the latest Employment Land Study has a direct impact on the requirement for land for employment uses (including retail)	✓

Policy ref.	Title	Justified	Effective	Consistent	Comments	Policy Review required?
E2	Protection, Modernisation and Development of Employment Sites	✓	✓	✓	No need to update the policy, however minor edits to the supporting text may still be necessary	✗
<b>EDUCATION</b>						
ED1	New and Improved Educational facilities	✓	✓	✓	No need to update the policy, however minor edits to the supporting text may still be necessary	✗
<b>HOUSING</b>						
H1	Housing Provision	?	?	✓	New OAN evidence presented in the latest SHMA has a direct impact on the housing requirement, and the Housing Needs Study impacts on the mix of house types too	✓
H2	Affordable Housing	✓	✓	✓	New evidence on housing need (SHMA) and viability (Economic Viability Study) of affordable housing both have potential impacts on this policy, however 20% recommended as minimum. Due to very low rates of delivery (due to viability), not considered at this stage necessary to consider reviewing target upwards. Therefore no need to review policy, though minor edits to supporting text may still be necessary	✗
H3	Gypsy and Traveller Provision	?	?	✓	The Council is due to update its evidence base on Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs therefore policy may be affected	✓
<b>HEALTH</b>						

Policy ref.	Title	Justified	Effective	Consistent	Comments	Policy Review required?
HC1	Green Space and facilities for walking & cycling	✓	✓	✓	New evidence from the Economic Viability Study may impact on the Council's approach and priority to planning obligations however Policies GC2 and DM11 of DM DPD covers flexibility on the viability front therefore no need to review policy, though minor edits to supporting text may still be necessary	✗
HC2	Leisure, Health and Culture	✓	✓	✓	No need to update the policy, however minor edits to the supporting text may still be necessary	✗
HC3	The Design of Residential Roads	✓	✓	✓	No need to update the policy, however minor edits to the supporting text may still be necessary	✗
HC4	Community Benefits / Planning Obligations	✓	✓	✓	No need to update the policy, however minor edits to the supporting text may still be necessary	✗
<b>ENVIRONMENT</b>						
Env1	Green Infrastructure	✓	✓	✓	No need to update the policy, however minor edits to the supporting text may still be necessary	✗
Env2	Natural Environment Enhancement	✓	✓	✓	No need to update the policy, however minor edits to the supporting text may still be necessary	✗
Env3	Landscape Character	✓	✓	✓	No need to update the policy, however minor edits to the supporting text may still be necessary	✗
Env4	Sustainable Development and Climate Change	✓	?	?	Requirement for water efficiency standards no longer permitted under the technical housing standards therefore policy will need reviewing	✓
Env5	Renewable Energy	✓	✓	✓	No need to update the policy, however minor edits to the supporting text may still be necessary (particularly to reflect Ministerial Statement)	✗

Policy ref.	Title	Justified	Effective	Consistent	Comments	Policy Review required?
Env6	High Quality Design	✓	✓	✓	No need to update the policy, however minor edits to the supporting text may still be necessary	x
Env7	Environmental Amenity	✓	✓	✓	No need to update the policy, however minor edits to the supporting text may still be necessary	x
<b>ACCESSIBILITY</b>						
T1	Improving Connectivity	✓	✓	✓	No need to update the policy, however minor edits to the supporting text may still be necessary	x
T2	Cycle and Footpath Networks	✓	✓	✓	No need to update the policy, however minor edits to the supporting text may still be necessary	x
T3	Motorway and Trunk Road Improvements	✓	✓	✓	No need to update the policy, however minor edits to the supporting text may still be necessary	x
<b>Chapter 5: Towns, Townships and other settlements</b>						
<b>General note</b> on Chapter 5 policies – area based policies still have a strategic element so should remain in the Core Strategy. Policies may be restructured, linked to BD1 better, Leeds and Liverpool Canal policies merged etc.						
<b>ACCRINGTON AND TOWNSHIPS</b>						
A1	Amount and Distribution of Housing in Accrington	?	?	✓	New OAN evidence and potential review of distribution of growth both mean that the justification and effectiveness of this policy is unclear at present and review will be necessary	✓
A2	Accrington Town Centre	?	✓	✓	New Retail Study and Employment Land Study may have implications for the strategy and distribution of retail and office space therefore policy may be affected	✓

Policy ref.	Title	Justified	Effective	Consistent	Comments	Policy Review required?
A3	Development of Local Centres in Accrington	?	✓	✓	New Retail Study and Town Centre Surveys will lead to a full review of the retail hierarchy in the Site Allocations DPD – policy may therefore be affected and be expanded	✓
A4	The Leeds and Liverpool Canal in Church	✓	?	✓	No need to update the policy; however minor edits to the supporting text may still be necessary. Policy may be more effective merged with A6 and R3	✓
A5	Brookside Business Centre	?	?	✓	Proposals for a Sustainable Construction Centre and Country Park no longer viable therefore policy review will be necessary	✓
A6	The Leeds and Liverpool Canal in Clayton-le-Moors	✓	?	✓	No need to update the policy; however minor edits to the supporting text may still be necessary. Policy may be more effective merged with A4 and R3	✓
A7	Housing in Huncoat	?	?	✓	New OAN evidence and planned review of Growth Options and Spatial Options mean that policy review will be necessary	✓
A8	Strategic Employment Site in Huncoat	?	?	?	New OAN evidence, planned review of Growth Options and Spatial Options, and planned Masterplanning work driven by HCA mean that policy review will be necessary	✓
A9	Whinney Hill Link Road	?	?	?	New OAN evidence, planned review of Growth Options and Spatial Options, and planned Masterplanning work driven by HCA mean that policy review will be necessary	✓
<b>GREAT HARWOOD</b>						
GH1	Housing in Great Harwood	?	?	✓	New OAN evidence and potential review of distribution of growth both mean that the justification and effectiveness of this policy is unclear at present and review will be necessary	✓

Policy ref.	Title	Justified	Effective	Consistent	Comments	Policy Review required?
GH2	Great Harwood Town Centre	?	✓	✓	New Retail Study, Employment Land Study and Town Centre Surveys may have implications for the strategy and distribution of retail and office space. The Site Allocations will also include a full review of the retail hierarchy therefore policy review will be necessary	✓
<b>RISHTON</b>						
R1	Housing in Rishton	?	?	✓	New OAN evidence and potential review of distribution of growth both mean that the justification and effectiveness of this policy is unclear at present and review will be necessary	✓
R2	Rishton Local Centre	?	✓	✓	New Retail Study, Employment Land Study and Town Centre Surveys may have implications for the strategy and distribution of retail and office space. The Site Allocations will also include a full review of the retail hierarchy therefore policy review will be necessary	✓
R3	The Leeds and Liverpool Canal in Rishton	✓	?	✓	No need to update the policy, however minor edits to the supporting text may still be necessary. Policy may be more effective merged with A4 and R6	✓
<b>KNUZDEN AND WHITEBIRK</b>						
KW1	Strategic Regional Employment Site at Whitebirk	✓	✓	✓	Development of Whitebirk underway therefore policy itself is not in need of review, though major edits to the supporting text likely due to changes in regional planning context	✗
<b>RURAL AREAS</b>						
RA1	Amount and Distribution of Housing in Rural Areas	?	?	✓	New OAN evidence and potential review of distribution of growth both mean that the justification and effectiveness of this policy is unclear at present and review will be necessary	✓

Policy ref.	Title	Justified	Effective	Consistent	Comments	Policy Review required?
RA2	Historic Character and Identity	✓	✓	✓	No need to update the policy, however minor edits to the supporting text may still be necessary	✗
RA3	Protection and Development of Altham Business Park	?	?	✓	New Employment Land Study and findings on OAN mean that employment strategy as a whole will be re-considered (through Growth Options and Spatial Options) therefore policy review will be necessary	✓
<b>Chapter 6: Phasing of Delivery and Implementation</b>						
-	Phasing of Delivery and Implementation	-	-	-	General update of text required to reflect new Phases of delivery (extended time period to 2033)	✓
<b>Appendices</b>						
-	Appendix 1: Evidence Base	-	-	-	General update of text required to reflect latest documents of relevance	-
-	Appendix 2: Monitoring Framework	-	-	-	Full review of the monitoring framework required as part of the completion of the new Local Plan	✓
-	Appendix 3: Glossary of Terms	-	-	-	General update of text required where relevant	-
-	Appendix 4: Housing Trajectories	-	-	-	Full review of the housing trajectory required due to new housing requirement	✓
-	Appendix 5: Strategic Employment Sites	-	-	-	General update of plans required as relevant to Site Allocations DPD work.	-

Policy ref.	Title	Justified	Effective	Consistent	Comments	Policy Review required?
-	Appendix 6: Changes to the Green Belt	-	-	-	General update of plans as required relevant to Site Allocations DPD work	-
-	Appendix 7: “Saved” policies of the Hyndburn Local Plan to be replaced by the Core Strategy	-	-	-	General update of text required where relevant	-
-	Appendix 8: Tables and Figures in the Core Strategy	-	-	-	General update of text required where relevant	-
-	Appendix 9: The delivery of the Strategy	-	-	-	Full review of the delivery of the Strategy required in light of current situation and infrastructure providers	✓

**TABLE 2: Scoping Assessment of potential new policies for the Core Strategy**

<b>Policy Subject</b>	<b>Rationale for policy requirement</b>
Air Quality	The Government published a draft UK Air Quality Plan in 2017, and planning can be a central tool for bringing issues around the built environment, infrastructure and air quality together. The current Core Strategy Policy Env7 covers issues of air pollution at a very broad level in the context of other amenity considerations. However the Council could introduce a specific strategic policy on air quality matters to help tackle the issues raised in the Air Quality Plan.
Highway Safety	The existing Core Strategy policies on Transport (T1: Improving Connectivity, T2: Cycle and Footpath Networks and T3: Motorway and Trunk Road Improvements) do not specifically cover matters of highway safety. Though this is covered in a Local Plan context via Policy DM32 of the DM DPD, the Council would like to see a strategic policy covering highway safety matters in new developments.