

*From East to West, Making Rossendale the Best*

# From East to West

Making Rossendale the Best

Core Strategy DPD: the Proposed Way Forward

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## **Other Relevant Documents**

Core Strategy DPD Sustainability Appraisal

Core Strategy DPD Habitat Regulations Assessment/  
Appropriate Assessment

Background and Supplementary Evidence Document

Previous Consultation Comments and Representations  
and Responses

**IMPORTANT: PLEASE READ**

**What is this Document?**

**This is the Proposed Way Forward for the Core Strategy for Rossendale. When it is finished, it will replace the current Local Plan.**

**What is the Purpose of the Proposed Way Forward?**

**The contents of this document present a set of proposals and a possible approach to future development and growth in Rossendale, for comment.**

**Nothing has been decided and your comments and views are wanted.**

**What has happened to Earlier Versions of the Core Strategy?**

**This version of the Core Strategy builds upon earlier documents (Issues and Options, Preferred Option, Addendum report and Area Visions) taking into consideration recent consultation and new evidence; making it more relevant and up to date.**

**What do I need to do?**

**We appreciate that the Core Strategy can appear long and complicated, but it will affect every aspect of Rossendale's future, as well as yours, and every effort has been made to make the Core Strategy as easy as possible to read.**

**We would like you to read the Core Strategy – or just the parts you're interested in, and let us know what you think about it.**

**You can also comment on previous and alternative options which are included in a box below each policy, or suggest your own!**

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### **How can I let you know what I think about the Core Strategy?**

<b>Internet</b>	Comment “live” via our online commenting facility at <a href="http://www.rossendale.gov.uk/consultation">http://www.rossendale.gov.uk/consultation</a> and follow the link to the Core Strategy. Please note you will need to create an account and register with the Council’s website to use this service.  Alternatively, you can view, download and print the Core Strategy (or parts of it) from <a href="http://www.rossendale.gov.uk/corestrategy">http://www.rossendale.gov.uk/corestrategy</a>
<b>One Stop Shop</b>	Copies of all of the Core Strategy are also available to view at the Council’s One Stop Shop on Lord Street in Rawtenstall between 9am and 5pm Monday to Friday. To view them, please ask to see the Duty Planning Officer.
<b>Libraries</b>	Copies of the Core Strategy are also available to view at the following libraries in Rossendale: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Rawtenstall Library, Queens Square, Haslingden Road</li><li>▪ Bacup Library, St James’ Square</li><li>▪ Whitworth Library, Lloyd Street</li><li>▪ Crawshawbooth Library, Adelaide Street, Crawshawbooth</li><li>▪ Haslingden Library, Deardengate, Haslingden</li></ul>
<b>Post</b>	Send your comments to us by post to: Core Strategy Forward Planning One Stop Shop Lord Street Rawtenstall Rossendale BB4 7LZ
<b>Email</b>	Send your comments to us by email at <a href="mailto:corestrategy@rossendalebc.gov.uk">corestrategy@rossendalebc.gov.uk</a>

### **What happens next?**

The next stage after this consultation period has ended is Stage 3: Publication (see page 5 for details on the stages).

When we have received all the comments, we will record them on our database and use them to help us refine and develop the document. When the Core Strategy has been amended, taking into account your comments, we will publish it together with a document setting out the comments received, any changes made and the Council’s response to comments, so you can see how your comments have influenced and changed the document.

This will be the final version of the Core Strategy and is the document that the Council intends to submit to the Secretary of State (the Government) for independent examination.

It is anticipated that Stage 3: Publication will take place in summer 2010.

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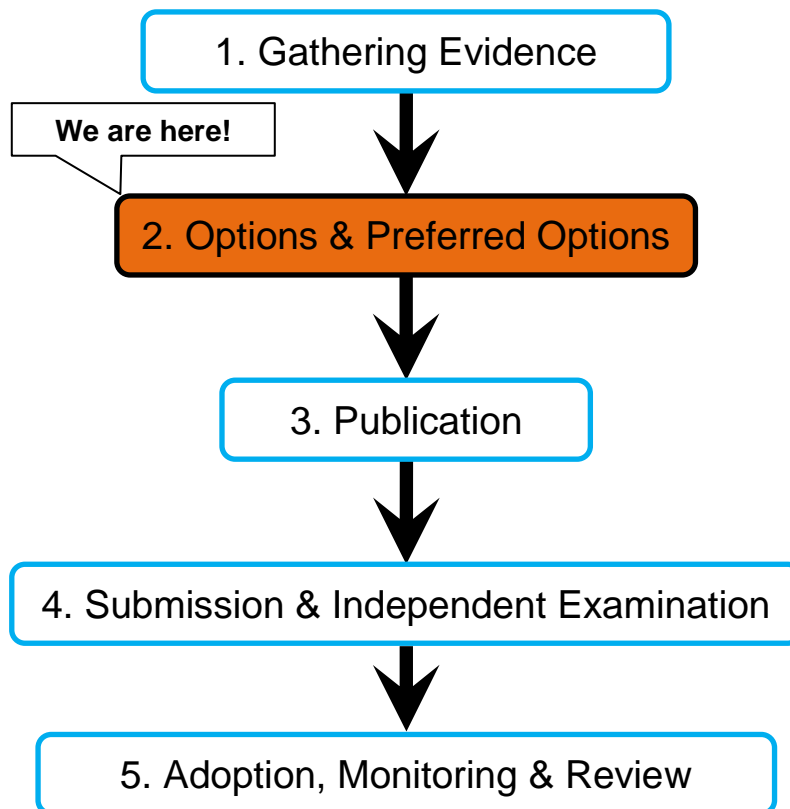
### **What is the Core Strategy?**

The Core Strategy is the lead document within the Council's Local Development Framework (LDF) which is our plan for the future of Rossendale. This stage of the process sets out our preferred option for addressing the issues facing Rossendale, taking account of, and responding to the unique character of the Borough. The Core Strategy shows how the development planned for Rossendale to 2026 will shape the area, setting out the long term vision for the future.

Rossendale Core Strategy does not cover mining, quarrying and waste disposal. These topics are dealt with in documents prepared by Lancashire County Council as part of the Minerals and Waste Local Development Framework (LDF). The Minerals and Waste Core Strategy was adopted in February 2009.

### **Where is it up to?**

There are five stages in preparing the Core Strategy, they are:



These stages are set by the Government and are necessary, in order to create a plan which is capable of being delivered.

They must follow the order set out and abide to a strict set of regulations which govern the way that planning policy documents are created and developed.

An explanation of the stages and how and when you can get involved is included over the page.

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### What do the Stages Mean and When Can I Get Involved?

Stage	What is it?	Do I get to have any input?
<b>1. Evidence Gathering</b>	This is where we get all the facts, figures and statistics to help us make achievable and deliverable decisions and plans.	Not normally. This stage is to get factual and/or scientific data about certain topics and/or issues.
<b>2. Options &amp; Preferred Options</b>  <b>WE ARE HERE!</b>	<p>Using the evidence above a variety of 'Options' are developed to address an issue or deal with a particular topic.</p> <p>Once responses have been received on the 'Options', work begins on developing a 'Preferred Option' which should address the comments made earlier.</p>	<p>Yes! We want your comments on the 'Options' put forward to help us get it right. Your comments will help us to come up with a 'Preferred Option' which you will hopefully you'll like.</p> <p>You will also be able to comment on the 'Preferred Option' during the consultation period.</p> <p>This is the best stage to give us your comments, as it will be more difficult to address them later on in the process.</p>
<b>3. Publication</b>	<p>This is a formal stage of the process.</p> <p>We will publish the final version of the document for a consultation period of 6 weeks.</p> <p>However, unlike the previous stage, it is not a further opportunity to make representations on the content of the plan, but solely for matters of soundness (i.e. that all key facts have been considered).</p>	<p>Yes, but this stage is more concerned with how we have used the evidence in Stage 1, to inform the options and conclusions made in Stage 2.</p> <p>Thus enabling us to make the best and most appropriate decisions in the final document.</p> <p>Ideally, general comments and representations should have been made during Stage 2.</p>
<b>4. Submission &amp; Independent Examination</b>	When we are satisfied that the best and most appropriate plan has been prepared, we will submit the Core Strategy to the Secretary of State (the Government) to be independently assessed and examined by an appointed Planning Inspector.	Yes. The document will be "examined in public" and you can watch the proceedings and might be contacted by the Inspector to speak and give evidence. However no new/further representations on the Core Strategy can be made and the decision to discuss particular topics and call certain people to speak is up to the Inspector.
<b>5. Adoption, Monitoring &amp; Review</b>	<p>After Stage 4, the Inspector will issue their decision with regard to quality and soundness of the document which can only be adopted when they have determined that is fit for purpose.</p> <p>After this, the Council will monitor the effectiveness of the policies and whether there is any need to review any part of the Core Strategy.</p>	<p>No. At this stage all comments and representations will have been received, taken into consideration and if necessary, people and organisations will have given evidence at the examination.</p> <p>This is the final stage in the preparation of the Core Strategy, and once adopted, it will replace the current Local Plan in its entirety, as set out in the document.</p>

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## **How to Use this Document**

The Proposed Way Forward is made up of three main parts:

1. **The Spatial Vision and Strategic Objectives**

Set out what Rossendale will be like in 2027 after this plan has been successfully implemented and achieved.

From this vision, 8 objectives are proposed which cover the main issues for Rossendale and set out how the planning process for the next 15 years will address the issues as well as improve and deliver them.

2. **Area Visions and Policies**

Are broad plans for parts of Rossendale and aim to provide some idea/degree of certainty about the future of local areas for local people, developers, investors and Rossendale Borough Council.

3. **Topic Planning Policies**

Stipulate where, when and how different types of development will be encouraged and what standards are expected. They also set out how our natural environment and built heritage will be protected from development and enhanced through contributions and improvements.

The diagram (right) illustrates how the Spatial Vision identifies a number of Strategic Objectives, which then set the principles and aims carried through and delivered by the Area Visions and Policies as well as the Topic Planning Policies which will ultimately achieve the spatial vision for Rossendale.



This approach to the Core Strategy means that issues and opportunities are considered at both the strategic Borough-wide and local community levels, making the Proposed Way Forward a meaningful and realistic planning document for the future of Rossendale, focused on delivery.

No section should be read in isolation and no one section is more or less important than another. It is important to understand that the policies are of equal importance and that one policy or objective does not override or take precedence above another.

## **Other Sections and Relevant Information**

Glossary – a glossary of terms and abbreviations can be found at the back of the document to help with many of the planning terms that are included throughout the document.

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Accompanying Documents – along with the Proposed Way Forward there are a number of other documents which support the policies in this document and set out some of the reasoning behind why certain decisions have been made and why some policies have not been included in the document.

Other accompanying documents include:

- Core Strategy DPD Sustainability Appraisal - To ensure that all the economic, environmental and social impacts of the Core Strategy are fully considered a Sustainability Appraisal (SA)/Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is required.
- Core Strategy DPD Habitat Regulations Assessment/ Appropriate Assessment - The Proposed Way Forward must be screened under the Habitat Regulations (as amended by the 2007 Regulations) for its effect on European (or Natura 2000) nature conservation sites. Natura 2000 sites include Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Ramsar sites (protected wetlands). Sites within 50km of the Borough boundary have to be considered for any direct or indirect impacts that development in Rossendale may cause.
- Background and Supplementary Evidence Document – To keep the Proposed Way Forward as concise and easy to read as possible much of the explanation and justification for the decisions taken in the Core Strategy have been put into this document which includes:
  - Detailed reasons for including, excluding and changing policies that you may have seen in earlier versions of the Core Strategy
  - Previous comments and responses on earlier versions of the Core Strategy
  - Other relevant information and evidence for the Proposed Way Forward
- Evidence Base Documents – the Proposed Way Forward must be based on facts, to ensure that what is written is capable of happening. Many studies and assessments have been undertaken to support and inform the Proposed Way Forward. These evidence base documents include:
  - Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA)
  - Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA)
  - Employment Land Study
  - Retail and Town Centre Study
  - Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA)
  - Affordable Housing Viability Assessment (AHVA)
  - Open Space and Play Equipment Audit
  - South Pennine Renewable Energy Study
  - Landscape Capacity Study for Wind Development in the South Pennines

All of the above documents are available for inspection and comment and can be viewed at any of the locations specified on page 4.



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## **Consultation**

This section of the Core Strategy looks at all the consultation that has happened on the various different versions of the Core Strategy and sets out:

- When consultation took place and on which version
- How many representations/comments were received
- The main topics and issues that were raised
- How the topics and issues have been addressed

This brief overview outlines the journey of the Core Strategy, the comments you made and the changes we have made as a result.

The section is broken down into two parts:

1. Public consultation responses – the comments and representations received from local residents, community and action groups, businesses, land owners, developers, architects and planning agents; and
2. Statutory body comments – organisations and companies who must be involved in the planning process such as:
  - Highways Agency
  - Lancashire County Council – highways, education etc
  - East Lancashire Primary Care Trust (PCT)
  - United Utilities – electricity and water
  - Lancashire Police
  - Lancashire Fire Brigade
  - Environment Agency
  - English Heritage
  - Natural England
  - Government Office North West
  - Surrounding Districts and Local Planning Authorities

This section only highlights the main points and issues raised by each of the groups to provide a snap shot of the representations and comments made.

A full list of all the specific comments made throughout the life of the Core Strategy are compiled in an accompanying document of consultation responses which is also available for inspection.

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## **Consultation**

The preparation of the Core Strategy takes into account the views of the public and stakeholders. Where possible, the strategy will seek consensus. In reality there will be issues where agreement and consensus cannot be achieved. Where this is the case these will be identified, and the approach taken justified.

A number of alternative options have been put forward at different consultation stages, notably in the Addendum Report on Preferred Options (Autumn 2006) and during the 2009 consultation on Area Visions. The response to these has strongly influenced the approach currently being proposed.

At the end of 2005, public consultation took place on the Issues and Options for the Core Strategy. The responses received were used to shape the preferred options.

Consultation on the Core Strategy preferred options took place between 7<sup>th</sup> April and 29<sup>th</sup> May 2006 and 31 representations were received. The comments received covered a wide range of views concerning all parts of the document; however there were no dominant issues or concerns. Nonetheless several comments were received on DS2: Town and Village Boundaries, DS5: Planning Gain and L4: Affordable Housing and the issues have now been addressed through a number of policies, namely RLDF 1: General Development Locations, RLDF 17: Planning Obligations, RLDF 18: Community Infrastructure Levy with Planning Obligations and RLDF 4: Affordable and Supported Housing.

In addition to the preferred options document, an Addendum Report was published and consulted upon in autumn 2006 which set out more clearly the decisions made in the preferred options document and why others had not been developed further. 27 representations were received. In general the objectives and the preferred options received support. The main issues generating representations were restricted to: settlement hierarchy and main development locations, gypsy and traveller accommodation and provision and concerns about the LDF evidence base.

With regards to settlement hierarchy and main development locations, significant support was given to Rawtenstall being identified as the main town, supported by a combination of Bacup, Haslingden and Whitworth. Policy RLDF 1 now addresses this issue.

Details on pitch provisions for Gypsies and Travellers was raised as a concern, as it was unclear whether needs for both permanent and transient pitches would be met. Policy RDLF 5 now addresses this concern.

The amount of evidence gathered and its robustness was also raised during the consultation period. As a result significant work has been undertaken in the last two years to ensure that the essential pieces of evidence to support the LDF have been prepared robustly. These evidence documents have now been incorporated into the Core Strategy and used to inform the plans and policies.

Following on from this consultation period, it was however identified, that further work was required to strengthen the evidence base. Accordingly, several updates to the evidence base have taken place, with the completion of a number of studies including a Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA), Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA), Employment Land Study, Retail and Town Centre Study, Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA), Affordable Housing Viability Assessment (AHVA) and an Open Space and Play Equipment Audit. A number of

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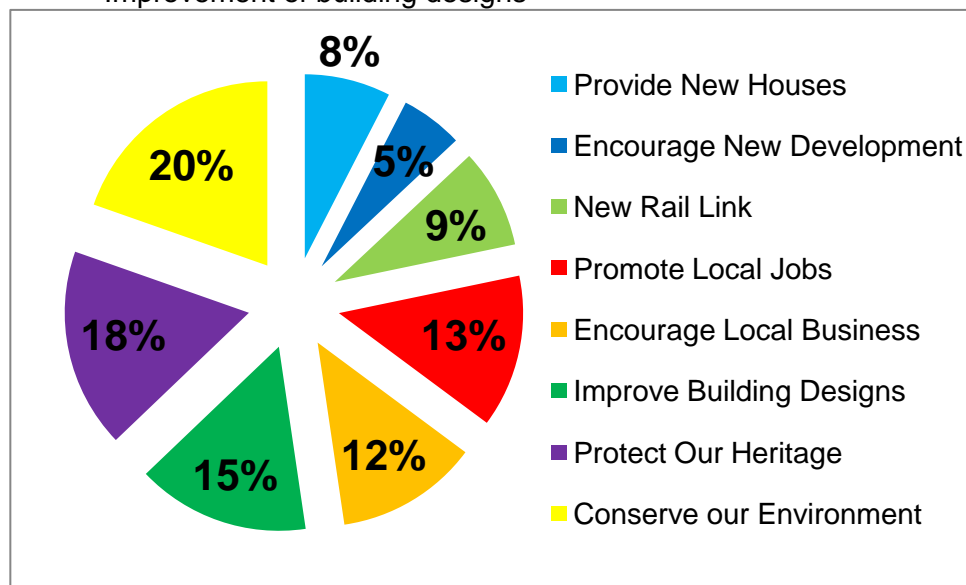
these studies and assessments incorporated individual steering groups and consultation seminars/events to ensure that the key issues identified in previous versions of the Core Strategy were not overlooked, as the evidence was updated. This was also the case with the production of the Area Visions which are covered in greater detail below.

The process of updating the evidence base to reflect current issues, reinforce existing issues raised in earlier versions of the Core Strategy and identify new and emerging problems as well as producing and consulting widely on issues and options important to local people took the best part of two years to complete, and has now been incorporated into this document.

### **Public Consultation Responses & Comments**

To make the Core Strategy as local to Rossendale as possible, Area Visions were produced for eight areas covering the entire Borough to assess local issues and opportunities and set out possible options to suitably address them. 149 representations were received between January and August 2009. The following chart displays the main issues that generated public concern across the Borough, chiefly:

- Respect for local heritage and its preservation
- Conservation of the natural environment and green spaces
- Safeguarding local jobs and creating new economic opportunities
- Improvement of building designs



(Figures from Area Visions Consultation Exercise, 2009)

In addition, further analysis of public consultation responses and comments revealed major concerns over:

- Revitalisation of town centres
- Infrastructure capacity
- Capitalisation on tourism assets
- Reuse of derelict buildings and brownfield areas

### **Infrastructure Capacity Concerns**

With regard to infrastructure capacities throughout Rossendale, many of the comments centred on concerns that existing infrastructure may be incapable of

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accommodating increased levels of development. In particular, concerns were raised over the amount of new housing proposed and how this would impact upon the congestion of local roads, and the number of available school places. Research has been undertaken to assess both the capacities of existing infrastructure and any plans for future infrastructure provision, including identifying any funding gaps. With this information, the Council and service/utility providers can strategically align investment and ensure that new development is appropriately timed. This work will continue throughout the lifetime of the Core Strategy. The Council has done its best to ensure that most eventualities can be covered. Policies RLDF: Transport; RLDF 17: Planning Obligations, RLDF 18: Community Infrastructure Levy with Planning Obligations now address this issue.

### **New Residential Development**

Representations on new residential development were mainly concerned with where it was to be located and the development of Greenfield sites over existing previously-developed sites. The adopted RSS states that at least 65% of all new residential development should take place on previously-developed land; and planning obligations and the proposed Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) make it possible for Local Planning Authorities to collect funds towards infrastructure projects. Policies RLDF 1: General Development Locations; RLDF 2: Meeting Rossendale's Housing Needs; RLDF 17: Planning Obligations, RLDF 18: Community Infrastructure Levy with Planning Obligations now address this issue.

### **Local Built Heritage and Conservation**

Rossendale has a distinct built heritage and representations received on this subject did not feel that the Core Strategy adequately protected or aimed to enhance the urban character of the district. In particular, concerns were raised about the importance of the built heritage in Bacup, which is widely recognised as the best preserved mill town in the country. In conjunction with the Council's conservation officer and advice from English Heritage, Policy RLDF 1: General Development Locations and policies AVP 1-6 now addresses this issue.

### **Countryside and Landscape Protection/Development**

It was felt that these two aspects of Rossendale life were not recognised enough and subsequently that protection was lacking. Policy RLDF 1: General Development Locations now addresses this issue. Alongside protection, representations were received with concerns about the lack of advice and guidance on what would be acceptable development in these areas, especially given the potential tourism, leisure and recreation attraction. Policy RLDF 14: Tourism and Visitor Accommodation now addresses this issue.

### **Renewable Energy Generation**

The adopted RSS stipulates that development plan documents must set out how Local Planning Authorities will meet renewable energy targets. Rossendale is an attractive area for renewable energy generation, in particular wind energy. Additional studies have been undertaken to assess areas of landscape sensitivity to the impact of wind turbine development as well as identify potential areas for developing other sources of renewable energy generation. Policies RLDF 15: Renewable Energy and RLDF 16: Wind Energy now address this issue.

### **Professional Body Responses**

In order to ensure that the Core Strategy reflects and complements the aspirations of our partners, it is important to work closely with key stakeholders. Successful delivery of the development plan is dependent on many bodies supporting and working

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towards common goals. This has been achieved through meetings and correspondence with key partners and stakeholders to ensure compliance with other strategies and documents.

### **Infrastructure**

Detailed discussions have been held with the utility and service providers to:

- Identify and map areas where current provision is lacking or under stress
- Identify current provision and proposed provision over the lifetime of the plan
- Ensure providers are aware and can prepare for future requirements.

Based on initial discussions, the provision of infrastructure will not constrain development identified in the Core Strategy.

The importance of planning obligations and the proposed Community Infrastructure Levy as mechanisms to contribute towards new/improved infrastructure is recognised. Due to the whole system being in flux nationally the exact approach to be taken in Rossendale is not yet determined.

### **Transport**

The East Lancashire Railway is a key underused asset in Rossendale. It currently has an important tourist role which the Railway Company is keen to develop through station enhancements and better links to the town centres of Rawtenstall and Bury. However there is also potential to develop a commuter rail link delivering a 35 minute service to Manchester. This is supported by the railway. Ongoing studies funded by the Greater Manchester Integrated Transport Authority are examining the feasibility of developing such a scheme. These will also consider bus enhancements and “Park and Ride” options along the railway line.

The A56/M66 forms the main road link into the Borough. The Highways Agency has indicated support for initiatives to increase cycling and walking, and efforts to reduce dependency on car travel within the Core Strategy. The amount of out-commuting from Rossendale towards Manchester contributes to traffic congestion on the M66 and junction 18 of the M62/M60. The Highways Agency is working with Rossendale and other authorities to examine methods to improve the management of the existing motorway through use of the hard shoulder for both buses and cars and other schemes.

Lancashire County Council is Highway Authority for all other roads, cycleways and public transport in the Borough. It is currently consulting on a new bus station in Rawtenstall and has identified options to improve the cycleway network. Projects and ongoing maintenance countywide are funded through the Local Transport Plan (LTP). A new five year Local Transport Plan (LTP3) will come into operation in 2011 with consultation due to commence shortly.

### **Water**

United Utilities deliver water supply and waste water treatment across Rossendale, with the Environment Agency having responsibility for flood and pollution prevention. United Utilities have confirmed that there are no capacity issues either for treatment works or sewers and that their Forward Plan will address surface water run-off issues through new storage facilities in Stacksteads and Rawtenstall.

### **Flood Risk**

In accordance with Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 25 a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) has been undertaken to identify areas at risk of flooding across

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the Borough. The study identified that 2.6% of Rossendale falls within Flood Zones 2 and 3. The SFRA Flood Zones show the areas that are potentially at risk of flooding are along narrow strips of land immediately adjacent to watercourses, which is due to the well defined channels of the watercourses, their general steepness and relatively small sizes. Urban locations within the study area that are potentially affected by flooding include parts of Bacup, Haslingden, Rawtenstall and Whitworth. There are some cross-border issues with Bury in the south-west of the Borough as well as significant associated flood risks in Salford as a result of the River Irwell. In addition, there are numerous smaller settlements in the study area that have areas at risk of surface water flooding. United Utilities are in the midst of undertaking a series of Unsatisfactory Intermittent Discharge (UID) projects in Stacksteads, Bank Street, St Mary's Way, Bacup Road/Marcross Street, Bacup Road/Highfield Road and Holmebridge to alleviate the amount of surface water runoff entering the local river system. The Environment Agency is also working with the Council and other partners to ensure that flood risk is carefully managed. Development proposed in specific areas of risk will be subject to detailed assessment. In general, although flood risk exists in some areas, it does not pose a widespread issue and no particular flooding concerns were identified that would prejudice the overall delivery of the Core Strategy.

**Green Infrastructure** – This can be defined as *a network of woodlands, rivers, natural landscapes and countryside and other types of natural features which conserve habitats for plants and animals*. Green Infrastructure has many important roles such as reducing flood risk, improving local air quality and providing walking and exercise opportunities for local residents. Lancashire Economic Partnership have just completed an audit of the county on this topic.

The Open Space Audit (2008) concluded that there was no fundamental shortfall of open space in Rossendale. Localised shortfalls could be addressed by the re-use of existing spaces and an improvement in quality of some of the existing areas. This will require funding being obtained from a variety of sources including planning obligations.

### **Electricity and Gas**

United Utilities and National Grid are responsible for the supply of electricity across the Borough. National Grid manages the gas network. Discussions have been held to ensure sufficient supply capacity is available for proposed growth. There is a need to re-inforce elements of the existing network but there are no identified constraints that would affect implementation of the Core Strategy

### **Telecommunications**

BT Openreach is responsible for supply and management of the landline network. A major upgrade is being undertaken nationally to improve the speed of the network, especially the upgrading of cabinets and cables to allow high speed broadband. The intention is to roll this out by 2012/13 but information is confidential.

Mobile phone operators have a one year plan of investment in new masts and are unable to provide information further ahead. New masts will be required where there is a poor signal and/or current high demand but this will primarily be a consolidation of the existing network.

### **Health**

Regular stakeholder meetings are held with the PCT through the Local Strategic Partnership. The Group shares information on respective planning processes and seeks to ensure that there is a correlation between future development and new

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health infrastructure investment. The East Lancashire Primary Care Trust (PCT) has been investing in improving infrastructure including the redevelopment of Albion Mill, in a £10m programme to develop a health hub in Rossendale. This will provide up to date facilities for the whole Borough including a base for the Hospice though more acute cases will still need to travel to Burnley or Blackburn. Various mobile outreach facilities will be provided. Large parts of the existing Rossendale Hospital will be closed. Whitworth Health Centre is managed by Rochdale PCT and will only require periodic upgrades through the Core Strategy period.

Mental Health Services are provided by Lancashire Care Trust. The main centre in Rossendale is at Balladen House, Rawtenstall which has recently been refurbished and will continue to serve the Borough. A new Intensive Care Facility for the whole of East Lancashire is proposed at Burnley Bridge, Hapton near Burnley.

### **Ambulance Services**

Existing ambulance services are run by North West Ambulance Trust. The local base will be switched to the new Health Hub when this is opened in 2010.

### **Education**

Lancashire County Council has recently applied for funding through the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme, unfortunately the application, which included plans to upgrade all secondary schools in Rossendale were rejected. The County Council are planning to re-submit the application for funding again in the near future. A major scheme to provide a new Further Education facility near Bacup is being developed with Accrington and Rossendale College through the Councils Joint Regeneration Team. Rossendale Borough Council works closely with counterparts in Lancashire County Council to ensure that everything is done to maintain and improve education provision throughout the Borough.

### **Police**

There are currently proposals to establish a new access point on James Street in Bacup that would result in the closure of the existing Police Station. The continued use of facilities in Rawtenstall will be kept under review as part of the future development of the Valley Centre.

### **Fire Brigade**

There are currently fire stations in Rawtenstall, Bacup and Haslingden. The level of cover varies from station to station with Rawtenstall forming the main 24 hour facility. Existing arrangements are reviewed every three years with the next being due during the period of this Core Strategy consultation.

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### **Context**

This chapter sets the scene for Rossendale, looking back at the history of the Borough through to the present day, highlighting key turning points, trends and events that have helped shape and define the Rossendale we know and love today.

It looks at both the strengths and weaknesses of the Borough and identifies its role within Lancashire and Greater Manchester, highlighting major similarities and influences with our neighbours, and the impact(s) that they have on Rossendale, and vice versa.

The section also outlines the key issues, problems and challenges facing Rossendale today and looks at facts and figures to demonstrate the key issues, which then form the basis of the rest of the plan.

Information in this chapter comes from many different national and regional sources plus specially commissioned Evidence Base documents such as those on Employment Land and Retail uses in town centres.



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## **Spatial Portrait/Context**

Rossendale is one of the smallest boroughs in Lancashire covering an area of 138 sq kilometres and a population of 67,300. It is located in the south-east of the county and forms part of a grouping of authorities known as “Pennine Lancashire” which also comprises of the neighbouring authorities of Burnley and Hyndburn as well as Pendle, Ribble Valley and Blackburn. Yet Rossendale is very much a border authority. The Borough is situated immediately north of Greater Manchester and only 18 miles from Manchester city centre. Rossendale is bounded by the metropolitan authorities of Bury (to the south-west) and Rochdale (to the south-east). Calderdale (to the east) forms part of the West Yorkshire conurbation.

The Borough is defined by a series of interlocking valleys dissecting open moorland, which has determined how the district has grown and developed over the years. A series of closely linked small towns line the valley floors, the largest being Rawtenstall and Bacup. Expansive long distance views are available from the uplands with the Right of Way network forming an important leisure resource both for local people and from further afield. Rossendale forms part of the broader South Pennine Landscape Character Area defined by Natural England which includes the West Pennine Moors stretching west towards Chorley plus large elements of Calderdale, parts of Burnley, Pendle and Bradford Districts.

The Borough’s uplands have been extensively quarried over many years and continue to be so. Many of the buildings in the Borough are built from the local sandstone which gives the towns and villages in the area a distinct identity. A number of the disused quarries have seen re-use for leisure purposes, notably Lee Quarry near Bacup that has become a major destination for mountain bikers.

Rossendale occupies a strategic location within the region, astride the M66/A56(T), linking the M60/M62 with the M65 motorway. This popular commuter route and the proximity to Manchester make Rossendale highly accessible and able to play an important role within the sub-region. Whilst the influence of Manchester as a centre for employment, shopping, leisure and other services is felt throughout the Borough, there are also strong links for these purposes with other adjoining authorities, notably Bury, Burnley and Rochdale.

It is undoubtedly this proximity to Manchester and the unique topography of Rossendale that resulted in rapid change and development during the industrial revolution, as water from the Boroughs’ many rivers and tributaries and coal largely brought in by rail were used to power mills supporting the textile, shoe and slipper industries. Moreover, it is also this accessibility that has resulted in significant amounts of new commuter housing in the west of the Borough being built in the last 25 years, particularly in areas such as Helmshore, Edenfield and Crawshawbooth.

However like many other areas the rapid and intense development which occurred during the industrial revolution left a legacy of derelict and contaminated land and buildings (in particular mills), poor health, locally high un-employment rates and low education attainment figures. There have been improvements in recent years but the current recession has slowed progress.

During the process of moving on from its proud industrial heritage, a tangible split separating the west of Rossendale from the east has occurred. The road connections in the west coupled with an attractive environment, protected in part by a Green Belt designation means certain areas of Rossendale are desirable for commuting and as a result there are relatively high house prices to the north, south and west of the main town of Rawtenstall. Indeed, there are areas around Haslingden (with the exception

## ***From East to West, Making Rossendale the Best***

of Haslingden centre which does have localised problems) and to the north of Rawtenstall that are categorised as being in the top 25% of least deprived areas nationally.

The east of Rossendale on the other hand has not developed and moved on to the same extent as the west and is regarded as the less desirable end of the Rossendale valley in socioeconomic terms. This is predominantly due to perceived poor interconnectivity between Bacup & Rawtenstall and a perception of isolation. In addition to poor access, the east is also the location for Rossendale's Housing Market Renewal (HMR) Pathfinder. This covers Bacup, Stacksteads and Britannia and aims to deal with the issue of low house prices and demand in the area. There is a concentration of areas in the east of the Borough which are within the top 10% of most deprived areas in the country. As a result of poor access and desirability, the east of the Borough is lagging behind the west and much attention is needed to make it a successful and attractive place for people to live, work and visit.

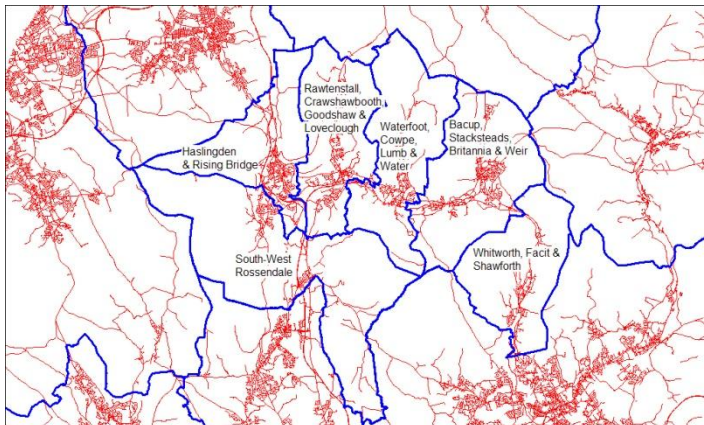
Rossendale contains some priority habitats listed on the UK Biodiversity Action Plan with the predominant habitats in the Borough being Upland Heath and Blanket Bog with Wet Woodland in the south west. The Borough has 3 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs). Lower Red Lees Pasture in the south west of the Borough is in an unfavourable declining condition due to lack of appropriate grazing reducing species diversity. Hodge Clough is in a favourable condition though the condition of the woodland may deteriorate unless there is more intervention. Lee Quarry is managed for recreation and the site's features are still visible, though more interpretation of its geological features would be better.

Healey Dell, on the far south east border with Rochdale, is the Borough's only Local Nature Reserve (LNR), with an area of 25ha. This is an extremely low figure as based on government guidance Rossendale should have 67 ha of LNR.

There is considerable accessible countryside in and around Rossendale when assessed using Natural England classifications. There are 7 RIGGS sites in the Borough (Regionally Important Geological and Geomorphological Sites). Not surprisingly the agricultural land classification is poor; sites classified at 4 and 5 (i.e. the poorest grades).

The recycling rate within Rossendale is similar to the national rate and better than some other Pennine Lancashire authorities, but at 34.5% this is well below the average for Lancashire at 41.2%.

Spatially, Rossendale can be presented in six main areas as shown in the map below:

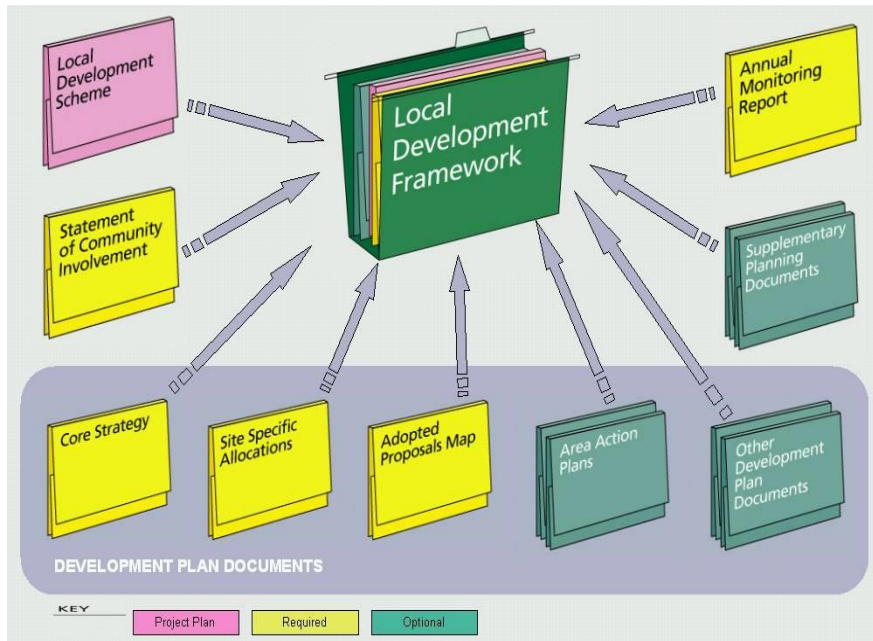


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# ***From East to West, Making Rossendale the Best***

## **Policy Context**

The Core Strategy forms only one part, albeit an important one, of the planning framework for Rossendale. It is one element of the Local Development Framework (LDF), a library of documents that together with the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) form the Development Plan for the Borough. The Core Strategy is an overarching document that sets the main direction and amount of development for the next 15 years. It puts into a physical form the content of the Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS). Together the Core Strategy and the SCS provide direction on how key issues affecting the Borough will be tackled over the next 10-15 years.



## ***The Local Development Framework***

### **National, Regional and Sub Regional influences**

At a national level the Government sets out planning principles through a series of Planning Policy Statements (PPS's). The relevant principles have to be applied in the preparation of Core Strategies. These are being supplemented with a series of National Policy Statements on topics such as energy and transport but these will only apply to very large schemes.

The Northern Way is an initiative that covers the three northern regions including the North West and was instrumental in developing a number of policy principles including the concept of City Regions. Rossendale is situated in the Central Lancashire City Region. The Northern Way Vision has no statutory status but its concepts are embedded in regional Guidance.

The Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) prepared by 4NW forms part of the Development Plan for Rossendale and was adopted in September 2008. The Core Strategy must be in "general conformity" with the policies within this, e.g. housing allocation figures. A Partial Review is currently being undertaken on policies for Gypsies and Parking Standards. Separate to these documents a Regional Economic Strategy (RES) has been prepared by the North West Development Agency. The Government has announced a new approach that will see the production of an Integrated Regional Strategy (IRS) which will be consulted on over the next few months.

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### **Overall Policy influences**

National	Planning Policy Statements		National Policy Statements
Sub National		<i>Northern Way</i>	
Regional	<b>Regional Spatial Strategy</b>	<b>Integrated Regional Strategy</b>	
			Regional Economic Strategy
Sub Regional	<b>Joint Lancashire Minerals and Waste Local Development Framework (LDF)</b>		
		Local Transport Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Ambition Lancashire Sustainable Community Strategy</i></li> <li>• <i>Pennine Lancashire Multi Area Agreement</i></li> <li>• <i>Lancashire Local Area Agreement</i></li> <li>• <i>Lancashire City Region Development Programme</i></li> <li>• <i>Lancashire Economic Strategy</i></li> <li>• <i>Pennine Lancashire Housing Strategy</i></li> <li>• <i>Plus others ...</i></li> </ul>
District Wide	<b>Rossendale Core Strategy and Local Development Framework</b>		Sustainable Community Strategy
			<i>Local Policy Documents e.g. Environment Strategy</i>

### **Note: Bold documents form part of the Development Plan for Rossendale**

The Local Transport Plan (LTP) for Lancashire produced by the County Council provides the framework for transport priorities and investment in the Borough. A revised document will come into operation in 2011.

All Minerals and Waste planning issues are dealt with through the various Joint Lancashire Minerals and Waste Local Development Framework documents prepared

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by Lancashire County Council, Blackburn with Darwen and Blackpool Councils. They are therefore not addressed in this Core Strategy

As well as the documents above many other documents form important sub-regional context for the Core Strategy. These include:

- Lancashire Economic Strategy
- City Region Development Programme
- Pennine Lancashire Spatial Guide
- Pennine Lancashire Housing Strategy
- Rights of Way Improvement Plan
- West Pennine Moors Management Plan

At Lancashire level a Sustainable Community Strategy has been produced. Called “Ambition Lancashire” it covers the period up to 2025 and was updated in 2008. Key priorities covered are: Economy; Health and well-being; Education, training and skills; Environment and Community safety. These priorities are translated into specific actions and targets.

“Ambition Lancashire” was produced by Lancashire Partnership, an organisation that brings together local authorities, primary care trusts, the Police, voluntary groups and a range of other bodies. The Lancashire Partnership was also responsible for producing the Lancashire Local Area Agreement (LAA). This covers the same priorities as “Ambition Lancashire” which are in turn related to the key principles of “Narrowing the gap” (deprivation, health, education, social cohesion) and “Active and Engaged Communities”. The LAA identifies a number of key targets that will be addressed across Lancashire selected from the national indicator set of 198. Individual District Partnerships are then responsible for selecting additional targets that reflect their own circumstances. Government funding is related to the delivery of these targets.

Another very important document is the Pennine Lancashire Multi Area Agreement (MAA). This establishes various investment priorities agreed between the six local authorities in the area (Burnley, Blackburn with Darwen, Hyndburn, Pendle, Ribble Valley and Rossendale) and central government. Key priorities areas include funding arrangements; transport initiatives; worklessness; broadband delivery; Higher Education; Planning and Housing. A non statutory “Planning Guide” is being produced. A key MAA priority for Rossendale is the plan to re-instate the commuter rail link to Manchester. Rossendale Borough Council is also a member of the Pennine Lancashire Development Company (formerly Elevate) which plays a key role in managing regeneration and housing improvements across the area. This enables issues of cross-border interest to be fully addressed.

As well as joint working with authorities in Lancashire strong relationships exist with the adjoining metropolitan authorities. This includes landscape studies and renewable energy analysis as part of a consortium of South Pennine authorities including those in West Yorkshire. The East Lancashire Railway involves Rossendale engaging strongly with Bury, Rochdale and Greater Manchester Integrated Transport Authority to develop the potential of this important piece of infrastructure.

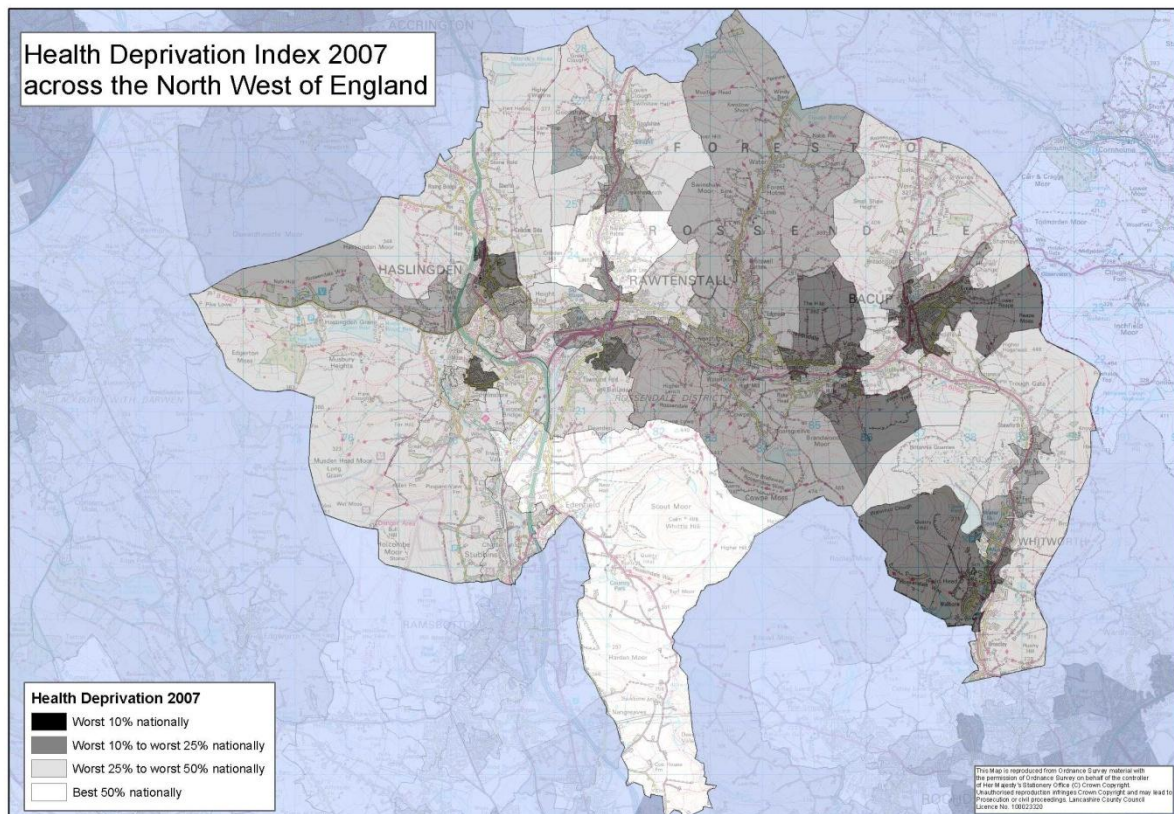
In addition to the above initiatives various partners have their own medium and long term plans, e.g. the Health Authorities and the Environment Agency. Rossendale Borough Council also has a number of corporate Policy documents, such as the Environment Strategy, which have fed into preparation of the document.

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### **Issues, Problems and Challenges/ Issues Facing Rossendale**

The total population of Rossendale was 67,000 in mid 2007 and in recent years growth has been minimal. However forecasts predict that the population of the Borough will increase by 2% over the next 20 years to 68,340. Nonetheless, Rossendale has a significant local problem in retaining 20-24 year olds which make up only 4.84% of the population, lower than both the North West (5.79%) and England and Wales (6.01%). This indicates that large numbers of young people leave the area looking for better job opportunities elsewhere. There is however a relatively high proportion of young families compared to the regional trend. Life expectancy for men at 75.4 in Rossendale is amongst the worst in the country although the life expectancy for women at 81 is slightly greater than the regional average but still lower than the national figure (source ONS).

Levels of multiple deprivation are high compared to that of neighbouring areas and districts. Rossendale is ranked as the 92<sup>nd</sup> most deprived authority out of 354 authorities. Levels of multiple deprivation are high compared to that of the neighbouring unitary authorities of Calderdale and Bury, ranked 107<sup>th</sup> and 122<sup>nd</sup> respectively. Aspects of deprivation such as crime and employment show few extremes, but there is a high degree of health deprivation in the Borough with 20% of Super Output Areas (SOAs) being among the worst 10% in the country. Mental Health problems and long-term sickness are particularly significant and are concentrated around Bacup, Stacksteads and Whitworth in the east as well as



Haslingden in the west. However, Rossendale is less deprived than its' Pennine Lancashire neighbours, with the exception of Ribble Valley.

Unemployment within Rossendale is low, and the economic activity rate, at almost 82%, is significantly higher than regional and national averages. Nevertheless, wages within the Borough remain low and people who work in Rossendale earn well below both regional and national averages, typically as a result of low-skilled

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industries. Median annual pay for all employees in 2008 was £15 535 compared to £19 811 for the North West and £20 882 nationally. By contrast, the average earnings for people who live in the Borough and commute outside for work earn significantly more, along similar lines as regional and national averages. This gap between the wages of residents and employees of Rossendale is the largest in Lancashire, and together with health and housing statistics, points to significant disparities among social and economic groups in the Borough. For example the annual household income of residents in Eden ward is over £40 000 pa while in Stacksteads it is £26 000. The UK average is £35 000. A higher proportion of people in Rossendale are employed in non-professional jobs than the national average with a relatively high proportion in manufacturing and construction jobs

Education qualifications are lower than the national average. There is a relatively low proportion of residents in post 16 education and with a degree level qualification. Business 'start ups' in Rossendale are more successful than the national average but the Borough has among the lowest number of VAT registered businesses in Lancashire. There is also a higher than average proportion of people with low qualifications (NVQ levels 1 and 2).

Rossendale is characterised by its stone-built terraced housing, most of which was constructed before 1919 and forms a third of the housing stock in the Borough. Partly as a result of the abundance of this type of housing stock, Rossendale has suffered from housing market failure, particularly in the east of the Borough. To tackle the problems of housing market decline, low demand and abandonment, Rossendale was included in Elevate East Lancashire (Pennine Lancashire Development Company from November 2009), one of the Government's nine housing market renewal pathfinders. Bacup, Britannia and Stacksteads have been incorporated into this programme, which aims to improve the quality and diversity of the housing stock, along with improving economic prosperity, the environment and community life within these areas. Unfitness is a major problem with 9.1% of the stock falling into this category compared to just 2.4% nationally. Many properties are poorly insulated which contributes to significant amounts of fuel poverty. However a recent stock condition survey concluded that 60 million pounds worth of investment is required across Rossendale's' private sector housing to bring the current housing stock in line with the decent homes standards as well as to assist in the alleviation of fuel poverty.

Although demand for housing in Rossendale has increased and is high by historical standards, average property prices in the borough remain among the lowest in the region. Despite having regionally and nationally low house prices affordability is a major issue for many wanting to access the housing market; further aggravated by a local low-wage economy, resulting in an acute affordable housing need throughout Rossendale. The ratio of median house prices to median earnings in 2008 was 6.53 compared to a Lancashire figure of 5.49.

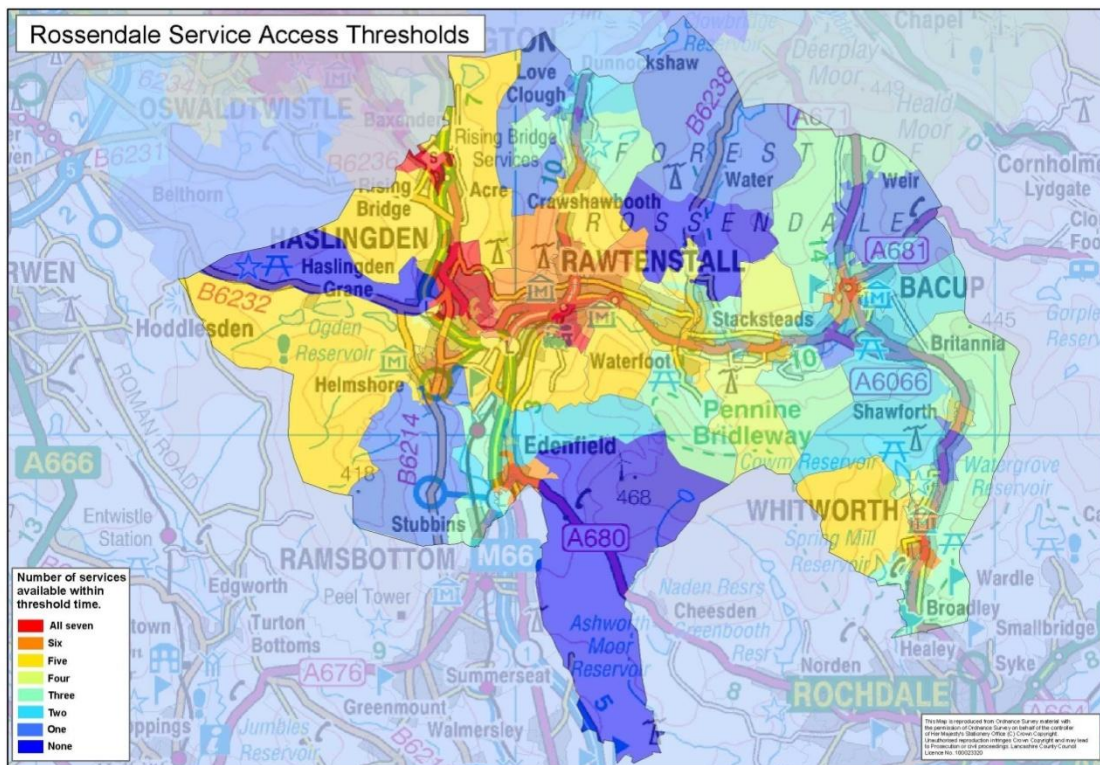
Crime rates in Rossendale are predominantly lower than both regional and national averages and it remains a comparatively safe borough to live in.

The railway link between Rawtenstall and Bury is no longer in general use, although it provides a part-time tourist-orientated steam train service operated by East Lancashire Railway and there are aspirations to open up this line as part of a Manchester to Rawtenstall Commuter Rail Link. Communications in the east-west directions of Rossendale are not as good as those in the west, with only one main road (A681 – A671) that traverses the breadth of the Borough. This is almost entirely lined with urban development and limited to 30mph. It is from this primary road that many of the secondary roads are fed, predominantly towards the north of the

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Borough along the naturally occurring valleys. Peak hour congestion problems are significant around the gyratory and up Burnley Road, Rawtenstall and in Haslingden town centre.

It is therefore not unexpected that car reliance in Rossendale is high, with 45% of households owning a car or van and 25% having access to two cars or vans. Nevertheless in some wards notably Stacksteads/Bacup, over 40% of households do not own a car and many services are concentrated in the west of the Valley. Thus the promotion of alternatives to the car and location of facilities such as GP's, shops and schools will remain a key issue.



Derelict and vacant land and buildings is a key challenge for Rossendale with 122.33 ha of previously developed land identified in 2008. While this is a resource for positive re-use, many of the sites are located in prominent locations in or adjacent to town centres and are deterring investment and halting regeneration.

The town centres in the Borough are in significant need of enhancement. The Valley Centre in Rawtenstall requires either replacement or refurbishment as it undermines the attractiveness of the whole centre. Bringing forward an acceptable scheme has been hampered by the recession. The New Hall Hey area has apart -implemented retail/office permission and together with the railway station is poorly related into the town centre. A new bus station with modern facilities and integrated into the town centre is required. Down the Valley in Bacup the centre has been unable to attract significant national retailers as the major superstores are all clustered in and around Rawtenstall. It has a substantial many vacant and under-used buildings, a number of which are listed as being of historic value but will be costly to repair. It has significant potential however to be a very attractive place to visit and live. English Heritage are supporting a Townscape Heritage Initiative in the town. Haslingden would benefit from upgrading and enhancing streets and pavements, a reduction in the number of vacant shop units and a limit on the number of hot food takeaways The Markets in



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Rawtenstall, Haslingden and Bacup each face challenges to their viability as do many small shops, both within centres and outside them.

Indoor Leisure facilities within the Borough are concentrated at Haslingden Leisure Centre and Haslingden Pool, Marl Pits at Rawtenstall and Bacup Leisure Hall. Secondary School facilities including a pool at Whitworth are available for public use in evenings and weekends. There is also a popular dry ski slope at Rawtenstall. There is a need for major investment in most of these facilities over the next five years with a decision on the Council's approach to be taken by the end of 2009.

While Rossendale has highly urbanised Valleys the upland area has very little built development though it has been extensively quarried and mined. This and the densest public rights of way network in Lancashire offer a major resource for local walkers and activity based leisure. However as well as being the largest network in Lancashire it is one of the worst maintained and some of the quarries present significant safety risks.

### **Key Issues**

- Current poor condition of Valley Centre and New Hall Hey in Rawtenstall
- Regeneration of Bacup town centre while respecting its historic character
- Potential of East Lancashire railway as commuter link to Manchester
- Addressing the east-west split within Rossendale
- Accommodating development in a way that respects the character of the area
- How to enhance the tourist potential of Rossendale including walking/cycling access and outdoor leisure
- Improve Health and Wellbeing especially in the most deprived wards
- Reducing Vacant and Derelict land and buildings
- Enhance Rawtenstall Town Centre including provision of a new bus station and walking links from the station/New Hall Hey
- Local traffic congestion, e.g. gyratory in Rawtenstall
- Vacancies and public realm in Haslingden Town Centre
- Improve access to services and employment especially from the east of the area
- Increase Educational Attainment and Improve Local Skills
- Meet identified Local Housing Needs
- Meet Local Employment and Business Needs
- Reduce Impact of Climate Change including high local per capita CO<sup>2</sup> production
- Manage and expand the Local Rural Economy
- Maximising the Natural Environment in a way that doesn't damage it
- Conserve and Improve the Built Heritage
- Retain Key Age Groups (20-24)
- Manchester to Rawtenstall Commuter Line

The following chapter illustrates how these key issues, problems and challenges will be met through a Spatial Vision and the Strategic Aims and Objectives of the Core Strategy.

*Do you consider that the Spatial Portrait set out here is an accurate reflection of the Borough's key characteristics in relation to the identified issues? Is there anything that could be included that would provide evidence as to the key issues or any other*

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*issues that the Core Strategy should be seeking to address?*

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### **Rossendale in 2027**

This chapter is the real starting point for the rest of the Core Strategy and sets out what Rossendale will be like in 2027 after this plan has been successfully implemented and achieved.

From this vision, 7 objectives are proposed which cover the main issues for Rossendale and set out how the planning process for the next 15 years will address, improve and deliver them.

The 7 strategic objectives are borough-wide and include the following targets:

1. Public transport improvements
2. Meeting housing needs
3. Improve access to education, skills, training, health and job opportunities
4. Enhance and protect our built heritage
5. Supporting and encouraging local businesses and new sectors of the economy
6. Improve and promote Rawtenstall as the main town centre, supported by Bacup, Haslingden and other local centres
7. Enhance and protect our natural environment

This section also sets out the key projects that will help transform Rossendale into a place where people want to live, work and visit. The Transformational Projects include:

- The Adrenaline Gateway
- Bacup Town Centre Renaissance and Regeneration
- The Rossendale Health Campus – currently underway
- Manchester to Rawtenstall Commuter Rail Link
- Haslingden Renaissance Plan
- Rawtenstall Town Centre Regeneration
- Bacup 14-21 Vocational Education Campus

All policies and plans from this point on must help to achieve these objectives and the overall vision for Rossendale.

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## **Rossendale in 2027**

### **Rossendale Spatial Vision, Strategic Aims and Objectives**

The Rossendale Sustainable Community Strategy 2008-2018 states:

“Rossendale will have strong communities with an enhanced environment and heritage. It will be an attractive place to live where tourists visit and employers invest”

The Core Strategy Vision is derived from this, but adds a spatial dimension based on the key issues, problems and challenges summarised earlier in the document.

#### **Core Strategy: Spatial Vision**

Rossendale is defined by its Pennine moorland countryside and small stone built towns and villages located along the valley floors and will continue to be so.

By 2026, we aim to reduce inequalities across the Borough by strengthening opportunities in the East of Rossendale and fulfilling the potential of the West of the Borough.

Rawtenstall and its surrounding communities will be the central focus of the Borough. The Valley Centre will be redeveloped and will act as a regeneration catalyst for the rest of the town centre; incorporating additional and increased shopping, retail and office facilities, well linked to a new bus interchange and Rawtenstall train station.

The east of Rossendale including Bacup, Stacksteads, Britannia and Whitworth will continue to develop as tourist destinations for sport and recreational activities as well as an area of historical and architectural interest.

Most development including housing and affordable housing will take place within the urban boundaries of the main settlements with particular emphasis on realising the objectives of the existing Housing Market Renewal programme and any subsequent initiatives in the east.

Rawtenstall together with Haslingden, Bacup and Whitworth will remain priority areas for economic development including employment and office space.

The achievement of this vision will result in Rossendale being an attractive place to live work and visit, building upon the foundations of people, places and prosperity. Progress towards delivering the vision will be monitored through the indicators and targets outlined in each policy.

<b>Alternative Options Explored:</b>	<b>Issues and Options 2005 and Preferred Options 2006</b> A thriving local community and prosperous economy set in an environment that people value and wish to live, work, invest and visit. Improved quality of life for local people and visitors. quality of life for local people and visitors.  <b>Other Options</b>
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	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Growth in All Sectors</li><li>2. Dormitory District for Greater Manchester</li><li>3. North West Destination for Tourism, Leisure and Recreation</li></ol>
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*Is this an appropriate vision for Rossendale's community to aspire to? Is it realistic that the Core Strategy might deliver this vision? Could any changes be made to the Spatial Vision to make it more relevant to specific places within the Borough? Is the Preferred Spatial Option appropriate to enable the borough's future development needs to be met? Are there any parts that you particularly like or dislike? Are there any additional elements that should be included, or elements that should be excluded?*

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Strategic Objectives	Key Issues Addressed	Achieving the Objectives of the Sustainable Community Strategy	Primary Policy Delivery
SO1. To improve public transport links to Greater Manchester and enhance local transport provision and access to services throughout Rossendale; with particular emphasis on improving connections and perceptions of parochialism between Rawtenstall and Bacup.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Reduce the need to travel</li> <li>- Improved Connectivity Between the East and the West</li> <li>- Tackle Perceptions of an Isolated East</li> <li>- Reduce Impact of Climate Change</li> </ul>	Priority Outcome 14 – Noticeable improvements in public transport, better links across the Borough and fewer journeys made by car. Opportunities will be created to encourage a shift in transport modes towards sustainable and active travel and further improvements to transport connectivity between the east and west of Rossendale and the moorlands will be sought.	AVP3, 4, 5, 6 RLDF 1, 7, 8, 9, 20, 21
SO2. Meet the housing needs of the current and future population(s) in relation to amount, types, size, location, quality and price and actively support initiatives and proposals in the east which would assist in achieving the objectives of the Elevate HMR pathfinder or future programme.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Deliver Housing Market Renewal</li> <li>- Retain Key Age Groups</li> <li>- Meet Local Housing Needs</li> <li>- Widen Housing Choice</li> <li>- Deliver affordable housing</li> <li>- Tackle Social Deprivation</li> </ul>	Priority Outcome 4 – More young people settling in Rossendale rather than moving away to find better opportunities. Priority Outcome 6 – People getting on well together and experiencing a sense of belonging within an active community. Priority Outcome 8 – Decent homes that are more affordable.	AVP1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 RLDF 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 20, 21
SO3. To create the opportunities for people to achieve their aspirations and access further opportunities in relation to health and mental well-being, training, skills provision, and education, particularly in the east of the Borough where educational	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Maximise Education and Training Opportunities</li> <li>- Reduce Worklessness</li> <li>- Tackle Social Deprivation</li> <li>- Reduce Health Inequalities and Long-Term Limiting Illness</li> <li>- Improve Health &amp; Well-Being</li> </ul>	Priority Outcome 1 – Better health and mental well-being for Rossendale residents. Priority Outcome 2 – Reduced gaps in health inequalities between Rossendale and the rest of England. Priority Outcome 11 – Create an environment where every child and adult has the opportunity to achieve their full potential in education and	AVP3, 4, 5 RLDF 1, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 21

## ***From East to West, Making Rossendale the Best***

attainment and worklessness is an acute issue.		employment. Priority Outcome 13 – Create opportunities for people to benefit from Rossendale’s prosperity.	
SO4. To enhance and improve Rossendale’s built heritage and maximise its potential value as a catalyst for regeneration and further investment in the Borough, especially in Bacup town centre and designated conservation areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Reduce Derelict and Vacant Land/Buildings</li> <li>- Conserve and Enhance the Built Heritage</li> <li>- Enhance Rawtenstall Town Centre</li> <li>- Redevelop the Valley Centre and New Hall Hey</li> </ul>	<p>Priority Outcome 9 – Rossendale will have clean and well maintained town centres, providing the leisure, retail and cultural services they would expect to access locally.</p> <p>Priority Outcome 10 – Rossendale will protect and enhance its natural and built heritage which will be recognised as an outstanding resource by visitors and residents.</p>	AVP1, 2, 4, 5 RLDF 1, 10, 16, 17, 20, 21, 22
SO5. Encourage and support local businesses, entrepreneurship and new sectors of the economy to grow, whilst ensuring that critical infrastructure including sites and buildings suitable for supporting employment and wealth generation are retained.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Meet Local Employment and Business Needs</li> <li>- Reduce Derelict and Vacant Land/Buildings</li> <li>- Provide Appropriate Types and Levels of Retail Choice</li> <li>- Maximise New Business and Entrepreneur Investment</li> </ul>	<p>Priority Outcome 12 – Establish a thriving economy based on the growth of our vibrant business service sector and attracting people to enjoy our shops, cultural facilities and adrenaline sports.</p> <p>Priority Outcome 13 – Create opportunities for everyone to benefit from Rossendale’s prosperity, with more people of working age in work.</p>	AVP1, 3, 5 RLDF 1, 6, 7, 10, 14, 15, 20, 21, 22
SO6. Promote Rawtenstall as the main town centre for Rossendale with particular focus on regenerating the Valley Centre. Bacup, Haslingden and other local centres and parades should serve the needs of the local population/catchment emphasising the role of local	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Provide Appropriate Types and Levels of Retail Choice</li> <li>- Redevelop the Valley Centre and New Hall Hey</li> <li>- Enhance Rawtenstall Town Centre</li> <li>- Redefine Town Centre Boundaries and Roles</li> </ul>	<p>Priority Outcome 9 – Rossendale will have clean and well maintained town centres, providing the leisure, retail and cultural services they would expect to access locally.</p> <p>Transformational Projects – Bacup Town Centre Regeneration and Renaissance, Haslingden Renaissance Plan and Rawtenstall Town Centre Regeneration.</p>	AVP1, 3, 4, 5 RLDF 1, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 16, 21

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businesses and local identities.			
<p>SO7. Enhance and protect Rossendale’s natural environment and landscapes, maximising its potential to support tourism, recreation and leisure provision, whilst accommodating renewable energy in an appropriate and sensitive manner. Schemes and proposals supporting the Adrenaline Gateway project will be actively encouraged, especially where they will link into other forms of tourism and recreation attractions, particularly in the east around Lee Quarry.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Manage and Widen the Rural Economy</li> <li>- Protect and Enhance the Natural Environment</li> <li>- Increase Sustainable Use of the Natural Environment</li> <li>- Reduce the Impact of Climate Change</li> </ul>	<p>Priority Outcome 7 – Rossendale will have substantially reduced its average carbon footprint with people taking responsibility for the impact on the world.</p> <p>Priority Outcome 10 – Rossendale will protect and enhance its natural and built heritage which will be recognised as an outstanding resource by visitors and residents.</p> <p>Priority Outcome 12 – Increasing the visitor economy by transforming Rossendale’s activity based- leisure, cultural and retail offer.</p> <p>Transformational Projects – The Adrenaline Gateway</p>	<p>AVP1, 2, 3, 4, 5            RLDF 1, 8, 9, 10.            14, 15, 16, 17, 18,            19, 20, 21, 22</p>



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<p>S08. To reduce the impact of climate change in particular through reducing the carbon footprint of new and existing building stock; protecting and enhancing the Borough's "green infrastructure" and promoting sustainable transport</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Reduce the impact of climate change</li> <li>- Increase sustainable use of the natural environment</li> <li>- Protect and enhance the natural environment</li> <li>- Reduce the need to travel</li> <li>- Improve connectivity</li> <li>- Improve health and well-being</li> </ul>	<p>Priority Outcome 7- Rossendale will have substantially reduced its average carbon footprint with people taking responsibility for their impact on our world</p> <p>Priority Outcome 8 – Housing conditions in Rossendale will meet the average levels for Lancashire and the level of affordable housing will meet the needs of local people</p> <p>Priority Outcome 10 – Rossendale will protect and enhance its natural and built heritage which will be recognised as an outstanding resource by visitors and residents</p> <p>Priority Outcome 14- 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 between the east and west of Rossendale and to our moorland</p>	<p>AVP 5 RLDF1,2,7-10,13,14,16-19,n 20, 21, 22</p>
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<p><b>Alternative Options Explored:</b></p>	<p><b>Issues and Options 2005 and Preferred Options 2006</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved economic opportunities for local people that maximise the existing and potential local assets.</li> <li>• Greater opportunities for local people to live in high quality housing and living environments that meet their needs.</li> <li>• Improved access from home to places of work, learning, shops, leisure and community facilities.</li> <li>• Greater incentives for local people and visitors to use and enjoy Rossendale's natural and cultural assets, including shopping areas, leisure facilities and education opportunities.</li> <li>• Sustainable management of natural resources and cultural assets.</li> <li>• High quality, attractive and valued local urban and rural environments.</li> <li>• Bring redundant previously developed land back into sustainable uses.</li> </ul>
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*Do you agree that the Spatial Objectives would address the issues raised in the Spatial Portrait and enable the Spatial Vision to be delivered? Should anything else be taken into account? Could any changes be made to the Spatial Objectives to make them relevant to specific places within the Borough?*

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Key Diagram

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### **Transformational Projects**

The six projects identified in Rossendale's Sustainable Community Strategy 2008-2018 which will assist in the transformation of the Borough over the next 5 to 10 years will also aid in delivering the Strategic Objectives outlined on pages 24-25.

The six transformational projects identified in the Sustainable Community Strategy include:

<b>Project</b>	<b>How Will It be Delivered?</b>	<b>When Will it be Delivered?</b>
<b>The Adrenaline Gateway</b> – delivering a unique leisure and cultural experience by making a wide range of adrenaline sports activities accessible to people from across the North West.	Through the identification of locations and sites to support adrenaline sports, particularly mountain biking throughout Rossendale and actively support suitable schemes and proposals and where necessary assist with gap funding through the regeneration process.	The Adrenaline Gateway is not a project, but a concept that will be delivered and improved upon throughout the life of the Core Strategy.  The success of Lee Quarry is already evident and it is anticipated that this will continue to grow and develop in the years to come.
<b>Bacup Town Centre Regeneration and Renaissance</b> – to stimulate economic activity in Bacup town centre by attracting new and growing businesses to the area.	Through the preparation of a Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan and potential bidding for THI funding to attract investment in bringing back into use and renovating historically important commercial buildings in the new conservation area.  By developing and implementing planning policies which will attract new and different businesses to the town and give the area a unique role and identity.	Work on the Conservation Area Appraisal is nearing completion and funding from English Heritage has been secured to assist and undertake conservation work, including the preparation of a Management Plan which may lead to the submission of a THI (Townscape Heritage Initiative) bid.  It is anticipated that the first stages of the Bacup Town Centre Regeneration and Renaissance work will be completed within the first 5 years of this plan.
<b>The Rossendale Health Campus</b> – is currently being delivered in Rawtenstall and will therefore be completed by the time this Core Strategy is adopted.	The Health Campus or Health Hub is currently being built, but it involved partnership working with the East Lancashire PCT, Rossendale Borough Council and the LSP to identify suitable locations and negotiate priorities.  The Health Hub in Rawtenstall was funded by the East Lancashire PCT.	
<b>Manchester to Rawtenstall Commuter</b>	Joint working and partnership with the East	This is a long term goal for Rossendale as it

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<p><b>Rail Link</b> – will aim to provide a frequent and regular railway connection between Pennine Lancashire and Greater Manchester.</p>	<p>Lancashire Railway trust, Rossendale Borough Council, neighbouring authorities and network rail will be required to deliver this project, in addition to significant sums of money which is currently being explored.</p>	<p>is acknowledged that delivery is complex. However, it is anticipated that the railway will be re-opened to commuter journeys toward the end of the life of this Core Strategy.</p>
<p><b>Haslingden Renaissance Plan</b> – to identify key areas for improvement in Haslingden town centre.</p>	<p>Through the re-definition of the town centre, a new conservation area and an area vision and policy which will guide new development to the town, improving key areas in the process.</p> <p>Improvements will be made through focused regeneration efforts and schemes.</p>	<p>The Renaissance of Haslingden is a long term goal and will be an ongoing project throughout the life of this Core Strategy.</p>
<p><b>Rawtenstall Town Centre Regeneration</b> – planned regeneration including redevelopment of the Valley Centre, the creation of a retail, leisure and business park on New Hall Hey and a hotel on the former college site.</p>	<p>Through the identification of the Valley Centre redevelopment as a Council priority and partnership working with committed developers to deliver the right type of development on the site.</p> <p>The same is true for New Hall Hey and the former college site and the Council is committed to working with the landowners and prospective developers to achieve the best results for the sites and Rossendale.</p>	<p>The Regeneration of Rawtenstall and in particular the redevelopment of the Valley Centre should be deliverable within the first half of the plan</p>
<p><b>Additional Transformational Projects Identified Through the LDF Process</b></p>		
<p>Bacup 14-21 Vocational Education Campus</p>	<p>Partnership working between Accrington and Rossendale College, Lancashire County Council, local Secondary Schools, LCDL and grant funding through Learning and Skills Council</p>	<p>The education campus in Bacup should deliverable within the first half of the plan.</p>

These projects will be delivered through the planning and regeneration processes and will act at catalysts for future growth and development in Rossendale.

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*Do you agree that the Transformational Projects are important for the future of Rossendale and need to be delivered? Should any other projects be taken into account? Is there anything else that could be done to help ensure their delivery?*