Hyndburn Borough Council

Sustainability Appraisal

Core Strategy

SA Report

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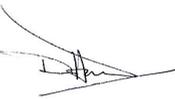
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Hyndburn Borough Council

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Abbreviations

AAP	Area Action Plan
AMR	Annual Monitoring Report
AQMA	Air Quality Management Area
BAP	Biodiversity Action Plan
BC	Borough Council
BHS	Biological Heritage Site
DPD	Development Plan Document
EA	Environment Agency
EH	English Heritage
GVA	Gross Value Added
HMR	Housing Market Renewal
ICT	Information, Communication and Technology
IMD	Index of Multiple Deprivation
LDD	Local Development Document
LDF	Local Development Framework
LNR	Local Nature Reserve
LTP	Local Transport Plan
NE	Natural England
NNR	National Nature Reserve
NVQ	National Vocational Qualification
ODPM	Office of the Deputy Prime Minister
RIS	Regional Investment Site
RSS	Regional Spatial Strategy
SA	Sustainability Appraisal
SCS	Sustainable Community Strategy
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SMR	Standard Mortality Rate
SOA	Super Output Areas
SPD	Supplementary Planning Document
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest
SuDs	Sustainable Drainage System
VAT	Value Added Tax

1 Introduction

1.1 Background

Hyndburn Borough Council (BC) is currently preparing its Local Development Framework (LDF) for the Borough, which will replace the Local Plan adopted in November 1996. As part of this process, a combined Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is being undertaken. The term SA shall be used to refer to the combined SA/SEA for the remainder of this report.

The LDF comprises a suite of Development Plan Documents (DPDs) which outlines the key development goals. When adopted, development control decisions must be made in accordance with the DPDs unless material considerations indicate otherwise.

A Core Strategy is required to be included as a DPD, setting out a framework for planning in the Borough up to 2026. This report presents the assessment of the preferred option for the Core Strategy.

1.1.1 Development of the Core Strategy and the SA

An SA Scoping Report was prepared for the LDF as a whole (Hyder report reference 001-NHR-NH50948-03), and released for statutory consultation in 2006. Part One of the report relates to the LDF as a whole, providing generic scoping information applying to all Local Development Documents (LDDs), particularly the Core Strategy. Part Two consists of separate chapters providing additional scoping information relevant to individual LDDs.

In March 2006, a workshop was held to determine the key strengths and weaknesses of the Core Strategy Issues and Options (i.e. alternative options) to inform the preferred strategy to be taken forward. Following this, in May 2006, an SA of the Core Strategy Issues and Options was undertaken (Hyder report reference 0002-NHR-NH50948-02), in order to determine the preferred option for the Core Strategy. This report was issued alongside Core Strategy Issues and Options Report to the statutory consultees for comment and feedback.

Following further development of the Core Strategy a preferred strategy was developed in June 2008, for which a workshop was held to undertake a review against broad sustainability topics, the outcome of which was documented in a Preferred Options Assessment Memo (Hyder report reference 0019-NHR-NH50948-02). The preferred option was then subject to formal appraisal through the SA process. The outcomes of these studies were reported within the draft SA Report for the Core Strategy, which was issued to Hyndburn Borough Council (BC) in July 2008 (Hyder report reference 0020-NHR-NH50948-02). Although formal consultation on the SA Report with the Core Strategy was not conducted at this stage, it was used to inform the '*Consultation on the Developing Spatial Strategy*'. Responses received lead to further refinements being required on the Balanced Development Strategy. In April 2009, Hyder subsequently conducted an investigation to help refine the Preferred Option, the outcomes of which were documented in Hyder report reference 024-NHR-NH50948-01.

In September 2009, the draft Core Strategy was slightly revised. Before the draft SA Report could be updated accordingly, Hyndburn BC conducted a formal consultation on the draft Core Strategy with the Government Office for the North West. As a result, the draft Core Strategy was revised again. As part of the ongoing SA of the Core Strategy, an Interim Review Paper (Hyder report reference 0027-NH50948-NHR-01) was produced to present the results of a preliminary SA review of the September 2009 draft Core Strategy.

In April 2010, the draft Core Strategy was revised again. A Second Interim Review Paper (Hyder report reference 0030-NH50948-NHR-03) was produced to present the results of the key changes between the April 2010 Core Strategy and that reviewed previously in September 2009.

The further development of the Core Strategy took into account the recommendations set out within the Interim Review Papers, together with the comments from the GONW, statutory consultees and the wider public consultation. The final draft of the Core Strategy has been subject to formal SA, which is reported in this updated SA Report.

1.2 Sustainability Appraisal

Hyndburn BC is committed to preparing a Core Strategy that contributes to sustainable development. The Council wants to achieve a balance between economic growth, social progress and environmental quality. The principle of ensuring a better quality of life for everyone, now and in the future, lies at the heart of sustainable development.

SA is an essential tool for ensuring that the principles of sustainable development are inherent throughout the preparation of the Core Strategy and that it broadly complies and contributes to relevant planning guidance.

It is a legal requirement under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 that the Core Strategy is subject to SA. The Act stipulates that the SA must comply with the requirements of the SEA Directive[1] which was transposed directly into UK law through the SEA Regulations[2].

The aim of the SEA 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 and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development'* (Article 1 of the SEA Directive).

The overarching aim of the process is to ensure better decision making and planning, and it should be initiated at the earliest possible stage of the Core Strategy's preparation.

1.3 SA Guidance

The following guidance documents have been consulted throughout the preparation of this report:

- Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) *et al* (2005): A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive
- SA guidance from the Planning Advisory Service (http://www.pas.gov.uk/pas/core/page.do?pageId=152450)

1.4 Purpose of the Core Strategy

The Core Strategy will set out the framework for planning and development in the Borough up to 2026. It includes:

- A Vision for Hyndburn

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[1] Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment

[2] S.I. 2004 No. 1633: The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulation, 2004

- Strategic Objectives
- The Balanced Development Strategy
- Strategic Policies (thematic and area-based)

The Core Strategy will therefore be integral in informing key strategic decisions in relation to planning and the shaping of Hyndburn in the future. All other LDDs in the Hyndburn LDF must be in conformance with the Core Strategy.

The document draws on other strategies which have been adopted for the area, including the Joint Lancashire Structure Plan (for the present), the Local Transport Plan (LTP) and the Elevate East Lancashire Pathfinder Initiative. The Core Strategy is also inherent to the Council's Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS), by setting out its spatial aspects and a long-term spatial vision. It conveys the elements of the SCS relating to land use.

The Core Strategy identifies the nature and scale of housing and employment provision, together with the broad locations for new development. In addition, the document identifies key areas for regeneration, protection and enhancement.

1.5 Purpose and Structure of this SA Report

This SA Report provides a summary of the SA process so far, and also documents the findings and recommendations of this assessment. This SA Report will be consulted upon alongside the Core Strategy. It will be issued to all statutory consultees and made available for public viewing. **It is essential that the Core Strategy is read in conjunction with this SA Report.**

Table 1-1 outlines the contents and structure of this SA Report.

Section of SA Report	Outline Content
Non Technical Summary (separate document)	Summary of the SA process and SA Report in plain English (a legislative requirement).
Abbreviations	Abbreviations used in this report.
1: Introduction	Provides background to the SA and the Core Strategy and includes the purpose and the structure of this SA Report.
2: The SA Process	Outlines the key elements of the SA process and the adopted approach to the assessment. Provides a summary of the SA process undertaken to date, including details of how to comment upon this SA Report.
3: Assessment Methodology	Outlines the scope of the assessment and presents the SA Framework. Further details of the assessment methodology are presented in Appendix C.
4: Review of Relevant Plans, Programmes and Environmental Protection Objectives	Sets the context for the Core Strategy within the hierarchy of international, national, regional, and local sustainability objectives. Identifies key plans, programmes and environmental protection objectives to which the Core Strategy and the SA process should have regard. The full review is presented in Appendix A.
5: Sustainability Baseline Issues and Context	Characterises the environmental and sustainability baseline for Hyndburn as a whole. Also highlights key sustainability issues. The full baseline review is presented in Appendix B.
6: Options Development and Appraisal	Outlines the development of alternatives that were considered and assessed as part of the development of the Core Strategy.

Section of SA Report	Outline Content
7: Assessment of the Core Strategy	Presents the assessment of the individual elements of the Core Strategy against the SA Objectives. The completed matrices to accompany the assessment are presented in Appendices F, G and H. Mitigation measures are proposed where relevant, to avoid, reduce or offset any adverse effects.
8: Monitoring Framework	Provides an outline of the proposed framework to monitor the significant environmental effects of the Core Strategy.
9: Next Steps	Provides a brief summary of the next steps to the SA process.
Appendix A:	Analysis of relevant Plans, Programmes and Environmental Protection Objectives and their relationship/conflicts with the Core Strategy and the SA.
Appendix B:	Presentation of baseline data.
Appendix C:	Presents the assessment methodology and explains how the SA Framework was developed. Presents the SA Framework (objectives, indicators and targets).
Appendix D:	Summary of Options Assessment Results (2006 Options).
Appendix E:	Assessment of 2008 Additional Alternatives.
Appendix F:	SA Objective Compatibility.
Appendix G:	Compatibility of SA Objectives and the Core Strategy's Strategic Objectives.
Appendix H:	Matrices for the Assessment of the Core Strategy's Strategic Policies.

Table 1-1   Contents and Structure of the SA Report

2 The SA Process

2.1 Approach

By combining the SA and SEA processes, this SA considers environmental, social and economic issues and their interactions, thereby ensuring the principles of sustainable development are integrated into the development of the Core Strategy. The aim of the assessment was to ensure the Core Strategy is as sustainable as possible, by making recommendations for improvement to the plan-makers. This should, in the future, improve the sustainability of new development across Hyndburn.

Although there are formalised approaches for both SA and SEA, only the latter has a legal obligation to perform certain activities as stipulated in the SEA Directive. These legal obligations have been adhered to throughout the SA process by following a series of prescribed stages, through which the elements of the Core Strategy have been appraised using sustainability objectives (Table 2-1 provides further detail). The activities that must be undertaken to ensure compliance with the SEA Directive are highlighted in boxes throughout this report. It is the intention that the SA process is iterative. Figure 2-1 overleaf presents the stages in the SA processes alongside the parallel stages of the DPD preparation process.

DPD Preparation

SA Preparation

Evidence Gathering.

Stage A: Setting the context, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope.

Preparation of and consultation on the Scoping Report

Preparation of Draft Core Strategy (including development of alternative options) in consultation.

Stage B: Developing and refining options and assessing effects.

Includes assessment of the alternative options and the preferred option for the Draft Core Strategy.

Preparation of and consultation on the Core Strategy Issues and Options Report

Stage C: Preparation of the SA Report.

Preparation of and consultation on this SA Report

Public consultation on the Draft Core Strategy (i.e. the Preferred Option).

Stage D: Consultation on the Draft Core Strategy and the SA Report, and assessment of the significant changes.

Independent examination.

Preparation of the Final Core Strategy and adoption by Hyndburn Council.

An adoption statement will be prepared explaining how the SA has influenced the development of the Final Core Strategy.

Implementation, monitoring and review

Stage E: Monitoring the significant effects of implementing the Core Strategy.
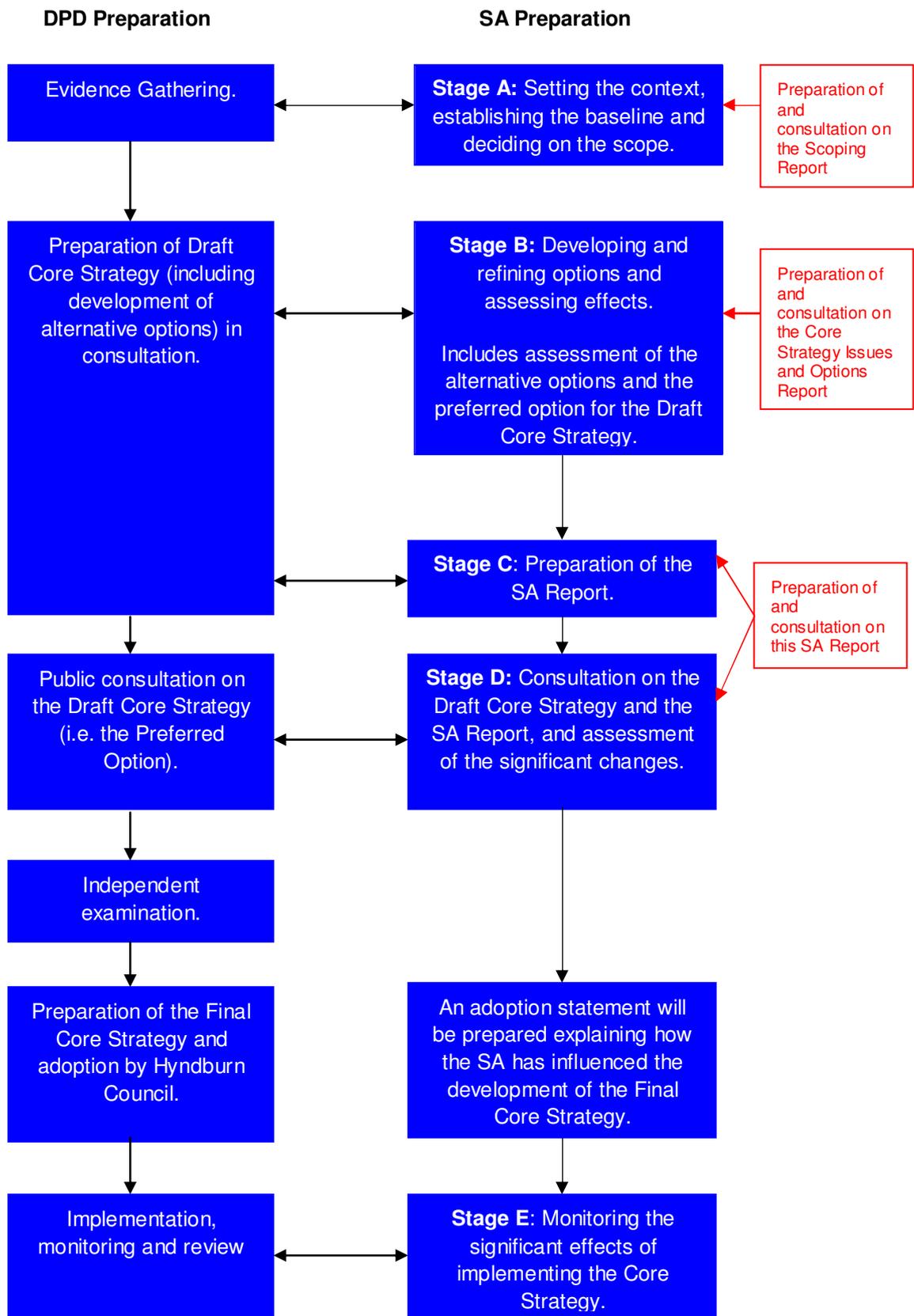
Figure 2-1   The SA Process

2.2 SA Progress to Date

Table 2-1 summarises the SA process and the work undertaken to date.

Element of SA	Input
Scoping and Development of SA Framework (Stage A)	The SA process commenced in October 2005, with the preparation of the Scoping Report for the SA of the LDF which was issued in June 2006. Part One of the Scoping Report related generically to all LDDs, including the Core Strategy (Hyder report reference 001-NHR-NH50948-03). This contained: ▪ A characterisation of the environmental, social and economic baseline within Hyndburn as a whole. ▪ A review of relevant plans, programmes and environmental protection objectives that could influence the SA and the development of the Core Strategy. ▪ The identification of key sustainability issues and opportunities, together with recommendations for mitigation where required. ▪ The development of the SA Framework against which the elements of the Core Strategy have been assessed. The scoping stage also included a workshop with the SA Panel[3] to discuss sustainability issues and opportunities within Hyndburn, and to agree the SA Framework. The Framework acts as the main tool for assessing the sustainability of the Core Strategy. It contains a series of 22 SA Objectives and associated sub-objectives, which address the full cross-section of environmental, economic and social sustainability issues within Hyndburn. The SA Objectives and sub-objectives are presented in Section 3.2.
Scoping Consultation (Stage A)	The Scoping Report was issued for public consultation in 2006, for the statutory five week consultation period. The aim of this was to obtain comment and feedback upon the scope and level of detail of the SA. The Scoping Report was issued to the three statutory consultees (the Environment Agency (EA), Natural England (NE) and English Heritage (EH)) and other interested parties. Responses from all were received and duly incorporated into the SA process as appropriate.
Assessment of Strategic options (Stage B)	In March 2006, an SA Panel Workshop was held in order to determine the key strengths and weaknesses of the Core Strategy, to inform the preferred option to be taken forward. In May 2006, an SA of the Core Strategy Issues and Options was undertaken (Hyder report reference 0002-NHR-NH50948-02), in order to determine the preferred option for the Core Strategy. This report was issued alongside Core Strategy Issues and Options Report to the statutory consultees for comment and feedback. Full details of the alternative options assessment are provided in Section 5.
SA Panel Workshop to Assess the	The SA panel attended a workshop in June 2008 to undertake a review of the preferred option for the Core Strategy against broad sustainability topics. The aim was to determine key sustainability issues and opportunities, and recommend any relevant

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[3] An independent sustainability panel was established to assist the SA process. The SA Panel consists of a multidisciplinary group of Hyndburn BC officers and stakeholders (EA, the Wildlife Trust and independent environmental consultants (Hyder Consulting (UK) Limited)), providing expertise in a broad cross-section of issues including environmental protection, economic regeneration, housing, health and community.

Element of SA	Input
Preferred Option	revisions to the Core Strategy. A number of recommendations were made, as reported in a Preferred Options Assessment Memo (Hyder report reference 0019-NHR-NH50948-02), and the Core Strategy was subsequently revised. The SA Panel will continue to be involved throughout the remainder of the SA process.
Final SA Report and Consultation	The preferred option was then subject to formal appraisal through the SA Process, the outcome of which was reported in the draft SA Report for the Core Strategy (Hyder report reference 0020-NHR-NH50948-02 issued in July 2008). Formal consultation was not conducted at this stage, although the draft SA Report was used to inform the '*Consultation on the Developing Spatial Strategy*'. Responses received lead to further refinements of the Balanced Development Strategy (i.e. preferred option). In April 2009, Hyder subsequently conducted an investigation to help refine the Preferred Option, the outcomes of which were documented in Hyder report reference 024-NHR-NH50948-01. In September 2009, the draft Core Strategy was slightly revised. Before the draft SA Report could be updated accordingly, Hyndburn BC conducted a formal consultation on the draft Core Strategy with the Government Office for the North West. As a result, the draft Core Strategy was revised again. A preliminary SA review of this revised Core Strategy was conducted and reported in an Interim Review Paper (Hyder report reference 0027-NH50948-NHR-01). In April 2010, the draft Core Strategy was revised again. A Second Interim Review Paper (Hyder Report Reference: 0030-NH50948-NHR-03) was produced to present the results of the key changes between the April 2010 Core Strategy and that reviewed previously in September 2009. The further development of the Core Strategy took into account the recommendations set out within the Interim Review Papers, together with the comments from the GONW, statutory consultees and the wider public consultation. This Final SA Report and the Core Strategy is being issued for consultation, in accordance with Hyndburn BC's Statement of Community Involvement[4]. This consultation will involve the key stakeholders (e.g. statutory consultees, the SA Panel, property owners, businesses and public bodies), the local community and others with an interest in the area. The Core Strategy and SA Report may be viewed via the following means: - Planning Reception, Council Offices, Scaitcliffe House, Ormerod St. Accrington, between 9am and 5pm, Monday to Friday. - Council's website www.hyndburnbc.gov.uk - Paper copies are also available on request from the Planning Department, telephone 01254 380157 or e-mail planning@hyndburnbc.gov.uk. You may make comments using a copy of the attached comments form. These comments will be used to produce a final version of the Core Strategy. Details of this process are set out in the Statement of Community Involvement. In your response you may request to be notified of the adoption of the Core Strategy.

Table 2-1   SA Progress to Date

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[4] Local Development Framework for Hyndburn Statement of Community Involvement, Adopted September 2006

3 Assessment Methodology

3.1 Requirements of the SEA Directive

Box 1 identifies the activities which are required to comply with the SEA Directive as part of the assessment process.

In the Environmental Report, "the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme ... and reasonable alternatives ... are [to be] identified, described and evaluated" (Article 5.1). The Environmental Report should include information that may "reasonably be required taking into account current knowledge and methods of assessment, the contents and level of detail in the plan or programme [and] its stage in the decision-making process" (Article 5.2).

Information to be provided in the Environmental Report includes:

• "the likely significant effects on the environment, including on issues such as biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage, including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors. These effects should include secondary, cumulative, synergistic, short, medium and long-term, permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects" (Annex I (f) and footnote)

• "an outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with" (Annex I (h))

• "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..." (Annex I (g))

Box 1   SEA Directive Requirements Applicable to Assessment of Effects and Mitigation

3.2 SA Framework

The SA Framework underpins the assessment methodology. It comprises a series of objectives against which the Core Strategy has been assessed. The SA Framework has been used to assess the Core Strategy options / alternatives and the preferred option.

Where conflicts/adverse impacts have been identified through the assessment, mitigation measures have been proposed to help ensure that future development occurs in the most sustainable manner possible.

A full description of the appraisal methodology and how the SA Framework was developed is provided in Appendix C. The indicators and targets associated with each of the 22 SA Objectives are also presented in Appendix C.

The 22 SA objectives and sub-objectives are presented in Table 3-1 below.

SA Objective		Guide Questions/Key Issues to Consider
1	To reduce crime, disorder and fear of crime	To reduce levels of crime
		To reduce the fear of crime
		To reduce levels of anti-social behaviour
		To reduce alcohol and drug misuse
		To encourage safety by design
2	To improve levels of educational attainment for all age groups and all sectors of society	To increase levels of participation and attainment in education for all members of society
		To improve the provision of education and training facilities

SA Objective		Guide Questions/Key Issues to Consider
		To improve access to and involvement in Lifelong Learning opportunities
3	To improve physical and mental health for all and reduce health inequalities	To reduce health inequalities amongst different groups in the community
		To improve levels of life expectancy
		To reduce levels of teenage pregnancy
		To improve access to health and social care services
		To promote healthy lifestyles
4	To provide greater choice, quality and diversity of housing across all tenures to meet the needs of residents	To reduce homelessness
		To increase the availability of affordable housing
		To improve the condition of the housing stock
		To improve the diversity of the housing stock
5	To protect and enhance community spirit and cohesion	To develop opportunities for community involvement and contribute to decision-making
		To support strong relationships between people from different backgrounds and communities
		To promote a sense of belonging and well-being
6	To improve access to basic goods, services and amenities for all groups	To improve access to cultural and leisure facilities
		To maintain and improve access to essential services and facilities
		To improve opportunities for access to countryside and other open space.
7	To encourage sustainable economic growth and business development across the Borough	To diversify employment opportunities
		To increase employment opportunities
		To encourage economic growth
		To encourage inward investment
8	To develop the skills and training needed to establish and maintain a healthy labour market	To improve lifelong learning opportunities and work related training
9	To encourage economic inclusion	To reduce levels of unemployment
		To improve physical accessibility to jobs
10	To deliver urban renaissance	To improve the vitality and vibrancy of town centres
		To improve access to public transport in urban areas
11	To develop and market the Borough as a place to live, work and do business	To support the preservation and or development of high quality built and natural environments within the Borough
		To promote the area as a destination for short and long term visitors and new residents
		To enhance the Borough's image as an attractive place to do business
12	To protect and enhance biodiversity	To protect and enhance designated sites of nature conservation importance
		To protect and enhance wildlife especially rare and endangered species
		To protect and enhance habitats and wildlife corridors

SA Objective		Guide Questions/Key Issues to Consider
		To provide opportunities for people to access wildlife and open green spaces
13	To protect and enhance the landscape and townscape character and quality	To protect and enhance landscape character and quality
		To protect and enhance townscape character and quality
		To promote sensitive design in development
14	To protect and enhance the cultural heritage resource	To protect and enhance historic buildings and sites
		To protect and enhance historic landscape/townscape value
15	To protect and enhance the quality of water features and resources	To protect and enhance ground and surface water quality
		To protect and enhance water resources
16	To guard against land contamination and encourage the appropriate re-use of brownfield sites within the urban boundary	To reduce the amount of derelict, under-used and neglected land
		To encourage development of brownfield land where appropriate (particularly within the urban area)
17	To limit and adapt to climate change	To reduce and manage flood risk
		To reduce greenhouse gas emissions
		To encourage the inclusion of sustainable drainage systems (SuDs) in new development
18	To protect and improve air quality	To protect and improve air quality
19	To increase energy efficiency and require the use of renewable energy sources	To increase energy efficiency
		To increase the use of renewable energy
20	To ensure sustainable use of natural resources	To reduce the demand for raw materials
		To promote the use of recycled and secondary materials in construction
21	To minimise waste, increase re-use and recycling	To increase the proportion of waste recycling and re-use
		To reduce the production of waste
22	To promote the use of more sustainable modes of transport	To encourage walking, cycling and the use of public transport
		To encourage the uptake of Information, Communication and Technology (ICT)
		To reduce the use of the private car

Table 3-1   SA Objectives and Sub-Objectives for the Core Strategy

3.2.1   SA Objective Compatibility

The SA Objectives have been tested against one another to identify any potential areas of internal incompatibility. This is represented by the compatibility matrix shown in Appendix F.

Many of the SA Objectives are complimentary and have a positive relationship. Elsewhere, there is some uncertainty where the compatibility would depend on the nature of individual schemes and the Objective on its own is not sufficient to determine the potential impacts.

3.3   Assessment of the Core Strategy Alternatives

Stage B of the SA guidance recommends that different options for the Core Strategy are assessed prior to the assessment of the final preferred option. The SEA Directive also requires that reasonable alternatives are assessed. Options development and assessment is documented in Section 5 of this report.

3.4   Assessment of the Core Strategy

The following elements of the Core Strategy have been assessed against the SA Framework:

- The Vision for Hyndburn

- Strategic Objectives

- Balanced Development Strategy

- Strategic Policies (thematic policies on Economy, Education, Housing, Health, Environment and Accessibility, and area-based policies that apply to specific settlements and rural areas of the Borough)

3.4.1   Assessment of the Vision for Hyndburn

Good practice guidance recommends that the key aims and principles of the plan should be assessed against the SA Objectives, in order to test their compatibility and to determine whether they accord with broad sustainability principles.

The Vision for Hyndburn has been reviewed against the SA Objectives, and a summary of the key strengths, weaknesses and recommendations have been identified (as presented in Sections 7.5). Recommendations are made to offset or alleviate any adverse impacts that have been predicted, or to enhance any opportunities that have been identified.

3.4.2   Assessment of the Strategic Objectives

Good practice guidance also recommends that the goals of a plan should be assessed against the SA Objectives.

The assessment of the Strategic Objectives against the SA Objectives has been undertaken using a matrix-based approach. The assessment notations used in the assessment, together with their definition (i.e. how a positive score was assigned) are presented in Table C2 in Appendix C. Recommendations to offset or alleviate any potential conflicts are provided in Section7.6, and the full compatibility assessment is presented in Appendix G.

3.4.3   Assessment of the Balanced Development Strategy

The Balanced Development Strategy represents the broad spatial elements of the Core Strategy. It outlines the priorities for the policies that follow and specifies the location of key land-use zones within the Borough.

The assessment of the Balanced Development Strategy has been considered primarily through the detailed assessment of the area-based Strategic Policies, as described below. However, some general comments have been made relating to the sustainability aspects of the spatial plan and the priorities outlined in the text. These are provided in Section 7.6.

3.4.4 Assessment of the Strategic Policies

The Core Strategy contains two sets of Strategic Policies to guide and control development in the Borough until 2026. These comprise thematic policies that apply to the entire Borough and address broad topics such as housing, environment and employment, together with area-based policies specific to a particular geographic location. Each set of policies has been assessed against the SA Objectives. The policies have evolved in order to drive the effective delivery of the Balanced Development Strategy.

The assessment of these two elements has enabled the identification of the key strengths and weaknesses, and the potential areas for improvement. Recommendations are made to offset or alleviate any adverse impacts that have been predicted, or to suggest opportunities for additional enhancements.

A matrix-based approach was also used to undertake this assessment. The assessment notations used in the assessment, together with their definition are presented in Table C2 in Appendix C. When undertaking the assessment, the symbols assigned in the matrix were justified in the commentary box, along with any uncertainties.

The detailed results of the assessment of the thematic and area-based policies are presented in Appendix H.

4 Review of Relevant Plans, Programmes and Environmental Objectives

4.1 Introduction

A review of the plans, programmes and environmental objectives relevant to development in Hyndburn as a whole was carried out in order to identify any potential relationships with the Core Strategy. The key principles of these plans, programmes and environmental objectives were taken forward to positively influence the direction of the Core Strategy.

4.2 Requirements of the SEA Directive

The SEA Directive stipulates activities which must be undertaken as part of the SA. Those activities which are relevant to setting the context and establishing the baseline are outlined in Box 2. The outcomes of these activities are detailed in this section.

The Environment Report should provide information on:

'the relationship (of the plan or programme) with other relevant plans and programmes' (Annex 1(a))

'the environmental protection objectives, established at international (European) 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' (Annex 1(e))

Box 2:   SEA Directive Requirements Applicable to Review of Relevant PPPs

4.3 Key Findings of the Review

The review included documents prepared at the international, national, regional and local levels. Appendix A presents the full review of plans, programmes and environmental protection objectives. The key themes relevant to the Core Strategy are summarised below:

- Protection and enhancement of biodiversity and the natural environment, as an integral part of economic, social and environmental development.

- Protection and enhancement of the quality and character of urban and rural areas.

- Recognition of the challenge of climate change and implementation of appropriate action to deal with it, including flood risk.

- Reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and promotion of renewable energy and energy efficiency.

- The prudent use of natural resources and the development of more sustainable patterns of production and consumption.

- All water resources should be protected and enhanced.

- Sensitive waste management should be promoted.

- Protection and enhancement of the vibrancy of urban areas and town centres e.g. Accrington.

- Environmental quality should be enhanced.

- The need to ensure that new housing development meets local needs.

- Improved quality of the borough's housing stock.

- Reduction in the number of unfit and vacant homes.

- Realisation of the importance of open spaces, sport, and recreation and the contribution that they make to enhancing quality of life.

- Achievement of an overall improvement in quality of life for all residents.

- A reduction in the incidence of crime and anti-social behaviour.

- Access to health facilities, social care services and social / community facilities should be improved, and the health of the people living in Hyndburn enhanced.

- Promotion of the development of social and community facilities.

- Provision of quality education and training opportunities for all.

- Improved productivity and competitiveness of Hyndburn's businesses.

- The skills base should be enhanced in order to meet the needs of future business sectors.

- Promotion of a diverse, value-added economy.

- Address barriers, and improve access, to employment.

- Improve public transport facilities, provide more sustainable transport choices (including walking and cycling) and improve movement and accessibility.

Where potential conflicts exist between the Core Strategy and other PPPs, the SA process seeks to minimise or eliminate the likelihood of their occurrence; for example the Core Strategy needs to recognise the necessity to protect biodiversity but also promote regeneration and development. Similarly, the SA process aims to strengthen any potential synergies between the Core Strategy and other plans, programmes and environmental objectives, for example regeneration has the potential to attract investment and generate improved quality of life. The SA process seeks to achieve sustainable development through a balance between social progress, economic development and environmental protection and enhancement.

5 Sustainability Baseline, Issues and Context

5.1 Introduction

Characterising the environmental and sustainability baseline, issues and context helps to define the SA Framework. It involves the following elements:

- Characterising the current state of the environment within Hyndburn (including social and economic aspects as well as the natural environment).

- Using this information to identify existing problems and opportunities which could be considered in the Core Strategy, where relevant.

5.2 Requirements of the SEA Directive

The SEA Directive stipulates activities which must be undertaken as part of the SA. Those activities which are relevant to setting the context and establishing the baseline are outlined in Box 3. The outcomes of these activities are detailed in this section.

> *The Environment Report should provide information on:*
>
> *'relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without its implementation of the plan or programme' and, 'the environmental characteristics of the areas likely to be significantly affected'* (Annex 1(b), (c))
>
> '*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 and 92/43/EEC'* (Annex 1 (c))

Box 3: SEA Directive Requirements Applicable to Sustainability Baseline, Issues and Context

5.3 Sustainability Baseline and Key Issues / Opportunities

Detailed descriptions of the baseline characteristics of Hyndburn are provided in Appendix B, together with any identified data gaps and inadequacies. Obtaining these datasets would help to further increase the knowledge of the Borough and therefore the potential impacts of the Core Strategy. Such data gaps could potentially be overcome through the use of the monitoring framework.

The baseline data has been used to identify the key sustainability issues and opportunities in Hyndburn. Although these have been grouped, many are indirectly or directly linked and are therefore closely related.

SA Topic	Key Sustainability Issues	Key Sustainability Opportunities
Population	High percentage of young people in certain wards of Hyndburn, which will have implications for provision of educational facilities, recreational facilities etc. Asian/Asian British the main ethnic minority and therefore there needs to be appropriate services provision for all members of the population in terms of education, housing etc.	There are opportunities to improve the supply of education, health and other community facilities in Hyndburn.
Education and Qualifications	Educational attainment is poorest in Barnfield, Central, Church and Springhill wards. There is a need to raise the overall aspirations of people living in the Borough and to stimulate more interest and emphasise the importance of educational qualifications to the population.	There is a need to improve educational attainment in the Borough. By improving levels of educational attainment there could be wider social benefits and improvements to the local economy.
Human Health	Life expectancy is lower than the national average and there is a need to reduce the incidence of diseases. Health inequalities need to be reduced. The high levels of teenage pregnancy have implications for health service provision, housing and educational attainment. The issue of teenage pregnancy is most problematic in the four wards of Barnfield, Central, Church and Springhill. Teenage pregnancy appears to be one element in a wider vicious circle associated with low aspirations of the young population.	Health improvements would benefit the economy and would enhance overall quality of life in the Borough.
Water	There are a large number of culverted watercourses in Hyndburn, which can occasionally impose constraints on future development.	Opportunities should be sought to de-culvert watercourses where appropriate to reduce the risk of flooding, to enhance water quality and the overall quality of the environment. There is a potential opportunity for this to be achieved as part of the Housing Market Renewal (HMR) Pathfinder scheme. Efforts should continue to restore and develop parts of the Leeds-Liverpool canal to provide tourism and environmental enhancements.
Soil and Land Quality	A variety of industrial land uses have potentially left behind substantial contamination in the Borough. Although there is a Government emphasis upon redeveloping brownfield sites, the biodiverse nature of some brownfield sites must be acknowledged.	Opportunities should be sought to remediate areas of contamination, as part of any redevelopment and regeneration works.
Air Quality	Whilst there are currently no Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) designated in Hyndburn, a potential future air quality issue has been identified at Clayton le Moors for nitrogen dioxide and congestion on the M65 has the potential to cause air quality problems.	Opportunities should be sought to reduce levels of traffic and promote the use of public transport.

SA Topic	Key Sustainability Issues	Key Sustainability Opportunities
Climatic Factors	A number of areas of Hyndburn lie within floodplains, particularly within Accrington Town Centre and neighbouring townships such as Church.	Opportunities should be sought to de-culvert watercourses to both reduce flood risk and enhance the quality of the environment. New developments should be encouraged to use Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDs) to manage runoff and further reduce flood risk. New developments should be encouraged to include sustainable design principles, energy efficiency and the incorporation of renewables e.g. the inclusion of solar panels and low carbon technologies. The carbon footprint of new development should be reduced.
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	There are a number of designated sites for biodiversity within Hyndburn, the majority of which are located within the more rural areas.	Efforts to regenerate and redevelop the Leeds Liverpool Canal should continue and opportunities to enhance biodiversity should be maximised. Opportunities should be sought to develop new Local Nature Reserves (LNR) to enhance the quality of the local environment and to improve quality of life. Opportunities should be sought to develop and enhance the network of public open space.
Cultural Heritage	Hyndburn has a number of cultural heritage features, the majority of which are located within the more urban environment. Accrington town centre is important for its historic townscape and heritage value.	All cultural heritage features should be preserved and enhanced. In addition to preserving statutory sites it is important to ensure that the wider historic landscape is protected and that cultural heritage issues are taken into consideration in all new developments.
Landscape	The industrial heritage of the Borough is an important element of the townscape which must be maintained. Similarly the rural landscape should be protected for its importance as open countryside.	It is essential that landscape character and quality is restored, maintained and enhanced. In addition to considering the wider strategic preservation of the Borough's landscape, opportunities should be sought to enhance design and landscaping at the local level to improve the quality of the local environment. Opportunities should be sought to promote the local character and distinctiveness to try and encourage inward investment and promote a niche market.
Minerals and Waste	One of the major strategic landfill sites for Lancashire is situated in the Borough. The transport implications must be managed carefully. Hyndburn is already performing well in terms of recycling and composting in comparison to other authorities in Lancashire.	Opportunities should be sought to further enhance performance. Sustainable sourcing and waste management principles should be promoted for all new developments that occur in the Borough.

SA Topic	Key Sustainability Issues	Key Sustainability Opportunities
Transportation	The Borough is well-connected by transport infrastructure and public transport links, including public transport, making Accrington and other central areas relatively accessible.	Opportunities should be sought to reduce dependence on the private car and increase public transport use. It will be important to ensure that any new employment sites can be easily accessed by public transport. The cycling and walking network in Hyndburn should be expanded and enhanced.
Economy	Retaining skilled members of the population is a problem for the local economy. There is a need to improve training levels to enhance the quality of the local workforce. There are high levels of economic inactivity. There is a need to improve the image of the Borough to encourage inward investment and to attract new business opportunities.	New employment development at Whitebirk is a significant employment opportunity for the Borough. Tourism is a potential economic opportunity for the Borough. The economy needs to be diversified to broaden the economic base and provide alternatives to the traditional manufacturing employment opportunities. The good transport links in the Borough need to be exploited and accessibility a key issue when deciding where to site new development.
Deprivation and Living Environment	Barnfield, Central, Church and Springhill wards are in the bottom 10% most deprived and therefore qualify for Neighbourhood Renewal Guidance and funding. Deprivation is a very complex issue and a number of different issues will need to be addressed for noticeable improvements to be realised. Although four key wards are more deprived than others it will be important to ensure that other areas also receive investment to prevent problems associated with alienation. There are pockets of deprivation in a number of the wards in the Borough.	There is a need to tackle anti-social behaviour, and crime rates should be further reduced to enhance overall quality of life. Access to sports facilities should be enhanced. This could have associated health benefits.
Housing	There are a high number of vacant, unfit and outmoded dwellings in the Borough. There is a very limited choice of housing with over 50% being terraced properties. House prices have gradually increased but incomes have not matched this rate of growth, which leads to problems of housing affordability. The number of people presenting themselves as homeless more than doubled between 2004 and 2007.	The Pathfinder presents a significant opportunity both to revitalise the housing stock and to improve quality of life.

Table 5-1   **Summary of Key Sustainability Issues and Opportunities in Hyndburn**

6 Options Development and Appraisal

6.1 Requirements of the SEA Directive

The SEA Directive stipulates activities which must be undertaken as part of the SA. Those activities relevant to the consideration of alternatives are outlined in Box 4. The outcomes of these activities are detailed in this section.

> *The Environment Report should consider "reasonable alternatives taking into account the objectives and the geographical scope of the plan or programme" and give "an outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with" (Article 5.1 and Annex I(h))*

Box 4: SEA Directive Requirements Applicable to Alternatives

6.2 Alternative Options

Six alternative development strategies were initially identified for the Core Strategy, each one focusing on a different approach to development:

1 Concentrate on housing market renewal

2 Keep new building within towns

3 Focus on jobs

4 Concentrate growth into one place

5 A place to live in

6 Let developers take the lead

A 'No Core Strategy Scenario' was also considered to provide a benchmark against which the performance of other options could be judged.

It was assumed that the following two initiatives would be implemented whichever option was taken forward, and were therefore considered as part of the baseline.

- **Regional Investment Site (RIS).** Policy W2 of the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) for the North West of England states that plans and strategies should encourage regionally significant economic development at certain locations in the region, one of which has been identified to the east of Blackburn within the Hyndburn Borough at Whitebirk.

- **Housing Market Renewal.** The East Lancashire Pathfinder Housing Market Renewal (HMR) Initiative aims to tackle poor quality housing in parts of the Borough through a series of actions including refurbishment, demolition of unfit properties and building new residential and community facilities.

A SA Panel Workshop was held in March 2006, to discuss the strengths and weaknesses of each option, together with any recommendations for improvement, to inform the preferred option to be taken forward into the Core Strategy.

Each of the six options were assessed against the SA Objectives, using assessment symbols, in order to highlight the key strengths and weaknesses, identify areas for improvement, and also highlight the preferred (i.e. most sustainable) option.

The results of the Core Strategy options assessment were documented in an Options Assessment Report[5], which was subsequently issued for consultation to the statutory consultees for comment.

Table D1 in Appendix D presents a summary of the results of the options assessment of each Core Strategy option. Table D2 in Appendix D indicates the key recommendations that emerged following assessment of the options against the SA Objectives. Further details of the assessment results can be obtained for the Options Assessment Report.

Tables D1 and D2 illustrate that none of the options in isolation would provide for sustainable development within the Borough. It was therefore considered that a hybrid approach would be required, to ensure a balance between economic growth and social and environmental regeneration.

6.2.1 'Business as Usual' Scenario

The SEA Directive requires the 'without plan' scenario to be considered. In this case it was assumed 'Business as Usual' would be a continuation of the current policies identified in the existing Local Plan through to the end of its life in 2006, after which there would be no local planning intervention and things would follow a reactive approach as in Strategy 6. The following comments were made:

- In the short-term a continuation of the current baseline trends would be likely

- National and regional policy would continue to apply, and the development of the Regional Investment Site (RIS) and HMR initiatives would continue. However, the extent of these and long-term success is not known.

- The role of statutory consultees would still enable environmental enforcement and controls to continue along with their active roles in planning applications. However, this would be a far less pro-active approach without a forward thinking, sustainable planning strategy in place.

- Without pro-active intervention, the aims of sustainable social, economic and environmental regeneration are unlikely to be given enough impetus to be realised.

- A long-term reactive approach to development would result in sustainability impacts being highly uncertain as much would depend upon free-market forces.

6.2.2 2008 Additional Alternatives

Following consultation on the options developed in 2006, Hyndburn BC began to develop the Preferred Core Strategy Option, which also led to the identification of two further alternatives. A summary of these options is presented below:

Employment-led Strategy

- Priority will be to retain existing businesses and attract new higher order employment uses into the Borough through upskilling of the workforce, provision of attractive employment development opportunities, attractive environment, focus on developing executive homes in semi-rural and rural locations and high class leisure opportunities.

- Existing employment sites will be safeguarded from development for residential use. Preference will be given to allocating new sites for employment use rather than residential

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[5] Assessment of Core Strategy Issues and Options (Hyder report reference 002-NHR-NH50948-02), May 2006

within the built up area on brown field sites in local centres, along transport corridors, at gateways, and other accessible regeneration priority areas.

- Easy to develop greenfield sites on the urban fringes and in the open countryside, with direct access to the road network, will be identified for regional and local employment with a presumption that development of parts of the greenbelt is necessary and desirable. Greenbelt at Whitebirk (Junction 6 of the M65) and Huncoat (Junction 8) will be particularly desirable for extensive employment development.

Housing-led Strategy

- Priority will be given to increasing the range and amount of housing in the borough. As well as demolition, new build and refurbishment of the older terraced housing as part of the Elevate initiative preference will be given to allocating new sites for housing to provide for a range of housing in preference to other uses within the built up area on brownfield sites in local centres, along transport corridors, at gateways and other accessible regeneration priority areas.

- This option will also necessitate the release of greenfield sites, both within the built up area and within parts of the Green Belt, in order to accommodate for a high housing provision. Some of these sites will be adjacent to the built up areas of Great Harwood and Rishton.

- In order to provide a range of housing development consisting of four bedrooms or more will be preferred at densities which accord with national and regional planning policy.

These alternative options have been discounted by the Council after being deemed unsuitable for the Borough. However, to ensure all elements of the Core Strategy have been assessed, the two additional options have been subjected to the SA process. The additional alternatives have been assessed against broad sustainability topics, using a similar matrix to that used in the preferred option workshop.

Appendix E presents an assessment of the two alternatives against broad sustainability objectives. This assessment has enabled identification of any key strengths and weaknesses, together with recommendations for improvement where relevant.

Summary of Findings

Similarly to the initial options appraisal of the Core Strategy, neither option in isolation would be in the best interests of delivering a sustainable Borough. Both options would not contribute to the creation of sustainable communities, or provide for the needs of all communities within Hyndburn.

A more hybrid approach would be beneficial to ensure a balance between employment and housing provision that meets the needs of the communities particularly in urban areas.

7 Assessment of the Core Strategy

7.1 Introduction

This section presents the findings of the assessment of the individual elements of the Core Strategy. This section summarises the key strengths and weaknesses of each assessment. Recommendations are made to offset or alleviate any adverse impacts that have been predicted or to enhance any opportunities that have been identified.

Only those impacts that are deemed to be significant have been discussed, given their scale of impact and the sensitivity of the social, economic and physical environment that they may affect. Any cumulative or synergistic impacts that have been identified are also summarised.

7.2 Requirements of the SEA Directive

Box 4 identifies the activities which are required under the SEA Directive. The outcomes of these activities are detailed in this section.

In the Environmental Report, "the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme ... and reasonable alternatives ... are [to be] identified, described and evaluated" (Article 5.1). The Environmental Report should include information that may "reasonably be required taking into account current knowledge and methods of assessment, the contents and level of detail in the plan or programme [and] its stage in the decision-making process" (Article 5.2).

Information to be provided in the Environmental Report includes:
- *"the likely significant effects on the environment, including on issues such as biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage, including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors. These effects should include secondary, cumulative, synergistic, short, medium and long-term, permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects" (Annex I (f) and footnote)*
- *"an outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with" (Annex I (h))*
- *"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..." (Annex I (g))*

Box 4: SEA Directive Requirements Applicable to Assessment of Effects and Mitigation

7.3 Previous Assessment of the Core Strategy

As previously identified in Section 2.2 of this SA Report, a number of separate assessments have been undertaken, as the Core Strategy has developed and been revised. The findings of these separate assessments are contained in separate reports, and are available upon request.

The development of the Core Strategy took into account the recommendations set out within these separate assessment stages.

7.3.1 SA Panel Workshop (June 2008)

An SA panel workshop was held on Thursday 19th June 2008, to obtain views, comments and recommendations for improvement to the various elements of the draft Core Strategy. The Spatial Vision, Strategic Objectives and Preferred Spatial Strategy (an earlier version of the Balanced Development Strategy) were assessed against broad sustainability topics, e.g. housing and the economy. A number of recommendations were made, as reported in a Preferred Options Assessment Memo (Hyder report reference 0019-NHR-NH50948-02).

Following this workshop, Hyndburn BC took into consideration the recommendations of the SA Panel, and amended the Core Strategy.

7.3.2 Draft SA Report (July 2008)

The preferred option for the Core Strategy was then subject to formal appraisal through the SA Process, the outcome of which was reported in the draft SA Report for the Core Strategy (Hyder report reference 0020-NHR-NH50948-02 issued in July 2008). Formal consultation was not conducted at this stage, although the draft SA Report was used to inform the '*Consultation on the Developing Spatial Strategy*'.

7.3.3 Review of Preferred Option for the Core Strategy (April 2009)

Responses received from the informal consultation on the draft SA Report for the Core Strategy lead to further refinements of the Balanced Development Strategy (i.e. preferred option). In April 2009, Hyder therefore subsequently undertook an investigation to help refine the Preferred Option, the outcomes of which were documented in Hyder report reference 024-NHR-NH50948-01.

7.3.4 First Interim Review (September 2009)

Before the draft SA Report could be updated accordingly, Hyndburn BC conducted a formal consultation on the draft Core Strategy with the Government Office for the North West. As a result, in September 2009, the draft Core Strategy was slightly revised again. A preliminary SA review of this revised Core Strategy was conducted and reported in an Interim Review Paper (Hyder report reference 0027-NH50948-NHR-01).

7.3.5 Second Interim Review (June 2010)

In April 2010, the draft Core Strategy was revised again. A Second Interim Review Paper (Hyder Report Reference: 0030-NH50948-NHR-03) was produced to present the results of the key changes between the April 2010 Core Strategy and that reviewed previously in September 2009.

7.4 Compatibility of the SA Objectives and the Vision for Hyndburn

The Vision for Hyndburn is presented in Chapter 4 of the Core Strategy, and has been reviewed to determine its compatibility with the SA Framework.

7.4.1 Sustainability Comments

The Vision has been strengthened through the development of the Core Strategy. It is now considered to fully contribute to all of the SA Objectives. Strong references are made to the need to promote sustainable patterns of development, particularly in the context of climate change adaptation and mitigation. This includes the promotion of opportunities for the use of improved public transport networks, walking and cycling.

The Vision aims to establish Hyndburn's role within the Pennine Lancashire sub-region as a distinctive and attractive area, providing a much sought after lifestyle to current and prospective residents. This would positively contribute to the SA Objectives relating to enhanced community spirit and cohesion and the development of Hyndburn as a place to live, work and do business.

By seeking to generate more skilled local and specialist jobs, and support the roles of the market town centres and local centres, the Vision performs positively against the economic SA Objectives. In addition, it specifically aims to provide excellent education provision at all levels, thereby helping to increase skills and aspirations.

The Vision aims to provide high quality housing of all types, but particularly to develop larger family units to meet an identified local demand. This would respond the needs of the local community and have positive impacts upon community spirit and cohesion. Such changes are important to curb the current out-migration trends of younger generations and foster the vitality of the Borough's urban areas.

The Vision directly seeks to ensure an attractive local environment with a rich resource of greenspace, together with easy access to services. These aims, together with specific reference to the provision of opportunities for people to lead healthier lifestyles in safer surroundings and the provision of high class leisure and cultural opportunities, would ensure the Vision positively contributes to the SA Objectives relating to health and wellbeing, crime and urban renaissance.

Environmental SA Objectives relating to the protection and enhancement of biodiversity, the townscape / landscape and cultural heritage features are addressed through the Vision's aims to create an attractive local environment with a rich resource of accessible natural greenspace, and ensure high class cultural opportunities in its countryside and historic areas.

7.4.2 Recommendations

The Vision positively contributes to all the SA Objectives in some way. There are therefore no recommendations for improvement.

7.5 Compatibility of the SA Objectives and the Strategic Objectives

Good practice guidance recommends that the objectives of the plan should be assessed for their compatibility with the SA Objectives. The aim of this is to test whether or not they accord with sustainability principles. The full compatibility assessment is presented in Appendix G.

The Strategic Objectives have been drawn from the Vision for Hyndburn and form the basis for the policy framework contained in Chapters 5 and 6 of the Core Strategy. The objectives will be used to measure the effectiveness of the Core Strategy in practice.

7.5.1 Strategic Objectives

The Strategic Objectives are presented in Table 7-2 below, and also in Chapter 4 of the Core Strategy.

Strategic Objective	Strategic Sub-Objective
Strategic Objective 1: To create greater opportunities for all to access improved economic opportunities and to provide support for the local economy and higher wage employment (this links to the SCS outcome creating a thriving local	To provide sufficient land for the growth of existing businesses and to attract new higher value employment to the Borough. Sites will be developed in sustainable locations forming part of existing townships and at the Strategic Employment Site at Whitebirk.
	To develop a higher wage economy to help close the Gross Value Added (GVA) gap and to retain skilled and qualified people within the Borough.

Strategic Objective	Strategic Sub-Objective
economy and sustainable market towns).	To develop Accrington and Great Harwood as vibrant floral market towns with a wide variety of shops where people choose to spend their leisure time.
	To encourage employers to address worklessness in the Borough.
Strategic Objective 2: To provide for a range of educational opportunities (this links to the SCS outcome of attaining high levels of educational achievement).	To raise the current educational and skill levels by improving the range and quality of local provision including sixth form education so that young people can fulfil their expectations.
	To equip individuals with the skills and aspirations necessary to compete for jobs in the labour market.
	To develop more graduate level skills within the workforce.
Strategic Objective 3: To provide for a greater choice and quality of housing (this links to the SCS outcome of creating a strong balanced housing market).	To provide sufficient housing of the right size and type to meet local needs, including those in need of affordable and supported housing or requiring larger family homes, higher value homes and homes to cater for an aging population. This will provide a more balanced housing supply with a choice of property types and tenure.
	To ensure that all new property will be built to high standards, in sustainable locations, making the best use of brownfield land and to designs which minimise carbon emissions and relate well to the local character.
	To ensure that areas of low demand housing are regenerated with a wider range of improved and new housing and supporting facilities, including local health centres and public open spaces.
Strategic Objective 4: To improve the quality of health of the residents of Hyndburn (this links to the SCS outcome to create healthy communities).	To create an environment that will give people the opportunity to adopt a more active and healthy lifestyle that will improve health and increase life expectancy.
	To reduce high dependency on incapacity benefits and increase economic activity rates within the Borough.
	To increase levels of participation in sport, leisure and physical activity.
	To improve mental well being.
	To develop safe residential areas and surroundings where people are at the heart of the design process.
Strategic Objective 5: To create a valued urban and rural environment (this links to the SCS outcome to safeguard the environment).	To protect and enhance the Borough's existing natural, built and cultural l heritage resource.
	To develop green infrastructure by connecting and developing networks of footpaths, open space, parks, protected sites and water courses.
	To promote a sustainable, stable and safe approach to all new and existing building development, infrastructure, energy use and carbon emissions and use of natural resources.
	To achieve development that provides high standards of design, maintenance and security.
	To give particular emphasis to achieving development that contributes to the local character and distinctiveness of the natural, built and cultural heritage and attracts greater leisure use and enjoyment.
Strategic Objective 6:	To promote more sustainable transport choices for people within the

Strategic Objective	Strategic Sub-Objective
To provide easy access for all to good quality services and facilities (this links to the SCS outcome to create safe communities and support diversity).	Borough by improving local transport networks and developing transport interchanges in and around the town and local centres.
	To provide new high quality health, education, leisure and culture facilities in accessible locations.
	To support the role of the market towns by directing shops and services to their centres and maintain local township centres.

Table 7-2   Core Strategy Strategic Objectives

7.5.2   Compatibility Results

Although no significant conflicts were identified through the compatibility assessment between the SA Objectives and the Strategic Objectives, some areas of uncertainty were noted. Table 7-3 summarises the main areas of uncertainty arising in the assessment.

Core Strategy Strategic Objective	Potential Areas of Uncertainty or Conflict with SA Objective
Strategic Objective 1: To create greater opportunities for all to access improved economic opportunities and to provide support for the local economy and higher wage employment (this links to the SCS outcome creating a thriving local economy and sustainable market towns).	SA Objectives 12, 13, 14 and 15 – Potential conflicts could arise as employment development may negatively impact upon the natural and built environment, in terms of loss of habitat and adverse impacts upon the townscape character. SA Objectives 15, 16, 17, and 18 – Without details of the scale and location of developments, impacts are uncertain. However, all developments have the potential to contribute to a reduction in water, soil and air quality, and increase potential flood risk. SA Objectives 19 and 21 – Without specific details of developments, it is unknown whether energy efficiency and sustainable waste management would be promoted or not. An increase in the local population could increase energy use and waste production.
Strategic Objective 3: To provide for a greater choice and quality of housing (this links to the SCS outcome of creating a strong balanced housing market).	SA Objectives 12, 14 and 15 – Potential conflicts could arise as housing development may negatively impact upon the natural and cultural environment, in terms of loss of habitat in brownfield areas, and adverse impacts upon cultural heritage features. SA Objective 21 – Without specific details, it is unknown whether sustainable waste management would be promoted or not. An increase in the local population could increase waste production.

Table 7-3   Core Strategy Strategic Objectives and SA Objective Compatibility Results

7.5.3   Recommendations

The identification of the potential for conflicts does not necessarily mean that objectives need to be changed, rather these tensions should be taken into consideration at later stages in the SA process.

The Strategic Objectives together positively contribute to all the SA Objectives in some way. There are therefore no recommendations for improvement.

7.6   Assessment of the Balanced Development Strategy

The Balanced Development Strategy is the preferred strategy that has been developed from the alternative options. The Strategy outlines the broad spatial aspects of the Core Strategy. It

comprises broad geographical areas for development, although this will be developed in much greater detail in the Site Allocations DPD to follow, together with a high level description of the proposed distribution of development. The Strategy is developed further through the area-based policies, which provide greater detail. Further assessment considerations are therefore provided in associated with the policies.

Intrinsic to the Strategy is the need to accommodate economic growth and development, whilst preserving and enhancing the Borough's natural and built environment. Growth will inevitably cause increases in the consumption of natural resources, energy and water, with consequent impacts on carbon emissions and climate change. Additional traffic is likely which would increase pollution emissions, at least in the short term, and greater volumes of waste are likely to be generated.

The Balanced Development Strategy concentrates development primarily within existing urban areas, ensuring that significant areas of brownfield land - a legacy of Accrington's industrial past - are brought back into productive use. Urban concentration also delivers sustainability benefits in terms of access to services, the uptake of sustainable transport and support for existing local businesses. Development in inner areas will be required to support the HMR programme and address the significant pockets of deprivation that exist in parts of Accrington. There is a need for development to address the requirement to raise standards in relation to a range of measures including health, education, crime and the quality of housing, but the Strategy also identifies the need to create more balanced communities.

The Strategy also makes provision for developments on greenfield land, including some small-scale intrusions into the Green Belt. However, these are considered to be strategic developments (e.g. at Huncoat and Altham) that reflect site specific circumstances. It will be essential that any such encroachment onto greenfield land is suitably mitigated at the design stage of individual developments in line with the Strategy's recognition of the importance of local environmental quality and distinctiveness. Specific policies are also required to manage the impacts of growth on the urban fabric of the Borough including the promotion of energy efficiency, public transport and sustainable design.

Overall, it is considered that the Balanced Development Strategy provides a legible and coherent plan for the direction of change in Hyndburn. The principle of urban concentration and a focus on key regeneration areas indicates that it will seek to address the most pressing socio-economic issues within the Borough. However, it could be more specific on the role of Accrington town centre as the primary retail and commercial centre of the Borough, and make a link to the regeneration priorities within this area. Policies within the Core Strategy will be expected to ensure that the potential environmental impacts of both the general policy of growth and more specific development proposals for greenfield sites are successfully mitigated. The Strategy itself includes key areas of open space, but the development of high quality multi-functional green infrastructure at the neighbourhood level would help to mitigate the loss of Green Belt. This will need to be developed within the individual policies and in the Site Allocations and Development Management DPDs.

7.7   Assessment of the Thematic Policies

The thematic policies support the delivery of the Balanced Development Strategy with policies and commentary in the following themes:

- Economy
- Education
- Housing
- Health

- Environment
- Accessibility

The detailed assessment of the thematic policies is contained within Appendix H.

7.7.1 Sustainability Comments

The overall theme of regeneration runs through many of the policies in support of the Balanced Development Strategy. Many of the sustainability issues for the Borough, as identified in the review of baseline information, would be addressed by the thematic policies. The policies on the whole are comprehensive with only a few potential negative effects identified. Environmental improvements and the Core Strategy's direct aims to ensure sustainable economic development within Hyndburn, e.g. through the allocation of sites for new businesses and job creation, are likely to have long-term benefits for the aspirations and prospects of Hyndburn residents. Education and skills development, health and wellbeing, and community spirit and cohesion may all be enhanced as a result. Incidences of crime, notably low-level disorder, could also potentially be reduced as a result of these wider regeneration initiatives.

The strengths of the Core Strategy also lie in its direct aims to provide a greater choice and quality of housing in sustainable locations, in order to meet all local needs (in conjunction with the ongoing HMR programme). This would contribute to a reduction in current housing inequalities, for example in relation to affordable housing. The housing policies together also seek to address the imbalance in the housing market, which has an oversupply of small terraced houses and a relative lack of larger family accommodation. This would be through housing stock diversification to ensure a more balanced housing market. By seeking to ensure the level of housing growth is appropriate to the scale and function of the area, the Core Strategy would ensure development is concentrated in areas of the Borough where existing service and transport opportunities are located, which represents a sustainable solution to new housing distribution.

Regeneration initiatives will be concentrated in the highest priority areas within the urban boundary and will work closely with the HMR programme. Brownfield sites are prioritised for redevelopment, which would have positive impacts upon the townscape of Accrington and its adjoining townships. Whilst Policy Env6 recognises the value of heritage structures, there is scope for the encouragement of conversion of underused or disused historic structures to new uses. The industrial heritage of the Borough is a key asset and fundamental to its character. Protection and enhancement of heritage assets is therefore directly linked to the ambition to develop Accrington in particular as a distinctive market town. The use of brownfield sites would also have complementary benefits for the rural parts of the Borough, which would be largely safeguarded from development. Policies Env2 and Env3 are specifically concerned with conservation of the natural environment and landscape character.

Urban concentration, coupled with the provisions of Policy T1 to improve connectivity, would help to reduce the need to travel and thus lower carbon emissions and improve air quality within the Borough. A key benefit of the redevelopment of brownfield sites for new housing and employment uses (such as the proposed employment sites at Whitebirk and Huncoat) lies in bringing people and jobs closer together. Car ownership is low across Hyndburn, which provides an opportunity to plan for car-free travel for access to jobs, education and services.

Investment in green infrastructure can make a highly cost-effective contribution to urban regeneration. It provides multiple sustainability benefits, including to views, recreation and quality of life that would help to attract people and businesses to the Borough. New green infrastructure is promoted by Policies HC1, Env1 and T2, emphasising the multi-functional nature of these spaces. The key to maximising the benefits of the policies is the creation of a network of interconnected green spaces that would act as wildlife corridors and also as off-road walking and cycling routes. There may be scope to promote new green infrastructure within

existing developments, not only as part of new schemes, in order to support the creation of such a network. It is important that new and enhanced green links are designed to follow route preferences to provide a viable alternative to the private car for short journeys. In particular, new routes should be designed to integrate with new rural fringe developments at Huncoat and Whitebirk. Well-designed green spaces also provide opportunities to design out crime and to enhance biodiversity. It should be ensured that the economic and environmental aspects of urban renaissance are given equal priority.

The issues of climate change are addressed through the Environment policies and the promotion of green infrastructure. Sustainable design technologies and renewable energy are promoted through Policies Env4 and Env5, the latter subject to certain conditions designed to protect the Borough's landscapes. There is some uncertainty over the Council's policy on micro-renewables, although this could be developed within the Development Management DPD. Parts of the Borough are at risk from flooding as a result of culverts imposing restrictions on the conveyance of high rainfall events, and flooding may become more prevalent in the future under likely climate change scenarios. Policy Env4 requires the consideration of flood risk in new developments, although it could be extended to promote the opening up of culverts, subject to EA advice. A further improvement to Policy Env4 could see the inclusion of a recommendation to design for sustainable waste management.

The Core Strategy recognises that health deprivation in Hyndburn is high and Policy HC2 supports the development of new health facilities. However, specific developments are not proposed and areas of the Borough where additional facilities or health services may be required are not identified. There is scope for the health policies to be more specific on the needs of the Borough's population with regard to access to health services. Positive encouragement for healthy lifestyles and active travel is provided in Policies HC1 and HC2.

Related to health, but embracing wider issues of equality, this section could be reinforced by promoting mobility and access for all including the elderly, disabled and those with young children. Some addition to Policy T1 or the creation of a new Accessibility policy would ensure that the Core Strategy is robust in its treatment of equalities issues.

7.7.2 Recommendations / Mitigation

Numerous recommendations have been made over time, for example through the Interim Reviews. Table 7-4 presents the key measures suggested to further improve the sustainability performance of the Core Strategy.

Broad Sustainability Topic	Mitigation Measure / Recommendation
Environment	Appropriate ecological assessment will be required prior to development at Whitebirk and Huncoat.
	All development should be encouraged to consider the provision of green infrastructure, as described in Policy Env1.
	Policies T2 and HC1 could specify the need for new green space to contribute positively to biodiversity as part of its 'multi-functional' value. New green links should be connected to the green infrastructure network rather than existing in isolation. A link could be made between Policies HC1 and Env4 on the multi-functional role of green links.
	Support could be specified within Policy Env1 for the enhancement of green spaces for biodiversity. Measures could include native species planting, bird and bat boxes, provision of woodpiles/hibernaculae and wetland creation. Similarly, wildlife corridors could be explicitly mentioned in Policy Env2.
	Opportunities for the re-use of the old mill buildings could be considered through Policy E2 and its accompanying text. In addition, a link to the design policy should be made in relation to the protection of heritage and local character.
	The Core Strategy could provide an additional level of protection for heritage buildings and/or set out under what conditions the Council will accept change to their fabric, as well as their setting (currently mentioned within Policy Env6). Policy Env3 could contain reference to the value of historic landscape

	within the Borough.
	Consultation with the EA should be conducted prior to development, in relation to potential flood risk etc.
	Consultation with United Utilities should take place (particularly housing), in relation to potential pressure upon water resources.
	All development should be encouraged to consider the use of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS), as explained in Policy Env4. New Greenfield developments should implement strong pollution control measures and SuDS as required in Policies Env4 and Env7.
	All developments need to consider the potential for contaminated land and implement remediation measures if necessary. This could be brought out in Policy Env6 and its accompanying text.
	Before the Regional Employment Site is developed, further discussion should occur with the Highways Agency and the local Environmental Health Office to ensure that potential air quality impacts are assessed and suitably mitigated.
	Air quality monitoring should take place where there is uncertainty over potential changes as a result of development.
	New housing should be provided with facilities to support sustainable waste management, e.g. recycling storage. Policy Env4 could include a recommendation for the design of new development to consider sustainable waste management and provide facilities as appropriate.
	Policy Env4 could clarify the position of the Council on the installation of micro-renewable technology to existing buildings.
Housing	No recommendations.
Economy	The text relating to Policies E1 and E2 could be strengthened to promote training opportunities on new employment sites, e.g. through a link to the Education theme.
Transport and Access	Potential traffic implications as a result of development at Whitebirk and Huncoat should be fully assessed and monitored.
	The supporting text to the education policy could include links to the Lancashire Local Transport Plan (LTP3). In addition, the economic and education policies could make reference to the promotion of green travel plans.
	New walking / cycling routes should be appropriately lit and incorporate safety by design principles. Requirements for walking/cycling facilities could be extended to existing areas to significantly improve the performance against this SA Objective. Reference to elements within the Lancashire LTP3 would help to support such initiatives.
	Reference could be made to active travel proposals in the Lancashire LTP3 in Policy HC1 and Env1.
	Policy HC3 could go further by aspiring to extending 20mph speed limits, and possibly shared surfaces, to existing residential areas, not only new developments.
	It is recommended that Policy T3 makes reference to the need for road improvements to be subject to appropriate environmental assessment and mitigation procedures. Hyndburn BC should ensure that scheme options and designs are developed to minimise adverse environmental, amenity and health impacts in line with other policies.
	The accessibility policies could contain a requirement for transport improvements not to cause community severance, and could reiterate the need to ensure improved mobility and access for all groups, in order to improve performance against equality and diversity targets.
	The Core Strategy could include a statement of principle that supports sustainable transport over the private car.
	Walking and cycling improvements should be focussed where they would have the greatest impact on car use (i.e. for accessing schools, local shops and the town centre).
Social	Development at Huncoat should be designed to integrate well with existing communities in the area and to prevent potential sprawl. This could include the provision of shared community facilities and public open spaces as part of new development.
	Consideration should be given to putting a greater emphasis on the provision of health facilities to address health deprivation issues where a need has been identified.
	Allotments and sports pitches could be specified under sports and recreation facilities in Policy HC2.

Table 7-4   Thematic Policies Recommendations / Mitigation

7.8 Assessment of the Area-Based Policies

The area-based policies support the delivery of the Balanced Development Strategy with policies and commentary in the following themes:

- Accrington and its Townships
- Great Harwood
- Rishton
- Knuzden and Whitebirk
- The Rural Areas

The detailed assessment of the thematic policies is contained within Appendix H.

7.8.1 Sustainability Comments

The collective area-based policies would positively contribute to the majority of SA Objectives. Housing and employment development would be targeted within the urban areas of Accrington town centre and to a lesser extent in the other towns within the Borough, and therefore within the areas most at need where deprivation is highest. Such development, together with overall environmental regeneration (e.g. along the Leeds and Liverpool Canal) and improved services would contribute to urban renaissance and could generate indirect benefits in relation to health, crime reduction and community spirit and cohesion within the long-term. In particular, the provision of a greater choice and quality of new housing (3400 new houses), in association with Policies H1-3, would help to create a healthier living environment for many people currently living in poor quality or unsuitable accommodation, addressing the imbalances in the local housing market that can act as a deterrent to current and future residents. These improvements to the urban environment in Accrington and its townships, together with other towns, are likely to have a beneficial effect upon the perception of the area for residents, visitors and potential investors. In addition, the integrity of rural communities will be maintained by the Core Strategy's provisions to prevent inappropriate development within rural areas.

The inner areas of Accrington, which experience the greatest concentration of small pre-1919 terraced properties and are the principal cause of the imbalance in the local housing market, would a receive a large proportion of new housing. Policy H1 indicates that three-quarters of new houses are proposed to be detached or semi-detached properties. The Site Allocations DPD will therefore need to address the issue of how these lower-density property types can be accommodated in areas of presently high-density terraced housing. Requirements for high design standards, green space, access to local services, sustainable design and the retention of historic associations contained in the policies within the Environment theme would help to deliver attractive and sought after housing.

Whilst the Core Strategy recognises the primacy of Accrington town centre for delivering sustainable economic growth and services in the Borough, it also acknowledges that a key aspect of developing sustainable communities is to provide local services and employment opportunities that reduce the need to travel and help create vibrant, mixed neighbourhoods. The Core Strategy aims to regenerate Accrington town centre through maximising its distinctive appeal and heritage assets. There is an identified need for new office development, together with the broadening of the quality and quantity of the retail offer. The Accrington and its Township policies make reference to the Accrington Town Centre Area Action Plan (AAP), which contains more specific proposals. Policy A2 supports the strengthening of Accrington as the principal centre for the Borough, providing higher order services to the community, whilst supporting development within Clayton-le-Moors, Huncoat and Oswaldtwistle for a range of facilities to support the local communities. Other smaller scale developments are proposed by Policy A3 as part of local centre regeneration. Policy GH2 promotes the further development of

Great Harwood as the Borough's second centre, providing key local services and specialist/leisure shopping facilities at an appropriate scale. This development of Great Harwood town centre is likely to make a contribution to sustainable economic growth and business development opportunities in the medium-long term. Policy R2 aims to support the character and identity of Rishton by strengthening and improving the quality of the street scene in the town centre and enhancing it as a local centre to provide key services to the local community. Policy RA3 protects and allows for the enhancement of local employment, thereby helping to maintain the rural community.

In addition, Policy KW1 promotes the Regional Employment Site at Whitebirk and as such would encourage (in the long-term) sustainable economic growth and business development in both Hyndburn and neighbouring Blackburn. Within Huncoat the proposed Strategic Employment Site would be developed as a Waste Technology Park, alongside other employment uses, which has the potential to attract regionally-significant new businesses in a sector likely to experience continued growth in the future as sustainable waste management becomes a higher priority for Hyndburn and Lancashire. The benefits of developing the Huncoat site may therefore extend beyond the Borough. In addition, regeneration of the Leeds and Liverpool Canal (Policies A5 and A8) provides an opportunity for commercial developments as part of the re-use of old mill buildings and enhancement of the waterfront location. New employment opportunities would also be created at Brookside Business Centre, and potentially also within the Oswaldtwistle Mills. Policy RA3 supports the protection and development of Altham Business Park, which is currently successful, including a small scale extension into the Green Belt providing that it is to allow existing occupiers to meet their business needs.

The creation of such employment opportunities and other provisions for local people, together with direct aims for improved connectivity (particularly via sustainable modes such as walking and cycling) through policies T1, T2, HC1 and Env1, would directly contribute to improved access to services and employment at a local level and therefore economic inclusion. In addition, the development of a bus station within land between Edgar Street and Union Street would ensure that bus and train services and properly integrated, thereby improving access. Areas designated for new and retained employment uses are generally accessible to local people. In addition, new employment development offers the opportunity to increase skill levels amongst the Hyndburn population. In particular, the Regional Employment Site at Whitebirk provides an opportunity to develop employment training schemes for local people. The proposed Waste Technology Park at Huncoat could see the establishment of market leading businesses in the area, with the potential to help create a pool of skilled labour in this emerging sector. The Accrington and Rossendale College would play a role in raising educational standards to meet the needs of modern businesses.

The Core Strategy area-based policies in general support the redevelopment of brownfield sites, thus preventing large-scale loss of greenfield land. However, parts of the development at Huncoat would be constructed on the fields surrounding the present settlement, suggesting potential loss of natural habitat and associated biodiversity impacts. In addition, Policy A7 may include developing land within the green belt for an exceptional scheme of sub-regional importance (with the proviso that a Country Park is developed as well), Policy KW1 promotes the development of a 35 ha greenfield site, and Policy RA3 includes for a small scale extension to Altham Business Park into Green Belt, all of which could generate negative impacts upon biodiversity. However, the Environment themed policies provide mitigation for potentially adverse impacts of new development by requiring schemes to contribute to green infrastructure, as well as protecting the most important sites for biodiversity from development. It is essential that there is no overall net loss of habitat value, and opportunities for biodiversity enhancement are integrated into development proposals.

The area-based policies would also contribute to the SA Objectives relating to the townscape and cultural heritage resources. Polices RA1 and RA2 directly seek to protect and enhance the local character and heritage features of the Hyndburn countryside, which is an important amenity for local residents, contributes to a sense of place and is important for promoting the

Borough. Policies A5 and A8 seek to improve the areas adjacent to the Leeds and Liverpool canal whilst reinstating the characteristics of local canal architecture and waterscape and refurbishing historic buildings and structures which will have a beneficial effect on the townscape of the area and would ensure protection and enhancement of the cultural heritage resource. The canal is a key aspect of the Borough's heritage and should be intrinsic to regeneration initiatives in the Church / Oswaldtwistle Gateway and Clayton-le-Moors. Policy A2 concerns the regeneration of Accrington town centre and its development as a historic market town, which would have a positive effect on the townscape of Accrington and also ensure protection and enhancement of the cultural heritage resource. Policy GH2 seeks to protect and enhance the historic qualities of Great Harwood, as the character of the town is important for maintaining the vitality of its centre. Rishton has a distinct character based on a core of historic buildings dating to industrial expansion in the 19th Century. Policy R3 has the aim of maximising the benefits of the Leeds and Liverpool Canal and its heritage waterside buildings to the urban surroundings of Rishton.

There is potential for adverse impacts upon landscape / townscape at the edge of urban areas, as a result of development within Greenfield land and on Green Belt, and also as a result of larger semi-detached and detached housing provision within Rishton. However, some individual area-based policies contain provisions to mitigate such effects, for example Policy KW1 states that the site will be developed to a high standard, utilising good quality design and attractive landscaping. In addition, the Environmental policies of the Core Strategy contain provisions for the protection of the existing quality and character of landscapes and townscapes, and specifically seek to ensure preservation and enhancement of local character, identity, heritage and vitality.

Potential impacts upon water resources are generally uncertain, and depend upon future development. The Core Strategy contains specific provisions to improve the environmental water quality of the Leeds and Liverpool Canal within Church, Clayton-Le-Moors and Rishton. Development within Greenfield land has the potential to adversely impact upon surface water runoff, and could therefore be a risk to water pollution. However, protection for the natural environment is contained within the policies in the Environment theme.

New housing would be developed primarily on brownfield land, which has the potential for contaminated land. Policies that comprise provisions for development on Greenfield sites could potentially expose land to contamination. Risks of contamination would be greatest during the construction period.

The Core Strategy contains provisions to ensure that developments are of high quality and promote sustainable design and construction, ensure a balanced approach to adapting to and limiting the effects of climate change (such as flooding and greenhouse gas emissions), and also ensure energy efficiency, the use of renewable energy and sustainable use of natural resources. However, it is acknowledged that development could contribute to an increased pressure upon existing resources (for example, the proposed Regional Employment Site at Whitebirk could contribute to an increased use of energy). Development within the town centre (in areas of flood risk), and on Greenfield land, has the potential to impact upon flooding. The requirements of Policy Env4 specifically address potential flood risk issues. Policy A9 includes provision for a Waste Technology Park which can be expected to improve the long-term management of waste in Hyndburn and beyond in a more sustainable manner.

Targeted development within existing urban areas of Accrington and its townships would support the SA Objective relating to sustainable transport. New development would be located close to public transport and walking and cycling routes, thus minimising travel and dependence on the private car. This would generate indirect benefits upon local air quality in the long-term through a potential reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, although it is recognised that the scale of development planned will lead to inevitable increases in car use despite the proposals to encourage the use of sustainable transport. It is important that new and enhanced walking and cycling routes connect residential areas with the town centre and employment sites within the town. Regeneration of the Leeds and Liverpool Canal could be a valuable transport network

for pedestrians and cyclists. In addition, Policy A4 contains provisions for a new bus station which will help to ensure that bus and train services and properly integrated, thereby promoting the use of more sustainable modes of transport. Rishton may benefit from improvements to the Preston-Colne rail service and the proposed Pennine Reach rapid-bus scheme, as supported by Policy T1, which provide direct links to Blackburn and Accrington. The railway also connects directly to the proposed new employment site at Huncoat.

The construction of the Whinney Hill link road would not positively support the SA Objective relating to sustainable transport, although justifiable in terms of economic benefits and the relieving of congestion in the town centre. In addition, the proposed Regional Employment Site at Whitebirk has the potential to encourage more traffic along the M65, as a result of its out of centre location. Opportunities to promote public transport links should therefore be sought if possible.

7.8.2   Recommendations / Mitigation

Numerous recommendations have been made over time, for example through the Interim Reviews. Table 7-5 presents the key measures suggested to further improve the sustainability performance of the Core Strategy.

Broad Sustainability Topic	Mitigation Measure / Recommendation
Environment	Opportunities should be taken to protect and enhance biodiversity during any development works, to ensure no net loss of habitat value. This should include ecological surveys being undertaken, where appropriate, prior to any works and the implementation of a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP).
	The Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) relating to the Brookside Business Centre should contain clear provisions to ensure biodiversity protection and enhancement.
	Opportunities should be taken to minimise visual impact; for example, screening, landscaping and considerate design.
	Cross references could be made to the general provisions of Policy Env3, for consistency.
	Reference could be made in Policies A5 and A8 to desirability of reusing existing buildings in the vicinity of the Leeds and Liverpool Canal.
	Appropriate environmental mitigation (and if required appropriate air quality assessments) must be developed to avoid adverse impacts as a result of the Whinney Hill Link Road. Opportunities to promote public transport links should be sought if possible.
	Opportunities should be taken to protect and enhance the quality of the water environment during any development works. The implementation of a CEMP during construction phase should help to avoid water pollution. Where necessary, e.g. in relation to development upon Greenfield land, SuDS should be incorporated into the design to address water runoff.
	Cross references could be made to Policy Env4, in relation to potential flood risk, sustainable design principles, energy efficiency and sustainable use of natural resources.
	Opportunities should be explored to open culverts as part of redevelopment options.
	It is essential that sustainable development principles underpin the development at Huncoat in order to mitigate the adverse impacts of developing on a greenfield site.
	The Regional Employment Site at Whitebirk should be developed in accordance with Policy Env6, requiring use of *Secure by Design* principles.
	Implementation of a CEMP during the construction period of developments, particularly within Greenfield land, should help to avoid contamination.
Housing	Policy A1 could contain a reference to the need for a proportion of new housing to meet accessibility standards, such as Lifetime Homes.
	Links could be made between Policy A1 and Policy H1 to identify the need for larger, lower density housing types to be built in Accrington specifically.

Economy	New business development should be encouraged to make use of local labour and to offer training schemes, as indicated in the commentary to Policy E2. For example, the accompanying text to Policy KW1 could refer to a requirement for businesses to develop on-the-job training.
Transport and Access	The value of the Leeds and Liverpool Canal towpath as a route for walking and cycling could be emphasised.
	New and enhanced walking and cycling routes should be identified in the Site Allocations DPD with the aim of connecting residential areas to local service centres and employment areas, as well as to Accrington town centre.
	Allocation of specific sites for housing in Great Harwood should ensure that new sites are able to make use of sustainable transport options.
	Links could be made between Policy R3 and those on green infrastructure and active travel (Policies HC1, Env1 and T2).
	It should be ensured that a range of sustainable transport measures are taken forward alongside the provisions of Policy KW1.
Social	No recommendations.

Table 7-5   Area-Based Policies Recommendations / Mitigation

7.9   Cumulative and Synergistic Effects

The SEA Directive requires the cumulative and synergistic (where the combined effects are greater than the sum of their component parts) effects of the Core Strategy to be assessed.

Table 7-4 summarises the cumulative and synergistic impacts as a result of the Core Strategy. All elements of the Core Strategy have been taken into account within this assessment. The combined impacts as a result of other initiatives proposed within the Borough, including the ongoing HMR and the Town Centre Masterplan AAP, together with other Hyndburn planning documents such as SPDs for regeneration in other areas of the town, have been considered. The approach identifies receptors, for example the economy or the townscape, that may be affected by cumulative impacts. It also acknowledges where uncertainty has influenced the assessment.

Receptor	Cumulative / Synergistic Effect	Causes	Potential Trend
Crime rates and fear of crime	Crime rates and fear of crime are on the whole expected to reduce in the Borough in the long term, particularly within the central urban areas.	Overall regeneration to create improved living and working environments can improve aspirations and indirectly help reduce crime in the long-term. Wider social regeneration as a result of HMR, and also in conjunction with the Accrington Town Centre Masterplan AAP will help to raise aspirations, provide opportunities and reduce the likelihood of criminal behaviour, especially amongst young people. Employment, training and education provisions could help to improve incomes and local aspirations. Secure By Design principles to be encouraged within developments.	Positive
Educational and skills attainment, and training provision	Levels of educational and skills attainment have the potential to improve in the long term.	An overall improved environmental quality, together with an improved quality of life through social regeneration (in conjunction with other regional and local strategies such as the HMR and the Accrington Town Centre Masterplan), would indirectly contribute to improved local aspirations and educational attainment. New and diverse employment provision would help to provide skills training opportunities for local people.	Positive

Receptor	Cumulative / Synergistic Effect	Causes	Potential Trend
Health of the Borough's population	Levels of health and well-being have the potential to improve in the long term.	An improved overall environmental quality, together with urban renaissance, would positively impact upon the health and wellbeing of the population. Social regeneration through HMR and other regional and local strategies would contribute to a better quality of life for the community, through the provision of high quality and affordable housing and overall regeneration. Improved access to employment and incomes, together with wider regeneration proposals, will improve aspirations and may improve people's ability to afford healthier lifestyles and improve living conditions. Provisions within the Core Strategy to improve accessibility and encourage increased walking and cycling opportunities, together with public transport provisions, should promote increased physical fitness and healthier lifestyles. Access to existing and new health facilities would be improved through transport developments.	Positive
Housing Provision	Housing will be provided for local needs, and would contribute to Borough wide targets.	The Core Strategy contains a number of provisions that seek to increase the range and affordability of housing, predominantly within the urban areas of the Borough, in order to meet the current and future needs of the local population. This would be in conjunction with the HMR Programme.	Positive
Community Spirit	Community spirit has the potential to improve.	Targeted development, regeneration and investment in Accrington town centre and the other main urban locations would help to deliver urban renaissance and associated community spirit improvements. In addition, urban concentration would also indirectly preserve the community spirit and cohesion in the rural areas. However, there could be implications upon community spirit as a result of potential spread and coalescence with Accrington. The provisions within the Core Strategy for enhanced environmental quality, increased accessibility and housing and employment provision would positively contribute to increased community spirit and pride through improved aspirations and social wellbeing.	Positive and Negative
Access to goods and services	The Core Strategy is likely to improve access to services and facilities for local people.	The Core Strategy aims to provide employment, education and housing provision for all in accessible locations. In addition, appropriate services and facilities would be provided within all the main urban locations. Provisions for improved public transport and other sustainable modes of travel would improve accessibility in the Borough.	Positive
Sustainable Economic Growth	Employment creation, business development and economic growth would be ensured through the Core Strategy.	The Core Strategy would directly contribute to sustainable economic growth, employment provision and economic inclusion. Overall regeneration of the physical environment, together with improved transport infrastructure and housing provision, would help to market the Borough for increased inward investment. In conjunction with the Accrington Town Centre Masterplan, Accrington would be the focus for investment as a major town centre serving the Borough, and would include a diverse range of employment provision	Positive

Receptor	Cumulative / Synergistic Effect	Causes	Potential Trend
		and training opportunities.

Furthermore, the development of outer, and expansion to, area employment sites, e.g. at Whitebirk would also contribute to sustainable economic growth and help to diversify employment opportunities within the Borough. | |
| Economic Inclusion | Promotion of employment in areas of high employment/income deprivation. | Sustainable economic development and employment provision will be focused within the urban areas, which are the most economically deprived locations. This would ensure economic inclusion and a reduction in unemployment in the areas most at need.

Diversification of the economy would be encouraged, which would also aid skills development. In addition, the Core Strategy seeks to provide training and mentoring schemes.

Improved accessibility within the Borough, with improved public transport and walking / cycling opportunities, together with the location of jobs and homes within close proximity, should ensure easy access to employment for all. | Positive |
| Biodiversity | The Core Strategy seeks to ensure protection of biodiversity resources within the Borough. However, potential negative impacts could occur as a result of development within Greenfield land and some brownfield sites. | The Core Strategy seeks to ensure protection of the biodiversity resources across the Borough. It also seeks to enhance green networks and infrastructure, and enhance the quality of the natural environment, which could generate positive benefits across the Borough.

Provisions within the Core Strategy to improve accessibility for the population could indirectly generate the enhancement of natural areas.

However, development both within Greenfield land and brownfield land has the potential for loss of biodiversity. | Positive and negative |
| Townscape and Landscape Quality | Protection and enhancement of the historic townscape and heritage of the Borough. Potential negative impacts upon some landscape areas. | The regeneration of the town centre, townships and other outer towns, particularly within Accrington in conjunction with the Masterplan AAP, would positively impact upon the local townscape through an enhanced environmental and built quality.

The Core Strategy contains provisions that require developments to be built to high standards of design, in order to maintain the integrity of the existing character and built quality, and contribute to the distinctiveness of the local area. HMR proposals may also contribute to an improved physical environment.

Improved accessibility within the Borough may reduce the need to travel, which could benefit townscape quality if congestion is reduced.

Adverse impacts upon landscape may be generated as a result of development within outer areas of the Borough, within Greenfield land and Green Belt. Any development in such locations needs to be sensitively designed. | Positive and negative |
| Climate Change Air Quality Energy Efficiency Natural Resources | Potential negative effects of traffic growth. Potential negative and positive contributions towards climate change. Potential positive effects as a result of promotion of | The concentration of investment, regeneration and new development in urban areas could potentially lead to increased travel and congestion, which could generate implications upon local air quality in the long-term. The already poor air quality around the M65 could exacerbated by developments, such as that proposed at Whitebirk.

However, the Core Strategy does contain a number of provisions for improved public transport and promotion of sustainable travel within the Borough, which would help to alleviate some of these potential | Positive and negative |

Receptor	Cumulative / Synergistic Effect	Causes	Potential Trend
	sustainable travel.	cumulative impacts.	
	The prudent use of natural resources.	Although the Core Strategy contains provisions to mitigate flood risk, there is potential for development to increase run-off rates and lead to the loss of greenfield land or flood storage.	
		The Core Strategy makes provisions for sustainable development and design, incorporating energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy, the prudent use of natural resources, and the use of SuDS.	
		All new development has the potential to increase pressure upon water and energy resources, and generate increased waste production.	

Table 7-6   Cumulative and Synergistic Impacts

8 Monitoring Framework

8.1 Introduction

This section provides an outline monitoring framework and advice for monitoring the significant effects of implementing the Core Strategy. Monitoring is an ongoing process integral to the implementation of the Core Strategy, and can be used to:

- Determine the performance of the plan and its contribution to objectives and targets
- Identify the performance of mitigation measures
- Fill data gaps identified earlier in the SA process
- Identify undesirable sustainability effects
- Confirm whether sustainability predictions were accurate

8.2 Requirements of the SEA Directive

The activities relevant to monitoring that are stipulated in the SEA Directive are outlined in Box 5. The outcomes of these activities are detailed in this section.

"Member States shall monitor the significant environmental effects of the implementation of plans and programmes... in order, inter alia, to identify at an early stage unforeseen adverse effects, and to be able to undertake appropriate remedial action" (Article 10.1).

The Environmental Report should provide information on "a description of the measures envisaged concerning monitoring" (Annex I (i)).

Box 5: SEA Directive Requirements Applicable to Monitoring

8.3 Approach

The monitoring framework has been developed to measure the performance of the Core Strategy against changes in defined indicators that are linked to its implementation. These indicators have been developed based on the following:

- The objectives, targets and indicators that were developed for the SA Framework
- Features of the baseline that will indicate the effects of the plan
- The likely significant effects that were identified during the effects assessment
- The mitigation measures that were proposed to offset or reduce significant adverse effects

Where relevant, the indicators and targets have been updated since publication of the Scoping Report in April 2009.

The monitoring framework has been designed to focus mainly on significant sustainability effects including those:

- that indicate a likely breach of international, national or local legislation, recognised guidelines or standards
- that may give rise to irreversible damage, with a view to identifying trends before such damage is caused

- where there was uncertainty in the SA, and where monitoring would enable preventative or mitigation measures to be taken

As well as measuring specific indicators linked to the implementation of the Core Strategy, contextual monitoring of social, environmental and economic change has been included i.e. a regular review of baseline conditions in the Borough. This enables the measurement of the overall effects of the Core Strategy.

There are numerous SA indicators available and it is not always possible to identify how a specific plan has impacted a receptor; for example housing provision is likely to be influenced by a number of actions and different plans. A thorough analysis of the data collated and the emerging trends will, therefore be important.

8.4 Existing Monitoring Programmes

A fundamental aspect of developing the monitoring strategy is to link with existing monitoring programmes and to prevent duplication of other monitoring work that is already being undertaken. The Hyndburn BC Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) identifies a series of indicators that can be used to monitor progress.

8.5 Proposed Monitoring Framework

Table 8-1 provides a framework for monitoring the effects of the Core Strategy and determining whether the predicted environmental effects are realised. The framework is based around the SA Objectives and includes the following elements:

- The potentially significant impact that needs to be monitored or the area of uncertainty
- A suitable monitoring indicator
- A target (where one has been devised)
- The potential data source
- The frequency of the monitoring

For some of the SA objectives, for example those relating to townscape character and quality, it will be necessary for baseline characteristics and contextual information to be reviewed.

The impacts predicted in the SA will not be realised until development occurs through the Core Strategy. Monitoring should be ongoing during the whole life of the Core Strategy. The targets identified in Table 8-1 will therefore need to be reviewed and updated as new ones are developed and existing ones modified (e.g. those derived from the North West RSS). In addition new or more appropriate indicators may also be developed as more information is gathered and the SA process and Core Strategy further develops.

It should be noted that the Core Strategy would benefit from monitoring at different geographical scales, for example, as this is a strategic assessment, it is important to consider the overall changes to Hyndburn Borough as a whole, as well as considering changes in individual wards. It should be noted that identifying changes in individual towns may be difficult as information may not be available at this small scale. Nonetheless, it is important when considering Borough wide monitoring data to attempt to establish how the Core Strategy has contributed to this, where possible.

Those indicators written in italics highlight current data gaps which will be reviewed and additional information gathered where possible. Some of these are highlighted as data gaps, as they relate to specific factors or circumstances that may be generated by the Core Strategy proposals e.g. the implementation of job-related training schemes on site.

NB: Local quality of place surveys are commissioned by the Pennine Lancashire authorities. The detail of the indicators presented in Table 8-1 below may be refined in the future to coordinate with such arrangements.

SA Objective	Effect to be Monitored	Indicator and Target (sources are provided where relevant)	Review Timescale
To reduce crime, disorder and fear of crime	Provisions of the Core Strategy have potential to lower crime and fear of crime in Borough, through regeneration benefits.	**Crime levels per 1,000 population:** New targets need to be developed in conjunction with the Community Safety Strategy Department **Number of wards with Super Output Areas (SOAs) in the bottom 20% for crime deprivation[6]:** To reduce number of wards with SOAs in the bottom 20% for crime deprivation (Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD)) ***Percentage of people feeling 'at risk' of crime:*** *No specific targets have been developed for fear of crime although overall target should be to reduce fear of crime.* ***Levels of anti-social behaviour:*** *No specific targets have been developed.*	Every 3 years
To improve physical and mental health for all and reduce health inequalities	Provisions of the Core Strategy have potential to improve levels of health and wellbeing in the Borough as part of wider regeneration benefits, improved employment opportunities and improved living environment.	**Number of wards with SOAs in the bottom 20% for health deprivation and disability:** Reduce number of wards with SOAs in bottom 20% for health deprivation and disability (IMD) **Life expectancy for males/females:** To increase life expectancy to at or above national levels over the plan period. **Percentage of the population considered to be in good health:** New targets could be developed in conjunction with the Sustainable Community Strategy. **Percentage of population with a long-term limiting illness:** New targets could be developed in conjunction with the Sustainable Community Strategy.	Every 3 years.
To provide greater choice, quality and diversity of housing across all tenures to meet the needs of residents	The Core Strategy would ensure the provision of a greater choice and quality of housing, to ensure all needs are met. It will contribute to affordable housing targets.	**Number of unfit dwellings:** New targets could be developed in conjunction with the Regeneration and Housing Services Department. This should be informed by the forthcoming updated Housing Needs Survey. **Number of wards in the bottom 25% for Living Environment Deprivation:** Reduce number of wards with SOAs in bottom 20% for living environment deprivation (IMD). **Proportion of vacant housing:** Reduce the number of vacant houses to a maximum of 3.5% of total stock by 2016, in Lancashire (Lancashire Council) ***Affordable dwellings completed as a percentage of all new housing completions:*** *Provide for 300 new affordable homes in Hyndburn by 2010 (Housing Strategy 2004-2007)* ***Proportion of dwelling types (e.g. detached, semi, terrace) as part of the overall housing stock:*** *New targets could be developed in conjunction with the Regeneration and Housing Services Department. This should be informed by the forthcoming updated Housing*	Annual (although the IMD is reviewed every 3 years) Could be informed by the forthcoming updated Housing Needs Survey.

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[6] Whilst the Index of Multiple Deprivation is a very valuable source of data, when including the results in a monitoring framework it will be essential to review the assumptions used in producing the new index and the methodology, as this will affect whether the index results can be used for comparative purposes with data from previous years. The IMD data has been used within the monitoring framework as it provides useful contextual data.

SA Objective	Effect to be Monitored	Indicator and Target (sources are provided where relevant)	Review Timescale
		Needs Survey.	
To protect and enhance community spirit and cohesion	Provisions of the Core Strategy may promote improved community spirit and cohesion through regeneration.	**Percentage of residents who think that for their local area, over the past three years, community activities have got better or stayed the same:** *Local opinion surveys may need to be established.* **Percentage of residents who think that for their local area, over the past three years that race relations have got better or stayed the same:** *Local opinion surveys may need to be established.* **Percentage of residents who think the borough is a good place to live:** *Target to be established.*	Every 3 years
To maintain and improve access to basic goods, services and amenities for all groups	The Core Strategy would promote accessible development, which should have positive impacts upon accessibility. In addition, it promotes improved connectivity within and around the Borough.	**Percentage of usually resident population within 1km of 5 basic services:** By 2016, the proportion of the population within 1km of 5 basic services (GP, primary school, food shop, post office, bus stop) to be maintained to at least the 1996 level of 73%. (Lancashire County Council) **Number of wards in the bottom 20% for barriers to housing and services:** To reduce number of wards with SOAs in bottom 20% for levels of barriers to housing and services (IMD). **Access to recreational space:** *Ensure that there is at least one 20 hectare natural green space site within 2km of people's homes (Lancashire County Council).*	Every 3 years
To encourage sustainable economic growth and business development across the borough To encourage economic inclusion	Provisions of the Core Strategy would encourage new employment development and contribute to economic inclusion, which would improve the attractiveness of the Borough for inward investment.	**Percentage employment in different sectors e.g. manufacturing, retail etc:** Target to be established. **Number of wards in bottom 20% for Employment and Income Deprivation:** To reduce number of wards with SOAs in bottom 20% for employment and income deprivation in wards (IMD). **Number of VAT registrations:** *Target to be established.* **GVA per capita for key sectors:** To close the gap with the England average in the North West for GVA growth by 2026 (NW Regional Economic Strategy) **Percentage of the total working age population with unemployment related benefits:** *Target to be established.* **Percentage unemployed** To achieve a regional employment rate of 80% by 2020, and eliminate major sub-regional variations and variations between key groups (NW Regional Economic Strategy) **Percentage economically active:** Target to be established.	Every 3 years
To develop the skills and training needed to establish and maintain a healthy labour market To improve levels of	Indirectly, skills and training may improve as a result of the provisions for employment land-use in the Core Strategy, together with its emphasis upon upskilling.	**Percentage of resident population aged 16-74 with no qualifications:** To have the same proportion of the population with no qualifications as the England average and to eliminate major sub-regional variations and variations between key groups by 2026 (NW Regional Economic Strategy 2006). Targets to be established for the Borough. **Number of wards with SOAs in the bottom 20% for education, skills and training**	Every 3 years

SA Objective	Effect to be Monitored	Indicator and Target (sources are provided where relevant)	Review Timescale
educational attainment for all age groups and all sectors of society		**deprivation:** To reduce number of wards with SOAs in the bottom 20% for education, skills and training deprivation (IMD). **Percentage of people aged 16-74 achieving NVQ level 4/5:** No specific target identified. Increase on a rolling basis.	
To protect and enhance biodiversity	The provisions in the Core Strategy should help to protect and further enhance biodiversity and also improve connectivity with the biodiversity resources.	**Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) habitats and species:** No specific target. Maintain level of LBAP species and habitats, and contribute positively towards the achievement of targets. **Number of designated sites and area:** No net loss of designated sites or loss of area. **Condition of Special Sites of Scientific Interest (SSSIs):** Bring 95% of all SSSIs in Lancashire into favourable condition by 2010 (LCC). (NB this is now out of date. In the absence of updated targets this target should be maintained over the next 5 years.) ***Accessibility to greenspace:*** *Ensure that there is at least one 20 hectare natural green space site within 2km of people's homes (Lancashire County Council).*	Every 5 years Annual (for BAP)
To protect and enhance the borough's landscape and townscape character and quality To protect and enhance the cultural heritage resource	The Core Strategy would help to protect and enhance the local landscape, townscape and heritage features.	**Contextual information based upon landscape and townscape character assessments** **Number and size of Conservation Areas:** No decline in Conservation Area size (LCC) (NB this is now out of date. In the absence of updated targets this target should be maintained over the next 5 years.) **Number of listed buildings on at risk register:** Ensure no Listed Buildings are put on the at risk register. No Grade 1 or II*, II buildings to be lost. (LCC) (NB this is now out of date. In the absence of updated targets this target should be maintained over the next 5 years.)	Every 5 years.
To protect and enhance the quality of water features and resources	All development has the potential to impact upon water quality and resources. However, the provisions of the Core Strategy seek to ensure no adverse impacts upon water quality are generated.	**Percentage of river classified as achieving good/fair status and the Water Framework Directive status of watercourses:** To maintain compliance with river quality targets and improve classification under the General Quality Assessment (GQA) and Water Framework Directive (WFD) above current levels (Environment Agency).	Annual
To guard against land contamination and encourage the appropriate re-use of brownfield sites within the urban boundary	The Core Strategy could indirectly help to remediate contaminated land through targeted development within inner areas, and encouraged use of brownfield sites.	**Percentage of new homes built on brownfield sites** The indicative target proportion of housing provision to use brownfield land and buildings is at least 65% in Hyndburn (NW RSS). ***Percentage of land stock derelict:*** *To reduce the percentage of derelict land on a rolling basis.* ***Percentage of land stock vacant*** *To reduce the percentage of vacant land on a rolling basis.*	Every 3 years
To limit and adapt to climate change To increase energy efficiency and require the use of renewable energy	The Core Strategy encourages sustainable transport use although it also allows for increased vehicular access within the Borough which would have contrasting effects on	**Number of planning applications permitted contrary to EA advice on flooding:** No planning applications permitted contrary to EA advice on flooding (EA) **Number of AQMAs in Hyndburn:** No designation of AQMAs in Hyndburn. **Journey to work by mode:** To reduce the percentage of journeys made by private car. ***Percentage of energy use from renewable sources:*** *10% of Lancashire's energy use to*	Every 3 years

SA Objective	Effect to be Monitored	Indicator and Target (sources are provided where relevant)	Review Timescale
sources To reduce the need to travel, improve choice and use of sustainable transport modes To protect and improve air quality	climate change and air quality. The Core Strategy seeks to ensure that all developments are designed to the highest quality, to ensure efficiency and adaptation to climate change. All development would consider the potential for flood risk.	*come from renewable energy sources by 2010 (Lancashire Environment Strategy). By 2010 at least 10% (rising to at least 15% by 2015 and at least 20% by 2020) of the electricity which is supplied within the Region should be provided from renewable energy sources. (NW RSS)* *New non residential developments above a threshold of 1,000m² and all residential developments comprising 10 or more units should secure at least 10% of their predicted energy requirements from decentralised and renewable or low-carbon sources (NW RSS).* **Total CO$_2$ emissions (kg) per household per year:** *Reduction of UK carbon emissions by at least 26% by 2020 and at least 80% by 2050, compared to 1990 levels (Climate Change Act).* **Electricity/gas consumption in the commercial/business sector per year:** *A 10% improvement in energy efficiency in the business sector by 2010 based on 2000 levels (Lancashire Environment Strategy).* It is important that new local targets relating to renewable energy and carbon emissions are developed.	
To ensure the sustainable use of natural resources	The Core Strategy promotes sustainable resource use.	**Number of new dwellings meeting the Code for Sustainable Homes standards:** *Target to be established.* **Quantity of secondary and recycled materials used in construction:** *Increase use of secondary and recycled materials in construction. Achieve a regional target of 25% of construction aggregates to be from secondary or recycled sources by 2021. (NW RSS).*	Annual
To minimise waste, increase re-use and recycling	Although the increased development would increase waste production, the Core Strategy seeks to ensure sustainable waste management.	**Percentage of household waste recycled and percentage of household waste composted:** *Recycle and compost 56% of household waste by 2015. (LCC)* **Household and business waste arisings.** *Year on year target for preventing growth in the generation of waste streams of 0% across the region (Regional Waste Strategy for the North West, 2010)* **Percentage of household waste landfilled:** *Reduce the total quantity of biodegradable municipal waste going to landfill from the current 85% to 20% by 2010. (LCC)*	Annual

Table 8-1   Proposed Monitoring Framework

8.6 Management and Responsibilities

The monitoring data needs to be collated in a structured manner so that patterns and trends can be identified and remedial action implemented. It is recommended that the data be collated in a tabular format and records the following:

- The SA Objective
- The indicator being used
- The data recorded
- The trend i.e. is the situation improving or deteriorating
- The need for remedial action
- The remedial action to be taken
- The date for the implementation of remedial action

Table 8-2 provides a framework to be used to record responsibilities and results of monitoring.

Monitoring Activity	Responsible Body	Dates and frequency	Format of Results	Status Issues Encountered

Table 8-2   Monitoring Responsibilities

9   Next Steps

9.1   Next Stages in the SA Process

This SA Report has been published for consultation alongside the Final Hyndburn Core Strategy. As part of this consultation we would particularly appreciate your feedback on the following questions:

- Do you agree with the findings of the SA?

- Do you agree with the mitigation proposed?

- Do you agree with the proposed monitoring framework?

Feedback received from consultees will be reviewed, and if necessary the Core Strategy will be amended accordingly. Refer to Section 2.1 for details of how to comment upon these documents.