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Sustainability Appraisal of the Hyndburn Local Plan Core Strategy Review and Site Allocations DPD

Regulation 18 Consultation Stage

Final Report
Prepared by LUC
February 2018

Project Title: Sustainability Appraisal of the Hyndburn Local Plan Core Strategy Review and Site Allocations DPD – Regulation 18 Consultation Stage

Client: Hyndburn Borough Council

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1 Introduction

Introduction

- 1.1 This Sustainability Appraisal Report has been prepared by LUC on behalf of Hyndburn Borough Council as part of the integrated Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the Hyndburn Local Plan Core Strategy Review and Site Allocations Development Plan Document (DPD). There are two consultation documents relating to the Core Strategy – (1) the Core Strategy Review – Scoping Assessment and (2) the Core Strategy Review – Growth Options and Spatial Options Consultation Paper, and one consultation document relating to the Site Allocations DPD which details the Site Assessment Methodology. These documents are currently at the Issues and Options stage of the plan-making process and will be published in February 2018 for consultation.
- 1.2 This SA Report relates only to the Core Strategy Review – Growth Options and Spatial Options Consultation Paper as it is the only document which contains options that are suitable for assessment. The Core Strategy Review – Scoping Assessment identifies which policies in the Core Strategy will be subject to review and identifies potential new policies that may be needed to fill any gaps in policy. The Site Allocations DPD – Site Assessment Methodology outlines the proposed approach for appraising sites for inclusion in the Site Allocations DPD. Future iterations of this SA Report will include assessments of the policies and site allocations that will be considered for inclusion in the Core Strategy Review and Site Allocations DPD.
- 1.3 This SA Report should therefore be read in conjunction with those documents.

Geographical Context for the Hyndburn Local Plan

- 1.4 The Borough of Hyndburn is situated in the east of the County of Lancashire, forming part of the 'Pennine Lancashire' area, close to the border with West Yorkshire and Greater Manchester. Hyndburn lies in the foothills and valleys on the western edge of the Pennine Hills. Hyndburn shares its boundaries with four local authorities, Burnley to the east, Blackburn with Darwen to the west, Rossendale to the south, and Ribblesdale Valley to the north.
- 1.5 The principal town in Hyndburn is Accrington, which includes the townships of Oswaldtwistle, Church, Clayton le Moors, Baxenden and Huncoat. Other distinct settlements located within the Borough boundary include Great Harwood, Rishton and Altham. These urban areas are located close together, physically separated by only very narrow stretches of countryside in places, predominantly designated as Green Belt. Approximately 54% of the 73km² (28.1 sq. mile) Borough comprises land in the Lancashire Green Belt.
- 1.6 The Borough covers an area of 7,299 hectares. Lying in the foothills of the western edge of the Pennines, the Borough can broadly be categorised into the lower lying valleys around the towns of Accrington, Rishton and Great Harwood which are home to the industrial areas and the more rural uplands. Parts of the rural uplands can be characterised as moorland fringe landscape and, as the altitude rises towards the south-west corner of the Borough, the landscape becomes moorland hills, whilst that in the south-east area of the Borough is home to enclosed uplands.

The Hyndburn Local Plan

- 1.7 The new Hyndburn Local Plan will comprise four documents which will outline how the Borough will develop and grow over the next 15 years (to 2033). Once complete, it will replace the 1996 Local Plan for Hyndburn. The four Development Plan Documents (DPDs) are as follows:
- [The Core Strategy](#). Adopted on 19th January 2012, the Core Strategy sets out the strategic policy framework for development in the Borough up to 2026. Due to a number of significant changes in the national planning policy picture and the passage of time since adoption, a review of the Core Strategy is underway as certain elements of the plan are now considered to be out-of-date. The Core Strategy Review – Scoping Assessment and the Core Strategy Review Growth Options and Spatial Options Consultation Paper, which this SA relates to, will be published on 28th February 2018 for consultation for a six week period.
 - [The Accrington Area Action Plan DPD](#). Adopted on 19th January 2012 (prepared in parallel with the Core Strategy), the Accrington AAP sets the specific policy framework and regeneration plans for Accrington town centre.
 - [The Development Management DPD](#). Adopted on 11th January 2018. The Development Management DPD sets the detailed policy framework for the whole Borough, guiding decision making in relation to planning applications.
 - [The Site Allocations DPD](#). The Site Allocations DPD will set site specific planning policies including setting out specific site allocations and designations for the development and protection of land across the Borough. A first consultation document detailing a draft Site Assessment Methodology will be published on 28th February 2018 alongside the Core Strategy Review for consultation for a six week period.
- 1.8 The SA will form a key role in shaping the policies for both the Core Strategy Review and site selection in the Site Allocations DPD. It will also form a key part of the evidence base. Recently completed evidence base studies in support of the Local Plan include: the Strategic Housing Market Assessment & Housing Needs Study; Employment Land Study; Retail Study; Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment; and Economic Viability Study. An additional evidence base report recently commissioned by the Council includes a Green Belt Assessment. Further studies that are required include Habitat Surveys; a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment; an Open Space/Green Infrastructure Study; and a Gypsy and Traveller Site Assessment Study.

Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment

- 1.9 Sustainability Appraisal is a statutory requirement of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. It is designed to ensure that the plan preparation process maximises the contribution that a plan makes to sustainable development and minimises any potential adverse impacts. The SA process involves appraising the likely social, environmental and economic effects of the policies and proposals within a plan from the outset of its development.
- 1.10 Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is also a statutory assessment process, required under the SEA Directive¹, transposed in the UK by the SEA Regulations (Statutory Instrument 2004, No 1633). The SEA Regulations require the formal assessment of plans and programmes which are likely to have significant effects on the environment and which set the framework for future consent of projects requiring Environmental Impact

¹ SEA Directive 2001/42/EC

Assessment (EIA)². The purpose of SEA, as defined in Article 1 of the SEA Directive is “to provide for a high level of protection of the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans...with a view to promoting sustainable development”.

- 1.11 SEA and SA are separate processes but have similar aims and objectives. Simply put, SEA focuses on the likely environmental effects of a plan whilst SA includes a wider range of considerations, extending to social and economic impacts. National Planning Practice Guidance³ shows how it is possible to satisfy both requirements by undertaking a joint SA/SEA process, and to present an SA report that incorporates the requirements of the SEA Regulations. The SA/SEA of the Core Strategy Review and Site Allocations DPD is being undertaken using this integrated approach and throughout this report the abbreviation ‘SA’ should therefore be taken to refer to ‘SA incorporating the requirements of SEA’.

Structure of this Report

- 1.12 **Table 1.1** signposts how the requirements of the SEA Regulations have been met within this SA Report.

Table 1.1 Requirements of the SEA Regulations and where these have been addressed in this SA Report

SEA Regulations’ Requirements	Covered in this SA Report?
Environmental Report	
Where an environmental assessment is required by any provision of Part 2 of these Regulations, the responsible authority shall prepare, or secure the preparation of, an environmental report in accordance with paragraphs (2) and (3) of this regulation. The report shall identify, describe and evaluate the likely significant effects on the environment of:	
(a) implementing the plan or programme; and	
(b) reasonable alternatives taking into account the objectives and geographical scope of the plan or programme.	
(Regulation 12(1) and (2) and Schedule 2).	
1) An outline of the contents and main objectives of the plan or programme, and of its relationship with other relevant plans and programmes.	Chapter 1 and 3 and Appendix 1.
2) The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme.	Chapter 3 and Appendix 2.
3) The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected.	Chapter 3 and Appendix 2.
4) Any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to Directives 79/409/EEC on the conservation of wild birds and the Habitats Directive.	Chapter 3 and Appendix 2.
5) The environmental protection objectives, established at international, Community or Member State level, which are relevant to the plan or programme and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation.	Chapter 3 and Appendix 1.
6) The likely significant effects on the environment, including short, medium and long-term effects, permanent and temporary effects, positive effects, and secondary, cumulative and synergistic effects, on issues such as:	Chapters 4 and 5 and Appendices 4 and 5.
(a) biodiversity;	
(b) population;	

² Under EU Directives 85/337/EEC and 97/11/EC concerning EIA.

³ <http://planningguidance.planningportal.gov.uk/>

SEA Regulations' Requirements	Covered in this SA Report?
(c) human health; (d) fauna; (e) flora; (f) soil; (g) water; (h) air; (i) climatic factors; (j) material assets; (k) cultural heritage, including architectural and archaeological heritage; (l) landscape; and (m) the interrelationship between the issues referred to in sub-paragraphs (a) to (l).	
7) The measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme.	To be prepared at a later stage in the plan process.
8) An outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with, and a description of how the assessment was undertaken including any difficulties (such as technical deficiencies or lack of know-how) encountered in compiling the required information.	Chapter 2.
9) A description of the measures envisaged concerning monitoring in accordance with regulation 17.	To be prepared at a later stage in the plan process.
10) A non-technical summary of the information provided under paragraphs 1 to 9.	To be prepared at a later stage in the plan process.
The report shall include such of the information referred to in Schedule 2 to these Regulations as may reasonably be required, taking account of: (a) current knowledge and methods of assessment; (b) the contents and level of detail in the plan or programme; (c) the stage of the plan or programme in the decision-making process; and (d) the extent to which certain matters are more appropriately assessed at different levels in that process in order to avoid duplication of the assessment. (Regulation 12 (3))	Addressed throughout this SA Report.
Consultation	
When deciding on the scope and level of detail of the information that must be included in the environmental report, the responsible authority shall consult the consultation bodies. (Regulation 12(5))	Consultation on the SA Scoping Report was undertaken with the relevant statutory environmental bodies and other interested parties from Monday 20 th November 2017 to Monday 25 th December 2017.
Every draft plan or programme for which an environmental report has been prepared in accordance with regulation 12 and its accompanying report ("the relevant documents") shall be made available for the purposes of consultation in accordance with the following provisions of this regulation. As soon as reasonable practical after the preparation of the relevant documents, the responsible authority shall: (a) send a copy of those documents to each consultation body; (b) take such steps as it considers appropriate to bring the preparation of the relevant documents to the attention of the persons who, in the authority's opinion, are affected or likely to be affected by, or have an interest in the decisions involved in the assessment and adoption of the plan or programme concerned, required under the Environmental assessment of Plans and Programmes Directive ("the public consultees"); (c) inform the public consultees of the address (which may include a website) at which a copy of the relevant documents may be viewed, and the period within which, opinions must be sent.	The Core Strategy Review and Site Allocations DPD is currently at Issues and Options stage. Consultation will be undertaken on three documents, (1) the Core Strategy Review – Scoping Assessment, (2) the Core Strategy Review – Growth Options and Spatial Options Consultation Paper, and (3) the Site Allocations DPD Site Assessment Methodology, between 28 th February 2018 and 11 th April 2018. The current consultation documents are accompanied by this SA Report.

SEA Regulations' Requirements	Covered in this SA Report?
<p>The period referred to in paragraph (2) (d) must be of such length as will ensure that the consultation bodies and the public consultees are given an effective opportunity to express their opinion on the relevant documents. (Regulation 13 (1), (2), and (3))</p>	
<p>Where a responsible authority, other than the Secretary of State, is of the opinion that a plan or programme for which it is the responsible authority is likely to have significant effects on the environment of another Member State, it shall, as soon as reasonable practicable after forming that opinion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) notify the Secretary of State of its opinion and of the reasons for it; and (b) supply the Secretary of State with a copy of the plan or programme concerned, and of the accompanying environmental report. <p>(Regulation 14 (1))</p>	<p>Not relevant as there will be no effects beyond the UK from the Core Strategy Review and Site Allocations DPD.</p>
<p>Taking the environmental report and the results of the consultations into account in decision-making (relevant extracts of Regulation 16)</p>	
<p>As soon as reasonably practicable after the adoption of a plan or programme for which an environmental assessment has been carried out under these Regulations, the responsible authority shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) make a copy of the plan or programme and its accompanying environmental report available at its principal office for inspection by the public at all reasonable times and free of charge. <p>(Regulation 16(1))</p>	<p>To be addressed after the Core Strategy Review and Site Allocations DPD are adopted.</p>
<p>As soon as reasonably practicable after the adoption of a plan or programme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the responsible authority shall inform (i) the consultation bodies; (ii) the persons who, in relation to the plan or programme, were public consultees for the purposes of regulation 13; and (iii) where the responsible authority is not the Secretary of state, the Secretary of State, <p>that the plan or programme has been adopted, and a statement containing the following particulars:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) how environmental considerations have been integrated into the plan or programme; (b) how the environmental report has been taken into account; (c) how opinions expressed in response to: (i) the invitation in regulation 13(2)(d); (ii) action taken by the responsible authority in accordance with regulation 13(4), have been taken into account; (d) how the results of any consultations entered into under regulation 14(4) have been taken into account; (e) the reasons for choosing the plan or programme as adopted, in the light of the other reasonable alternatives dealt with; and (f) the measures that are to be taken to monitor the significant environmental effects of the implementation of the plan or programme. 	<p>To be addressed after the Core Strategy Review and Site Allocations DPD are adopted.</p>
<p>Monitoring</p>	
<p>The responsible authority shall monitor the significant effects of the implementation of each plan or programme with the purpose of identifying unforeseen adverse effects at an early stage and being able to undertake appropriate remedial action. (Regulation 17(1))</p>	<p>To be addressed after the Core Strategy Review and Site Allocations DPD are adopted.</p>

- 1.13 This section has introduced the SA process for the Core Strategy Review and Site Allocations DPD. The remainder of the report is structured into the following sections:
- **Chapter 2: Methodology** describes the approach that is being taken to the SA of the Core Strategy Review and Site Allocations DPD.
 - **Chapter 3: Sustainability Context for Development in Hyndburn** describes the relationship between the Local Plan and other relevant plans, policies and environmental protection objectives; summarises the social, economic and environmental characteristics of the Borough and identifies the key sustainability issues.
 - **Chapter 4: Sustainability Appraisal Findings of the Core Strategy Review Housing Growth Options** summarises the SA findings of the housing growth options included in the Core Strategy Review – Growth Options and Spatial Options Consultation Paper.
 - **Chapter 5: Sustainability Appraisal Findings of the Core Strategy Review Employment Growth Options** summarises the SA findings of the employment growth options included in the Core Strategy Review – Growth Options and Spatial Options Consultation Paper.
 - **Chapter 6: Sustainability Appraisal Findings of the Core Strategy Review Spatial Options** summarises the SA findings of the five potential spatial options for accommodating the selected levels of growth included in the Core Strategy Review – Growth Options and Spatial Options Consultation Paper.
 - **Chapter 7: Conclusions** summarises the key findings from the SA of the Core Strategy Review and Site Allocations DPD and describes the next steps to be undertaken.
- 1.14 The main body of the report is supported by a number of appendices as follows:
- **Appendix 1** presents the **review of relevant plans, programmes and environmental protection objectives** of relevance to the Local Plan.
 - **Appendix 2** presents the updated **baseline information** for Hyndburn.
 - **Appendix 3** presents the **maps** depicting the baseline information.
 - **Appendix 4** presents the **detailed SA matrices** for the **Core Strategy Review Housing Growth Options**.
 - **Appendix 5** presents the **detailed SA matrices** for the **Core Strategy Review Employment Growth Options**.
 - **Appendix 6** presents the **detailed SA matrices** for the **Core Strategy Review Spatial Options**.
 - **Appendix 7** presents the **consultation responses** that were received in relation to the SA Scoping Report and explains how each one has been addressed during the preparation of this SA report.

2 Methodology

Introduction

- 2.1 The methodology set out in this chapter describes the approach that has been taken to the SA of the Core Strategy Review and Site Allocations DPD to date. In addition to complying with legal requirements, the approach being taken to the SA of the Core Strategy Review and Site Allocations DPD is based on current best practice and the guidance on SA/SEA set out in the National Planning Practice Guidance, which involves carrying out SA as an integral part of the plan-making process.
- 2.2 **Table 2.1** sets out the main stages of the plan-making process and shows how these correspond to the SA process.

Table 2.1 Corresponding stages in plan making and SA

Step 1: Evidence Gathering and engagement
SA stages and tasks
Stage A: Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope
1: Identifying other relevant policies, plans and programmes, and sustainability objectives
2: Collecting baseline information
3: Identifying sustainability issues and problems
4: Developing the SA framework
5: Consulting on the scope of the SA
Step 2: Production
SA stages and tasks
Stage B: Developing and refining options and assessing effects
1: Testing the Plan objectives against the SA Framework
2: Developing the Plan options
3: Evaluating the effects of the Plan
4: Considering ways of mitigating adverse effects and maximising beneficial effects
5: Proposing measures to monitor the significant effects of implementing the Plan
Stage C: Preparing the Sustainability Appraisal Report
1: Preparing the SA Report
Stage D: Seek representations on the Plan and the Sustainability Appraisal Report
1: Public participation on Plan and the SA Report
2(i): Appraising significant changes
Step 3: Examination
SA stages and tasks
2(ii): Appraising significant changes resulting from representations
Step 4 & 5: Adoption and Monitoring
SA stages and tasks
3: Making decisions and providing information
Stage E: Monitoring the significant effects of implementing the Plan

- 1: Finalising aims and methods for monitoring
- 2: Responding to adverse effects

SA Stage A: Scoping

- 2.3 The SA process began in November 2017 with the production of a Scoping Report for the Core Strategy Partial Review and Site Allocations DPD. It should be noted that since the Scoping Report was published, the word 'partial' has been removed from the title of the document and it is now called the Core Strategy Review. This amendment was made due to the number of policies affected in the Core Strategy and the fundamental nature of some of the policies to the overall development strategy.
- 2.4 The scoping stage of the SA involves understanding the social, economic and environmental baseline for the plan area as well as the sustainability policy context and key sustainability issues. The Scoping Report presented the outputs of the following tasks:
- Plan, programmes and environmental protection objectives of relevance to the Core Strategy Review and Site Allocations DPD were identified and the relationships between them were considered, enabling any potential synergies to be exploited and any potential inconsistencies and incompatibilities to be identified and addressed.
 - Baseline information was collected on environmental, social and economic issues. This baseline information provides the basis for predicting and monitoring the likely effects of the Core Strategy Review and Site Allocations DPD and helps to identify alternative ways of dealing with any adverse effects identified.
 - Key sustainability issues for the Borough were identified.
- 2.5 A Sustainability Appraisal Framework was presented, comprising the SA objectives against which options and, subsequently, sites and policies would be appraised. The SA Framework provides a way in which the sustainability impacts of implementing a particular plan can be described, analysed and compared. It sets out a series of sustainability objectives and associated questions that can be used to 'interrogate' options and policies drafted during the plan-making process. These SA objectives define the long-term aspirations of the Borough with regard to social, economic and environmental considerations. During the SA, the performance of the Core Strategy Review and Site Allocations DPD options are assessed against these SA objectives and appraisal questions. The SA Framework proposed in the Scoping Report was based on the SA Framework developed for the adopted [Core Strategy](#) (2006) and the [Development Management DPD](#) (2012), however, it was modified to streamline the framework and to ensure that the key sustainability issues identified following consideration of the updated baseline were fully addressed. The SA objectives are grouped into seven themes to enable related sustainability issues to be considered together during the appraisal. The seven themes are as follows:
1. Employment, economy and education.
 2. Communities.
 3. Transport.
 4. Built environment.
 5. Historic environment.
 6. Resource consumption and climate change.
 7. Natural environment.
- 2.6 Public and stakeholder participation is an important element of the SA and wider plan-making processes. It helps to ensure that the SA Report is robust and has due regard for all appropriate information that will support the plan in making a contribution to sustainable development. The Scoping Report for the Core Strategy Partial Review and Site Allocations

DPD was published in November 2017 for a five week consultation period with the statutory consultees (Natural England, the Environment Agency and Historic England) as well as other partner organisations. Consultation responses were received from the three statutory consultees as well as CPRE, Highways England, the Ribble Rivers Trust, and Lancashire County Council.

2.7 **Appendix 6** lists the comments that were received during the scoping consultation and describes how these were assessed in the SA report. The wording of some of the objectives has been revised since the Scoping Report to take into account the suggestions of the statutory consultees and other partner organisations. For example, SA objective 16: *Restore, enhance and expand biodiversity and geodiversity*, has been broadened to also refer to maintaining biodiversity and geodiversity. The historic environment sub objective 11.1 has been revised to read “*conserve and, where appropriate, enhance those elements which contribute to the significance of designated and undesignated heritages assets in a manner appropriate to their significance* including Conservation Areas, Listed Buildings, archaeological remains, and areas of historical heritage and cultural value e.g. locally listed buildings”. Furthermore, the water sub objective 18.1 has been reworded to “*protect and enhance the quality and quantity of watercourses and surface water and groundwater waterbodies*”.

Table 2.2 SA Framework for the Core Strategy Review and Site Allocations DPD

SA Objective	Appraisal Question	SEA Topic covered by objective
Employment, Economy and Education		
1. Support, maintain or enhance the provision of skilled, local or easily accessible employment opportunities, suited to the changing needs of the local workforce.	1.1. Generate employment opportunities for local people particularly in managerial, professional and technical professions. 1.2. Provide flexible employment land near to the workforce or provide opportunities easily accessible by public transport. 1.3. Help to increase diversity of job opportunities.	Material assets ⁴
2. Maintain or enhance conditions that enable a sustainable economy and continued investment.	2.1. Support the development, resilience and growth of the local economy in Hyndburn. 2.2. Support lifelong learning and training to attract and retain a highly skilled workforce.	Material assets, population
3. Raise educational achievements throughout the borough	3.1. Improve the provision of education infrastructure and ensure that it meets projected future demand and need.	Material assets, population
Communities		
4. Improve the health of the people of Hyndburn, reduce disparities in health geographically and demographically,	4.1. Help to reduce inequalities in health geographically and demographically. 4.2. Improve access to healthcare services. 4.3. Provide opportunities to improve health and amenity through delivery of green infrastructure, enhanced public rights of way and improved access to recreation as part of developments. 4.4. Avoid or minimise adverse effects on the quality	Population, human health

⁴ ‘Material assets’ is listed as one of the topics to be considered in the SEA, but there is no clear definition of what this topic should cover in the SEA Directive or Regulations, and it has been variously defined in different SEA reports as relating to natural resources, e.g. minerals, or built infrastructure, e.g. transport infrastructure. For the purposes of this SEA, the material assets topic is assumed to include resources such as water, minerals and waste, as well as built infrastructure, including transport and waste infrastructure, but also economic and employment infrastructure and interests.

SA Objective	Appraisal Question	SEA Topic covered by objective
and encourage healthy living for all.	and extent of existing recreational assets.	
5. Reduce and prevent crime/fear of crime and anti-social behaviour in the borough.	5.1. Enhance community safety and security through design measures, and reduce crime or fear of crime and anti-social behaviour.	Population
6. Reduce poverty and, promote equality and social inclusion by closing the gap between the most deprived areas in the borough and the rest of the borough.	6.1. Ensure easy and equitable access to and provision of services and opportunities, including jobs and learning, and avoid negative impacts on different groups of people because of their ethnicity, gender, religion, disability, sexuality or age.	Population, human health
7. Improve equality of access to and engagement in quality cultural, educational, leisure, sporting, recreational and community activities for all.	7.1. Maintain or increase the type or quality of facilities in areas where there is need, ensuring easy and equitable access by sustainable modes of transport.	Material assets, population
Transport		
8. Reduce road traffic and congestion, pollution and accidents and improve health through physical activity by increasing the proportion of journeys made by public transport, cycling and walking.	8.1. Promote more sustainable transport patterns and reduce the need to travel by private car particularly in areas suffering from congestion. 8.2. Improve the quality and/or provision of integrated transport options. 8.3. Increase the use of public transport, cycling and walking. 8.4. Promote a shift of freight from road to rail.	Material assets
Built Environment		
9. Provide everyone with the opportunity to live in good quality, affordable housing of the right type and tenure, in clear, safe and pleasant local environments.	9.1. Increase access to high quality housing to meet people's needs (e.g. tenure, aspirations, location, affordability, size and type, accessible to disabled people). 9.2. Increase the supply of affordable housing. 9.3. Reduce the percentage of unfit homes/empty homes. 9.4. Improve the energy and resource efficiency of homes and reduce fuel poverty and ill-health. 9.5. Improve the condition and diversity of the housing stock. 9.6. Increase the use of sustainable design techniques, improve the quality of housing and use sustainable building materials in construction.	Population, material assets
10. Maintain and enhance the vitality and viability of town and retail centres.	10.1. Strengthen the Borough's retail offering in order to reduce outflow of retail spending. 10.2. Support or create high quality public realm and community/amenity space that is safe and encourages positive community interaction. 10.3. Help reduce the number of vacant properties and	Material assets, population

SA Objective	Appraisal Question	SEA Topic covered by objective
	support vitality.	
Historic Environment		
11. Protect and enhance the character and built quality of settlements and neighbourhoods and the borough's historic environment and cultural heritage.	<p>11.1. Conserve and, where appropriate, enhance those elements which contribute to the significance of designated and undesignated heritages assets in a manner appropriate to their significance including Conservation Areas, Listed Buildings, archaeological remains, and areas of historical heritage and cultural value e.g. locally listed buildings.</p> <p>11.2. Prevent development which is inappropriate in scale, form or design to its setting or to its function or local area.</p> <p>11.3. Encourage development that creates and sustains well-designed, high quality built environments that incorporate green space and biodiversity, and promote local distinctiveness and sense of place.</p>	Cultural heritage, including architectural and archaeological heritage
Resource Consumption and Climate Change		
12. Move treatment of waste up the Waste Hierarchy.	<p>12.1. Minimise disposal of all forms of waste.</p> <p>12.2. Promote the re-use, recycling and recovery of waste.</p>	Material assets
13. Use natural resources and energy more efficiently.	<p>13.1. Maximise energy efficiency and minimise the consumption of non-renewable energy i.e. from fossil fuels.</p> <p>13.2. Minimise the consumption of water, land, soil, minerals, aggregates and other raw materials by all e.g. through integrated transport, sustainable resource-efficient design, local sourcing of food, goods, materials, etc.</p> <p>13.3. Encourage the re-use/enhancement (to high standards of sustainable resource-efficient design) of existing buildings and promote the use of recycled and secondary materials in construction.</p>	Material assets, air, water, soil
14. Reduce Hyndburn's contribution to climate change through appropriate mitigation measures.	<p>14.1. Reduce the borough's contribution to climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions from transport, domestic, commercial and industrial sources.</p> <p>14.2. Promote energy efficiency by encouraging the use of energy efficient buildings and plant, and the use of appropriate renewable or lower carbon energy sources in developments.</p>	Climatic factors
15. Reduce the vulnerability of Hyndburn to the effects of climate change including risk of flooding.	<p>15.1. Reduce flood risk both presently and taking into account climate change.</p> <p>15.2. Prevent inappropriate development of the floodplain, and include flood protection systems.</p> <p>15.3. Include sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) where appropriate.</p>	Water
Natural Environment		
16. Restore, enhance, maintain and expand biodiversity and geodiversity.	<p>16.1. Protect and enhance habitats of international, national, regional or local importance.</p> <p>16.2. Protect international, national, regional or locally important terrestrial or aquatic species.</p> <p>16.3. Protect geological sites of national, regional or local importance.</p> <p>16.4. Maintain wildlife corridors and minimise fragmentation of ecological areas and green spaces.</p> <p>16.5. Provide opportunities for enhancing biodiversity and achieving net gains in biodiversity.</p>	Biodiversity, fauna, flora

SA Objective	Appraisal Question	SEA Topic covered by objective
17. Protect, enhance and restore the landscape quality of Hyndburn, including its rural areas and open spaces.	17.1.Enhance and protect landscape character and quality including historic landscapes, open spaces, parks and gardens and their settings.	Landscape, fauna, flora
18. Protect and enhance the quality and quantity of watercourses and waterbodies, and maximise the efficient use of water	18.1.Protect and enhance the quality and quantity of watercourses and surface water and groundwater waterbodies. 18.2.Maximise the efficient use of water.	Water
19. Minimise noise, light and air pollution.	19.1.Minimise air, noise and light pollution and the potential for such pollution.	Air
20. Value, protect and enhance soil quality and resources.	20.1.Encourage the remediation of contaminated and derelict land. 20.2.Continue to prioritise the location of new developments to previously developed sites in preference to greenfield locations.	Soil

SA Stage B: Developing and Refining Options and Assessing Effects

- 2.8 Developing options for a plan is an iterative process, usually involving a number of consultations with the public and stakeholders. Consultation responses and the SA can help to identify where there may be other 'reasonable alternatives' to the options being considered for a plan.
- 2.9 Regulation 12 (2) of the SEA Regulations requires that:
- "The (environmental or SA) report must identify, describe and evaluate the likely significant effects on the environment of–*
- (a) implementing the plan or programme; and*
- (b) reasonable alternatives, taking into account the objectives and the geographical scope of the plan or programme*
- 2.10 It should be noted that any alternatives considered to the plan need to be 'reasonable'. This implies that alternatives that are not reasonable do not need to be subject to appraisal. Examples of unreasonable alternatives could include policy options that do not meet the objectives of the plan or national policy (e.g. the National Planning Policy Framework) or site options that are unavailable or undeliverable.
- 2.11 It also needs to be recognised that the SEA and SA findings are not the only factors taken into account when determining which options to take forward in a plan. Indeed, there will often be an equal number of positive or negative effects identified for each option, such that it is not possible to 'rank' them based on sustainability performance in order to select an option. Factors such as public opinion, deliverability and conformity with national policy will also be taken into account by plan-makers when selecting options for their plan.

Identification and appraisal of the growth options for the Core Strategy Review

- 2.12 Hyndburn Borough Council is presenting four potential housing growth options and three employment growth options for consultation in the Core Strategy Review - Growth Options and Spatial Options Consultation Paper, each of which has the potential to guide the level of growth to 2033 in a different way. These are identified in **Table 2.3**.

Table 2.3 Identification of growth options for the Core Strategy Review

Option	Growth	Evidence for selecting this option for appraisal
Housing Growth Option 1 – Communities and Local Government Consultation method	Allocate land for 1,200 homes or 60dpa	During the preparation of the consultation paper, the Government consulted on measures to help boost the supply of housing. Hyndburn Council used the proposed standard methodology which identified a need for 60dpa, equivalent to 1,200 homes in total over the plan period.
Housing Growth Option 2 – Low Housing Growth	Allocate land for 3,500 homes or 175dpa	The Strategic Housing Market Assessment, completed in 2015, indicated a need for between 175 and 317dpa, equivalent to between 3,500 and 6,340 new dwellings over the full plan period.
Housing Growth Option 3 – Medium Housing Growth	Allocate land for 4,920 homes or 246dpa	The Strategic Housing Market Assessment, completed in 2015, indicated a need for between 175 and 317dpa, equivalent to between 3,500 and 6,340 new dwellings over the full plan period. The midpoint between 175 and 317 dpa is 246dpa, equivalent to 4,920 homes.
Housing Growth Option 4 – High Housing Growth	Allocate land for 6,340 homes or 317dpa	The Strategic Housing Market Assessment, completed in 2015, indicated a need for between 175 and 317dpa, equivalent to between 3,500 and 6,340 new dwellings over the full plan period.
Employment Growth Option 1 – Low Growth	Allocate around 4.4ha of land or around 0.2ha per annum	The Hyndburn Employment Land Study, completed in 2016, applied a 'labour supply' approach to identifying the employment land requirements over the plan period. Under the labour supply approach, a net loss of -5.6ha of employment land is anticipated. On the basis that not all of these losses will be achieved, an allowance of 10ha was applied to allow for some continued replacement of older obsolete sites and premises with better quality provision. This results in the proposed allocation of 4.4ha of

Option	Growth	Evidence for selecting this option for appraisal
		employment land.
Employment Growth Option 2 – Medium Growth	Allocate around 19.1ha of land or around 1.0ha per annum	The Hyndburn Employment Land Study, completed in 2016, estimates a land requirement of up to 19 hectares based on a labour supply and demand approach over the full plan period.
Employment Growth Option 3 – High Growth	Allocate up to 62ha of land or around 3.1ha per annum	The Hyndburn Employment Land Study, completed in 2016, estimates a land requirement of up to 62 hectares based on a past take-up rates of land only approach over the full plan period.

- 2.13 The SA findings for the housing and growth options are summarised in **Chapters 4 and 5** respectively of this report and the detailed SA matrices can be found in **Appendices 4 and 5**.

Identification and appraisal of the spatial options for the Core Strategy Review

- 2.14 Hyndburn Borough Council has identified five potential spatial options, each of which has the potential to guide the distribution and location of growth to 2033 in a different way. These are identified in **Table 2.4**.

Table 2.4 Identification of spatial options for the Core Strategy Review

Spatial Option	Evidence for selecting this option for appraisal
Spatial Option 1 - Core Strategy -led growth	Continue the growth strategy set in the adopted Core Strategy via Policy H1 and strategic allocations.
Spatial Option 2 - Garden Village -led growth	Concentration of more significant growth in the Huncoat area, taking full advantage of the recent designation of the area as a Housing Zone by the Government.
Spatial Option 3 - Transport Corridor -led growth	Focus the distribution of growth around key strategic transport routes such as the East Lancashire railway line, the M65, A56 and Pennine Reach (Quality Bus Route) transport corridors.
Spatial Option 4 - Market Focus -led growth	Focus development in the areas most desirable to developers and landowners (higher value market areas)
Spatial Option 5 – Land Availability -led growth	Focus development in areas where land is already known to be available for housing and employment development.

- 2.15 The SA findings of the spatial options are summarised in **Chapter 6** of this report and the detailed SA matrices are in **Appendix 6**.

SA Stage C: Preparing the SA Report

- 2.16 This SA Report describes the process that has been undertaken to date in carrying out the SA of the Core Strategy Review and Site Allocations DPD. It sets out the findings of options

included in the Core Strategy Review – Growth Options and Spatial Options Consultation Paper, highlighting any likely significant effects (both positive and negative, and taking into account the likely secondary, cumulative, synergistic, short, medium and long-term and permanent and temporary effects), making recommendations for improvements and clarifications that may help to mitigate negative effects and maximise the benefits of the plan as it is drafted in full.

SA Stage D: Consultation on the Core Strategy Review and Site Allocations DPD and the SA Report

- 2.17 Hyndburn Borough Council is inviting comments on the Core Strategy Review and Site Allocations DPD and this SA Report, both of which will be published on the Council’s website under Regulation 18 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations (2012). The consultation period will be open from 28th February 2018 to 11th April 2018. Consultation comments on the Core Strategy Review and Site Allocations DPD and this SA Report will be taken into account in the subsequent iteration of the plans and the SA Report.

SA Stage E: Monitoring implementation of the Core Strategy Review and Site Allocations DPD

- 2.18 Recommendations for monitoring the social, environmental and economic effects of implementing the Core Strategy Review and Site Allocations DPD will be presented in the next iteration of the SA Report, once a Preferred Approach for the Core Strategy Review and Site Allocations DPD has been identified.

Appraisal Methodology

- 2.19 The reasonable options for the Core Strategy Review and Site Allocations DPD have been appraised against the 20 SA objectives in the SA Framework (see **Table 2.2** earlier in this section), with scores being attributed to each option to indicate its likely sustainability effects on each objective.

Table 2.5 Key to symbols and colour coding used in the SA of the Core Strategy Review and Site Allocations DPD

++	The option or policy is likely to have a significant positive effect on the SA objective(s).
++/-	The option or policy is likely to have a mixed effect (significant positive and minor negative) on the SA objective(s).
+	The option or policy is likely to have a positive effect on the SA objective(s).
0	The option or policy is likely to have a negligible or no effect on the SA objective(s).
-	The option or policy is likely to have a minor negative effect on the SA objective(s).
--/+	The option or policy is likely to have a mixed effect (significant negative and minor positive) on the SA objective(s).
--	The option or policy is likely to have a significant negative effect on the SA objective(s).
?	It is uncertain what effect the option or policy will have on the SA objective(s), due to a lack of data.

+/- or ++/--

The option or policy is likely to have a **mixture of positive and negative** effects on the SA objective(s).

- 2.20 Where a potential positive or negative effect is uncertain, a question mark is added to the relevant score (e.g. +? or -?) and the score is colour coded as per the potential positive, negligible or negative score (e.g. green, yellow, orange, etc.).
- 2.21 The likely effects of the options needs to be determined and their significance assessed, and this inevitably requires a series of judgments to be made. This appraisal has attempted to differentiate between the most significant effects and other more minor effects through the use of the symbols shown above. The dividing line in making a decision about the significance of an effect is often quite small. Where either (++) or (--) has been used to distinguish significant effects from more minor effects (+ or -) this is because the effect of an option on the SA objective in question is considered to be of such magnitude that it would have a noticeable and measurable effect taking into account other factors that may influence the achievement of that objective. However, scores are relative to the scale of proposals under consideration.
- 2.22 The SA findings for the reasonable alternative options in the Core Strategy Review and Site Allocations DPD are summarised in **Chapters 4** and **5**. Detailed appraisal matrices for the proposed options are presented in **Appendices 4** and **5**.

Difficulties Encountered and Data Limitations

- 2.23 It is a requirement of the SEA Regulations that consideration is given to any data limitations or other difficulties that are encountered during the SA process and these are outlined below.
- 2.24 The Core Strategy Review and Site Allocations DPD, particularly at the early Regulation 18 consultation stage⁵, are high level documents and this is reflected in the relatively high level nature of this SA Report. The options proposed in the Core Strategy Review lack detail and therefore are subject to greater uncertainty than will be the case at the Regulation 19 Publication stage, once full policy wording has been drafted. Similarly, the Site Allocations DPD lacks detail about the locations of site allocations which again will be addressed at the Preferred Options stage.

⁵ Of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012

3 Sustainability Context for Development in Hyndburn

Review of Plans, Programmes and Environmental Protection Objectives

- 3.1 The Core Strategy Review and Site Allocations DPD are not being prepared in isolation and are greatly influenced by other plans and programmes and by broader sustainability objectives. It needs to be consistent with international and national guidance and strategic planning policies, and should contribute to the goals of a wide range of other programmes and plans. It must also conform to environmental protection legislation and the sustainability objectives established at the international, national and local levels.
- 3.2 Schedule 2 of the SEA Regulations requires:
- (1) "an outline of the...relationship with other relevant plans or programmes"; and*
- (5) "the environmental protection objectives established at international, Community or Member State level, which are relevant to the plan and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation"*
- 3.3 The review is not, and cannot be exhaustive. **Appendix 1** identifies the relationship that the plans, programmes and environmental protection objectives have with the development of the Core Strategy Review and Site Allocations DPD.

Key international plans, programmes and environmental protection objectives

- 3.4 At the international level, [Directive 2001/42/EC](#) on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment (the 'SEA Directive') and [Directive 92/43/EEC](#) on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (the 'Habitats Directive') are particularly significant as they require Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) to be undertaken in relation to the Core Strategy Review and Site Allocations DPD. These processes should be undertaken iteratively and integrated into the production of the plans in order to ensure that any potential negative environmental effects (including on European-level nature conservation designations) are identified and can be mitigated.
- 3.5 There are a wide range of other EU Directives relating to issues such as water quality, waste and air quality, most of which have been transposed into UK law through national-level policy; however the international directives have been included in **Appendix 1** for completeness.
- 3.6 **Table 3.1** lists the international plans, programmes and environmental protection objectives which are of relevance to the Core Strategy Review and Site Allocations DPD.

Table 3.1 Key international plans, programmes and environmental protection objectives reviewed for the SA of the Core Strategy Review and Site Allocations DPD

INTERNATIONAL
IPCC's Fifth Assessment Report on Climate Change (IPCC, 2014)
Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development (2002)
Aarhus Convention (1998)
Bern Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (1979)
Bonn Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (1979)
Ramsar Convention – Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (1971)
Paris Agreement (2015)
EU DIRECTIVES
SEA Directive 2001/42/EC
The Birds Directive 2009/147/EC
The Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC
The Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC
The Floods Directive 2007/60/EC
The Drinking Water Directive 98/83/EC
The Bathing Water Quality Directive 2006/7/EC
The Urban Waste Water Directive 91/271/EEC
The Nitrates Directive 91/676/EEC
The Waste Framework Directive 2008/98/EC
The Landfill Directive 99/31/EC
The Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive 94/62/EC
EU Management of Waste from Extractive Industries (2006/21/EC)
The Air Quality Directive 2008/50/EC (amended by Directive 2015/1480/EC)
The Industrial Emissions Directive 2010/75/EU
The Noise Directive 2000/14/EC
EUROPEAN
EU Seventh Environmental Action Plan to 2020
EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020
European Spatial Development Perspective (1999)
European Landscape Convention (Florence, 2002)
European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (Valletta, 1992)

Key national plans, programmes and environmental protection objectives

- 3.7 The most significant development in terms of the policy context for the Core Strategy Review and Site Allocations DPD has been the publication of the [National Planning Policy Framework](#) (NPPF). The Local Plan must be consistent with the requirements of the NPPF. The NPPF sets out information about the purposes of local plan-making, stating that:

"Local Plans must be prepared with the objective of contributing to the achievement of sustainable development. To this end, they should be consistent with the principles and policies set out in this Framework, including the presumption in favour of sustainable development."

- 3.8 The NPPF also requires Local Plans to be ‘aspirational but realistic’. This means that opportunities for appropriate development should be identified in order to achieve net gains in terms of sustainable social, environmental and economic development; however significant adverse impacts in any of those areas should not be allowed to occur.
- 3.9 The NPPF requires local planning authorities to set out the strategic priorities for the area in the Local Plan. This should include strategic policies to deliver:
 - the homes and jobs needed in the area;
 - the provision of retail, leisure and other commercial development;
 - the provision of infrastructure for transport, telecommunications, waste management, water supply, wastewater, flood risk and coastal change management, and the provision of minerals and energy (including heat);
 - the provision of health, security, community and cultural infrastructure and other local facilities; and
 - climate change mitigation and adaptation, conservation and enhancement of the natural and historic environment, including landscape.
- 3.10 In addition, Local Plans should:
 - plan positively for the development and infrastructure required in the area to meet the objectives, principles and policies of this Framework;
 - be drawn up over an appropriate time scale, preferably a 15-year time horizon, take account of longer term requirements, and be kept up to date;
 - be based on co-operation with neighbouring authorities, public, voluntary and private sector organisations;
 - indicate broad locations for strategic development on a key diagram and land-use designations on a proposals map;
 - allocate sites to promote development and flexible use of land, bringing forward new land where necessary, and provide detail on form, scale, access and quantum of development where appropriate;
 - identify areas where it may be necessary to limit freedom to change the uses of buildings, and support such restrictions with a clear explanation;
 - identify land where development would be inappropriate, for instance because of its environmental or historic significance; and,
 - contain a clear strategy for enhancing the natural, built and historic environment, and supporting Nature Improvement Areas where they have been identified.
- 3.11 The NPPF is supported by [Planning Practice Guidance](#) which includes guidance on various topics such as air quality, flood risk and coastal change, the natural environment, and waste.
- 3.12 **Table 3.2** lists the national plans, programmes and environmental protection objectives which are of relevance to the Core Strategy Review and Site Allocations DPD.

Table 3.2 Key national plans, programmes and environmental protection objectives reviewed for the SA of the Core Strategy Review and Site Allocations DPD

NATIONAL
DCLG (2012) National Planning Policy Framework
Planning Practice Guidance:
DCLG (2014) Planning Practice Guidance on air quality
DCLG (2014) Planning Practice Guidance on climate change

NATIONAL

DCLG (2014) Planning Practice Guidance on conserving and enhancing the historic environment
DCLG (2014) Planning Practice Guidance on ensuring the vitality of town centres
DCLG (2014) Planning Practice Guidance on flood risk and coastal change
DCLG (2017) Planning Practice Guidance on health and wellbeing
DCLG (2018) Planning Practice Guidance on local plans
DCLG (2014) Planning Practice Guidance on minerals
DCLG (2016) Planning Practice Guidance on the natural environment
DCLG (2014) Planning Practice Guidance on noise
DCLG (2014) Planning Practice Guidance on light pollution
DCLG (2014) Planning Practice Guidance on open space, sports and recreation facilities, public rights of way and local green space
DCLG (2016) Planning Practice Guidance on rural housing
DCLG (2015) Planning Practice Guidance on renewable and low carbon energy
DCLG (2015) Planning Practice Guidance on waste
DCLG (2015) Planning Practice Guidance on water supply, wastewater and water quality
DCLG (2015) Planning Policy for Traveller Sites
DCLG (2014) National Planning Policy for Waste
DEFRA (2013) National Waste Management Plan for England
HM Government (2013) Waste prevention programme for England: Prevention is better than cure – The role of waste prevention in moving to a more resource efficient economy
DEFRA (2012) National Policy Statement for Waste Water
DEFRA (2013) National Policy Statement for Hazardous Waste
HM Government (2009) The UK Low Carbon Transition Plan
HM Government (2011) The Carbon Plan: Delivering our low carbon future
HM Government (2017) The UK Climate Change Risk Assessment
DECC (2009) The UK Renewable Energy Strategy
DECC (2014) Community Energy Strategy
DECC (2012) The Energy Efficiency Opportunity in the UK
DEFRA (2013) The National Adaptation Programme – Making the Country Resilient to a Changing Climate
HM Government (2018) A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment
Environment Agency (2011) The National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy for England
DEFRA (GP3): Underground, Under threat – Groundwater Protection: Policy and Practice
DEFRA (2008) Future Water: The Government’s Water Strategy for England
Environment Agency (2009) Water for People and the Environment: Water Resources Strategy for England and Wales
DEFRA (2009) Safeguarding our Soils: A Strategy for England
DEFRA and DfT (2017) Improving air quality in the UK: tackling nitrogen dioxide in our towns and cities: Draft UK Air Quality Plan for tackling nitrogen dioxide
DEFRA (2017) UK plan for tackling roadside nitrogen dioxide concentrations
DEFRA (2007) The Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland
DEFRA (2011) Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England’s wildlife and ecosystem services
DEFRA (2011) Securing the Future: Delivering UK Sustainable Development Strategy

NATIONAL
DoH (2010) Healthy Lives, Healthy People: our Strategy for public health in England
DCLG (2011) Laying the Foundations: A Housing Strategy for England
DfT (2013) Door to Door: A Strategy for Improving Sustainable Transport Integration
DfT (2016) Cycling and Walking Investment Strategy
Natural England (2003, 2010) Accessible Natural Green Space Standards in Towns and Cities: A Review and Toolkit for their Implementation, and Nature Nearby: Accessible Green Space Guidance
WHITE AND GREEN PAPERS
DCLG (2017) Housing White Paper - Fixing our broken housing market
DCLG (2017) Planning for the right homes in the right places: consultation proposals
HM Government (2017) Industrial Strategy: Building a Britain fit for the future (White Paper)
DEFRA (2011) Natural Environment White Paper - The Natural Choice: Securing the value of nature
DEFRA (2011) Electricity Market Reform White Paper - Planning our Electric Future: A White Paper for Secure, Affordable and Low-Carbon Electricity
DEFRA (2011) Water White Paper - Water for Life
DfT (2004) Transport White Paper - The Future of Transport White Paper 2004: A network for 2030
DCLG (2000) Urban White Paper - Our Towns and Cities: The Future – delivering an urban renaissance
NATIONAL LEGISLATION
Localism Act 2011
Housing Act 2004
Flood and Water Management Act 2010
Climate Change Act 2008
The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000
The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006
REGULATIONS
The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (2010) (as amended)

Key local plans, programmes and environmental protection objectives

- 3.13 At the sub-regional and local levels there are a wide range of plans and programmes that are specific to Hyndburn which provide further context for the Core Strategy Review and Site Allocations DPD. These plans and programmes relate to issues such as the economy, transport, climate change and green infrastructure.
- 3.14 **Table 3.3** lists the regional and local plans, programmes and environmental protection objectives which are of relevance to the Core Strategy Review and Site Allocations DPD (see **Appendix 1** for the full review of all plans, programmes and environmental protection objectives).

Table 3.3 Key local plans, programmes and environmental protection objectives reviewed for the SA of the Core Strategy Review and Site Allocations DPD

SUB-REGIONAL
Lancashire Local Transport Plan 2011-2021 (Lancashire County Council, 2011)
East Lancashire Highways and Transport Masterplan (Lancashire County Council and Blackburn with Darwen Council, 2014)
East Lancashire Strategic Cycle Network Investment Plan (Lancashire County Council, 2014)
Lancashire Cycling and Walking Strategy 2016-2026 (Jacobs, 2016)
Joint Lancashire Minerals and Waste Development Framework Core Strategy DPD (Lancashire County Council, Blackpool Council and Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council, 2009)

SUB-REGIONAL
Joint Lancashire Minerals and Waste Local Plan – Site Allocation and Development Management Policies – Part One and Part Two (Lancashire County Council, Blackpool Council and Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council, 2013)
Lancashire’s Municipal Waste Strategy 2008 – 2020 - Rubbish to Resources (Lancashire Waste Partnership, 2008)
Joint Lancashire Local Waste Assessment 2015 (Lancashire County Council, Blackpool Council and Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council, 2015)
Lancashire Landscape Character Assessment and Landscape Strategy (Lancashire County Council, 2000)
Lancashire Green Infrastructure Strategy (Lancashire Economic Partnership, 2009)
Biodiversity Action Plan for Lancashire (Lancashire County Council, 2002)
Lancashire Climate Change Strategy 2009 - 2020 (The Lancashire Climate Change Partnership, 2009)
Ribble Catchment Flood Management Plan (Environment Agency, 2009)
North West River Basin Management Plan: Part 1 and Part 2 (Environment Agency, 2015)
Lancashire and Blackpool Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (Lancashire County Council and Blackpool Council, 2013)
Lancashire County Council Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2015-2025 (Lancashire County Council, Blackpool Council, and Blackburn with Darwen, 2017)
Lancashire Strategic Economic Plan 2015-2025 (Lancashire Enterprise Partnership, 2014)
Lancashire Growth Deal 2015-2021 (Lancashire Enterprise Partnership, 2014)
City Deal Preston, South Ribble & Lancashire Business and Delivery Plan 2016-2019 (Lancashire Enterprise Partnership, 2016)
Pennine Lancashire Growth and Prosperity Plan 2016-2032 (Pennine Lancashire, 2016)
Pennine Lancashire Investment Plan (Pennine Lancashire, 2013)
Pennine Lancashire Housing Strategy 2009 – 2029 (Pennine Lancashire Local Housing Authorities, 2009)
Extra Care and Specialist Housing Strategy for Lancashire (Lancashire County Council, 2014)
LOCAL
Hyndburn Development Management DPD (Hyndburn Borough Council, 2018)
The Accrington Area Action Plan (Hyndburn Borough Council, 2012)
Hyndburn Employment Land Study (Turley, 2016)
Hyndburn Retail Study (Peter Brett Associates, 2016)
Development Management DPD Economic Viability Study (Keppie Massie and WYG, 2016)
Strategic Housing Market Assessment and Housing Needs Study (Nathaniel Lichfield & Partners, 2015)
Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (Peter Brett Associates, 2016)
Hyndburn Borough Council 5 Year Housing Land Supply Statement 2017-2022 (Hyndburn Borough Council, 2017)
Hyndburn Homelessness Strategy 2014-2019 (Hyndburn Borough Council, 2014)
The Sustainable Community Strategy for Hyndburn 2008-2018 (Hyndburn Local Strategic Partnership, 2008)
Hyndburn Borough Council Contaminated Land Inspection Strategy (Adopted 2001) 2004 (Hyndburn Borough Council, 2004)
Tottleworth Conservation Area Appraisal (Hyndburn Borough Council, 2011)
Great Harwood Town Centre Conservation Area Appraisal (Hyndburn Borough Council, 2011)
Air Quality Review and Assessment Report (Hyndburn Borough Council, 2007) and Air Quality Update and Screening Assessment (Hyndburn Borough Council, 2009)

Baseline Information

- 3.15 Baseline information provides the basis for predicting and monitoring the likely sustainability effects of a plan and helps to identify key sustainability issues and means of dealing with them.
- 3.16 Schedule 2 of the SEA Regulations requires information to be provided on:
- (2) The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan.*
 - (3) The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected.*
 - (4) Any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to Directives 79/409/EEC on the conservation of wild birds and the Habitats Directive.*
- 3.17 Baseline information collated for the Scoping Report of the Core Strategy Partial Review and Site Allocations DPD has been revised and updated to make use of the most recent available information sources.
- 3.18 The baseline information is presented in **Appendix 2**.

Key Sustainability Issues and Likely Evolution without the Local Plan

- 3.19 Analysis of the baseline information has enabled a number of key sustainability issues facing Hyndburn to be identified. Identification of the key sustainability issues and consideration of how these issues might develop over time if the Core Strategy Review and Site Allocations DPD are not prepared, help to meet the requirements of Schedule 2 of the SEA Regulations to provide information on:
- (2) The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan; and*
 - (4) Any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan.*
- 3.20 A set of key sustainability issues for Hyndburn were previously developed for the SA of the Development Management DPD. This list has been reviewed and expanded upon to reflect the updated baseline information. The revised set of key sustainability issues is presented in **Table 3.4** on the following page.
- 3.21 It is also a requirement of the SEA Regulations that consideration is given to the likely evolution of the environment in the plan area without implementation of the plan or programme. This analysis is also presented in **Table 3.4** in relation to each of the key sustainability issues.

Table 3.4 Key sustainability issues and likely evolution without the Core Strategy Review and the Site Allocations DPD

Key sustainability issue	Likely evolution of the issue without implementation of the Core Strategy Review and the Site Allocations DPD
Biodiversity and geodiversity	
<p>Hyndburn Borough contains areas of ecological and geological value, some of which are in unfavourable condition.</p>	<p>The adopted Core Strategy particularly policies <i>Env1: Green Infrastructure</i> and <i>Env2: Natural Environment Enhancement</i> require developments to protect and enhance green infrastructure and, ecological and geological resources. These policies are not anticipated to be revised in the review and therefore will continue to apply in the absence of the Core Strategy Review.</p> <p>The Site Allocations DPD offers the opportunity to allocate sites following consideration of their impacts on biodiversity and geodiversity assets through the SA. Without the implementation of the DPD, further development may not come forward in the most appropriate locations and impacts on biodiversity could be inappropriate.</p> <p>Without the implementation of the Core Strategy Review or the Site Allocations DPD, policies <i>DM18: Protection and Enhancement of the Natura Environment</i> and <i>DM19: Protected Species</i> of the Development Management DPD will apply which seek to protect designated sites, protected species and ecological networks. Therefore, this sustainability issue is likely to be addressed to some extent without implementation of the Core Strategy Review and the Site Allocations DPD through the implementation of the Development Management DPD.</p>
Climate Change	
<p>Hyndburn is likely to experience more extreme impacts as a result of climate change – wetter winters with greater incidences of flooding, and warmer, drier summers with greater incidences of low flow rivers (during the summer months). However, climate change also presents a number of opportunities - milder winters should reduce the costs of heating homes and other buildings, helping to alleviate fuel poverty and reducing the number of winter deaths from cold.</p>	<p>Climate change is likely to have an ongoing effect regardless of the implementation of the Core Strategy Review or the Site Allocations DPD. The adopted Core Strategy sets out policies relating to mitigating and adapting to climate change (particularly policies <i>BD1: the Balanced Development Strategy</i> and <i>Env4: Sustainable Development and Climate Change</i>). Policy BD1 is anticipated to be revised in the Core Strategy Review due to the potential new growth requirements which may have implications for mitigating climate change in the Borough as land from the Green Belt may be released for development which would reduce the area of permeable surfaces (flooding implications). Policy Env 4 is also anticipated to be revised as the requirement for water efficiency standards is no longer permitted under the technical housing standards. These policies would continue to apply in the absence of the Core Strategy Review.</p> <p>Without the implementation of the Site Allocation DPD, site allocations may be less well planned and could potentially be located in vulnerable or less sustainable areas.</p> <p>Without the implementation of the Core Strategy Review or the Site Allocations DPD, policy <i>DM20: Flood Risk Management and Water Resources</i> of the Development Management DPD will apply which aims to ensure that new developments avoid, reduce and manage flood risk by taking into account present and future flood risk, and the wider implications for flood risk of development located outside flood risk areas. Therefore, this sustainability issue is likely to be addressed to some extent without implementation of the Core Strategy Review and the Site Allocations DPD through the implementation of the Development Management DPD.</p>

Key sustainability issue	Likely evolution of the issue without implementation of the Core Strategy Review and the Site Allocations DPD
Water resources and flooding	
<p>The main causes of flooding in Hyndburn are as a result of failing culverts and localised drainage issues. Opportunities should be sought to deculvert watercourses to reduce flood risk and enhance the quality of the environment.</p>	<p>Policy <i>Env4: Sustainable Development and Climate Change</i> in the adopted Core Strategy requires new developments to be located away from areas at a high risk of flooding and to incorporate appropriate mitigation measures against flooding in areas of lower risk. This policy also seeks to improve water efficiency standards and incorporate sustainable drainage systems in new developments. Policy Env 4 is anticipated to be revised as the requirement for water efficiency standards is no longer permitted under the technical housing standards. Policies A4, A6 and R3 which relate to The Leeds and Liverpool Canal seek to improve the environmental quality of the waterway corridor (these policies will not be revised however they may be merged in the Core Strategy Review). These policies would continue to apply in the absence of the Core Strategy Review.</p>
<p>Waterbodies in the Borough are achieving an overall 'moderate' ecological and chemical status. Improvements to water quality in the Borough are required to meet the target of 'Good Ecological Status' and 'Good Chemical Status', as required by the Water Framework Directive.</p>	<p>The Site Allocations DPD offers the opportunity to allocate sites following consideration of their impacts on the water environment through the SA. Without the implementation of the DPD, this issue may be less well addressed.</p> <p>Without the implementation of the Core Strategy Review or the Site Allocations DPD, policy <i>DM20: Flood Risk Management and Water Resources</i> of the Development Management DPD will apply which requires new development proposals in Flood Risk Zones 2 and 3 to undertake a Sequential or Exception Test, to incorporate the use of SuDS, and to demonstrate how measures have been implemented to increase water efficiency. Therefore, these sustainability issues are likely to be addressed to some extent without implementation of the Core Strategy Review and the Site Allocations DPD through the implementation of the Development Management DPD.</p>
Air quality	
<p>While there are currently no Air Quality Management Areas designated in Hyndburn, there are air quality issues particularly east of junction 7 on the M65 and also in Rishton, Altham, Oswaldtwistle, parts of Great Harwood and most of Accrington. The Whinney Hill Landfill Site emits the highest amount of carbon dioxide in the Borough.</p>	<p>Policy <i>Env4: Sustainable Development and Climate Change</i> in the adopted Core Strategy requires new developments to be designed to minimise greenhouse gas emissions through the use of high standards of insulation and to be located in areas which can be accessed by sustainable modes of transport. The supporting text recognises that air quality is a particular problem at the junction of Whalley Road and Blackburn/Burnley Road stating that the Whinney Hill Link Road linking the landfill site to the main road network would direct the HGVs that contribute to this problem to another route thereby improving air quality at this location. This policy is anticipated to be revised however the revision does not relate to air quality. The policy would continue to apply in the absence of the Core Strategy Review.</p> <p>The Core Strategy Review proposes a new strategic policy on air quality to help tackle the issues raised in the draft UK Air Quality Plan for tackling nitrogen dioxide (DEFRA & DfT, 2017). Without the implementation of the Core Strategy Review, there would not be a specific policy on air quality in Hyndburn and therefore this issue may be less well addressed.</p> <p>The Site Allocations DPD offers the opportunity to allocate sites following consideration of their impacts on the air quality through the SA. Without the implementation of the DPD, this issue may be less well addressed.</p> <p>Without the implementation of the Core Strategy Review or the Site Allocations DPD, policies <i>DM32: Sustainable Transport, Traffic and Highway Safety</i> and <i>DM33: Sustainable Transport Infrastructure</i> of the</p>

Key sustainability issue	Likely evolution of the issue without implementation of the Core Strategy Review and the Site Allocations DPD
	<p>Development Management DPD will apply which require development proposals to encourage sustainable travel and highway networks to be designed to improve accessibility and reduce congestion. Policies <i>DM29: Environmental Amenity</i> and <i>DM25: Pollution Control</i> require proposals for sensitive new developments (such as housing) to be located an acceptable distance away from sources of pollution (including air pollution). Therefore, these sustainability issues are likely to be addressed to some extent without implementation of the Core Strategy Review and the Site Allocations DPD through the implementation of the Development Management DPD.</p>
Soil	
<p>Past industrial activity has left a legacy of land contamination with 956 hectares of potentially contaminated land in the Borough.</p> <p>Development on previously developed land should continue to be prioritised.</p> <p>There are a number of operational companies which are listed on the Pollution Inventory for their emissions to air, controlled waters and land, and off-site transfers of wastewater and waste.</p>	<p>The adopted Core Strategy includes a policy seeking to direct development to brownfield land in preference to greenfield land (Policy <i>BD 1: The Balanced Development Strategy</i>). Policy <i>Env4: Sustainable Development and Climate Change</i> in the adopted Core Strategy requires risks such as contaminated land, land stability and other risks associated with coal mining to be considered and, where necessary, addressed through appropriate remediation and mitigation measures. Policy <i>BD1</i> is anticipated to be revised in the Core Strategy Review due to the potential new growth requirements which may have implications for the soil environment as land from the Green Belt may be released for development. Policy <i>Env 4</i> is also anticipated to be revised however the revision does not relate to soil quality. These policies would continue to apply in the absence of the Core Strategy Review.</p> <p>The Site Allocations DPD offers opportunities for the existence of potentially contaminated land to be taken into account when allocating sites for development. It can also encourage the use of previously developed land over greenfield land in identifying sites for development. Without the implementation of the DPD this issue would be less well addressed.</p> <p>Without the implementation of the Core Strategy Review or the Site Allocations DPD, policy <i>DM24: Contaminated or Unstable Land & Storage of Hazardous Substances</i> of the Development Management DPD will apply which requires new developments on previously developed land, land known to be contaminated or potentially contaminated land to be subject to remediation or treatment to render the contamination identified harmless. Furthermore, the policy does not support development in close proximity to hazardous installations where it would cause a significant hazard to the health of residents and the environment. Therefore, these sustainability issues are likely to be addressed to some extent without implementation of the Core Strategy Review and the Site Allocations DPD through the implementation of the Development Management DPD.</p>
Landscape	
<p>The Green Belt plays a crucial role in checking urban sprawl and preserving the setting of historic towns. However, the Green Belt is continuously under pressure from urban influences and to accommodate new development in the Borough, which can diminish the contribution that the landscape makes to maintaining the character of the Borough and its settlements.</p>	<p>The physical separation of the countryside between the settlements is maintained through Policy <i>BD1: The Balanced Development Strategy</i> and Policy <i>RA1: Amount and Distribution of Housing in Rural Areas of the adopted Core Strategy</i>. As part of the Core Strategy Review, the findings of a Green Belt Assessment will be taken into account when considering locational options for meeting the revised objectively assessed need for housing and employment requirements in the Borough. These policies are anticipated to be revised in the review due to the potential new growth requirements which may have implications for the landscape as land from the Green Belt may be released for development. Although land may be removed from the Green Belt to accommodate development, without the Core Strategy Review unmet housing and</p>

Key sustainability issue	Likely evolution of the issue without implementation of the Core Strategy Review and the Site Allocations DPD
<p>The industrial heritage of the Borough is an important element of the townscape which should be protected, restored and maintained.</p>	<p>employment need would not be met. Furthermore, there would be pressure for development in the Green Belt in an unplanned way. These policies would continue to apply in the absence of the Core Strategy Review.</p> <p>The Site Allocations DPD offers the opportunity to allocate sites following consideration of their impacts on the landscape and townscape through the SA. Without the implementation of the DPD, this issue may be less well addressed.</p> <p>Without the implementation of the Core Strategy Review or the Site Allocations DPD, policy <i>DM34: Development in the Green Belt and Countryside Area</i> of the Development Management DPD will apply which requires new buildings in the Green Belt to accommodate agricultural or forestry workers, to comprise limited infilling, to involve the redevelopment of previously developed land, or to replace an existing residential building. All proposals should meet a number of criteria including being capable of being developed without adversely affecting the character of the Green Belt. Furthermore, policy <i>DM21: Protection of Open Spaces</i> seeks to protect important open spaces. Therefore, these sustainability issues are likely to be addressed to some extent without implementation of the Core Strategy Review and the Site Allocations DPD through the implementation of the Development Management DPD.</p>
<h3>Historic Environment</h3>	
<p>There are areas of historic importance in Hyndburn that should be preserved and enhanced. These are continuously facing pressures for change.</p> <p>Two Conservation Areas, five Listed Buildings and the only Scheduled Monument in the Borough are recorded on the Heritage at Risk Register.</p> <p>The majority of the former textile mill sites have been redeveloped however, there is potential for undiscovered heritage assets at the 30 undeveloped former textile mills sites.</p>	<p>The existing Core Strategy, particularly Policy <i>Env6: High Quality Design</i> requires new developments to enhance the setting of historic structures and areas, and retain historical associations where possible. This policy is not anticipated to be revised in the review and therefore will continue to apply in the absence of the Core Strategy Review.</p> <p>The Site Allocations DPD offers the opportunity to allocate sites following consideration of their impacts on the historic environment through the SA. Without the implementation of the DPD, this issue may be less well addressed.</p> <p>Without the implementation of the Core Strategy Review or the Site Allocations DPD, policy <i>DM22: Heritage Assets</i> of the Development Management DPD will apply which supports proposals where they seek to minimise harm to the significance of heritage assets and their settings including non-designated heritage assets. Therefore, these sustainability issues are likely to be addressed to some extent without implementation of the Core Strategy Review and the Site Allocations DPD through the implementation of the Development Management DPD.</p>
<h3>Mineral resources</h3>	
<p>Land contamination and stability are of particular concern due to the numerous disused quarries and coal mines located throughout the Borough.</p>	<p>Policy <i>Env4: Sustainable Development and Climate Change</i> in the adopted Core Strategy requires risks such as contaminated land, land stability and other risks associated with coal mining to be considered and, where necessary, addressed through appropriate remediation and mitigation measures. Policy <i>Env 4</i> is anticipated to be revised however the revision does not relate to mineral resources or land contamination. This policy would continue to apply in the absence of the Core Strategy Review.</p> <p>The Site Allocations DPD offers opportunities for the existence of potentially contaminated land to be taken into account when allocating sites for development. Without the implementation of the DPD, this issue</p>

Key sustainability issue	Likely evolution of the issue without implementation of the Core Strategy Review and the Site Allocations DPD
	<p>would be less well addressed.</p> <p>Without the implementation of the Core Strategy Review or the Site Allocations DPD, policy <i>DM24: Contaminated or Unstable Land & Storage of Hazardous Substances</i> of the Development Management Policies DPD will apply which requires new developments on previously developed land, land known to be contaminated or potentially contaminated land to be subject to remediation or treatment to render the contamination identified harmless. Therefore, this sustainability issue is likely to be addressed to some extent without implementation of the Core Strategy Review and the Site Allocations DPD through the implementation of the Development Management DPD.</p>
Waste	
<p>Over 70% of LACW was not sent for recycling, composting or reuse in 2015/16. Hyndburn has the lowest recycling/composting/reusing rate of all 14 Lancashire authorities (at 32.5%).</p> <p>The number of fly tipping incidents recorded in the Borough peaked in 2015/16 with an increase of 116.9% from the previous year.</p> <p>There are numerous historic landfill sites across the Borough which can present a risk to the surrounding environment.</p>	<p>These issues are more likely to be addressed through the Joint Lancashire Minerals and Waste Local Plan. However, Policy <i>Env4: Sustainable Development Climate Change</i> of the adopted Core Strategy requires developments to use locally sourced, reclaimed, recycled or low environmental impact products in design and construction, and provide facilities for effective sustainable waste management in the operation of the development. It also requires risks such as contaminated land, land stability and other risks associated with coal mining to be considered and, where necessary, addressed through appropriate remediation and mitigation measures. Policy Env 4 is anticipated to be revised however the revision does not relate to waste. This policy would continue to apply in the absence of the Core Strategy Review.</p> <p>The Site Allocations DPD offers opportunities for the existence of historic landfill sites to be taken into account when allocating sites for development. Furthermore, the DPD can ensure that site allocations do not compromise the operation of nearby waste management facilities. Without the implementation of the DPD these issues would be less well addressed.</p> <p>Without the implementation of the Core Strategy Review or the Site Allocations DPD, policy <i>DM31: Waste management in all new development</i> of the Development Management DPD will apply which requires new developments to provide adequate space for waste facilities capable of accommodating general household waste, recyclable waste and compostable waste. Therefore, the Development Management Policies DPD may encourage greater rates of recycling/composting/reusing in the absence of implementation of the Core Strategy Review and the Site Allocations DPD.</p>
Population	
<p>Over recent years Hyndburn's population has been affected by negative migration patterns, typical of other authorities in East Lancashire.</p> <p>Population projections predict that the population of Hyndburn will decrease by 2.41% by 2039 which is in contrast to the 16.5% rise predicted for England as a whole.</p> <p>High population density in the Borough (11.1 persons per hectare).</p>	<p>The adopted Core Strategy supports the provision of housing and employment opportunities to cater to the needs and demands of the changing population. It is anticipated that these policies will be updated in the review of the Core Strategy to reflect the revised OAN for new housing (between 3,500 and 6,340 dwellings) and jobs (between 1,100 and 3,800 new jobs), and the requirement for a new mix of housing (e.g. more homes suitable to cater for the aging population). Without the implementation of the Core Strategy, the quantum of new housing and jobs, and the appropriate mix of housing types will not be delivered and the current trends will continue. These policies would continue to apply in the absence of the Core Strategy Review.</p> <p>Without the allocation of additional residential and employment sites in appropriate locations through the Site Allocations DPD, it is less likely that the borough will retain or attract people and the current trend for</p>

Key sustainability issue	Likely evolution of the issue without implementation of the Core Strategy Review and the Site Allocations DPD
<p>The projected number of households in the authority is forecast to grow by 3.6% which is less than both the national and regional averages.</p> <p>The Borough currently has a higher proportion of people in the 0-15 and over 65 year age brackets compared to the national averages. The high percentage of young people has implications for the provision of educational and recreational facilities.</p> <p>Hyndburn is predicted to experience a demographic change with an increasing elderly population. This will have implications for the economy, service provision, accommodation and health.</p>	<p>negative migration will continue.</p> <p>Without the implementation of the Core Strategy Review or the Site Allocations DPD, policies <i>DM6: Delivering Schools and Early Learning</i>, <i>DM21: Protection of Open Spaces</i>, and <i>DM7: Cultural and Community Facilities</i> of the Development Management DPD will apply which support the development of new schools, cultural and community facilities, and the protection of important open spaces which should cater to the needs of the high proportion of young people in the Borough. Policy <i>DM14: Housing with Care for Older People and People with Disabilities</i> supports the development of housing with care in accessible, urban locations which should cater to the needs of the increasing population of elderly residents. Policy <i>DM16: Housing Standards</i> recognises the lack of a balanced housing market, including the provision of larger dwellings, which is thought to be an important contributing factor to the high levels of net out-migration experienced in recent years and requires new housing developments to adopt the national space standards. Policy <i>DM1: Employment Development</i> protects existing employment sites and supports proposals for new employment development which should attract more people of working age to the Borough thereby providing a more balanced proportion of people in each age bracket. Therefore, these sustainability issues are likely to be addressed to some extent without implementation of the Core Strategy Review and the Site Allocations DPD through the implementation of the Development Management DPD.</p>
Housing	
<p>Proportion of vacant dwellings in Hyndburn is a significant issue with 5.1% of the total housing stock comprising vacant dwellings.</p> <p>Hyndburn has the fourth lowest median house price of 347 district and unitary authorities in England and Wales at £100,000.</p> <p>The median house price to earnings ratio in the authority is very low.</p> <p>Progressive decrease in the number of households on the housing waiting lists since 2001.</p> <p>Hyndburn has the second lowest predicted growth in households compared to other local authorities in Lancashire.</p> <p>In recent years, there has been a diversification away from the traditional terraced stock of housing, with semi-detached properties being the most dominant housing type being built within the Borough. Despite diversification away from traditional terraced stock, there continues to be an oversupply of this kind of housing in Hyndburn,</p>	<p>The housing policies in the adopted Core Strategy include policies <i>H1: Housing Provision</i>, Policy <i>H2: Affordable Housing</i> and Policy <i>H3: Gypsy and Traveller Provision</i> which specify the volume, spatial distribution, and type of housing that should be delivered in the Borough. It is anticipated that these policies will be updated in the review of the Core Strategy to reflect the revised OAN for new housing of between 3,500 and 6,340 dwellings and the requirement for a new mix of housing based on the findings from the Strategic Housing Market Assessment and Housing Needs Study (2015). Without the implementation of the Core Strategy, the quantum of new housing and the appropriate mix of housing types will not be delivered and the current trends will continue. These policies would continue to apply in the absence of the Core Strategy Review.</p> <p>The Site Allocations DPD offers the opportunity to allocate new housing sites to meet the needs and demands of the changing population following consideration of their impacts through the SA. Without the implementation of the DPD, this issue may be less well addressed.</p> <p>Without the implementation of the Core Strategy Review or the Site Allocations DPD, policies <i>DM10: New Residential Development</i>, <i>DM16: Housing Standards</i> and <i>DM26: Design Quality and Materials</i> of the Development Management DPD will apply which recognise that there is a pressing need for greater choice of high quality housing to meet the needs of existing residents (so they don't move out of the Borough) and to attract new people to the area. Policy <i>DM13: Development of Housing within Residential Gardens</i> recognises that the housing stock in the Borough consists of predominately high density terraced housing with small backyards and supports the development of larger houses built at lower densities with a distinctive character which will help redress the dominance and imbalance of terraced housing and increase the choice of high quality housing. Therefore, these sustainability issues are likely to be addressed to some extent without implementation of the Core Strategy Review and the Site Allocations DPD through the</p>

Key sustainability issue	Likely evolution of the issue without implementation of the Core Strategy Review and the Site Allocations DPD
which does not give scope for adaptations – a key issue for the aging population of the Borough.	implementation of the Development Management DPD.
Social inclusion and deprivation	
<p>Hyndburn Borough experiences overall high levels of deprivation particularly under the income deprivation domain, employment deprivation domain, health deprivation and disability domain, and living environment deprivation domain.</p> <p>There are 23 LSOAs within the top 20% most deprived nationally.</p> <p>Hyndburn Borough has concentrated areas of child poverty, five wards within the top 20% nationally. One of the most pronounced health inequalities is infant mortality, the highest numbers of infant deaths occur disproportionately within one ward (Central). Hyndburn has a high density of households at risk of social isolation, estimated at 1,650 homes.</p> <p>It is one of the 20% most deprived authority areas in the country.</p> <p>There are 5,050 fuel poor households in the Borough.</p>	<p>The adopted Core Strategy contains policies for employment development which will help to address deprivation. These policies will be updated in the review of the Core Strategy to reflect the revised OAN for new jobs (between 1,100 and 3,800 new jobs or 19 hectares of employment land) (Employment Land Study 2016). Without the implementation of the Core Strategy Review, the new quantum of jobs may not be delivered. These policies would continue to apply in the absence of the Core Strategy Review.</p> <p>The Site Allocations DPD offers the opportunity to allocate sites for employment where there is the greatest need. Without the implementation of the DPD, this issue may be less well addressed.</p> <p>Without the implementation of the Core Strategy Review or the Site Allocations DPD, policies <i>DM1: Employment Development</i>, <i>DM2: Employment Strategies</i>, <i>DM16: Housing Standards</i>, <i>DM5: Hot Food Takeaways</i>, <i>DM11: Open Space Provision in New Residential Development</i>, and <i>DM21: Protection of Open Spaces</i> of the Development Management DPD will apply which should help to address social inclusion and deprivation to some extent in the Borough in the absence of implementation of the Core Strategy Review and Site Allocations DPD.</p>
Health	
<p>The population of Hyndburn performs generally worse than the averages for the North West of England and nationally against the majority of health indicators. Hyndburn has concerning health inequalities across geography and demographics in the areas of life expectancy, mental health, obesity and excess weight in children.</p>	<p>The health policies within the adopted Core Strategy include <i>HC1: Green space and facilities for walking/cycling</i>, <i>HC2: Leisure, health and culture</i>, and <i>HC4: Community benefits/planning obligations</i>. These policies are not anticipated to be revised in the review and therefore will continue to apply in the absence of the Core Strategy Review.</p> <p>The Site Allocations DPD offers the opportunity to allocate sites in close proximity to existing healthcare facilities as well as establishing new sustainable transport links and recreation areas to encourage physically active and healthier lifestyles. Without the implementation of the DPD, this issue may be less well addressed.</p> <p>Without the implementation of the Core Strategy Review or the Site Allocations DPD, policies <i>DM5: Hot Food Takeaways</i>, <i>DM11: Open Space Provision in New Residential Development</i>, and <i>DM21: Protection of Open Spaces</i> of the Development Management DPD will apply which limit the number and location of hot food takeaways, require adequate provision of public open space in new residential developments, and the protection of important open spaces used for recreation and leisure. Therefore, this sustainability issue is likely to be addressed to some extent without implementation of the Core Strategy Review and the Site Allocations DPD through the implementation of the Development Management DPD.</p>

Key sustainability issue	Likely evolution of the issue without implementation of the Core Strategy Review and the Site Allocations DPD
Crime	
<p>Hyndburn has a higher than average crime rate compared to other areas in Lancashire. Nearly half of all reported crimes related to anti-social behaviour. There is also a direct correlation between crime and the most deprived areas in Hyndburn.</p>	<p>Neither the Core Strategy Review nor the Site Allocations DPD are likely to affect levels of crime directly. However, by providing for development opportunities that generate jobs and affordable housing within more deprived communities, some of the causes of crime can be addressed. Therefore, without the implementation of the Site Allocations DPD, this issue may be less well addressed. Policy <i>Env 6 High Quality Design</i> and Policy <i>Env 7: Environmental Amenity</i> of the adopted Core Strategy support high quality design of developments which may reduce the opportunities for crime. These policies are not anticipated to be revised in the review and therefore will continue to apply in the absence of the Core Strategy Review. Without the implementation of the Core Strategy Review or the Site Allocations DPD, policy <i>DM26: Design Quality and Materials</i> of the Development Management DPD will apply which requires places to be designed to be used safely and securely by all in the community. Therefore, this sustainability issue is likely to be addressed to some extent without implementation of the Core Strategy Review and the Site Allocations DPD through the implementation of the Development Management DPD.</p>
Education, skills and training	
<p>There is a need to improve educational attainment in the Borough. A skills gap exists in Hyndburn as it experiences poor educational attainment leading to a lack of skilled workers. By improving levels of educational attainment there could be wider social benefits and improvements to the local economy.</p>	<p>Policy <i>ED1: New and Improved Educational Facilities</i> of the adopted Core Strategy supports proposals for accessible, high quality educational facilities that improve basic and higher level skills and qualifications. This policy is not anticipated to be revised in the review and therefore will continue to apply in the absence of the Core Strategy Review.</p> <p>The Site Allocations DPD offers the opportunity to allocate new employment and housing sites that are easily accessible to educational facilities. Without the implementation of the DPD, this issue may be less well addressed.</p> <p>Without the implementation of the Core Strategy Review or the Site Allocations DPD, policy <i>DM 6: Delivering Schools and Early Learning</i> of the Development Management DPD will apply which supports the development of new schools and colleges provided they are designed and landscaped to a high standard, are accessible by sustainable modes of transport, and do not have an unacceptable impact on the amenity of neighbouring properties. Therefore, this sustainability issue is likely to be addressed to some extent without implementation of the Core Strategy Review and the Site Allocations DPD through the implementation of the Development Management DPD.</p>
Culture, leisure and recreation	
<p>The Leeds and Liverpool Canal and the National Cycle Network are important leisure and tourism assets in the Borough which should be maintained and enhanced.</p>	<p>Policies A4, A6 and R3 of the adopted Core Strategy relate to The Leeds and Liverpool Canal and seek to improve access, views, and environmental quality of the waterway corridor (these policies will not be revised however they may be merged in the Review). These policies will continue to apply in the absence of the Core Strategy Review.</p> <p>The Site Allocations DPD offers the opportunity to allocate new employment and housing sites following consideration of their impacts on the canal through the SA. Without the implementation of the DPD, this issue may be less well addressed.</p> <p>Without the implementation of the Core Strategy Review or the Site Allocations DPD, policy <i>DM34: Development in the Green Belt and Countryside Area</i> of the Development Management DPD will apply</p>

Key sustainability issue	Likely evolution of the issue without implementation of the Core Strategy Review and the Site Allocations DPD
	<p>which supports proposals to improve access to leisure and recreational facilities, and to encourage the use of waterways for tourism, leisure, recreation and sporting activities. Therefore, this sustainability issue is likely to be addressed to some extent without implementation of the Core Strategy Review and the Site Allocations DPD through the implementation of the Development Management DPD.</p>
Economy and employment	
<p>80.2% of the population of Hyndburn are employed which is above the national average. However, in comparison to the national averages, Hyndburn has a high proportion of people who are unemployed, are claiming out-of-work benefits, have no qualifications, and earn lower wages.</p> <p>The service sector is the most dominant sector in the Borough followed by the manufacturing sector.</p> <p>Retaining skilled members of the population is an issue for the local economy.</p> <p>Strongest commuting flows are to and from Blackburn.</p> <p>There is a need to improve training levels to enhance the quality of the local workforce.</p> <p>There is a need to improve the image of the Borough to encourage inward investment and to attract new business opportunities.</p>	<p>The adopted Core Strategy contains policies to enhance employment provision in the borough including Policy <i>BD1: The Balanced Development Strategy, E1: Future Employment Provision, E2: Protection, Modernisation and Development of Employment Sites, A2: Accrington Town Centre, A5: Brookside Business Centre, Policy A8: Strategic Employment Site at Huncoat, Policy KW1: Strategic Regional Employment Site at Whitebirk, and RA3: Protection and development of Altham Business Park</i>. It is likely that the majority of these policies will be updated in the Core Strategy Review to reflect the revised OAN for new jobs (between 1,100 and 3,800 new jobs or 19 hectares of employment land) based on the findings of the Employment Land Study (2016). Without the implementation of the Core Strategy Review, the new quantum of jobs may not be delivered. These policies will continue to apply in the absence of the Core Strategy Review.</p> <p>The Site Allocations DPD offers the opportunity to allocate new employment sites which may attract more skilled jobs in managerial, professional and technical professions. Without the implementation of the DPD, this issue may be less well addressed.</p> <p>Without the implementation of the Core Strategy Review or the Site Allocations DPD, policies <i>DM1: Employment Development</i> and <i>DM2: Employment Strategies</i> of the Development Management DPD will apply which protect existing employment sites, support proposals for new employment development that are of a high standard which should encourage inward investment, and require developers of major commercial or employment development to develop and implement an employment strategy which sets out how they will work alongside Jobcentre Plus to recruit employees from the local area which should address some of the issues relating to worklessness and skills in the Borough. Therefore, these sustainability issues are likely to be addressed to some extent without implementation of the Core Strategy Review and the Site Allocations DPD through the implementation of the Development Management DPD.</p>
Retail	
<p>There is considerable leakage of comparison goods expenditure to centres and stores outside the Borough with the main retail centres competing with other nearby major shopping destinations, particularly in Blackburn, Burnley and Preston. There is a need to protect the vitality and viability of the Borough's town centres.</p> <p>Vacancy rates in Accrington and Great Harwood are above the national average.</p>	<p>Policies <i>BD1: The Balanced Development Strategy, A2: Accrington Town Centre, GH2: Great Harwood Town Centre and R2: Rishton Town Centre</i> in the adopted Core Strategy support the provision of key services and shopping facilities primarily in Accrington as the principal retail centre. These policies will be updated in the Core Strategy Review to reflect the requirements for between 2,300 and 5,800 sq. m of new retailing floorspace in the Borough based on the Retail Study (2016). Without the implementation of the Core Strategy Review, the new quantum of retail floorspace may not be delivered and the current trend for leakage of comparison goods expenditure to centres and stores outside the Borough will continue. These policies will continue to apply in the absence of the Core Strategy Review.</p> <p>The Site Allocations DPD offers the opportunity to allocate new housing and employment sites in close proximity to town and local centres which will support their vitality. Without the implementation of the</p>

Key sustainability issue	Likely evolution of the issue without implementation of the Core Strategy Review and the Site Allocations DPD
	<p>DPD, this issue may be less well addressed.</p> <p>Without the implementation of the Core Strategy Review or the Site Allocations DPD, policy <i>DM3: Town Centre Development</i> of the Development Management DPD will apply which supports proposals that retain and develop the vitality and vibrancy of town centres by providing a mix of retail and leisure facilities and services. Policy <i>DM4: Retail Frontages</i> seeks to strengthen the retail offer of town and district centres by ensuring that at least 80% of the designated primary frontages in Great Harwood remain in retail use and that proposals maintain an active frontage with a healthy mix of town centre uses. Therefore, the Development Management DPD will help to protect to some extent the vitality and viability of the town centres in the absence of implementation of the Core Strategy Review and the Site Allocations DPD. Furthermore, the Accrington Area Action Plan provides the overarching strategic policy framework for Accrington town centre. It supports proposals that strengthen the retail provision in the town centre which, in the absence of the Core Strategy Review and Site Allocations DPD, should help to address the issue of vacancy rates in Accrington.</p>
Transport and accessibility	
<p>Traffic congestion and reduced air quality are a problem in urban areas of the Borough.</p> <p>Opportunities should be sought to reduce dependence on the private car and increase public transport use and other forms of sustainable transport.</p>	<p>The transport and accessibility policies in the adopted Core Strategy include Policy <i>T1: Improving Connectivity</i>, <i>T2: Cycle and Footpath Networks</i>, and <i>T3: Motorway and Trunk Road Improvements</i> which encourage the use of sustainable modes of transport and improvements to the road network to alleviate traffic congestion and connectivity issues. These policies are not anticipated to be revised in the review and therefore will continue to apply in the absence of the Core Strategy Review.</p> <p>The Site Allocations DPD offers the opportunity to allocate new housing and employment sites in close proximity to sustainable transport modes and following consideration of their impacts on transport patterns through the SA. Without the implementation of the DPD, this issue may be less well addressed.</p> <p>Without the implementation of the Core Strategy Review or the Site Allocations DPD, policies <i>DM32: Sustainable Transport, Traffic and Highway Safety</i> and <i>DM33: Sustainable Transport Infrastructure</i> of the Development Management DPD will apply which require development proposals to encourage sustainable travel and highway networks to be designed to improve accessibility and reduce congestion. Development proposals that generate a significant amount of traffic are required to be accompanied by a Transport Assessment and should be located where the need to travel will be minimised and in locations that are readily accessible by a variety of transport modes. Proposals should not give rise to an increase in traffic volumes that exceed the capacity of the local or strategic road network. Therefore, these sustainability issues are likely to be addressed to some extent without implementation of the Core Strategy Review and the Site Allocations DPD through the implementation of the Development Management DPD.</p>

4 Sustainability Appraisal Findings for the Housing Growth Options

Introduction

- 4.1 Hyndburn Borough Council is presenting four potential housing growth options for consultation in the Core Strategy Review - Growth Options and Spatial Options Consultation Paper, each of which has the potential to guide the level of growth to 2033 in a different way. These are:
- Housing Growth Option 1 – **Communities and Local Government Consultation method** (to allocate land for 1,200 homes or 60 dpa).
 - Housing Growth Option 2 – **Low Housing Growth** (to allocate land for 3,500 homes, or 175dpa).
 - Housing Growth Option 3 – **Medium Housing Growth** (to allocate land for 4,920 homes, or 246dpa).
 - Housing Growth Option 4 – **High Housing Growth** (to allocate land for 6,340 homes, or 317dpa).
- 4.2 This chapter describes the appraisal findings for the housing growth options set out in the Core Strategy Review – Growth Options and Spatial Options Consultation Paper. The detailed SA matrices for the four potential housing growth options are presented in **Appendix 4**.

SA Findings for the Housing Growth Options

- 4.3 **Table 4.1** overleaf presents an overview of the assessment scores for the four housing growth options. The effects of the four housing options are mixed, reflecting the range of advantages and disadvantages associated with developing housing at different scales in the Borough. These effects are described in more detail in the subsequent paragraphs.

Table 4.1 Summary of SA scores for the housing growth options

SA Objective	Housing Growth Option 1 (CLGC)	Housing Growth Option 2 (Low)	Housing Growth Option 3 (Medium)	Housing Growth Option 4 (High)
1: Employment	0	0	0	0
2: Economy	-	0	+	++
3: Education	+	+	++	++
4: Health	+/-	+/-	++/--	++/--
5: Crime	0	0	0	0
6: Poverty	+	+	++	++
7: Access to facilities	+/-	+/-	++/--	++/--
8: Transport	+	+/-	++/--	++/--
9: Housing	+	+	++	++
10: Centre vitality & viability	+	+	+/-	+/-
11: Historic Environment	+?/-?	+?/-?	+?/--?	+?/--?
12: Waste	+	-	-	--
13: Resources	0?	-?	-?	--?
14: Climate change	++	++/-	++/--	++/--
15: Flooding	0?	-?	-?	--?
16: Biodiversity & geodiversity	+/-?	+/-?	+/--?	+/--?
17: Landscape	++?	+?/-?	+/--?	+/--?
18: Water	0?	-?	-?	-?
19: Pollution	++	++/-	++/--	++/--
20: Soil	++	+	-	--

- 4.4 Significant positive and minor positive effects are identified for HGO4 and HGO3 respectively for SA objective **2: Economy** as delivering a larger number of dwellings has increased potential to support the development, resilience and growth of the local economy by attracting new residents of working age (16-64) to the Borough. The lower levels of housing growth proposed through HGO2 and particularly HGO1 do not provide the necessary workforce levels to generate economic growth in Hyndburn and therefore, a neutral effect is identified for HGO2 and a minor negative effect is expected for HGO1.
- 4.5 For SA objective **3: Education**, due to the level of growth proposed by all options, it is assumed that the options will make a positive contribution towards ensuring that future demand and need for school places is met. Minor positive effects are identified for HGO1 and HGO2, however, significant positive effects are identified for HGO3 and HGO4 as it is more likely that the high level of growth proposed under these options will trigger the need to significantly expand existing schools or provide several new schools thereby improving the provision of education infrastructure in the Borough.
- 4.6 Mixed effects are identified for all housing growth options for SA objective **4: Health** and **7: Access to Facilities**. HGO1 and HGO2 will have minor positive combined with minor negative effects as they promote a smaller scale of housing delivery in Hyndburn which has increased potential to facilitate the development of new housing at urban locations that are accessible to existing health, leisure, educational, cultural, sporting, recreation and community facilities by using the public transport, cycling and walking routes. However, it is possible that the increase in housing may put additional pressure on these facilities without triggering the requirement to provide new amenities to meet the increase in demand. Mixed effects (significant positive/significant negative) are recorded for HGO3 and HGO4 as the population increases associated with these options will put significant pressure on existing services and facilities. Furthermore, due to the dispersal of this high level of growth outside of the urban areas, these services and facilities may not be accessible by alternative modes of transport to the private car. However, the delivery of Community Infrastructure Levy monies and similar mechanisms to provide new health, leisure, educational, cultural, sporting, recreational and community facilities are more likely to be achievable through the larger scale of development facilitated through these options.

- 4.7 Positive effects are identified for all housing growth options for SA objective **6: Poverty**. HGO1 and HGO2 promote a smaller scale of housing delivery in Hyndburn which has increased potential to facilitate the development of new housing at locations which are more integrated with the existing built up area of settlements where the most deprived areas in the Borough are (i.e. Accrington Central, Peel, Spring Hill and Church). Focussing development of this scale in and around deprived areas provides some opportunities to improve community services and facilities; reduce poverty; improve access to the job market; and promote social inclusion. Minor positive effects are identified for HGO1 and HGO2, however, significant positive effects are identified for HGO3 and HGO4 as the delivery of Community Infrastructure Levey monies and similar mechanisms to provide easily accessible services, facilities and amenities are more likely to be achievable through the larger scale of development facilitated through these options.
- 4.8 For SA objective **8: Transport**, three of the four housing growth options will have mixed effects. An overall minor positive effect is recorded for HGO1 while a minor positive effect combined with a minor negative effect is expected for HGO2. These options promote a smaller scale of housing delivery at locations that are integrated with the existing built up area of settlements which allows easier access to services and facilities by sustainable modes of transport thereby reducing the need to travel by private car. However, HGO2 will also require land outside of the urban areas which may result in some people having to travel by private car to access these services and facilities. The overall positive score for these options is recorded as minor rather than significant as the provision of integrated transport options through HGO2 and particularly HGO1 will be limited due to the level of housing growth proposed. The increased housing growth facilitated by HGO3 and HGO4 have the potential to place additional demands on existing transport infrastructure in Hyndburn. Although congestion and emissions will increase with these options, there are increased opportunities to locate housing in locations that are easily accessible by sustainable transport. Furthermore, the provision of new and improved sustainable transport infrastructure to accompany new housing development, including pedestrian/cycle and public transport links, may be more feasible with the larger scale of development proposed through HGO3 and HGO4.
- 4.9 Positive effects are recorded for all housing growth options for SA objective **9: Housing**. Significant positive effects are expected for HGO3 and HGO4 as they will greatly increase the supply of housing, including affordable housing. Furthermore, these options will provide a greater choice of house sizes, types, prices and tenures to meet local needs, and offer significant opportunities to diversify the housing stock and reduce the amount of unfit/empty homes in the Borough. HGO2 and HGO1 will have minor positive effects as they will provide a limited range of house sizes, types, prices and tenures; a lower level of affordable housing; and, limited opportunities to rebalance the housing stock and reduce the amount of unfit/empty homes.
- 4.10 For SA objective **10: Centre Vitality & Viability**, minor positive effects are identified for all housing growth options, although these are combined with minor negative effects for HGO3 and HGO4. The growth options have the potential to have an indirect positive effect on strengthening the Borough's retail offering through promoting the viability of local services and facilities, and increasing the local market for goods and services. Although the population growth associated with the higher growth options will increase town centre footfall, it is also possible that there may be pressure for out-of-town retail developments to support the delivery of large scale housing developments which would not maintain or enhance the vitality or viability of town and retail centres in Hyndburn.
- 4.11 Mixed effects are identified for all housing growth options for SA objective **11: Historic Environment**. All housing growth options will have uncertain minor positive effects as there are opportunities for the reuse and rejuvenation of existing heritage assets, regardless of the scale of development. HGO3 and HGO4 have the potential to increase pressure on the historic environment through encouraging a greater degree of development in Hyndburn which may have adverse effects on the fabric or setting of heritage assets in urban areas and on buried archaeology in greenfield locations. Therefore, mixed effects (uncertain minor positive/uncertain significant negative) are recorded for this SA objective. HGO1 and HGO2 promote a smaller scale of housing delivery in the urban areas of Hyndburn which is also likely to affect the setting of heritage assets as these assets are more concentrated in the built up areas. Uncertain minor positive/uncertain minor negative effects are identified for HGO1 and HGO2. The effects for all options are uncertain as the design of the development may prevent any adverse impacts on the

heritage assets and may incorporate features such as green space which could promote local distinctiveness and sense of place.

- 4.12 A range of effects are recorded for SA objective **12: Waste**. HGO1 will have a minor positive effect as it is estimated to lead to a decrease in population of around 1,600 people by 2033, resulting in less waste requiring disposal. HGO2 and HGO3 will have minor negative effects as the proposed growth is estimated to lead to an increase in population of around 3,000 people and 7,500 people by 2033, respectively, which will increase pressures on the Borough's waste collection and waste management systems. HGO4 will have a significant negative effect as it delivers the highest level of development in Hyndburn, which is estimated to result in considerable population growth of around 9,000 people by 2033, resulting in significantly more waste requiring disposal.
- 4.13 Uncertain negative effects are recorded for housing growth options HGO2, HGO3 and HGO4 for SA objective **13: Resources**. HGO4 is expected to have an uncertain significant negative effect as it delivers large-scale residential development in Hyndburn which has the potential to significantly increase development on greenfield land as the availability of previously developed land becomes less available potentially sterilising and reducing access to mineral resources. This option will also require the significant consumption of minerals and aggregates during the construction stage of development. HGO2 and HGO3 will have uncertain minor negative effects on the protection of mineral resources as most development would be directed towards brownfield land contained within the Borough's urban areas. However, it is likely for these options, particularly HGO3, that additional greenfield sites will be required to accommodate the proposed level of growth which would increase the risk of potential sterilisation of mineral resources. HGO1 will have an uncertain negligible effect as it offers the likelihood of the highest percentage of new development taking place on previously developed land which is not within the Mineral Safeguarding Area, and will require the least amount of minerals and aggregates for construction.
- 4.14 A range of effects are recorded for SA objective **14: Climate Change** and SA objective **19: Pollution**. HGO1 and HGO2 promote a smaller scale of housing delivery in Hyndburn which has increased potential to facilitate the development of new housing at locations which are more integrated with the existing built up area of settlements. This has the potential to allow easier access to services and facilities by sustainable modes of transport thereby reducing the need to travel by private car and the emission of greenhouse gases. However, HGO2 will also require land outside of the urban areas which may result in some people having to travel by private car to access these services and facilities which may increase transport related emissions. These housing growth options also minimise the likelihood of noise and light pollution due to their low projected housing growth rate. A significant positive effect is identified for HGO1 while a mixed effect (significant positive/minor negative) is expected for HGO2. Increases in noise, light and particularly emissions of air pollutants from transport are more likely through the increased scale of development proposed through HGO3 and HGO4, particularly as the proposed level of development cannot be contained in the urban areas where the provision of sustainable modes of transport are greatest. Although negative impacts on air quality from transport emissions will increase with these options, it is also likely that the increased scale of growth through these options will deliver new and/or improved sustainable transport infrastructure to accompany the new developments, including pedestrian/cycle and public transport links, which will reduce the need to travel by private car and the emission of greenhouse gases. Mixed effects (significant positive/significant negative) are identified for these options.
- 4.15 Uncertain negative effects are recorded for most housing growth options for SA objective **15: Flooding** as new residential development will inevitably lead to an increase in impermeable surfaces which might otherwise help to facilitate the infiltration of surface water. HGO4 will have a significant negative effect as it delivers large-scale housing development in Hyndburn which has the potential to increase development on greenfield land as the availability of previously developed land becomes less available thereby reducing the amount of permeable land in Hyndburn. HGO2 and HGO3 will have uncertain minor negative effects as, although the proposed growth under both housing growth options could largely be contained within the urban area where previously developed sites are predominantly located, new residential development will inevitably lead to a reduction in permeable surfaces. HGO1 will have a negligible effect as it offers the likelihood of the highest percentage of new development taking place on previously developed land. Effects are uncertain for all options as it will depend on the exact location, design and layout

of new development and the inclusion of sustainable drainage systems to manage runoff and increase infiltration and flood storage.

- 4.16 Mixed effects (minor positive/uncertain significant negative) are expected for SA objective **16: Biodiversity** for HGO4 and HGO3, while mixed effects (minor positive/uncertain minor negative) are identified for HGO2 and HGO1. The delivery of housing in the Borough has the potential to affect the biodiversity and geodiversity through habitat damage/loss, fragmentation, disturbance to species, air pollution, increased recreation pressure and other impacts, which could particularly affect the Borough's two SSSIs, 23 Local Wildlife Sites, four Local Nature Reserves and three Local Geological Sites. In this context, growth options delivering high levels of residential development, HGO3 and particularly HGO4, have the potential to increase adverse effects on the Borough's biodiversity and geodiversity assets. The smaller scale of housing promoted through HGO2 and HGO1 are also expected to affect biodiversity and geodiversity, albeit to a lesser degree than HGO4 and HGO3, which is reflected in the reduced negative effects for HGO1 and HGO2. The proposed level of growth by these options could be contained within the urban areas where brownfield land, which is of lower biodiversity value, is predominately located. Conversely, all housing growth options may provide opportunities to promote habitat connectivity through the incorporation of green infrastructure as the Development Management DPD requires proposals for housing of 10 dwellings and above to make adequate provision for open space which could have benefits for providing new habitats or habitat linkages. Therefore, a minor positive effect is also incorporated into the mixed scores for all housing growth options.
- 4.17 For SA objective **17: Landscape**, the proposed growth under HGO2, and particularly HGO1, could be largely contained within the urban area where brownfield sites are predominantly located, thus, mostly avoiding development on greenfield land. It is also assumed that the redevelopment of brownfield sites could improve the overall character and appearance of the Borough's urban areas and protect the countryside. Thus, HGO2 will have a mixed effect (uncertain minor positive/uncertain minor negative) whilst HGO1 will have an uncertain significant positive effect due to the low levels of growth proposed. The large levels of housing delivery associated with HGO4 and HGO3 could have the potential to significantly impact upon landscape character as they deliver the highest level of development in Hyndburn which has the potential to increase development on greenfield land thereby diminishing the contribution that the landscape makes to maintaining the character of the Borough and its settlements. Therefore, mixed effects (minor positive/uncertain significant negative) are identified for HGO3 and HGO4. Similar to SA objective 16, minor positive effects are incorporated into the scores as all housing growth options may incorporate open spaces and green infrastructure improvements which could have benefits for improving and maintaining landscape character.
- 4.18 A range of effects are recorded for SA objective **18: Water**. Uncertain minor negative effects are identified for HGO2, HGO3 and HGO4 as these housing growth options are predicted to lead to an increase in population (around 3,000 people, 7,500 people and 9,000 people by 2033, respectively) which will exacerbate problems regarding both water abstraction and water pollution caused by increased sewerage/wastewater production at each new housing site. An uncertain minor positive effect is identified for HGO1 as projections under this growth option show a likely decrease in population of around 1,600 people by 2033 resulting in less wastewater requiring disposal and potentially lower rates of water abstraction thereby protecting the quantity of water.
- 4.19 A range of effects are recorded for SA objective **20: Soil**. HGO1 will have a significant positive effect as it offers the likelihood of the highest percentage of new development taking place on previously developed/contaminated land. HGO2 will have a minor positive effect as the proposed growth could largely be contained within the urban area where brownfield/contaminated sites are predominately located. HGO4 will have a significant negative effect as it delivers the highest level of development in Hyndburn which has the potential to increase development on greenfield land in the Borough as the availability of previously developed/contaminated land becomes less available. HGO3 will have a minor negative effect as some greenfield sites outside of the urban area are likely to be required in addition to previously developed/contaminated sites.
- 4.20 The housing growth options are unlikely to have a direct effect on SA objectives **1: Employment** and **5: Crime**.

5 Sustainability Appraisal Findings for the Employment Growth Options

Introduction

- 5.1 Hyndburn Borough Council is presenting three potential employment growth options for consultation in the Core Strategy Review - Growth Options and Spatial Options Consultation Paper, each of which has the potential to guide the level of growth to 2033 in a different way. These are:
- Employment Growth Option 1 – **Low Growth** (to allocate around 4.4ha of land, around 0.2ha per annum).
 - Employment Growth Option 2 – **Medium Growth** (to allocate around 19.1ha of land, around 1.0ha per annum).
 - Employment Growth Option 3 – **High Growth** to (allocate up to 62ha of land, around 3.1ha per annum).
- 5.2 This chapter describes the appraisal findings for the employment growth options set out in the Core Strategy Review – Growth Options and Spatial Options Consultation Paper. The detailed SA matrices for the three potential employment growth options are presented in **Appendix 5**.

SA Findings for the Employment Growth Options

- 5.3 **Table 5.1** overleaf presents an overview of the assessment scores for the three employment growth options. The effects of the three employment options are mixed, reflecting the range of advantages and disadvantages associated with the provision of different scales of employment development in the Borough. These effects are described in more detail in the subsequent paragraphs.

Table 5.1 Summary of SA scores for the employment growth options

SA Objective	Employment Growth Option 1 (Low)	Employment Growth Option 2 (Medium)	Employment Growth Option 3 (High)
1: Employment	+	++	++
2: Economy	0	+	++
3: Education	0	+	+
4: Health	+/-	++/--	++/--
5: Crime	0	0	0
6: Poverty	+	++/-	++/-
7: Access to facilities	+	+/-	+/-
8: Transport	+	+/-	++/--
9: Housing	0	0	0
10: Centre vitality & viability	+	+/-	+/-
11: Historic Environment	+?/-?	+?/--?	+?/--?
12: Waste	0	-	-
13: Resources	0?	-?	--?
14: Climate change	++	++/-	++/--
15: Flooding	0?	-?	-?
16: Biodiversity & geodiversity	+/-?	+/--?	+/--?
17: Landscape	++?	+/-?	+/--?
18: Water	0?	-?	-?
19: Pollution	++	++/-	++/--
20: Soil	++	++/--	--

- 5.4 Positive effects are recorded for all employment growth options for SA objective **1: Employment**. Significant positive effects are expected for EGO2 and EGO3 as the considerable provision of employment land facilitated through these options will generate significant job growth, including new opportunities in managerial, professional and technical professions. EGO1 will also provide additional employment land in Hyndburn over the plan period, but will not generate net jobs growth over the plan period due to the small levels of employment growth proposed.
- 5.5 A range of effects are recorded for SA objective **2: Economy**. EGO3 will have significant positive effects as it has the potential to support the development, resilience and growth of the local economy by providing full support for existing businesses and inward investment, as well as boosting the economic vitality of the Borough by helping to stimulate 'on the job training' opportunities. EGO2 will have a minor positive effect as it will increase opportunities for inward investment, business expansion and training opportunities to a lesser degree than EGO3. EGO1 is unlikely to provide the necessary workforce levels to generate economic growth in Hyndburn as it is projected to result in no/low job growth and therefore, a negligible effect is identified for this employment option.
- 5.6 The employment growth options are unlikely to improve the provision of education infrastructure (e.g. construction of primary and secondary schools) (SA objective **3: Education**). However, an increase in the economic vitality of the Borough stimulated by the considerable job growth generated under EGO2 and EGO3 may help to stimulate 'on the job training' opportunities. The lower level of employment land provision under EGO1 is unlikely to provide sufficient training opportunities to attract and retain a highly skilled workforce. Therefore, minor positive effects are identified for EGO3 and EGO2, whilst a negligible effect is identified for EGO1.
- 5.7 Mixed effects are recorded for the three employment growth options in relation to SA objective **4: Health** (minor positive/minor negative effects for EGO1 and significant positive/significant negative effects for EGO2 and EGO3). All employment growth options will have a positive effect as they deliver new employment land in urban locations where more people would be able to walk and cycle day-to-day (benefitting health) due to the close proximity of jobs. However, the higher growth options, EGO2 and EGO3, will also deliver new employment land outside of the urban areas where opportunities to walk and cycle to work are more limited. EGO2 and EGO3 provide greater opportunities to deliver new areas of open space as part of developments which will the

improve health and amenity, while the delivery of the level of growth proposed through EGO1 is unlikely to deliver new areas/networks of green infrastructure or the enhancement of public rights of way. As the higher employment growth options will require more land, this increases the risk of adverse effects on existing open spaces should these be development as employment land.

- 5.8 Positive effects are identified for all options for SA objective **6: Poverty** as they promote the delivery of new employment land at locations which are integrated with the existing built up area of settlements where the most deprived areas in the Borough are (i.e. Accrington Central, Peel, Spring Hill and Church). Focussing employment development in and around deprived areas provides opportunities to improve access to the job market. Therefore, a minor positive effect is identified for EGO1 while significant positive effects are expected for EGO2 and EGO3. However, the significant positive effects for EGO2 and EGO3 are combined with minor negative effects as these options will also provide employment land outside of the urban areas which may not be as easily accessible by sustainable transport thereby limiting opportunities for some people to gain employment in the Borough.
- 5.9 For SA objective **7: Access to Facilities**, minor positive effects are recorded for the three employment growth options, although these are combined with minor negative effects for EGO2 and EGO3. The employment growth options will deliver new employment land within urban centres which would be accessible to leisure, educational, cultural, sporting, recreation and community facilities by using the public transport, cycling and walking routes. Minor negative effects are also identified for the higher employment options as, due to the dispersal of the high level of growth outside of the urban areas, these services and facilities may not be accessible by alternative modes of transport to the private car.
- 5.10 A range of effects are recorded for SA objective **8: Transport**. An overall minor positive effect is recorded for EGO1 while a minor positive effect combined with a minor negative effect is expected for EGO2. These options promote a small scale of employment land delivery in Hyndburn which is more likely to be integrated with the existing built-up areas within settlements, allowing easier access to employment and job opportunities by sustainable modes of transport thereby reducing the need to travel by private car. The development of employment land may also reduce the number of people travelling outside of the Borough for work. However, EGO2 will also require land outside of the urban areas which may result in some people having to travel by private car to access employment opportunities. The overall positive score for these options is recorded as minor rather than significant as the provision of integrated transport options through EGO2 and particularly EGO1 will be limited due to the level of employment growth proposed. The increased employment growth facilitated by EGO3 has the potential to place additional demands on existing transport infrastructure in Hyndburn. Although congestion and emissions will increase with this option, the provision of new and improved sustainable transport infrastructure to accompany new employment development, including pedestrian/cycle and public transport links, may be more feasible with the larger scale of development proposed through EGO3. Furthermore, the development of a significant amount of employment land will reduce the need to travel outside of Hyndburn to access employment opportunities. Therefore, mixed effects (significant positive/significant negative) are identified for EGO3.
- 5.11 For SA objective **10: Centre Vitality & Viability**, minor positive effects are identified for all employment growth options, although these are combined with minor negative effects for EGO2 and EGO3. The growth options have the potential to have an indirect positive effect on strengthening the Borough's retail offering through promoting the viability of local services and facilities, and increasing the local market for goods and services. Although the population growth associated with the higher growth options will increase town centre footfall, it is also possible that there may be pressure for out-of-town retail developments to support the delivery of large scale employment developments which would not maintain or enhance the vitality or viability of town and retail centres in Hyndburn.
- 5.12 Mixed effects are recorded for SA objective **11: Historic Environment**. All employment growth options will have uncertain minor positive effects as there are opportunities for the reuse and rejuvenation of existing heritage assets, regardless of the scale of development. EGO2 and EGO3 have the potential to increase pressure on the historic environment through promoting a greater degree of employment development in Hyndburn which may have adverse effects on the fabric or setting of heritage assets in urban areas and on buried archaeology in greenfield locations. Therefore, mixed effects (uncertain minor positive/uncertain significant negative) are recorded for

EGO2 and EGO3 this SA objective. EGO1 promotes a smaller degree of employment growth, offering the likelihood of the highest percentage of new development taking place on previously developed land contained within the Borough's urban areas. Thus, EGO1 is likely to affect the setting of heritage assets as these assets are more concentrated in the built-up areas. Therefore, a mixed effect (uncertain minor positive/uncertain minor negative) effect is identified for EGO1.

- 5.13 Minor negative effects are recorded for EGO2 and EGO3 for SA objective **12: Waste**, as new employment development will inevitably produce waste resulting in increased pressures on the Borough's waste collection and management systems. EGO1 will have a negligible effect on this SA objective as it will not generate net jobs growth over the plan period.
- 5.14 Uncertain negative effects are recorded for employment growth options EGO2 and EGO3 for SA objective **13: Resources**. EGO3 is expected to have an uncertain significant negative effect as it delivers large-scale employment development in Hyndburn which has the potential to significantly increase development on greenfield land as the availability of previously developed land becomes less available potentially sterilising and reducing access to mineral resources. This option will also require the significant consumption of minerals and aggregates during the construction stage of development. EGO2 will have an uncertain minor negative effect on the protection of mineral resources as most development would be directed towards brownfield land contained within the Borough's urban areas. However, it is likely for this option that additional greenfield sites will be required to accommodate the proposed level of employment growth which would increase the risk of potential sterilisation of mineral resources. EGO1 will have an uncertain negligible effect as it offers the likelihood of the highest percentage of new development taking place on previously developed land which is not within the Mineral Safeguarding Area, and will require the least amount of minerals and aggregates for construction.
- 5.15 A range of effects are recorded for **14: Climate Change** and SA objective **19: Pollution**. Positive effects are recorded for the three employment growth options as the delivery of employment land will reduce the need to travel outside of Hyndburn to access employment opportunities. EGO1 will have a significant positive effect on both SA objectives as it promotes a lower level of employment growth in Hyndburn which has increased potential to facilitate new employment development at locations which are more integrated with the existing built-up area of the Borough. This has the potential to allow easier access to job opportunities by sustainable modes of transport, thereby reducing the need to travel by private car and the emission of greenhouse gases. EGO2 and EGO3 will have mixed effects (significant positive/minor negative and significant positive/significant negative, respectively) as increases in greenhouse gas emissions, air pollutants and increases in noise/light pollution are more likely through the increased scale of development proposed through EGO2 and EGO3. Moreover, the level of employment land development proposed under EGO2 and EGO3 cannot be contained in the Borough's urban areas where the provision of sustainable modes of transport are greatest, which is likely to result in a greater dependence on travel by private car. Although negative impacts on air quality from transport emissions will increase with EGO2 and EGO3, it is also likely that the increased scale of growth through these options will deliver new and/or improved sustainable transport infrastructure to accompany the new developments, including pedestrian/cycle and public transport links, which will reduce the need to travel by private car.
- 5.16 Uncertain minor negative effects are recorded for EGO2 and EGO3 for SA objective **15: Flooding**, as all new employment development will inevitably lead to an increase in impermeable surfaces in the Borough which might otherwise help to facilitate the infiltration of surface water. However, employment developments (e.g. retail, industry, storage and offices) are permitted in Flood Zones 1, 2 and 3a. Thus, the potential impacts on flood risk associated with employment growth are less severe than those associated with residential development. In this context, EGO2 and EGO3 will have minor negative effects as they may require greenfield sites to be developed as the availability of previously developed land contained within the Borough's urban areas becomes more limited. EGO1 will have a negligible effect as it offers the likelihood of the highest percentage of new development taking place on previously developed land. Effects on this SA objective are uncertain as it will depend on the exact location, design and layout of new development, including the use of SuDS and other flood protection mechanisms.
- 5.17 Mixed effects (minor positive/uncertain significant negative) are expected for SA objective **16: Biodiversity & Geodiversity** for EGO2 and EGO3, while a mixed effect (minor positive/uncertain minor negative) is identified for EGO1. The delivery of employment in the Borough has the

potential to affect biodiversity and geodiversity through habitat damage/loss, fragmentation, disturbance to species, air pollution, increased recreation pressure and other impacts, which could particularly affect the Borough's two SSSIs, 23 Local Wildlife Sites, four Local Nature Reserves and three Local Geological Sites. Growth options delivering high levels of employment development, EGO2 and EGO3, have the potential to increase adverse effects on the Borough's biodiversity and geodiversity assets. The smaller scale of employment promoted through EGO1 is also expected to affect biodiversity and geodiversity, albeit to a lesser degree than EGO2 and EGO3. The proposed level of growth by this option could be contained within the urban areas where brownfield land, which is of lower biodiversity value, is predominately located. Minor positive effects are identified for all employment growth options as they may incorporate open spaces and green infrastructure improvements which could have benefits for improving and protecting the Borough's biodiversity assets.

- 5.18 For SA objective **17: Landscape**, the proposed growth under EGO2, and particularly EGO1, could be largely contained within the urban area where brownfield sites are predominantly located, thus, mostly avoiding development on greenfield land. It is also assumed that the redevelopment of brownfield sites could improve the overall character and appearance of the Borough's urban areas and protect the countryside. Thus, EGO2 will have a mixed effect (uncertain minor positive/uncertain minor negative) whilst EGO1 will have an uncertain significant positive effect due to the low levels of employment growth proposed. The large level of employment land delivery associated with EGO3 could have the potential to significantly impact upon landscape character as it delivers the highest level of development in Hyndburn which has the potential to increase development on greenfield land thereby diminishing the contribution that the landscape makes to maintaining the character of the Borough and its settlements. Therefore, a mixed effect (minor positive/uncertain significant negative) is identified for EGO3. Similar to SA objective 16, minor positive effects are incorporated into the scores as all employment growth options may incorporate open spaces and green infrastructure improvements which could have benefits for improving and maintaining landscape character.
- 5.19 An uncertain negligible effect is identified for EGO1 while uncertain minor negative effects are identified for EGO2 and EGO3 for SA objective **18: Water** as the higher the level of employment development, the greater the potential there exists for problems regarding both water abstraction and water pollution caused by increased sewerage/wastewater production at each new employment site.
- 5.20 A range of effects are recorded for SA objective **20: Soil**. EGO1 will have a significant positive effect as it offers the likelihood of the highest percentage of new employment development taking place on previously developed/contaminated land. EGO2 will have a mixed effect (minor positive/minor negative) as the proposed growth could largely be contained within the urban area where brownfield/contaminated sites are predominately located, however, it will also require some greenfield sites outside of the urban area for development. EGO3 will have a significant negative effect as it delivers the highest level of employment development in Hyndburn which has the potential to increase development on greenfield land in the Borough as the availability of previously developed/contaminated land becomes less available.
- 5.21 The employment growth options are unlikely to have a direct effect on SA objectives **5: Crime** and **9: Housing**.

6 Sustainability Appraisal Findings for the Spatial Options

Introduction

- 6.1 To ensure that the future growth option selected for both housing and employment in the Borough is accommodated in the most appropriate way, Hyndburn Borough Council is also considering a number of potential spatial options (distribution of growth) in the Core Strategy Review - Growth Options and Spatial Options Consultation Paper. The selected spatial option will be a key influence on the locations of development sites sought in the Site Allocations DPD.
- 6.2 Hyndburn Borough Council has identified five potential spatial options, each of which has the potential to guide the distribution and location of growth to 2033 in a different way. These are:
- Spatial Option 1 - **Core Strategy**-led growth: Continue the growth strategy set in the adopted Core Strategy via Policy H1 and strategic allocations.
 - Spatial Option 2 - **Garden Village**-led growth: Concentration of more significant growth in the Huncoat area, taking full advantage of the recent designation of the area as a Housing Zone by the Government.
 - Spatial Option 3 - **Transport Corridor**-led growth: Focus the distribution of growth around key strategic transport routes such as the East Lancashire railway line, the M65, A56 and Pennine Reach (Quality Bus Route) transport corridors.
 - Spatial Option 4 - **Market Focus**-led growth: Focus development in the areas most desirable to developers and landowners (higher value market areas).
 - Spatial Option 5 - **Land Availability**-led growth: Focus development in areas where land is already known to be available for housing and employment development.
- 6.3 This chapter describes the appraisal findings for the five spatial options set out in the Core Strategy Review – Growth Options and Spatial Options Consultation Paper. The detailed SA matrices for the five potential spatial options are presented in **Appendix 6**.

SA Findings for the Spatial Options

- 6.4 **Table 6.1** presents an overview of the assessment scores for the five spatial options. The effects of the five spatial options are mixed, reflecting the range of advantages and disadvantages associated with focussing development at different settlements and at different concentrations throughout the Borough. These effects are described in more detail in the subsequent paragraphs.

Table 6.1 Summary of SA scores for the spatial options

SA Objective	Spatial Option 1 (Core Strategy)	Spatial Option 2 (Garden Village)	Spatial Option 3 (Transport Corridors)	Spatial Option 4 (Market Focus)	Spatial Option 5 (Land Availability)
1: Employment	+/-	++/-	++/-	++/-	++/-
2: Economy	+	++	++	+	++
3: Education	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+
4: Health	++/-	++/--	++/--	+/--	++/-
5: Crime	0	0	0	0	0
6: Poverty	++?	++?	++?	++?	++?
7: Access to facilities	++/-	++/--	++/--	+/--	++/-
8: Transport	++/-	++/--	++/--	+/--	++/-
9: Housing	++?	++?	++?	++?	++?
10: Centre vitality & viability	++/-	++/--	++/--	+/--	++/-
11: Historic Environment	--?	--?	--?	-?	--?
12: Waste	0	0	0	0	0
13: Resources	+/-?	+/-?	+/-?	+/-?	+/-?
14: Climate change	++/-	++/--	++/--	+/--	++/-
15: Flooding	-?	-?	--?	-?	--?
16: Biodiversity & geodiversity	--?	--?	-?	--?	--?
17: Landscape	-?	-?	--?	--?	-?
18: Water	-?	-?	-?	-?	-?
19: Pollution	++/--	++/--	++/--	+/--	++/--
20: Soil	++	++	++	++	++

- 6.5 Positive effects combined with negative effects are identified for SA objective **1: Employment** for all spatial options. The significant positive effects are identified for SO2, SO3, SO4 and SO5 as these spatial options direct new employment development to areas with a high proportion of people (potential workforce) which are also easily accessible by sustainable transport. A minor positive effect is expected for SO1 as this option seeks to allocate employment land primarily at Huncoat and the Whitebirk strategic employment site which are accessible by public transport. Minor negative effects are identified for all spatial options as new employment development is directed to Huncoat and the Whitebirk strategic employment site which are not within local plan areas with a high proportion of people and thereby do not provide flexible employment land near to the workforce (Huncoat [4,418 people] and Rishton [6,625 people]).
- 6.6 Significant positive effects are expected for SA objective **2: Economy** for SO2, SO3 and SO5 as these spatial options offer a dispersed distribution of employment development which will improve the resilience of Hyndburn's economy. SO1 and SO4 will have minor positive effects for this SA objective as they focus development to primarily two employment sites which would limit the distribution of employment opportunities in the Borough to these areas which may impact on the resilience of the local economy.
- 6.7 Mixed effects (minor positive/minor negative) are expected for SA objective **3: Education** for SO1, SO2, SO3 and SO4, and a minor positive effect is identified for SO5, as they direct new residential developments to areas which have a high concentration of schools in the Borough. The minor negative effects relate to the additional pressure on the Accrington Huncoat Primary School, as it is the only school in the local plan area, should new developments be focussed to Huncoat. However, it is likely that, due to the level of growth proposed at these locations, financial contributions from Section 106 or Community Infrastructure Levy agreements may be provided to deliver new or expand existing education facilities.
- 6.8 Mixed effects (significant positive/minor negative) are expected for SA objective **4: Health** for SO1 and SO5 while mixed effects (significant positive/significant negative) are identified for SO2 and SO3, and mixed effects (minor positive/significant negative) are recorded for SO4. The significant positive effects are identified as new development is focused to defined town and

district centres⁶ where people would be able to walk and cycle day-to-day (benefitting health) due to the closer proximity of jobs and services. The minor positive effect for SO4 is expected as it focuses new development to only one defined town centre and one district centre which limits the number of opportunities to access services by sustainable transport including walking and cycling. The significant negative effects are expected as a high percentage of development would also be directed to areas not within town or district centres which may encourage more people to use private cars to access services and facilities which could adversely impact health as a result of people leading more sedentary lives as well as increasing air pollution. The negative effects of this are reduced for SO1 and SO5 as they direct a lower percentage of development to these areas.

- 6.9 All spatial options will have an uncertain significant positive effect on SA objective **6: Poverty** as they direct new housing and employment developments to areas that, according to the Index of Multiple Deprivation, are within the 20% most deprived in the country which may help to address some of the indices of deprivation.
- 6.10 The effects of the five spatial options on SA objectives **7: Access to Facilities**, **8: Transport**, **10: Centre Vitality & Viability** and **14: Climate Change** will be influenced by the extent to which the new housing and employment developments will be located in defined town and district centres which are accessible by sustainable transport. Mixed effects are identified for all spatial options - mixed effects (significant positive/minor negative) are identified for SO1 and SO5; mixed effects (significant positive/significant negative) are expected for SO2 and SO3; and, a mixed effect (minor positive/significant negative) is identified for SO4.
- 6.11 Significant positive effects are identified for SO1, SO2, SO3 and SO5 as these spatial options primarily direct new developments to defined town and district centres that offer a range of functions and services which can be easily accessed by sustainable modes of transport thereby enhancing the vitality of town and retail centres and reducing reliance on motorised transport and associated greenhouse gas emissions. A minor positive effect is expected for SO4 as it focuses new development to only one defined town centre and one district centre which limits the number of opportunities to enhance the vitality of these areas and to access services and facilities by alternative modes of transport to the private car. Significant negative effects are identified for SO2, SO3 and SO4 as they focus new development to areas with limited services and functions which may result in residents and employees using the strategic road network to access services and facilities further afield thereby contributing to road traffic, congestion and greenhouse gas emissions. Minor negative effects are expected for SO1 and SO5 as these options direct new employment development to Huncoat which has limited services and functions although it does contain a railway station and is served by the bus network, and to Whitebirk which is not located near a town or district centre in the Borough which may result in employees using private cars on the M65, the A679 and the A679 to access services and facilities further afield thereby contributing to road traffic, congestion and transport related emissions.
- 6.12 The five potential spatial options are all expected to have an uncertain significant positive effect on SA objective **9: Housing** as they will increase the provision of housing, including the supply of affordable housing, in the Borough. The diversity of the housing stock will be determined through policies in the Core Strategy Review and the Development Management DPD. The effect is uncertain as the new housing developments may incorporate sustainable design techniques which could reduce fuel poverty, and improve the condition and suitability of the Borough's housing stock.
- 6.13 Four spatial options, SO1, SO2, SO3 and SO5 will have uncertain significant negative effects on SA objective **11: Historic Environment** as they direct new development to areas where there is a large concentration of designated assets, particularly Accrington, or to areas which contain heritage assets that are on the Heritage at Risk register (Accrington Town Centre Conservation Area and the Church Canalside Conservation Area). An uncertain minor negative effect is identified for SO4 as development will primarily be directed to areas that contain few heritage assets which will provide flexibility to avoid adverse impacts on the assets or their settings.
- 6.14 Mixed effects (minor positive/uncertain minor negative) are recorded for all spatial options for SA objective **13: Resources**. The majority of the Borough is a Mineral Safeguarding Area and new

⁶ According to the Hyndburn Retail Study (2016), the Borough's defined town centres are at Accrington, Great Harwood and Rishton, and the defined district centres are at Clayton le Moors and Oswaldtwistle.

development may potentially sterilise and reduce access to mineral resources. However, the spatial options also provide opportunities for the utilisation of brownfield land at different settlements which will ensure the prudent use of natural resources as it will provide opportunities for bringing vacant sites back into use.

- 6.15 Uncertain significant negative effects are identified for SO3 and SO5 for SA objective **15: Flooding** as they direct a high percentage of new development to areas that are at risk of fluvial flooding including Accrington (Central), Oswaldtwistle, Clayton le Moors and Church. SO1, SO2 and SO4 direct new development to Accrington (Central) and Oswaldtwistle as well, however these options also focus development to areas that are not at risk or are at low risk of flooding. The overall spatial distribution of residential and employment developments for these options is considered to have an uncertain minor negative effect on this SA objective. Effects are uncertain for all options as the extent of impact will depend on the exact location of the development and the incorporation of SuDS or flood defences.
- 6.16 Four spatial options, SO1, SO2, SO4 and SO5, will have uncertain significant negative effects on SA objective **16: Biodiversity and Geodiversity** as the West Pennine Moors SSSI, the Harper Clough and Smalley Delph Quarries SSSI, the three Local Geological Sites (Snipe Rake, Accrington; Oswaldtwistle Moor; and Turn Hill, Whalley) and a number of Local Wildlife Sites and Local Nature Reserves are located primarily in Accrington (Central), Oswaldtwistle, Great Harwood and Huncoat and may be adversely affected by the distribution of development proposed through these options. An uncertain minor negative effect is recorded for SO3 as it directs a high percentage of new development to Rishton, Church and Clayton le Moors which contain relatively few designated biodiversity and geodiversity sites. All new development in Hyndburn has the potential to fragment the Borough's wildlife corridors, ecological areas and green spaces which could result in net losses of biodiversity. Masterplanning, extensive buffers and sustainable landscaping will be required to support the Borough's green infrastructure network and minimise potentially adverse impacts on biodiversity. The effects are uncertain and will largely be influenced by the location, scale and form of the development.
- 6.17 Uncertain minor negative effects are identified for all spatial options for SA objective **18: Water** as the level of development proposed in the Borough, regardless of spatial distribution, is likely to increase the risk of over-abstraction and water pollution.
- 6.18 Uncertain significant negative effects are recorded for SO3 and SO4 for SA objective **17: Landscape** as it directs a high percentage of new development to Rishton, Church, Oswaldtwistle and Great Harwood which may require the release of land from the surrounding Green Belt resulting in potential adverse effects on the openness and character of these landscapes. Furthermore, the special qualities of the Forest of Bowland AONB may be adversely affected from new development in Great Harwood. SO1, SO2 and SO5 direct development to Oswaldtwistle and Great Harwood as well, however these options also focus a large percentage of development to areas that are not of high landscape value or sensitivity. The overall spatial distribution of residential and employment developments for these options is considered to have an uncertain minor negative effect on this SA objective. The effects are uncertain as the impact will depend on the specific location, the design of the development and the mitigation measures proposed to avoid or reduce adverse effects.
- 6.19 Mixed effects (significant positive/significant negative) are recorded for four spatial options, SO1, SO2, SO3 and SO5, for SA objective **19: Pollution** while mixed effects (minor positive/significant negative) are identified for SO4. The significant positive effects are identified as these spatial options primarily direct new developments to defined town and district centres that offer a range of functions and services which can be easily accessed by sustainable modes of transport thereby reducing reliance on motorised transport and associated emissions. A minor positive effect is expected for SO4 as it focuses new development to only one defined town centre and one district centre which limits the number of opportunities to access services and facilities by alternative modes of transport to the private car thereby increasing transport related pollution. Significant negative effects are identified for all spatial options as they focus new development to areas with existing air quality issues (i.e. Clayton le Moors, Church, Huncoat, Rishton, Oswaldtwistle, most of Accrington and parts of Great Harwood) and/or to areas with limited services and functions which may result in residents and employees using the strategic road network to access services and facilities further afield thereby contributing to air pollution.

- 6.20 Significant positive effects are identified for all spatial options for SA objective **20: Soil** as they direct new housing and employment developments to areas that contain potentially contaminated land which could be remediated if allocated for development. Furthermore, the spatial options direct development to settlements that contain brownfield sites which can be prioritised for development in preference to greenfield sites and focus development to areas that are not in the Green Belt.
- 6.21 The spatial options are unlikely to have a direct effect on SA objectives **5: Crime** and **12: Waste**.

7 Conclusion

- 7.1 The spatial and distribution options proposed in the Core Strategy Review - Growth Options and Spatial Options Consultation Paper have been subject to a detailed appraisal against the SA objectives which were developed at the scoping stage of the SA process. The SA findings set out in this SA Report should be taken into account by Hyndburn Borough Council as it decides which spatial and distribution option to take forward.

Next steps

- 7.2 To meet the requirements of the SEA Regulations, this SA Report is being published for consultation alongside the Core Strategy Review and Site Allocations DPD documents for a 6 week consultation period from Wednesday 28th February 2018 to Wednesday 11th April 2018. Further SA work and revised SA Reports will accompany consultation on subsequent stages of the Core Strategy Review and Site Allocations DPD. The SA Reports will be updated to reflect the emerging policies and site allocations, and to take account of any consultation responses received at each stage.

LUC

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