

**Subject:** Sustainable Community Strategy  
2008 -2018

**Status:** For Publication

**Report to:**

Cabinet  
Council

**Date:**

19<sup>th</sup> March 2008  
26<sup>th</sup> March 2008

**Report of:** Deputy Chief Executive

**Portfolio Holder:** Leader of the Council

**Key Decision:** No – recommendation to Council

Forward Plan  General Exception  Special Urgency

## 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To present to Cabinet and Council the Rossendale Partnership's Sustainable Community Strategy 2008 – 2018.

*Attached at the end of the report.*

## 2. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- 2.1 Rossendale Partnership's Sustainable Community Strategy 2008 – 2018 has been organised around People, Places and Prosperity so it is clear what the partnership is trying to achieve. At the heart of the strategy is a vision that by 2018 Rossendale will be prosperous with vibrant communities. It will be recognised as having a unique environmental heritage and will be an attractive place for visitors, employers and a great place to live.
- 2.2 The outcomes in the strategy focus on the diverse needs of existing and future residents, ensuring they are sensitive to the environment and contribute to a high quality of life offering equality of opportunity and good services for all.
- 2.3 The delivery of the strategy will be led by the Rossendale Partnership but its roots lie in public consultation and involvement. The strategy is about all of us, whether from the local community, public sector agencies, or the private business sector, working together to make Rossendale a better place.

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2.4 The Sustainable Community Strategy impacts/complements directly on all the Council's corporate priorities and associated objectives:

- Delivering Quality Services to Customers
- Delivering Regeneration across the Borough
- Keeping Our Borough Clean and Green
- Promoting Rossendale
- Improving Health and Well Being across the Borough
- Well Managed Council

2.5 Having a Sustainable Community Strategy will aid the Council to proactively tackle emerging priorities :

- Duty to cooperate with partners to work together to agree and deliver local priorities.
- Influencing the way in which the council and its partners plan / allocate medium to long term resources to meet local priorities.

### **3. RISK ASSESSMENT IMPLICATIONS**

3.1 Risks identified will be assessed within the Council's Performance Management System Covalent and therefore linked accordingly to partners' risk registers.

3.2 The risk of not adopting a Sustainable Community Strategy could impact on the Council's corporate performance assessment, and its ability to attract new and emerging external funding through mechanisms such as the Local Area Agreement.

3.3 Not to have a Sustainable Community Strategy could affect the Council's ability to improve its overall performance; achieve key internal and external efficiency targets; sustain and improve performance standards.

3.4 Not to have a Sustainable Community Strategy would affect the Council's focus on delivery of the Local Government White Paper in particular strengthening the role of elected members as place shapers.

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## 4. BACKGROUND AND OPTIONS

### 4.1 The Sustainable Community Strategy 2008 – 2018:

- Builds on the current qualities within the present Community Strategy 2005 – 2020 as well as recognising the advances made in partnership working through the development of the Rossendale Partnership.
- Reflects the better understanding the partnership has of the differing needs of our communities through the coordination of national and local intelligence.

### 4.2 The strategy is the overarching strategic document for partners in Rossendale and sets out:

- A clear strategic vision for the borough of Rossendale
- The challenges facing Rossendale and the outcomes it wants to achieve
- How the partnership will know it has succeeded
- How performance will be measured
- How the partnership will communicate progress

### 4.3 The delivery of the strategy will be expressed through a range of documents including the:

- The Council's Corporate Plan: Is where the Council sets out its priorities and identifies its main areas of work over a three-year period.
- Rossendale Partnership Delivery Plan (RPDP). Many issues such as crime and disorder, health and regeneration are addressed through the theme groups who have a range of strategies and plans agreed and in place to tackle priorities on a theme basis
- Local Area Agreements: This is a "contract" with Government in which we will set out targets for how we will improve key services in Lancashire. The Local Area Agreement will be one of the main means through which we will deliver our strategy.
- Ambition Lancashire is the county-wide Sustainable Community Strategy and the priorities in this strategy will complement the priorities of Rossendale Partnership.
- The Local Development Framework (LDF) and other spatial documents will ensure that resources are available and managed in support of Rossendale Partnership's priorities. The LDF considers how the borough's buildings and spaces are developed and managed to support the overarching goal of tackling inequality whilst making effective use of natural resources, enhancing the environment and supporting strong neighbourhoods and communities.

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- The Locality Plan for Rossendale produced by the Borough and County Councils shows how working together the two councils can best deliver on the shared priorities contained in the Sustainable Community Strategy.

4.5 A key component of the new strategy is to connect it to people in Rossendale's localities. Each Neighbourhood Forum will therefore develop a three-year Neighbourhood Plan informed by the vision and ambitions within the Sustainable Community Strategy 2008 – 2018.

**COMMENTS FROM STATUTORY OFFICERS:**

**5. SECTION 151 OFFICER**

5.1 The Councils Medium Term Financial Strategy recognises the importance of the Sustainable Community Strategy in shaping the allocation of the Council's resources.

5.2 The Sustainable Community Strategy sets the framework for priorities across the whole community and for all participants in the Local Strategic Partnership and therefore significantly influence the allocation of financial resources

**6. MONITORING OFFICER**

6.1 The Strategy is welcomed

**7. HEAD OF PEOPLE AND ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (ON BEHALF OF THE HEAD OF PAID SERVICE)**

7.1 No Comments

**8. CONCLUSION**

8.1 The Sustainable Community Strategy will support the Council's work with partners in addressing the issues that really concern local people. It will give the Council and its partners a greater opportunity to tackle their combined commitment to community engagement and development, community cohesion and reducing inequalities.

8.2 The strategy reflects the significant advances made by the Rossendale Partnership in how, collectively, they set challenging targets to deliver improved public services that make a real and sustainable difference to peoples lives.

8.3 These challenges can only be achieved through the combined efforts of everyone who has a stake in delivering Rossendale's vision whether this is through the collective efforts of large organisation or by individuals within a community.

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## **9. RECOMMENDATION(S)**

### **9.1 OPTION 1: (RECOMMENDED)**

That Full Council be recommended to receive the report, endorse sign off and adoption of the Sustainable Community Strategy 2008 – 2018.

To agree that minor changes may be made to the strategy following the confirmation of the final 35 local area agreements and that this be delegated to the Deputy Chief Executive and Leader of the Council.

#### **OPTION 2:**

Return it to the Rossendale Partnership with suggested amendments.

## **10. CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT**

- 10.1 Rossendale Partnership has spent a great deal of time and effort in gathering statistical facts and opinions from people who have a stake in Rossendale.
- 10.2 An up to date area profile of Rossendale was produced to help identify the key priorities the partnership need to deliver to achieve its vision.
- 10.3 A draft Sustainable Community Strategy consultation document was produced by the Rossendale Partnership executive. The document was sent to public, private and voluntary organisations in Rossendale and also emailed to members on the community network database. All theme and working groups of the partnership were also consulted. The responses received fed directly into the development of the final strategy.
- 10.4 The Rossendale Partnership assembly was the final opportunity for people to respond to the consultation document. The assembly meeting took place on 24th September 2007 where two appraisal sessions were organised one in the evening and one in the afternoon. Attendees were asked to discuss the proposed outcomes either in workshops or by taking part in the freestyle activity session. Again feedback from the assembly fed directly into the development of the strategy.

## **11. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

Is an Equality Impact Assessment required Yes

Is an Equality Impact Assessment attached Yes

## **12. BIODIVERSITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

Is a Biodiversity Impact Assessment required Yes

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Is a Biodiversity Impact Assessment attached

Yes

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Background Papers	
Document	Place of Inspection
Sustainable Community Strategy 2008 -2018	Attached
Equality Impact Assessment	Attached
Biodiversity Impact Assessment	Attached

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# **ROSSENDALE ALIVE**

## **Our Sustainable Community Strategy 2008 - 2018**

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# 1. Foreword

Welcome to Rossendale Partnership's Sustainable Community Strategy 2008 – 2018. We have organised the strategy around People, Places and Prosperity so it is clear what we are trying to achieve. At the heart of the strategy is a vision that by 2018 Rossendale will be prosperous with vibrant communities. It will be recognised as having a unique environmental heritage and will be an attractive place for visitors, employers and to live.

The outcomes in this strategy focus on the diverse needs of existing and future residents, ensuring they are sensitive to the environment, and contribute to a high quality of life. The outcomes are safe and inclusive, well planned and offer equality of opportunity and good services for all.

The delivery of the strategy will be led by Rossendale Partnership but its roots lie in public consultation and involvement. The strategy is about all of us, whether from the local community, public sector agencies, or the private business sector, working together to make Rossendale a better place.

In October 2006 Rossendale Partnership was awarded a green rating by Government Office North West, the highest that can be achieved. Rossendale Partnership is rightfully proud of this achievement but it does not intend to stand still in an ever changing world.

As the Chair of Rossendale Partnership I am pleased to endorse this strategy. Our vision is clear, all I ask is that you share it.

## 2. Rossendale's Sustainable Community Strategy

Our vision is that:

**'By 2018, Rossendale will be prosperous with vibrant communities. It will have a unique environmental heritage and will be an attractive place for visitors, employers and to live.'**

This Sustainable Community Strategy is the overarching strategy for Rossendale. It is simply a long-term plan for Rossendale's success, with a vision, outcomes and a view of what it will feel like when we get there.

In 2005 Rossendale Partnership developed its first community strategy called Rossendale Alive, which was developed following extensive community consultation. Rossendale has changed a lot since 2005, particularly in terms of environmental impact and the need to create sustainable communities. As a result, the partnership has refreshed the original strategy which has resulted in this Sustainable Community Strategy 2008 -2018. The new strategy sets out the partnership's long-term vision for Rossendale and the challenging priorities it faces over the next 10 years.

**Our Sustainable Community Strategy focuses on people, places and prosperity and sets out:**

- Clear strategic vision for the borough of Rossendale
- The challenges facing Rossendale and the outcomes it wants to achieve
- How the partnership will know it has succeeded
- How performance will be measured
- How the partnership will communicate progress

Through ongoing community consultation and solid baseline information we have identified the key priorities we need to deliver to achieve our vision. Everyone who has a stake in Rossendale has told us that they want to make Rossendale a great place to live, work and visit. The partnership is determined to put all its energy into implementing what we know.

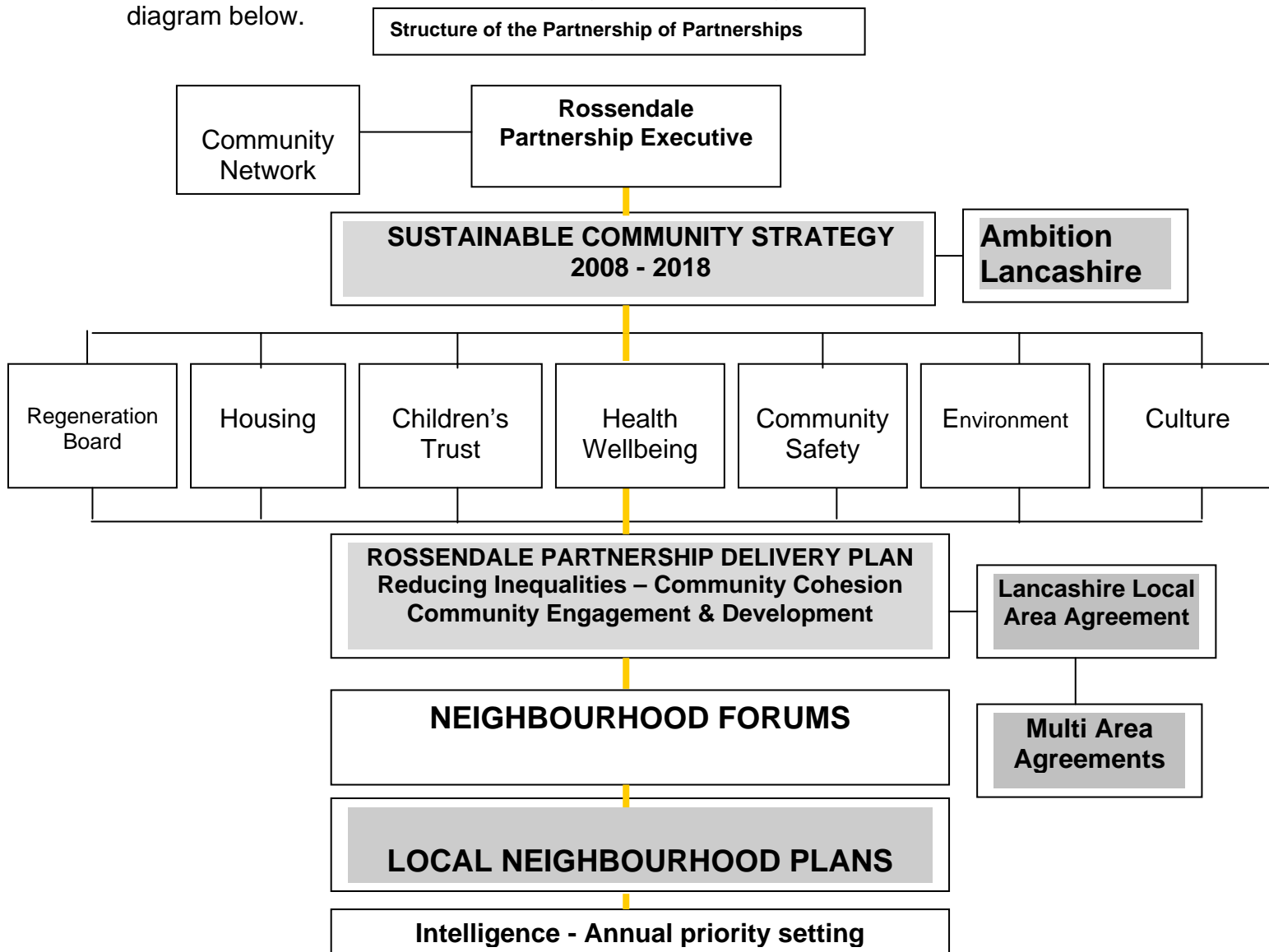
### 3. What is Rossendale Partnership?

Our Sustainable Community Strategy will be delivered by Rossendale Partnership, the Local Strategic Partnership for Rossendale, which brings together local representatives from the public, private, community, voluntary and faith sectors to deliver a better quality of life in Rossendale.

Rossendale Partnership’s membership is drawn from a wide range of organisations from across the borough. It includes Rossendale Borough Council, Lancashire County Council, Whitworth Town Council, Lancashire Police, Green Vale Homes, East Lancashire Primary Care Trust, local businesses, Rossendale Community Network, Groundwork Pennine Lancashire and many other organisations.

**In essence Rossendale Partnership ensures that all partners work together to deliver joint actions to help make Rossendale a better place.**

Rossendale Partnership operates through a number of groups as shown in the diagram below.



## 4. Sustainable Community Strategy Priorities

Our Sustainable Community Strategy has three priorities which are all interconnected: People, Places and Prosperity. Whilst the strategy is divided into these priorities, they must not be taken in isolation as they link together – each having an impact on the other.

**People:** Rossendale will have prosperous sustainable communities, where each one celebrates their own distinctiveness and diversity with a strong sense of identity and pride. The people of Rossendale rightfully have high aspirations. The partnership's vision is to enable people to maximise their opportunities to achieve. It is our guiding principle that above all, no one within our communities will be disadvantaged by where they live.

**Places:** The Rossendale Valley is defined by its beautiful moorland countryside and the small towns and villages located along its length. It is a place that is easily accessible to many millions of people living in the North West. This is part of the unique attraction of Rossendale and gives us opportunities to create new prosperity. We will develop sustainable communities, make efficient use of natural resources, and encourage sustainable production and consumption along with minimising waste. We want affordable, high quality housing of all sizes and to have a transportation infrastructure that enables people to earn their living and enjoy their leisure time in an environmentally responsible manner.

**Prosperity:** Many parts of Rossendale are already prosperous, thanks mainly to its attractiveness as a place to live and its connectivity with Manchester. These attributes have brought many highly skilled and reasonably well-paid people into the Valley. Sustaining and balancing our economy so that all can benefit from our prosperity, now and in the future, is a priority for Rossendale Partnership.

## 5. Our Key Challenges

Having a Sustainable Community Strategy is one thing but how do we know we are focusing on the right things?

Rossendale Partnership has spent a great deal of time and effort in gathering statistical facts and personal opinions from people who have a stake in Rossendale. The outcomes and findings of a whole series of community engagement and consultation exercises have been considered, reflecting that community planning covers a wide range of partnerships, organisations and groups.

This 360-degree view of Rossendale has highlighted a number of key cross-cutting themes of community cohesion, community engagement and development and reducing inequalities both in localities and communities of interest.

- 1. Reducing Inequalities:** Our Sustainable Community Strategy is focussed on reducing inequality either within communities of interest or localities of interest. We recognise that we have growing levels of inequality. Parts of Rossendale, particularly around Bacup and Haslingden, do not connect with the prosperity around them or benefit from it. We have raised levels of health inequalities compared to other areas of the country. A high level of unfit housing contrasts with areas of affluence. There is a huge difference between what people can earn working in Rossendale and what they can earn by travelling out of the borough. Some parts of the borough have excellent transport connections while other parts suffer from having the worst connectivity in Lancashire.
- 2. Community Engagement and Development:** Residents have informed us that there is a perception that no one listens to and acts upon issues raised by the community. The partnership is committed to working more closely with local people so they actively shape the direction and development of their communities. Through the ongoing development of the Neighbourhood Forums we will build upon their success as a means of engaging local people and developing services appropriate to local community needs.
- 3. Community Cohesion: *Promoting Equality and Valuing Diversity:*** Rossendale Partnership is proud of the diversity of the people and communities of Rossendale. We want everyone to have an equal chance to fulfil their potential and enjoy a good quality of life. We know that people face barriers to social and economic inclusion, to good health and housing and to learning and access to services. Rossendale Partnership is committed to removing the barriers that lead to disadvantage and inequality.

## 6. Our Outcomes and How We Will Know We Have Succeeded

### Priority 1 – People

***Our people are our greatest assets. Everything that Rossendale Partnership does is about making life better for the people of the borough and making sure that they are able to achieve their full potential.***

Rossendale has a population of 66,700. Current forecasts predict that our population will continue to grow at a slower rate than the rest of the country. Our population of 15-29 year olds declined by around 20% between 1991 and 2004 (one of the greatest declines in the North West) whilst our population of 45 and 59 year olds increased by around 30%. (One of the greatest increases in the North West). Ensuring there is no further outward migration of 15-29 year olds will help to build a skilled workforce that will contribute towards the development of our local economy.

Whilst most people are living longer and have healthier lives, there are still people with poor levels of physical and mental health who are likely to die at a younger age from preventable causes. People living in disadvantaged circumstances have lower life chances and limited choices to pick healthy options. Good mental health is just as important as physical health. Communities that are resilient, able to manage problems, supportive and cohesive are essential to achieve our shared vision. There is a need to improve the physical and mental well being for many people in the borough but particularly those who are disadvantaged, to allow them to be in a position to learn, improve their housing and make a positive contribution socially and economically.

We need to ensure that everyone is given opportunities which allow individuals to maintain their health and well-being. The levels of mental health problems are higher than national averages. Early death rates from cancer, heart diseases and strokes are higher than the Lancashire and national averages and both male and female life expectancy is less than the national average. The gap in life expectancy between Rossendale and the rest of the country is increasing and there is considerable work to be done to increase healthy years of life. Creating supportive environments, making healthy options easier to choose and improving people's health knowledge and skills will support improved health and wellbeing.

Rossendale has one of the lowest levels of crime in the county but, as in many places fear of crime is still an issue. This, along with clean streets, improved health services and affordable decent housing it is regarded by residents as amongst the most important factors in making Rossendale a good place to live.

## People Outcomes:

By 2018 Rossendale will be a place which is home to healthy, energised and integrated communities, who are strong, resilient and able to organise themselves. Our communities will celebrate the rich heritage and cultural opportunities available.

<b>Outcome 1</b>
<b>People who live here will experience increased health and mental well being</b>
<b>How will we know we have succeeded</b>
The gap between Rossendale and England will not widen in relation to the number of people with a long term limiting illness aged under 75 years.
A reduction in the number of people claiming incapacity benefit because of mental or behavioural disorders
A reduction in the number of alcohol specific hospital admissions

<b>Outcome 2</b>
<b>Measurable progress on reducing the gaps in health inequalities between the people of Rossendale and the rest of England</b>
<b>How will we know we have succeeded</b>
An increase in life expectancy to the national average
A reduction in the number of deaths from heart disease and stroke
A reduction in the number of deaths from cancer
A reduction in the number of deaths from accidents
An increase in the number of people who stop smoking at the 4-week monitoring point

<b>Outcome 3</b>
<b>By 2018 Rossendale will have one of the most physically active communities in the UK.</b>
<b>How will we know we have succeeded</b>
An increase in the number of people who participate in 30 minutes of moderate physical activity three times a week.

<b>Outcome 4</b>
<b>We will have reduced outward migration to maintain a balance in the population demographic.</b>
<b>How will we know we have succeeded</b>
There will be no further decline in our population of 15-29 year olds.

<b>Outcome 5</b>
<b>Rossendale will continue to be one of the safest boroughs in Lancashire</b>
<b>How will we know we have succeeded</b>
Maintaining current levels of performance in relation to crime rates
A reduction in harm caused by alcohol and drugs
A reduction in levels of concern of residents in relation to anti-social behaviour

<b>Outcome 6</b>
<b>People who live here will get on well together and experience a sense of belonging within an active community.</b>
<b>How will we know we have succeeded</b>
An increase in the number of local people involved in community or voluntary activities including hard-to-reach groups.
An increase in resident satisfaction with Rossendale as a place to live
An increase in the proportion of people who feel their neighbourhood is one where people from different backgrounds get on
An increase in the number of voluntary, community and faith organisations who feel that the environment to support a thriving third sector has improved



## Priority 2- Places

***The Rossendale Valley contains some of the most beautiful countryside in the country. We have a duty to future generations to maintain this aspect and to ensure that we do not take from our natural resources anything which we cannot replenish.***

As a location Rossendale has many advantages: its proximity to Greater Manchester combined with a high quality natural environment and a series of well placed urban villages containing a large number of heritage buildings and high quality neighbourhoods. The challenge is to utilise and to improve these aspects of the built environment making them fit for 21st century living, working and investing.

The chief environmental issues facing Rossendale is a carbon footprint which is higher than the already unsustainable national average. A high proportion of our housing is unfit and over half of our social housing does not meet the Government's Decent Homes Standard and while a very high proportion of Rossendale residents agree that we have beautiful countryside, only a small number agree that we have clean and well maintained town centres.

## Places Outcomes

**By 2018 Rossendale will be recognised as having a unique environmental heritage and will be a place of choice for visitors, employers and to live.**

<b>Outcome 7</b>
<b>Rossendale will have substantially reduced its average carbon footprint with people taking responsibility for their impact on our world.</b>
<b>How will we know we have succeeded</b>
A reduction in Rossendale's average carbon dioxide emissions.
We will have mitigated and adapted to the effects of climate change.
An increase in take-up of energy efficiency grants.

<b>Outcome 8</b>
<b>Housing conditions in Rossendale will meet the average levels for Lancashire and the level of affordable housing will meet the needs of local people.</b>
<b>How will we know we have succeeded</b>
We will seek to influence the delivery of the Government's target of all social housing meeting the decent homes standard.
There will be more affordable decent housing brought on stream
An increase in the percentage of vulnerable households living in privately rented

houses which are in a decent condition.

<b>Outcome 9</b>
<b>Residents will agree that Rossendale has clean and well maintained town centres providing the leisure, retail and cultural services they would expect to access locally</b>
<b>How will we know we have succeeded</b>
An increase in the percentage of people who agree that their neighbourhood has a clean and well-maintained town centre.
There will be fewer sites which are graded less than B for litter, detritus, graffiti, fly-posting and fly-tipping.

<b>Outcome 10</b>
<b>Rossendale will protect and enhance its natural and built heritage which will be recognised as an outstanding resource by visitors and residents</b>
<b>How will we know we have succeeded</b>
There will be a year on year increase in the value of tourism to the borough's economy.
An increase in the percentage of visitors and residents who are satisfied with the quality of the local environment, including countryside, parks and open spaces.
There will be an improvement in our Rights of Way network
An increase number of countryside facilities enhanced or restored

## Priority 3 - Prosperity

***Ensuring the prosperity of Rossendale is one of our key priorities. There are fantastic prospects for connecting with other places in the North West which present Rossendale with great economical opportunities, yet we have some of the lowest wages in the country and high levels of out commuting.***

Between 2002 and 2006, the weekly pay of residents living in Rossendale increased to just below the Great Britain figure, more than twice the regional and national rates of improvement. During the same time period, the weekly pay for those employed within Rossendale increased by less than the regional and national rates of improvement. This defines starkly the current nature of the Rossendale economy. Every day nearly half of the Borough's workforce, who are higher skilled and get a higher wage, commute out of Rossendale to places like Manchester and East Lancashire. There are several side-effects to this apparent prosperity:

- Out-commuting is by motor transport, increasing our carbon footprint.
- Residents who are out-commuters are far more likely to spend the majority of their income outside of Rossendale.
- Our prosperity has become polarised to local settlements with the best access to road connections to Manchester.
- Our geography limits our transport infrastructure and there is pressure across all of our road networks – leading to poor interconnectivity between Bacup and Rawtenstall and some parts of Haslingden and Rawtenstall, reducing the capability of residents in these areas to benefit from this prosperity.

Unemployment in Rossendale is relatively low. We have been recognised as the most enterprising place in the North West, with a relatively high business formation rate (and business stock) and a high self employment rate. Our business stock is dominated by small businesses, which gives our economy sustainability. Over the last 10 years we have lost a number of locally-owned manufacturing and retail businesses, and gained construction and business services. Rossendale can improve its visitor economy in a way that meets the requirements of our places priority. The beautiful moorland countryside and our good connectivity to the motorway network makes Rossendale an ideal visitor destination.

## Prosperity Outcomes:

By 2018 we will have a balanced economy that has a rich and vibrant visitor economy based on the environmentally sensitive utilisation of our natural assets.

<b>Outcome 11</b>
<b>We will create an environment where every adult and child will have the opportunity to achieve their potential in education and employment – being able to access the right level of training and higher education for their own fulfilment</b>
<b>How will we know we have succeeded</b>
A reduction in the number of 16 to 18 year olds not in education, employment or training
An increase in the proportion of working age population qualified to NVQ level 2 and NVQ level 4

<b>Outcome 12</b>
<b>We will have doubled the size of our visitor economy by transforming our activity-based leisure, cultural and retail offer. We will also have encouraged the further development of our increasingly vibrant business services sector</b>
<b>How will we know we have succeeded</b>
An increase in the proportion of locally-owned businesses in the leisure/tourism sector as a total percentage of our VAT-registered business stock
An increase in the proportion of locally-owned businesses in the business services sector as a total percentage of our VAT-registered business stock
A reduction in the number of vacant commercial properties in Bacup town centre

<b>Outcome 13</b>
<b>We will have created opportunities for people from <u>all</u> parts of Rossendale to benefit from the borough's prosperity.</b>
<b>How will we know we have succeeded</b>
There will be a decrease in benefit dependency in the eastern wards of the borough
An increase in take-up of welfare benefits for older people

<b>Outcome 14</b>
<b>We will have created opportunities to encourage a shift in transport modes towards sustainable and active travel. We will also seek to further improve transport connectivity between the east and west of the Rossendale and to our moorland</b>
<b>How will we know we have succeeded</b>
An increase in the percentage of residents who agree that public transport and levels of traffic congestion has got better or stayed the same.
An increase in the percentage of the residents who travel to work by public transport and on foot or cycle.

## 7. Transformational Projects

Over the next 5 to 10 years we are planning on delivering a range of transformational projects across the borough. The projects will make a real difference to the lives of the people of Rossendale and are included here so that you can consider them in the context of the challenges and proposed vision and outcomes.

**The Adrenaline Gateway** – will deliver a unique leisure and cultural experience by making a wide range of adrenaline sports activities accessible to people from across the North West.

**The Rossendale Health Campus** – is a project to ensure that there are accessible health facilities within the Valley which meet the needs of local people.

**Bacup Town Centre Regeneration and Renaissance** - The project will stimulate economic activity in Bacup town centre by attracting new and growing businesses to the area.

**Manchester to Rawtenstall Commuter Rail Link** – will aim to provide a frequent and regular railway connection between Pennine Lancashire and Greater Manchester.

**Rawtenstall Town Centre Regeneration** - The planned regeneration includes redevelopment of the Valley Centre, the creation of a retail, leisure and business park on New Hall Hey and a planned hotel on the former college site.

## 8. Delivering Our Priorities

It is important to understand that the key delivery outputs required to achieve the strategy's challenging outcomes do not lie within this document; they are set out within more detailed plans of key partner agencies and partnerships. The delivery of the strategy will be expressed in a range of documents which include:

**Rossendale Partnership Delivery Plan (RPDP).** Many issues such as crime and disorder, health and regeneration are addressed through the theme groups who have a range of strategies and plans agreed and in place to tackle priorities on a theme basis. The RPDP is a three-year borough-wide action plan for the Sustainable Community Strategy which brings together the action plans of all the theme groups and sets priorities and targets to deliver on its cross cutting themes of community cohesion, community engagement and development and reducing inequalities.

**The Local Development Framework (LDF)** and other spatial documents will ensure that resources are available and managed in support of Rossendale Partnership's priorities. The LDF considers how the borough's buildings and spaces are developed and managed to support the overarching goal of tackling inequality whilst making effective use of natural resources, enhancing the environment and supporting strong neighbourhoods and communities. In addition to the Neighbourhood Plans referenced below, the LDF will have a key role in fostering diversity and local distinctiveness across Rossendale's settlements.

**Neighbourhood Plans:** The partnership recognises that neighbourhoods in Rossendale are distinctive; accordingly neighbourhood plans attach a local flavour to the partners overarching priorities so that actions address the issues that are of most concern in each area.

**Local Area Agreements:** This is a "contract" with Government in which we will set out targets for how we will improve key services in Lancashire. The Local Area Agreement will be one of the main means through which we will deliver our strategy.

**Ambition Lancashire** is the county-wide Sustainable Community Strategy and the priorities in this strategy will complement the priorities of Rossendale Partnership.

**Rossendale Council's Corporate Plan:** Is where the Council sets out its priorities and identifies its main areas of work over a three-year period.

## 9. Measuring Performance

The strategy and its approach has been endorsed by all the members of the Rossendale Partnership and will inform and be informed by Ambition Lancashire (the County Council Community Strategy), Local Area Agreements and the developing agenda for Pennine Lancashire.

To ensure that people are at the centre of all that we do, every project of Rossendale Partnership will be assessed to ensure that it impacts positively on as many local people as possible. For example we will ensure that our work contributes to the five every child matters outcomes and the five Lancashire outcomes for older people.

Performance against the entire strategy will be reported to Rossendale Partnership's Executive on a bi-monthly basis where poor performance will be challenged and appropriate remedial action taken.

The partnership will provide updates on performance through the Rossendale Alive newsletter, Neighbourhood Forums, results of satisfaction surveys, the Rossendale Partnership website and fortnightly Rossendale Partnership updates.

Rossendale Partnership holds an annual community event that is open to all members of the partnership and everyone living and working in the borough. The event gives the partnership an opportunity to celebrate its successes and test that the challenges we have set in our Rossendale Partnership Delivery Plan are still fit for purpose.

## 10. Further Information

For more information and how to get involved with the delivery of this strategy please contact Rossendale Partnership

Email: [comments@rossendalealive.co.uk](mailto:comments@rossendalealive.co.uk)

Ph: 01706 252413

Address: Rossendale Partnership  
Room 113, Futures Park  
Bacup OL13

This strategy is also available on [www.rossendalealive.co.uk](http://www.rossendalealive.co.uk)

اگر آپ کو ان معلومات کا خلاصہ بڑے حروف میں، آڈیو کیسٹ پر، یا انگریزی کے علاوہ کسی اور زبان میں درکار ہے تو برائے مہربانی ہمیں بتائیں، ہم بخوشی آپ کے لیے اس کا انتظام کریں گے۔

برائے مہربانی 01706 217777 پر ٹیلیفون کریں یا پھر کمیونٹی کیشن سیکشن سے اس پتہ پر رابطہ قائم کریں:

Communications Section, Town Centres, Rawtenstall, BB4 7LZ

আপনি যদি এসব তথ্যের সার সংক্ষেপ বড় হরফের ছাপায়, অডিও ক্যাসেটে অথবা ইংরেজী ছাড়া অন্য কোন ভাষায় পেতে চান তাহলে অনুগ্রহ করে আমাদেরকে জানালে আমরা অত্যন্ত খুশী মনে তার ব্যবস্থা করব।

অনুগ্রহ করে ০১৭০৬ ২১৭৭৭৭ এই নাম্বারে অথবা কমিউনিকেশন সেকশন, টাউন সেন্টার অফিস, রটেনস্টল বি.বি.৪ ৭এল.জেড. এই ঠিকানায় যোগাযোগ করুন।





## Equality Impact Assessment Form

<b>Name of Strategy/Policy:</b>	Sustainable Community Strategy	
<b>Officer Name(s):</b>	Miladur Rahman	
<b>Job Title &amp; Location:</b>	LSP Delivery Officer	
<b>Department/Service Area:</b>	Community and Partnerships	
<b>Telephone &amp; E-mail Contact:</b>	01706 252413	
<b>Date Assessment:</b>	<b>Commenced: 12 Feb</b>	<b>Completed: 14<sup>th</sup> Feb</b>

### 1. Impact Assessment – Policy and Target Outcomes

- a) Summarise the main aims/objectives of the strategy, policy, procedure or project (refer to “**Notes for Guidance**” for details).

The Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) (2008 - 2018) is the overarching strategy for Rossendale. It sets out the long term plan for Rossendale's success and brings together the needs and aspirations of all sections of the communities in Rossendale. It provides a clear direction for all partners and services within the Borough to work together to achieve our shared vision. The strategy will be delivered by the Rossendale Partnership, the Local Strategic Partnership for Rossendale. The Borough Council is a key partner of the Rossendale Partnership.

The SCS focuses on three priorities: people, places and prosperity. Within each theme there are a number of outcomes identified by the partnership. In total there are 14 outcomes in the SCS and 5 key transformational projects the partnership will work towards delivering.

The strategy's 360 degree view of Rossendale has highlighted a number of key cross cutting themes of community cohesion, community engagement and development and reducing inequalities both in localities and communities of interest.

The delivery of the strategy will be expressed in a range of documents which include the Rossendale Partnership delivery plan, the local development framework, neighbourhood plans and local area agreements.

b) Is the policy under review (please tick)

New/proposed

Modified/adapted

Existing

c) Who will be the main beneficiaries, targets or users of this strategy, policy, project or procedure?

- Customers/citizens of the district
- Targeted/specific groups of customers/citizens (indicate below in [d]).
- Elected Members/Councillors
- Internal colleagues/customers or other public authorities e.g. government agencies
- Community Groups/voluntary sector groups or campaign/interest groups
- Staff/employees (in their contractual position) and/or potential employees/trainees.
- Any other stakeholder e.g. trade unions, contractors, suppliers, district partners, public agencies (not directly under Council control), intermediaries representing interest groups e.g. tenants, developers, legal agencies or third parties.

Specify in box below:

All residents in Rossendale will benefit from the strategy. It's aim is to improve the quality of life for everyone living, working or visiting the borough.

d) Please detail below specific equality groups – for example disabled citizens, elderly or infirm/female or non-traditional users who are seen as intended beneficiaries from this policy/strategy/project/procedure (see “**Notes for Guidance**”).

Key equality groups as intended beneficiaries (where appropriate):

The SCS will benefit all equality groups.

e) To assist with the assessment you may need to consider collecting the following information you require, before completing the table in Section 2:

- NATIONAL DATA eg surveys, reports, statistics, etc which point up specific areas/issues.

- LOCAL DATA eg demographics, service mapping studies & relevant research.
- MANAGEMENT INFO eg data collected for operational/financial or other purposes.
- MONITORING DATA eg information already available or collected. For example: disability type, age band, gender, location. (ref existing BVPIs).
- CONSULTATION/CONTACT DATA eg user group feedback, representations, specific consultation events etc.
- CUSTOMER COMPLAINT/FEEDBACK eg results of investigations, inquiries, elected member cases, normal complaints/compliments etc.
- Views of LSP Officers, independent externals, contractors/suppliers, partners and academia (if relevant).
- OTHER eg frontline employee feedback, other research, experiences of other agencies/local authorities, councillors mailbags/surgeries.

f) Is further consultation, data collection or research still required?

No. We have produced a consultation document which was sent public, private and voluntary organisations in Rossendale as well as all the theme groups of the LSP. The document was also emailed to all members of the Community network database. All equality groups were invited to respond to the consultation document. We received responses from both Positive Start (BME Group) and two disability groups (learning disability partnership board and East Lancashire Service users network). The LSP also held a consultation event around the Strategy. All the responses received fed directly into the development of the Strategy.

(If yes then complete Action Plan)

Key Actions (note responsible officer(s)):

No further consultation of the strategy will be undertaken.

## 2. Impact – Evidence

- a) Using the table below please tick whether you have evidence that the policy/strategy has a negative, positive or neutral impact on any of the equality groups listed below

		<b>Positive Impact</b> – it could benefit	<b>Negative Impact</b> – it could disadvantage	<b>Reason</b>	<b>Neutral Impact (Neither)</b>
<b>Gender</b>	Women			Positive - The strategy will have a positive impact on all people. For example, improving health and mental well being, reducing crime, improving housing conditions, giving everyone the opportunity to achieve their potential in education and employment will benefit men and women. Promoting equality and valuing diversity is a key aspect of the strategy.	
	Men			As above	
<b>Race (Ethnicity or Nationality)</b>	Asian or Asian British people			Positive - All people regardless of their race will benefit from the strategy. The strategy focuses on improving people's quality of life through 14 key outcomes which positively impact on all people.	

		<b>Positive Impact – it could benefit</b>	<b>Negative Impact – it could disadvantage</b>	<b>Reason</b>	<b>Neutral Impact (Neither)</b>
	Black or black British people			As above	
	Chinese or other ethnic people			As above	
	Irish people			As above	
	White people			As above	
	Chinese people			As above	
	Other minority communities not listed above e.g. traveller/European (please state below):			As above	
<b>Disability</b>	Physical/learning/mental health			Positive – The strategy will improve the lives of all people regardless of whether they have a disability	
<b>Sexuality</b>	Lesbians, gay men and bisexuals			Positive – The strategy will improve the lives of all	

		<b>Positive Impact</b> – it could benefit	<b>Negative Impact</b> – it could disadvantage	<b>Reason</b>	<b>Neutral Impact (Neither)</b>
				people regardless of their sexuality.	
<b>Gender Identity</b>	Transgender people			As above	
<b>Age</b>	Older people (60+)			Positive – By achieving the outcomes in the strategy we will improve the lives of older people in Rossendale. The strategy contributes to the 5 five Lancashire outcomes for older people	
	Younger people (17-25), and children			Positive – By achieving the outcomes in the strategy we will improve the lives of younger people in Rossendale. The strategy contributes to the 5 five every child matters outcomes	
<b>Belief</b>	Faith groups *			Positive – The outcomes will positively impact on all faiths.	
<b>Other Groups (e.g. carers, rural isolation)</b>					

		<b>Positive Impact</b> – it could benefit	<b>Negative Impact</b> – it could disadvantage	<b>Reason</b>	<b>Neutral Impact (Neither)</b>
<b>Equal opportunities and/or improving relations</b>	Note impact on group relations <u>between</u> and any effects on social cohesion.			Positive - The strategy focuses on reducing inequalities and providing equal opportunities for all	

**Notes:**

\* Faith groups cover a wide range of groupings, the most common of which are Muslims, Buddhists, Jews, Christians, Sikhs, Hindus. Consider faith categories individually and collectively when considering positive and negative impacts.

b) If the table above is not fully completed, what further information does the Assessor need?

Whilst the strategy has a positive impact on all equality groups, it is important to ensure that the delivery of the strategy also positively impacts on all equality groups. People from BME backgrounds or those with physical disabilities have similar expectations in life. E.g. good quality housing, the best education, clean streets, safe neighbourhoods. However the actions to meet the outcomes will differ depending on the various equality groups. People with disabilities will need to be supported by special services, improving education attainment of BME people may need to be tackled in a different way.

The delivery of the strategy must recognise and ensure that actions to achieve the outcomes may need to be tailored specifically to address the needs to the different equality groups. All the delivery plans will be impact assessed once produced.

c) Based on a summary of the evidence obtained, are there specific equality groups more affected than others by this policy/project etc area? If so indicate briefly below.

N/a



### 3. Impact – Nature/Type

- a) Could you further improve the strategy, project, policy or procedure's positive impact?

NO    X

If "Yes", briefly summarise below how the positive impact could be improved upon.

Key Actions:

- b) If you indicated that there is neutral impact, could this be changed to become positive?

YES

NO

If yes, briefly summarise below how this impact could be minimised or removed:

Key Actions:

- c) You need to think about how you can mitigate any adverse or negative impact or use the policy to promote a positive impact. If the proposed policy or project has a:

**High Impact** – you have identified that the policy or project will have a high, negative impact i.e. that it may be or is unlawfully discriminating against some groups, you will have to take immediate action to mitigate this.

Or:

**Lower Impact** – if you have identified that the policy would have a negative or adverse impact (that may not be lawful) you will also need to consider what changes you could make to remove this impact.

If you have identified adverse impact you must determine whether you will recommend that the Council should:

- Change the policy, stating what the changes should be
- Revise the policy, stating the revisions
- Consult further if you feel that you do not have enough information

Actions arising from the impact assessment should form part of the Service Planning Process.

Key Actions:

Undertake Equality Impact Assessments on the delivery plans that underpin the Sustainable Community Strategy.

#### 4. Impact Assessment - Summary

##### a) Key Findings

Please list the major outcomes/results/findings of this assessment in relation to equality which require action by the Council:

Key Findings:

b) "Public Duty" Issues

Refer to "**Notes for Guidance**". Given the three strands of legal duty, please identify which particular issues are essential for the Council to address:

No particular issues

**5. Impact Assessment – Further Action**

a) As a result of collecting evidence (including consultation) have any changes been made, or are planned, to this policy, strategy, procedure or project?

Yes

(If yes then complete Action Plan)

Key Actions (note responsible officer(s) or political body as required):

There has been 22 draft versions of the SCS. Ongoing changes have been made to the strategy following feedback received as part of the consultation process. The Strategy is a Partnership document produced as a result of feedback from public, private and voluntary organisations.

No further changes are planned.

b) Has a monitoring/evaluation/review process been set up to check the successful implementation of the policy/strategy including improved outcomes?

Yes

If yes, briefly summarise below:

Yes – the Strategy will be reviewed every three years. The outcomes in the strategy

have clear SMART targets. Progress will be monitored quarterly by the Rossendale Partnership Executive

- c) Please briefly describe how the above monitoring/evaluation will ensure the policy/strategy will be reviewed/monitored for impact (indicate timescale):

The LSP Delivery plan will be produced in June 2007. This will be impact assessed as part of the Community Strategy Impact Assessment.

**Please complete the Action Plan overleaf**

- d) If no further action is to be taken as a result of this assessment:

1. Are you convinced that no discriminatory action is evident in the implementation of this policy, procedure, etc?

Yes

2. Have you weighed up and considered any negative impact and the options to change, alter or adapt?

Yes

3. Do you intend/recommend a further review? If yes, indicate timescale.

Yes

(Timescale:.....)

## IMPACT ASSESSMENT ACTION PLAN

Please list below any recommendations for action that you plan to take as a result of this impact assessment (refer to Sections 3 & 4).

Issue	Action required	Lead officer	Timescale	Resource implications	Comments
Rossendale Partnership Delivery Plan	Undertake Impact Assessment of the delivery plan	Miladur Rahman	June 07		

# Equality Impact Assessment

## Checklist & Signature Sheet

<b>Name of Strategy/Policy:</b>	Sustainable Community Strategy
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Please check the following steps have been completed before signing below:

- Sections 1 to 4 completed
- Action Plan completed
- Notified all relevant Officers/Service Areas/Partners

Signed: .....Miladur.....

Job Title:...LSP Delivery Officer...Department: .....Community and Partnerships

Date commenced Assessment:.....12<sup>th</sup> February...Date completed: 12<sup>th</sup> February.....

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Date received in HR:.....

Received in HR by:.....

**Please sign the EQIA as indicated above, retain a copy and send a copy of the full EQIA, including the Action Plan, to:**

**Liz Murphy**  
**Head of Human Resources**  
**Kingfisher Business Centre, Futures Park**  
**Bacup**  
**OL13 OBB**  
[lizmurphy@rossendalebc.gov.uk](mailto:lizmurphy@rossendalebc.gov.uk)

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### MANAGEMENT ACTION REQUIRED (to be completed by the Head of HR)

- Referred back to Assessor for amendment .....(date)
- Refer to Committee ..... (specify committee & date)
- Considered by Corporate Equalities Implementation Group..... (date)
- Published/made publicly available on ..... (date)

Signed:..... (Head of HR) Date:.....

Date of Review:.....

## BIODIVERSITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

**An assessment must be completed for all key decisions included in the Forward Plan.**

Stage 1 This stage determines whether a full assessment is required

1.1 Description of the proposed decision

To adopt the Sustainable Community Strategy 2008 - 2018

1.2 Will the proposed decision have the effect of flora and fauna of either increasing or reducing the range of species and habitats within the borough

Yes  No

If no, proceed no further if yes continue to stage 2

Stage 2 This stage helps understand whether any impact on biodiversity is positive or negative

2.1 Will the proposed decision have a positive or negative impact on biodiversity? (A positive impact would increase the range of species or habitats or increase the protection of existing habitats, a negative impact would do the opposite.)

Positive  negative

2.2 Describe the impact, in particular drawing attention to scale. For example removing the only habitat in the North West for a particular plant is clearly of great significance, whereas a negative impact on a very common plant is of less significance.

*The Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) recognises that we have a duty to future generations to maintain our beautiful countryside and to ensure that we do not take from our natural resources anything which we cannot replenish.*

*The SCS is a refresh of the current Community Strategy. The new SCS ensures that we act in a sustainable way so that environmental, social and economic issues are dealt with on equal terms where possible.*

If the impact is positive you need go no further

*The SCS aims to ensure that Rossendale is recognised as having a unique environmental heritage. Outcomes number 7 and 10 will have a positive impact. Partners of the LSP will be working together to reduce carbon dioxide and adapt to climate change. There is a commitment to protecting and enhancing our natural and built heritage.*

Stage 3 This stage allows any negative impact to be balanced against the other positive benefits of the proposed decision using the framework created by the wellbeing power set out in the Local Government Act 2000

*The SCS is the overarching plan for Rossendale. To achieve our vision there may be a number of projects which could possibly have a negative impact on biodiversity. However we are yet to produce a deliver plan for the strategy and once this is produced the LSP will be able to determine which actions/project have a negative impact and will seek ways to minimise this. Any project /action will be weighted as detailed in the Borough Council policy response to the biodiversity duty.*

- 3.1 Indicate the benefits which will be delivered by this decision under the following headings. As far as possible quantify benefits (eg by jobs created)

Economic

Environmental

Social

- 3.2 Are there steps which are planned or could be taken to mitigate the impact on biodiversity (eg relocating certain species during building work)

Stage 4 This stage sets out the balance between the negative impacts on biodiversity and the other positive impacts so that Councillors can make an informed decision.

Positive impacts  
(eg X jobs created)

Negative Impacts  
(eg acres of habitat lost)

This assessment have been prepared by

Name: Miladur Rahman

Service/Team: Community and Partnerships

Telephone Number: 01706 252413

Email address: miladurrahman@rossendalebc.gov.uk