

Rossendale Local Plan Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist.

1.1 The Rossendale Local Plan (also referred to as “the Plan”) has been formally submitted to the Secretary of State. The plan will now be examined by an independent inspector to assess whether it has been prepared in accordance with the legal and procedural requirements as set out by the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (“2012 Regulations”) and whether the plan is “sound”.

1.2 Examinations into plans such as this can be lengthy and complex. Regulations and good practice require the Council to complete and submit a range of statements as part of the Examination submission and, often, participants at this will refer to additional documents to support their own view points. The independent planning inspector appointed to undertake the examination will consider all of the material prior to reaching a conclusion on the Local Plan’s soundness and compliance with the legal requirements.

1.3 To facilitate the examination process and for the benefit of the planning inspector and other examination participants, local planning authorities are encouraged to submit a Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist and guidance.

1.4 The completed checklist provided with this document provides succinct reference points that demonstrate how the Local Plan is sound. The responses to the checklist refer to a range of other supporting evidence that has been prepared and the processes undertaken to get the Plan to this point. Through the examination process additional information may be required to be developed and published in support of the Plan. All such information will be published on the Council’s website and clearly referenced and recorded as additional documents submitted to inform the examination process.

1.5 The summary provided through the submitted Regulation 22 statement on the stages of preparation of the Local Plan and engagement, summarises how the Council has responded to legislative and national policy changes whilst preparing the Rossendale Local Plan.

1.6 Table 1 below summarises the key stages in preparing the Plan to the point of submission. Unless otherwise stated, references to chapters, policies and paragraphs will be drawn from the August 2018 Regulation 19 Rossendale Local Plan Pre-Submission Draft.

Table 1: Key stages in preparing the Rossendale Local Plan

Stage	Publication Date
Draft Local Plan (Regulation 18 consultation)	Consulted on 24th July 2017 to 9th October 2017
Draft Local Plan Pre-Submission Publication Version (Regulation 19 Consultation)	Consulted on 23 August to 5 October 2018
Local Plan Submission	Submitted March 2019

Background and role of the soundness checklist

A. The checklist was first prepared in prepared in early 2013 by AMEC and URS on behalf of the Planning Advisory Service and has been subsequently updated to take account of new policy and guidance. Its purpose is to help local authorities prepare their plans in advance of an examination, taking into account the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework.

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National Planning Policy Framework

B. A revised National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was published in July 2018, replacing in full the previous NPPF 2012. The draft Rossendale Local Plan was written having regard to the emerging revised NPPF to aid understanding and application in future years. The Rossendale Local Plan (also referred to as “the Plan”) has been submitted after the 25th January 2019. Therefore, in accordance with the transitional arrangements¹, it is anticipated that the soundness of the Plan will be considered with reference to the 2018 NPPF. As such this checklist has been updated to respond to the revised NPPF.

The Tests of Soundness at Examination

C. The starting point for the examination is the assumption that the Council has submitted what it considers to be a sound plan. Those seeking changes should demonstrate why the plan is unsound by reference to one or more of the soundness criteria.

D. In summary - the key requirements of plan preparation are:

- Has the plan been positively prepared i.e. based on a strategy that seeks to meet objectively assessed requirements?
- Is the plan justified?
- Is it based on robust and credible evidence?
- Is it an appropriate strategy when considered against the alternatives?
- Is the document effective?
- Is it deliverable?
- Is it flexible?
- Will it be able to be monitored?
- Is it consistent with national policy?

E. The tests of soundness are set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (para 35):

“Local Plans and spatial development strategies are examined to assess whether they have been prepared in accordance with legal and procedural requirements, and whether they are sound. Plans are ‘sound’ if they are:

i) Positively Prepared: providing a strategy which, as a minimum, seeks to meet the area’s objectively assessed needs; and is informed by agreements with other authorities, so that unmet need from neighbouring areas is accommodated where it is practical to do so and is consistent with achieving sustainable development.

This means that the Plan should be based on a strategy which seeks to meet objectively assessed development and infrastructure requirements. The NPPF sets out principles through which the Government expects sustainable development can be achieved.

ii) Justified: an appropriate strategy, taking into account the reasonable alternatives, and based on proportionate evidence.

This means that the Plan should be based on a robust and credible evidence base involving:

- Research/fact finding: the choices made in the plan are backed up by facts;
- Evidence of participation of the local community and others having a stake in the area; and
- The Plan should also provide the most appropriate strategy when considered against reasonable alternatives. These alternatives should be realistic and subject to

¹Annex 1 of the NPPF 2018 (paragraph 214) states that local plans submitted on or before the 24th January 2019 are to be examined having regard to policies contained in the previous 2012 NPPF.

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sustainability appraisal (SA). The Plan should show how the policies and proposals help to ensure that the social, environmental, economic and resource use objectives of sustainability will be achieved.

iii) Effective: deliverable over the plan period, and based on effective joint working on cross-boundary strategic matters that have been dealt with rather than deferred, as evidenced by the statement of common ground.

This means the Plan should be deliverable, requiring evidence of:

- Sound infrastructure delivery planning;
- Having no regulatory or national planning barriers to delivery;
- Delivery partners who are signed up to it;
- Coherence with the strategies of neighbouring authorities; and
- It should be flexible and able to be monitored.

The Plan should indicate who is to be responsible for making sure that the policies and proposals happen and when they will happen. The plan should be flexible to deal with changing circumstances, which may involve minor changes to respond to the outcome of the monitoring process or more significant changes to respond to problems such as lack of funding for major infrastructure proposals. Although it is important that policies are flexible, the plan should make clear that major changes may require a formal review including public consultation. Any measures which the Council has included to make sure that targets are met should be clearly linked to the authority's monitoring reporting.

iv) Consistent with national policy: enabling the delivery of sustainable development in accordance with the policies in this Framework (the NPPF).

The PAS templates contain suggestions for evidence which could be used to support these requirements. However, PAS advise that these must be viewed in the context of the plan being prepared. It should not be assumed that all need to be provided as they are just suggestions of what could be relevant.

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Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
Positively Prepared: providing a strategy which, as a minimum, seeks to meet the area's objectively assessed needs; and is informed by agreements with other authorities, so that unmet need from neighbouring areas is accommodated where it is practical to do so and is consistent with achieving sustainable development.		
<p>2. Achieving sustainable development</p> <p><i>The presumption in favour of sustainable development (NPPF para 11)</i></p> <p>a) plans should positively seek opportunities to meet the development needs of their area, and be sufficiently flexible to adapt to rapid change;</p> <p>b) strategic policies should, as a minimum, provide for objectively assessed needs for housing and other uses, as well as any needs that cannot be met within neighbouring areas², unless:</p> <p>i. the application of policies in this Framework that protect areas or assets of particular importance provides a strong reason for restricting the overall scale, type or distribution of development in the plan area³; or</p> <p>ii. any adverse impacts of doing so would significantly and demonstrably outweigh the benefits, when assessed against the policies in this Framework taken as a whole.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An evidence base which establishes the development needs of the plan area (see Justified below) and includes a flexible approach to delivery (see 'Section 3 Effective', below). • An audit trail showing how and why the quantum of development, preferred overall strategy and plan area distribution of development were arrived at. • Evidence of responding to opportunities for achieving sustainable development in different areas (for example, the marine area) 	<p>Section 1 of the Plan contains the Spatial Strategy for the Borough, setting out the key characteristics of the area and explaining how the Plan seeks to promote sustainable housing and employment growth while protecting and enhancing the special valley and moorland setting of the Borough. It sets out a clear development hierarchy which is then reflected in the policies and allocations contained in the rest of the Local Plan.</p> <p>Strategic Policy SS (Spatial Strategy) provides more detail on the development hierarchy, setting out that growth and investment will be concentrated firstly in the Key Service Centres and specific Major Sites, followed by a lesser amount to Urban Local Service Centres, Rural Local Service Centres and then smaller villages and built-up frontages where development is expected to be small scale.</p> <p>The supporting text for each chapter justifies how the strategic and local policies seek to address issues identified and how they support the spatial strategy / development hierarchy.</p> <p>In particular, housing (HS1-HS20) and employment land policies (EMP1-7) express the Spatial Strategy e.g. by locating the majority of new housing in around the main centres of Rawtenstall and Bacup, with remaining housing allocations mostly located in other identified settlements in the hierarchy; and, for employment, to allocate new employment land on the specified major sites (selected because they are in areas of strongest market demand). Both sets of policies seek to meet the</p>

² As established through statements of common ground.

³ The policies referred to are those in this Framework (rather than those in development plans) relating to: habitats sites (and those sites listed in paragraph 176) and/or designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest; land designated as Green Belt, Local Green Space, an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, a National Park (or within the Broads Authority) or defined as Heritage Coast; irreplaceable habitats; designated heritage assets (and other heritage assets of archaeological interest referred to in footnote 63); and areas at risk of flooding or coastal change.

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		<p>objectively assessed need for these land uses, to be met within the specified Plan period.</p> <p>Forecasts for housing and employment land delivery are underpinned from evidence from the Strategic Housing Market Area Assessment (SHMA), Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA), Employment Land Review (ELR), Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) and Viability Study (2015, 2017 and 2019 updates). The housing requirement for the Local Plan has been established using the Standard Methodology for assessing housing need which is the Government’s preferred method. These evidence documents informed the distribution of development and the identification of the most appropriate strategic allocations – this was largely based on directing development to the areas of strongest market demand and, particularly for employment, the areas most accessible to the strategic road network (A56).</p> <p>The submitted plan has evolved through 2 stages of consultation and representations between 2017 and 2018. The scale of growth planned over this time has evolved as government policy and population and household projections have been published.</p> <p>The Rossendale Draft Local Plan (Regulation 18 Consultation) considered options for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing delivery of 265 dwellings per year (4,000 homes over the period 2019-34) • Allocation of land to meet the requirement of 27 hectares of employment land • Proposals to release 41.38 hectares of Green Belt for development <p>The Pre-submission Publication Version of the Draft Local Plan (Regulation 19 consultation) refined these options to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing delivery of 212 dwellings per year (3,180 homes 2019-34) – in line with the Government’s standard methodology for assessing housing need • The reduction to 29.32 hectares of Green Belt release
<p>Policies in Local Plans should follow the approach of the presumption in favour of sustainable development so that it is clear that</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A policy or policies which reflect the principles of the presumption in favour of 	<p>Strategic Policy SD1 (Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Development) demonstrates how the planning decisions of the Council will align with the presumption and reflects the wording from para. 11 of NPPF. This makes clear</p>

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<p>development which is sustainable can be approved without delay. All plans should be based upon and reflect the presumption in favour of sustainable development, with clear policies that will guide how the presumption should be applied locally.</p>	<p>sustainable development</p>	<p>that the policies in the Local Plan are based on the presumption in favour of sustainable development, with clear policies that will guide how the presumption should be applied locally.</p> <p>The overall approach within the Local Plan is focused upon achieving sustainable development. Rossendale is characterised by its rural nature and there are many physical constraints to development. Policies are provided throughout the plan that seek to ensure that development would not adversely affect (or mitigate possible negative effects) on sustainability objectives. Where potential harm has been identified, for example on those allocations involving Green Belt release, Masterplanning or design frameworks are expected in order to minimise impact on openness and compensatory measures such as enhancements to other open space and recreational access will be sought (see Strategic Policy SD2).</p>
<p><i>Objectively assessed needs</i> The economic, social and environmental needs of the authority area addressed and clearly presented in a fashion which makes effective use of land and specifically promotes mixed use development and take account of cross-boundary and strategic issues. Note: Meeting these needs should be subject to the caveats specified in Paragraph 11 b. i. and ii. of the NPPF (see above).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Background evidence papers demonstrating requirements based on population forecasts, employment projections and community needs. • Technical papers demonstrating how the aspirations and objectives of the DPD are related to the evidence, and how these are to be met, including from consultation and associated with the Duty to Co-operate. 	<p>Evidence of housing needs and consideration of the range of sites available for development is found within the following: Housing Topic Paper – this explains how the housing need for the Borough has been evidenced and the reasoning behind the identification of the sites allocated for future housing development within the Local Plan; SHMA – this provides the technical evidence which helped to inform the housing strategy; SHLAA – this assesses the suitability, availability and achievability for housing for a range of sites across the Borough; Green Belt Topic Paper – this pulls together the findings from the Green Belt Study against the requirements for land set out in other evidence documents and presents the exceptional circumstances considered to exist which necessitate the release of Green Belt through the Local Plan.</p> <p>Evidence of economic needs and consideration of the sites available for development is found within the following: Employment Land Review (ELR) – this review considers employment land needs and supply across the Borough Employment Land Topic Paper – this pulls together the findings from the ELR against the evidence set out in other documents and explains reasoning behind the</p>

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		<p>employment land requirement and the identification of sites allocated for employment within the Local Plan;</p> <p>Town Centre, Retail, Leisure and Tourism Study – this provides an assessment of retail, leisure and tourism needs and capacity and reviews the performance of a range of centres across the Borough.</p> <p>Cross-boundary and strategic issues:</p> <p>The Duty to Cooperate Statement sets out how the Council has engaged with neighbouring authorities in relation to issues such as housing need and employment land requirements;</p> <p>The Spatial Strategy and related policies and allocations were prepared with regard to, and as a result of ongoing engagement with key agencies including Environment Agency, Historic England and Natural England.</p> <p>Consultation with stakeholders has taken place at various stages, from the initial evidence base studies and workshops with developers, to the publication of the draft Plan and formal consultation.</p>
3. Plan making		
<p>Plans should be positively prepared with the objective of contributing to the achievement of sustainable development in a way that is aspirational but deliverable.</p> <p>Plans should also be shaped by early, proportionate and effective engagement and contain policies that are clearly written and unambiguous, accessible through use of digital tools and avoid unnecessary duplication of policies that apply to a particular area (including the NPPF). (NPPF para 16)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sections of the DPD and other documents which set out (where applicable) the vision, strategic objectives, key outcomes expected, spatial portrait and issues to be addressed. • Relevant sections of the DPD which explain how policies derive from the objectives and are designed to meet them. • The strategic objectives of the DPD, and the commentary in the DPD of how they derive from the spatial portrait and vision, and how the objectives are consistent with one another. 	<p>In relation to infrastructure delivery, Policy SD3 (Planning Obligations) sets out that where development will create demand for additional services, facilities and infrastructure or exacerbate an existing deficiency the Council may seek a contribution or legal agreement to address this.</p> <p>The IDP (2018, updated 2019) has identified the key infrastructure in the Borough and identifies actions needed to address infrastructure requirements from new development.</p> <p>The Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) sets out how the Council will consult with and engage with members of the public and a range of relevant bodies in the preparation of the Local Plan.</p> <p>Statement of Consultation (SoC) provides details of this consultation process and how comments were invited on the Local Plan.</p> <p>The Local Development Scheme (LDS) sets out a timetable for the preparation of the Local Plan.</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sections of the DPD which address delivery, the means of delivery and the timescales for key developments through evidenced infrastructure delivery planning. • Confirmation from the relevant agencies that they support the objectives and the identified means of delivery. • Information in the local development scheme, or provided separately, about the scope and content (actual and intended) of each DPD showing how they combine to provide a coherent policy structure. 	
5. Delivering a sufficient supply of homes (NPPF paras 59-79)		
<p>Identify and maintain a rolling supply of specific deliverable sites sufficient to provide five years' worth of housing against their housing requirements; this should include an additional buffer of 5%, 10% or 20% (moved forward from later in the plan period) to ensure choice and competition in the market for land. 10% applies where the LPA has published an annual position statement, 20% buffer applies where there has been significant under delivery of housing over the previous 3 years (NPPF paras 67 and 73 refer)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of five years or more supply of specific deliverable sites; plus, the buffer as appropriate reflecting results of the housing delivery test or annual published statement. • Where this element of housing supply includes windfall sites, inclusion of 'compelling evidence' to justify their inclusion (NPPF para 70) • A Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) 	<p>The Council monitors a five year housing land supply (5YHLS) assessment, which is published in an annual report. The most recently published report has a base date of 01/04/2018 and demonstrates the number of dwellings that are expected to be delivered in the five year period from this base date until 31/03/2023.</p> <p>This is normally assessed against an identified annual housing target which is either taken from the adopted housing requirement (e.g. that identified in an adopted Local Plan) or the minimum annual local housing need (LHN) figure calculated using the Government's standard methodology. If the adopted requirement is more than five years old, the LHN will be used.</p> <p>For Rossendale, it is acknowledged that the adopted requirement of 247 dwellings per year from the Core Strategy is out of date. If the Submission Local Plan is adopted, the housing requirement set out in this will be used. This is currently identified as 212 dwellings per year which, as this figure was based on the standard methodology, is not likely to differ significantly from the LHN. This equates to a five year requirement of 1,060 homes which would increase to 1,272 if a 20% buffer needed to be applied. The 5YHLS Report sets out more detail on this.</p> <p>However, at the time of Plan submission, it is known that several major housing developments have gained permission and a number of sites that are allocated in the new Plan are considered to be deliverable in the short term. The 5YHLS will be updated after 01/04/19 to take into account the additional sites and this will be updated again when the agreed housing target is in place.</p>

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		In relation to windfall sites, aside from a modest annual small sites allowance of 18 dwellings per year, applied from year 3, the 5YHLS does not rely on windfall sites. The small sites allowance is based on data from an analysis of actual past completions on sites of less than 5 dwellings and is considered to be a robust assumption of future delivery.
Identify a supply of developable sites or broad locations for years 6-10 and, where possible, years 11-15 (NPPF para 67).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of a supply of developable sites or broad locations for: a) years 6-10; b) years 11-15 	<p>The SHLAA identifies a supply of developable sites for years 6-10 and years 11 to 15 of the Plan period. This has informed the Local Plan which allocates enough housing land which, along with other (non-allocated) sites with planning permission and remaining capacity on sites under construction, meets the expected housing requirement up to 2034.</p> <p>As explained in the Housing Topic Paper, sufficient housing land has been identified to meet the annual housing target over the Plan period.</p>
Illustrate the expected rate of housing delivery through a trajectory; and set out a housing implementation strategy describing how a five-year supply will be maintained. (NPPF paras 73, 74 and 75)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A housing trajectory • Monitoring of completions and permissions • Updated and managed SHLAA. 	<p>The Council monitors a five year housing land supply (5YHLS) assessment, which is published in an annual report, using a base date of 1st April each year. This monitors completions from the previous year, provides an update on sites that are under construction (i.e. identifies how many units are still to be built out) and identifies new permissions that have been granted for housing development alongside the number of dwellings to be provided on these sites. It then assesses how many dwellings from these sites are expected to be delivered over the coming five year period, from the base date. Appendix 4 of the Local Plan sets out a housing trajectory of expected delivery over the Plan period. The Housing Topic Paper also explains that the total housing land supply also includes other non-allocated sites with planning permission, remaining capacity on sites under construction and any small sites allowance. These also contribute to the housing land supply, in addition to the allocated sites. The SHLAA will also be regularly updated.</p>
Plan for a mix of housing based on current and future demographic and market trends and needs of different groups and caters for housing demand and the scale of housing supply to meet this demand. (NPPF para 61)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy on planning for a mix of housing (including self-build, and housing for older people • SHMA • Identification of the size, type, tenure and range of housing required in particular locations, reflecting local demand. (61) • Evidence for housing provision based on up to date, objectively assessed needs derived through a 	<p>The SHMA highlights the need for larger, aspirational property types to rebalance the stock away from small, terraced properties and reduce the high levels of out-migration to adjoining areas to satisfy the demand for suitable house types. It evidences the need for good quality, specialist accommodation designed specifically for the growing elderly population (e.g. homes with level access points). It also identifies a need for 1 and 2 bedroom dwellings.</p> <p>The Local Plan seeks to address this through: Providing a wide range of sites of varying sizes, locations and characteristics which will allow for a varied offer of smaller, higher density homes in accessible locations to larger family homes in lower density areas; Expecting that larger sites are guided by masterplans which could include considerations such as density, housing types, sizes etc.;</p> <p>Policy HS6 (Affordable Housing) requires new housing development of 10 or more dwellings to provide 30% on-site affordable housing. In line with para. 64 of NPPF, at least 10% of the overall housing contribution should be available for affordable home ownership (unless the site is solely for Build for Rent, provides specialist accommodation, is self-build, is already 100% affordable or is an entry level or rural exception site). On any rural exception site, this requirement increases to 100% affordable</p>

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	<p>Local Housing Need assessment – based upon the standard methodology or other approach where exceptional circumstances exist. (60)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy on affordable housing and consideration for the need for on-site provision or if off-site provision or financial contributions are sought, where these can be justified and to what extent do they contribute to the objective of creating mixed and balanced communities. (62) 	<p>housing unless it can be demonstrated that a small element of market housing is needed to make the scheme viable (as per the definition of such sites in NPPF);</p> <p>Policy HS7 (Housing Density) – this encourages higher densities in sustainable locations in town centres and those close to bus stops or key transport corridors (which could address the need for smaller 1 to 2 bed properties);</p> <p>Policy HS8 (Housing Standards) – sets out a standard that (subject to specific circumstances) at least 20% of any new housing is to be specifically tailored to meet the needs of elderly or disabled residents, or be easily adaptable (in line with the Optional Standards or Building for Life 12) – and expects applicants to demonstrate how this has been achieved;</p> <p>Policy HS19 (Specialist Housing) supports proposals for specialist housing including retirement, extra care and supported accommodation (provided that this will meet the needs of future occupiers); it also allocates 3 sites specifically for specialist accommodation.</p> <p>Policy HS20 (Self Build and Custom Built Houses) supports this type of development which helps to widen the mix of housing types and opportunities available; it also allocates 3 specific sites for this type of development.</p>
<p>In rural areas, be responsive to local circumstances and plan housing development to reflect local needs, particularly for affordable housing, including through rural exception sites where appropriate (NPPF para 77).</p> <p>In rural areas housing should be located where it will enhance or maintain the vitality of rural communities. (NPPF para 78)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consideration of allowing some market housing to facilitate the provision of significant additional affordable housing to meet local needs. • Examples of special circumstances to allow new isolated homes listed at para 79 of the NPPF. 	<p>The SHMA highlights that there is a demand for housing in rural areas and there is an overall shortage of social rented stock.</p> <p>Policy HS15 (Rural Affordable Housing – Rural Exception Sites) gives flexibility to allow some rural housing, particularly to respond to affordability issues in rural areas, in line with NPPF;</p> <p>Policy HS16 (Conversion and Re-use of Rural Buildings in the Countryside) allows for new uses within existing buildings, which will also allow for new rural homes;</p> <p>Policy HS17 (Rural Workers Dwellings) establishes specific circumstances and criteria for the consideration of new dwellings in rural locations.</p>
<p>6. Building a strong, competitive economy (NPPF paras 80-84)</p>		
<p>Set out a clear economic vision and strategy for the area which positively and proactively encourages sustainable economic growth and is flexible to needs not anticipated in the Plan (NPPF para 81),</p> <p>Recognise and seek to address potential barriers to investment, including poor</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Articulation of a clear economic vision and strategy for the plan area linked to the Economic Strategy, LEP Strategy and marine policy documents where appropriate. • A criteria-based policy which meets identified needs and is 	<p>Section 1 of the Local Plan sets out the Spatial Strategy for the Borough, setting out the key characteristics of the area and explains how the Local Plan seeks to promote employment growth while protecting and enhancing the special valley and moorland setting of the Borough. Policies EMP1 to 7 seek to articulate the economic strategy by allocating new and existing sites and providing general support for economic development and employment generating uses, including on sites not currently identified for employment use – allowing flexibility.</p>

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environment or any lack of infrastructure, services or housing (81)	positive and flexible in planning for specialist sectors, regeneration, infrastructure provision, environmental enhancement.	<p>The policies are reflected in the Rossendale Economic Development Strategy (2018) which supports the Local Plan's allocation of 27 hectares of employment land.</p> <p>In relation to infrastructure delivery, Policy SD3 (Planning Obligations) sets out that where development will create demand for additional services, facilities and infrastructure or exacerbate an existing deficiency the Council may seek a contribution or legal agreement to address this.</p> <p>The Infrastructure Delivery Plan (2018, updated 2019) has identified the key infrastructure in the Borough and identifies actions needed to address infrastructure requirements from new development.</p>
Supporting a prosperous rural economy (NPPF paras 83 and 84). Support sustainable economic growth in rural areas. Planning strategies should promote a strong rural economy by taking a positive approach to new development. (83)	Where relevant include a policy or policies which support the sustainable growth of rural businesses; promote the development and diversification of agricultural businesses; support sustainable rural tourism and leisure developments and support local services and facilities.	<p>As a Borough with a large rural area, achieving sustainable economic growth in the countryside is very important. A range of policies are included in the Local Plan to support this, including housing policies HS15, 16 and 17 (described above) which provide a positive framework for appropriate residential development in rural areas to support sustainable growth and development of those communities. HS16 can also support conversion and re-use of rural buildings for economic purposes in the countryside.</p> <p>Policy LT2 (Community Facilities) makes specific reference to protecting facilities in isolated locations, which will help to support the future sustainability of rural communities.</p> <p>Policy LT3 (Tourism) promotes a number of tourism sectors, many of which would be located in rural areas, with specific allowance for tourist development outside the urban boundary.</p> <p>Policy LT4 (Overnight Visitor Accommodation) supports proposals in a variety of locations, including in the countryside such as camping and caravan sites.</p> <p>Policy LT5 (Equestrian Development) and LT6 (Farm Diversification) supports both equestrian development, including commercial facilities, and other agricultural businesses to help to diversify the rural economy.</p> <p>Policy TR5 (Footpaths, Cycleways and Bridleways) supports the development and enhancement of a number of recreation routes which largely pass through the rural area – which not only benefits health and community cohesion but supports the economy by supporting recreation and tourism opportunities.</p>

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7. Ensuring the vitality of town centres (NPPF paras 85-90)		
<p>Policies should be positive, promote competitive town centre environments, and set out policies for the management and growth of centres over the plan period (85)</p> <p>Allocate a range of suitable sites to meet the scale and type of retail, leisure, commercial, office, tourism, cultural, community services and residential development needed in town centres (85)</p>	<p>The Plan and its policies may include such matters as: definition of networks and hierarchies; defining town centres; encouragement of residential development on appropriate sites; allocation of appropriate edge of centre sites where suitable and viable town centre sites are not available; consideration of retail and leisure proposals which cannot be accommodated in or adjacent to town centres.</p>	<p>The Rossendale Town Centre, Retail, Leisure and Tourism Study (2017) has informed the retail policies and definition of centres within the Local Plan. Town, District, Local Centre and Neighbourhood Parade boundaries are identified in the Local Plan and some boundary changes have been made to these as part of the Local Plan review in response to evidence in the Retail Study. Many of the centres in Rossendale are relatively small but a mixed use allocation (M2 Spinning Point) has been located within Rawtenstall town centre, which includes an element of residential development. This allocation is supported by Policy R2 which sets out more development in relation to future development of the site. Policy R1 (Retail and Other Town Centre Uses) seeks to enhance the function of town centres (e.g. through protecting against the loss of A1 in the Primary Shopping Areas) whilst recognising the need to encourage a range of uses which make a positive contribution to vitality and viability.</p> <p>The policy outlines criteria to direct retail and other town centre uses to locate within the defined centres whilst including measures to consider retail development proposals outside of these locations.</p> <p>Policy R3 (Development and Change of Use in District and Local Centres) sets out criteria for development in the smaller centres which seeks to protect retail uses but does allow for non-retail uses where it can be demonstrated that this is no longer viable.</p>
<p>Policy informing the Local Authorities approach to application of the sequential test and identification of a locally set threshold for impact assessments or a national threshold of 2,500sqm. (Para 86 to 90)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An assessment of the need to expand (the) town centre(s), considering the needs of town centre uses. • Evidence informing any locally set threshold for impact assessments. 	<p>Policy R1 sets out size thresholds where an impact assessment will be required for development outside the defined centres. These have been set lower than that in NPPF in order to address Rossendale’s specific retail needs (e.g. the vitality and viability of some centres is considered to be particularly vulnerable to larger out of centre development), following recommendations from the Retail Study.</p>
8. Promoting healthy communities (NPPF paras 69-78)		
<p>Planning policies and decisions should aim to achieve healthy, inclusive and safe places (NPPF para 91).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inclusion of a policy or policies on inclusive communities. • Promotion of opportunities 	<p>The Spatial Strategy of the Local Plan specifically seeks to balance housing and employment provision to ensure that there is sufficient economic opportunity to support residential growth (whilst also protecting the special valley and moorland</p>

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	<p>for meetings between members of the community who might not otherwise come into contact with each other, including through mixed-use developments which bring together those who work, live and play in the vicinity; safe and accessible environments where crime and disorder, and the fear of crime, do not undermine the quality of life or community cohesion; and accessible developments, containing clear and legible pedestrian routes, and high quality public space, which encourage the active and continual use of public areas. (91 to 95)</p>	<p>setting of the Borough). This is seen to be a sustainable approach which allows for growth whilst ensuring that the quality of the environment is retained for future generations.</p> <p>The strategic policy on the Spatial Strategy states that in order to promote vibrant local communities and support services, an appropriate scale of growth and investment will be encouraged in identified Local Service Centres.</p> <p>Strategic Policy ENV1 (High Quality Development in the Borough) sets out a range of criteria including those on protecting amenity, improving design, encouraging active travel, promoting attractive environments, reducing flood risk, making provision for the needs of special groups in the community such as the elderly or those with disabilities, consideration of health impacts and reducing risk from contamination.</p> <p>A range of other policies also seek to achieve inclusive communities e.g.:</p> <p>Policy HS6 (Affordable Housing) requires an element of housing development to be affordable, helping to make new residential areas more inclusive.</p> <p>Policies HS8 (Housing Standards) and HS19 (Specialist Housing) supports the provision of a range of homes such as retirement and care accommodation – and highlights that three housing sites (H22, H53 and H67) are specifically allocated for specialist accommodation; HS8 also seeks to ensure that new homes are better designed to improve living standards;</p> <p>Policies HS10 (Open Space in New Housing Development), HS11 (Playing Pitch Requirements), HS12 (Private Outdoor Amenity Space), ENV5 (Green Infrastructure networks), TR2 (Footpaths, Cycleways and Bridleways), LT1 (Protection of Playing Pitches, Existing Open Space, Sport and Recreation Facilities) all seek to protect or enhance green and open spaces, sport and recreation opportunities and adequate amenity space for residents to enjoy, improving quality of life and encouraging physical activity; the Policies Map identifies key recreation routes and recreation areas and facilities, including open space;</p> <p>Housing policies also expect larger development to have masterplans, including Health Impact Assessments;</p> <p>Policy LT2 (Community Facilities) seeks to safeguard valuable community facilities for their social and quality of life functions and to ensure that communities are</p>

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		<p>sustainable in the long term and Policy R4 (Existing Shops) also seeks to retain local shops as it is recognised these provide a useful function for the local community and reduce the need to travel by car;</p> <p>Policy R5 (Hot Food Takeaways) seeks to manage such uses within 400m of schools, to try to reduce their contribution to childhood obesity and encourages healthy eating options to be provided; it also seeks to reduce a number of other issues which would affect amenity and quality of life such as litter, cooking odours and noise;</p> <p>Policy ENV6 (Environmental Protection) seeks to prevent development that has an unacceptable impact on health, including measures to address air quality issues, noise and light pollution.</p>
<p>Policies should plan positively for the provision and use of shared space, community facilities and other local services (NPPF para 92).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inclusion of a policy or policies addressing community facilities and local service. • Positive planning for the provision and integration of community facilities and other local services to enhance the sustainability of communities and residential environments; safeguard against the unnecessary loss of valued facilities and services; ensure that established shops, facilities and services are able to develop and modernize; and ensure that housing is developed in suitable locations which offer a range of community facilities and good access to key services and infrastructure. 	<p>The Local Plan is supported by IDP that considers future infrastructure needs, including those related to education and community infrastructure;</p> <p>Policy LT2 (Community Facilities) seeks to safeguard valuable community facilities for their social and quality of life functions and to ensure that communities are sustainable in the long term and Policy R4 (Existing Shops) also seeks to retain local shops as it is recognised these provide a useful function for the local community and reduce the need to travel by car;</p> <p>Policy SD3 (Planning Obligations) seeks a contribution or legal agreement to address any issues arising from new development in relation to the provision of additional services, facilities and infrastructure, including education, health and sport and recreation facilities;</p> <p>Larger sites of 50 dwellings or more are expected to have a masterplan or design code which will consider the need for supporting community facilities and links to existing services.</p>
<p>Identify specific needs and quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses of open space,</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of specific needs and quantitative or qualitative deficits or 	<p>A study was undertaken to audit Open Space (updated in 2008) and was used to inform the previous Core Strategy and the current Local Plan; The Council's Playing</p>

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Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
<p>sports and recreational facilities which the plan should seek to accommodate (NPPF para 96).</p>	<p>surpluses of open space, sports and recreational facilities in the local area. (96)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A policy protecting existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land from development, with specific exceptions. (97) • Protection and enhancement of rights of way and access. (98) 	<p>Pitch Strategy (2016) assessed pitch provision against Sport England’s requirements and has informed the Local Plan; The Council’s Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) on open space and play equipment policies examines provision and need within Rossendale and sets out the requirements for developers; this is due to be updated as part of future SPD reviews; Policies HS10 (Open Space Requirements in New Housing Developments), HS11 (Playing Pitch Requirements) and LT1 (Protection of Playing Pitches, Existing Open Space, Sport and Recreation Facilities) all seek to protect and enhance open space through contributions or on-site provision; Policy ENV5 (Green Infrastructure networks) seek to protect, manage, enhance and connect Rossendale’s green infrastructure, including the Public Rights of Way (PRoW) network; where any green infrastructure is to be lost as part of development, the policy expects equivalent off-site provision to replace this; Policy TR2 (Footpaths, Cycleways and Bridleways) support the development and enhancement of a strategy PRoW network, including seeking contributions for enhancement of this. The Policies Map identifies these key routes.</p>
<p>Enable local communities, through local and neighbourhood plans, to identify special protection green areas of particular importance to them – ‘Local Green Space’ (NPPF paras 99 - 101).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy enabling the protection of Local Green Spaces. (Local Green Spaces should only be designated when a plan is prepared or reviewed and be capable of enduring beyond the end of the plan period. The designation should only be used when it accords with the criteria in para 100). Policy for managing development within a local green space should be consistent with policy for Green Belts. (101) 	<p>As well as a range of Natural Heritage designations, the Local Plan has a number of designations seeking to preserve and enhance green spaces, which are included in policies and identified on the Policies map. Policy ENV4 (Biodiversity, Geodiversity and Ecological Network) states that key components of the Ecological Networks have been identified, including the “Greenlands” designation, and that opportunities to enhance the network will be supported. It also sets out that provision or contributions to “Sites of Suitable Alternative Natural Green Space” (SANGS) will be sought where development would have an impact on Priority Species; Policy LT1 (Protection of Playing Pitches, Existing Open Space, Sport and Recreation Facilities) seeks to protect open spaces from inappropriate development, for the benefit of the community and Policies HS10 and 11 (relating to Open Space and Playing Pitch provision in new housing development) seeks provision, or contribution towards, community open spaces; There have been no requests to designate specific “Local Green Spaces” from the community but the Council would welcome these as part of future Local Plan reviews and include relevant policies as appropriate.</p>

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9. Promoting sustainable transport (NPPF paras 102-111)		
<p>Plans should actively manage patterns of growth so that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - opportunities from existing or proposed transport infrastructure, and changing transport technology and usage, are realised; - opportunities to promote walking, cycling and public transport use are identified and pursued; - environmental impacts of traffic and transport infrastructure taken into account – including opportunities to avoid and mitigate adverse effects, and for net environmental gains; - patterns of movement, streets, parking and other transport considerations are integral to the design of schemes, and contribute to making high quality places. (NPPF para 102) <p>Significant development should be focused on locations which are or can be made sustainable. Opportunities to maximise sustainable transport solutions will vary between urban and rural areas, and this should be taken into account. (NPPF para 103)</p> <p>Planning policies should support an appropriate mix of uses across an area and be prepared with the active involvement of transport infrastructure providers and operators; and recognise the importance of maintaining a national network of general aviation airfields. (NPPF para 104)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint working with adjoining authorities, transport providers and Government Agencies on infrastructure provision in order to support sustainable economic growth with particular regard to the facilities referred to in paragraph 104. • Policies encouraging development which facilitates the use of sustainable modes of transport and a range of transport choices where appropriate, particularly the criteria in paragraph 102. • A spatial strategy and policy which seeks to reduce the need to travel through balancing housing and employment provision. • Policy for major developments which promotes a mix of uses and access to key facilities by sustainable transport modes. • If local (car parking) standards have been prepared, are they justified and necessary? (105 and 106) • Identification and protection of sites and routes where infrastructure could be developed to widen transport choice linked to the Local Transport Plan. 	<p>The Duty to Co-operate sets out how the Council has engaged with the Highways Authority, which is Lancashire County Council, on more strategic access requirements, particularly in respect of new housing and employment sites. A Highways Capacity Study has been undertaken to identify the impacts on the road infrastructure of the proposed allocations. The Council continues to engage with the Highway Authority and Highways England in order to address highway capacity concerns and identify solutions to ensure that the additional development over the plan period can be accommodated. Engagement with neighbouring authorities, notably Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM), is also taking place. The Spatial Strategy seeks to make the most of existing infrastructure, including the strategic road network, in allocating sites. It also directs the most development towards the larger settlements with the most existing services (reducing the need to travel) and areas closest to the main highway networks. The Local Plan recognises the importance of working with partners to address key transport issues, especially on key road junctions (e.g. Gyratory at Rawtenstall, enhancing the A56 corridor and bringing forward options to develop the East Lancashire Railway as a commuter link). Strategic Policy TR1 (Strategic Transport) supports opportunities to enhance connectivity, particularly proposals which reduce the need to travel, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving links to Greater Manchester and the M60/62 and enhancements to the A56; • Developing the East Lancashire Railway for tourism and transport; • Developing the strategic cycle network; • Promoting sustainable transport solutions and integrating transport solutions more effectively into new development; • Addressing congestion, road safety and air pollution issues; • Ensuring that significant travel generating uses are located in areas where the need to travel will be minimised and the use of sustainable travel modes can be maximised; • A site for park n ride is identified on the Policies Map at Ewood Bridge. <p>Policy TR2 (Footpaths, Bridleways and Cycleways) supports the development and</p>

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Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
<p>Planning policies and decisions should recognise the importance of providing adequate overnight lorry parking facilities. (NPPF para 107)</p> <p>When assessing sites that may be allocated for development in the Plan, ensure that they provide opportunities for sustainable transport, provide safe and suitable access, and impacts upon highway safety or highway capacity and congestion can be effectively mitigated to an acceptable degree. (NPPF para 108)</p>		<p>enhancement of the strategic Public Rights of Way network and key routes. The Policies Map also identifies the key routes.</p> <p>Policy TR3 (Road Schemes and Development Access) prevent development that would prejudice road access to a site identified for development in the Local Plan or the construction of identified road schemes.</p> <p>Policy TR4 (Parking) sets out standards for parking and includes support for the provision of cycle parking and electric vehicle charging points. The policy recognises that managing parking in areas which are readily accessible by sustainable travel modes can reduce car usage.</p> <p>Housing policies expect larger development to have masterplans, addressing highway issues, including a framework to consider cycle and pedestrian movements. Proposals are also expected to be accompanied by a Transport Assessment and Travel Plan; this is set out in specific policies for certain sites (HS3-5); similar policies are in place for specific employment sites (EMP6 and 7) which require consideration of transport and access issues.</p> <p>Policy SD3 (Planning Obligations) includes sustainable transport in the list of potential schemes which could benefit from developer contributions.</p>
10. Supporting high quality communications infrastructure (NPPF paras 112-116)		
<p>Support the expansion of the electronic communications networks, including telecommunications' masts and high-speed broadband. (NPPF para 112)</p> <p>Local planning authorities should not impose a ban on new telecommunications development in certain areas, impose blanket Article 4 directions over a wide area or a wide range of telecommunications development or insist on minimum distances between new telecommunications development and existing development. (NPPF para 114)</p>	<p>Policy supporting the expansion of electronic communications networks, including telecommunications and high-speed broadband, noting the caveats in para 114.</p>	<p>The Local Plan does not contain any specific reference to electronic communications but any proposal relating to this would be dealt with in accordance with NPPF.</p>
11. Making effective use of land (NPPF paras 117 to 123)		

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Set out the authority’s approach to housing density to reflect local circumstances (122 - 123).	Policy on the density of development.	The Local Plan has carefully considered density and the most efficient use of land (especially brownfield land) within the SHLAA and the Local Plan has a specific policy on housing density (HS7). This states that density should be in keeping with local areas and have no detrimental impact on amenity etc. (recognising the physical constraints of the area, such as topography and landscape) but in sustainable locations, particularly in town centres or close to bus stops or key transport corridors, higher densities shall be provided – expecting densities of in excess of 40 dwellings per hectare in town centres.
12. Achieving well-designed places (NPPF paras 124-132)		
Set out a clear design vision and expectations, so that applicants have as much certainty as possible about what is likely to be acceptable. (125)	Inclusion of policy or policies which seek to increase the quality of development through the principles set out at para 127 and approaches in paras 128-132, linked to the vision for the area and specific local issues.	<p>The Local Plan supports high quality design through general policies and those that respond to the specific characteristics of the Borough.</p> <p>The Spatial Strategy recognises that the Borough’s built and environmental heritage is fundamental to the unique character of the area and that the Local Plan recognises the importance of these.</p> <p>Strategy Policy ENV1 (High Quality Development in the Borough) includes detailed criteria relating to design including those relating to: the use of materials, lighting and landscaping, the need for development to enhance the built environment, including protection of heritage assets and their settings, avoiding harm on amenity, minimising opportunities for crime, enhancing the public realm, requiring a Development Brief or Design Code (setting out design principles and consideration of innovative design) for certain developments, potentially with an independent Design Stage review or use of ‘Building by Design’ methods, ensuring design is adaptable to climate change, incorporates energy efficiency and sustainable construction.</p> <p>Housing policies HS3-5 set out design expectations on specific housing allocations, including the need to consider appropriate materials, layout, open space, relationship to any adjacent heritage assets, existing homes and other land uses, maximising energy efficiency through design, lighting and so on.</p> <p>Policy HS8 (Housing Standards) sets out local standards that the Council will adopt, in line with the optional technical standards for housing. These include standards on access (e.g. for elderly or disabled residents) and on internal space. The policy also makes reference to the Building for Life 12 requirements which set out a</p>

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		<p>number of design standards.</p> <p>Policy HS9 (Private Residential Garden Development) sets out standards for dwellings built within existing gardens, seeking to protect residential amenity and ensuring high standards of design.</p> <p>Policy HS13 (House Extensions) sets out criteria that new extensions must meet, including on design, effect on amenity of neighbours.</p> <p>Policy HS14 (Replacement Dwellings) also make specific reference to the need to ensure new dwellings are acceptable in design terms.</p> <p>Policy R6 (Shopfronts) seek the retention of shopfronts with features of architectural or historic interest (particularly in Conservation Areas) and expect all proposals involving shopfronts to accord with the “Shopfront Design” SPD.</p> <p>Policies ENV2 (Heritage Assets) and ENV3 (Landscape Character and Quality both seek to protect and enhance built and natural assets of the Borough by ensuring appropriate design.</p>
13. Protecting Green Belt land (NPPF paras 133-142)		
<p>Local planning authorities should plan positively to enhance the beneficial use such as looking for opportunities to provide access; to provide opportunities for outdoor sport and recreation; to retain and enhance landscapes, visual amenity and biodiversity; or to improve damaged and derelict land. (141)</p> <p>When drawing up or reviewing green belt boundaries local planning authorities should take account of the need to promote sustainable patterns of development. (138) and use of readily recognisable features that are likely to be permanent when defining boundaries (139)</p> <p>Boundaries should be set using ‘physical</p>	<p>Where Green Belt policies are included, these should reflect the need to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance the beneficial use of the Green Belt. (141) • Accord with criteria on boundary setting, and the need for clarity on the status of safeguarded land in particular. (139) 	<p>The Local Plan and supporting Topic Papers sets out the case for exceptional circumstances which justify the release of Green Belt.</p> <p>Strategic Policy SD2 (Urban Boundary and Green Belt) states that in locations where the Plan proposes to release Green Belt, it is expected that development will provide compensatory improvements to the remainder of the Green Belt, such as contributing to enhancement to other open space and improved recreational access (which could include identification of ‘Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace’ – SANGs).</p> <p>Any allocation of Green Belt land for development has been informed by the Green Belt Review and other studies and has taken account of the need to identify clear and defensible boundaries, such as existing permanent physical features, such as rivers and highways.</p> <p>Policy HS3 (Edenfield), which involves Green Belt release, includes a specific criteria stating that future development must identify mechanisms to enhance the quality of, and access to, remaining Green Belt land in the area between the development site and nearby towns.</p>

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features likely to be permanent' amongst other things (139)		
14.Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change (NPPF paras 148-169)		
Adopt proactive strategies to mitigate and adapt to climate change taking full account of flood risk, coastal change and water supply and demand considerations. (149)	Planning of new development in locations and ways which reduce greenhouse gas emissions. (148)	The Spatial Strategy has been shaped by and taken account of flood risk considerations and the choice of allocations in the Local Plan have been informed by the recommendations of the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment and other known flood risk information. Policy ENV6 (Environmental Protection) seeks to prevent development that has an unacceptable impact on air or water quality. Policy ENV9 (Surface Water Run-off, Flood Risk, Sustainable Drainage and Water Quality) states that all development proposals will be required to consider and address flood risk from all sources and a sequential approach will be taken. Other policies and designations in the Local Plan seek to protect and enhance green infrastructure which contributes towards climate change mitigation.
Help increase the use and supply of renewable energy and low carbon energy and heat. (151)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A strategy and policies to promote and maximise energy from renewable and low carbon sources, • Identification of suitable areas for renewable and low carbon energy sources, and supporting infrastructure, where this would help secure the development of such sources (see also NPPF footnote 49. • Identification of where development can draw its energy supply from decentralised, renewable or low carbon supply systems and for co-locating potential heat customers and suppliers. (151) 	Housing policies HS3-5, relating to specific housing allocations, include criteria requiring future development to maximise energy efficiency in design, provide for suitable drainage, including details of Sustainable Drainage Systems. Policy ENV7 (Wind Turbines) and ENV8 (Other forms of Energy Generation) support appropriate renewable energy proposals. Policy ENV6 (Environmental Protection) expects that electric vehicle charging points will be provided within all new housing developments.
Avoid increased vulnerability to climate change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Account taken of the long term implications of climate 	The Spatial Strategy has been shaped by and taken account of considerations such

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and manage the risk of flooding (150)	<p>change for flood risk. (149)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allocate, and where necessary re-locate, development to areas with the lowest risk of flooding through a sequential test, based on a SFRA. (158) • Policies to manage risk, from a range of impacts, through suitable adaptation measures. 	<p>as flood risk and the choice of allocations in the Local Plan have been informed by the recommendations of the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment and other known flood risk information.</p> <p>Policy ENV9 (Surface Water Run-off, Flood Risk, Sustainable Drainage and Water Quality) states that all development proposals will be required to consider and address flood risk from all sources and a sequential approach will be taken.</p> <p>Other policies and designations in the Local Plan seek to protect and enhance green infrastructure which contributes towards climate change mitigation.</p>
Take account of the UK Marine Policy Statement (166)		n/a
Reduce risk from coastal change (167)		n/a
15.Conserving and enhancing the natural environment (NPPF paras 170-183)		
Protect valued landscapes (170)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A strategic approach to maintaining and enhancing networks of habitat and green infrastructure. (171) • Policy which seeks to minimise the loss of higher quality agricultural land and give great weight to protecting the landscape and scenic beauty of National Parks, the Broads and AONBs. 	<p>The Local Plan is supported by a number of Environmental Topic Papers and evidence documents such as the Environmental Network Study (2017), Landscape Study (2015), Landscape capacity study for wind energy developments in the South Pennines (2014), Lancashire Ecological Network (2015). These outline the evidence and approach to preserving the character and distinctiveness of the Borough’s countryside and landscapes and natural heritage and biodiversity.</p> <p>The Spatial Strategy highlights how the Local Plan seeks a balance between built development while protecting and enhancing the special valley and moorland setting of the Borough.</p> <p>The Strategy also makes specific reference to the Borough’s built and environmental heritage being fundamental to the unique character of the area, recognising the importance of areas of high environmental value, such as the West Pennine Moors and greenspace corridors.</p> <p>The Borough has extensive areas of open land, including moorland. Policies ENV3 (Landscape Character and Quality), ENV4 (Biodiversity, Geodiversity and Ecological Networks), ENV5 (Green Infrastructure networks), ENV7 (Wind Turbines) and ENV8 (Other forms of Energy Generation) seek to protect and/or enhance habitats, species, areas of biodiversity and geodiversity and maintain landscape quality.</p> <p>Policy LT3 (Tourism) ensures that new tourist development does not create</p>

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		<p>unacceptable impact on landscape quality and nature conservation assets. Policies relating to specific housing and employment allocations (HS3-5 and EMP6-7) require any future development to consider landscape and ecological impacts. The Policies Map identifies ecological and green infrastructure designations and land including local and national natural heritage designations and other areas of green and blue infrastructure; it also shows areas which are considered suitable for wind energy development, which has taken account of landscape and ecological impacts.</p>
<p>Prevent unacceptable risks from pollution and land instability (178)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any development site is suitable for its proposed use taking account of ground conditions. (178) • Policy which seeks development which is appropriate for its location having regard to the effects of pollution on health, the natural environment or general amenity. (180) • Sustain and contribute towards compliance with relevant limit values or national objectives for pollutants. (181) 	<p>Policy ENV6 (Environmental Protection) sets out a number of measures that any development which has the potential to result in pollution which would have an unacceptable impact on health, amenity, biodiversity, air or water quality would need to undertake to effectively prevent or mitigate this to an acceptable level; The Policies Map identifies Air Quality Management Areas.</p>
<p>Planning policies should protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity (174)</p> <p>Planning policies should plan for biodiversity at a landscape-scale across local authority boundaries (171)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification and mapping of local ecological networks and geological conservation interests. • Policies to promote the preservation, restoration and re-creation of priority habitats, ecological networks and the recovery of priority species. 	<p>The Local Plan is supported by a number of Topic Papers and evidence documents such as the Environmental Network Study (2017), Landscape Study (2015), Landscape capacity study for wind energy developments in the South Pennines (2014), Lancashire Ecological Network (2015). These outline the evidence and approach to preserving the character and distinctiveness of the Borough’s countryside and landscapes and natural heritage and biodiversity. The Spatial Strategy highlights how the Local Plan seeks a balance between built development while protecting and enhancing the special valley and moorland setting of the Borough.</p> <p>The Borough has extensive areas of open land, including moorland. Policies ENV3 (Landscape Character and Quality), ENV4 (Biodiversity, Geodiversity and Ecological</p>

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		<p>Networks), ENV5 (Green Infrastructure networks), ENV7 (Wind Turbines) and ENV8 (Other forms of Energy Generation) seek to protect and/or enhance habitats, species, areas of biodiversity and geodiversity and maintain landscape quality. This provides a comprehensive framework for the conservation and enhancement of the Borough’s ecological network.</p> <p>The Policies Map identifies ecological and green and blue infrastructure designations and land including local and national natural heritage designations and other areas of green and blue infrastructure.</p>
16.Conserving and enhancing the historic environment (NPPF paras 184-188)		
<p>Include a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment, including heritage assets most at risk (185)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A strategy for the historic environment based on a clear understanding of the cultural assets in the plan area, including assets most at risk. • A map/register of historic assets. (187) • A policy or policies which promote new development that will make a positive contribution to character and distinctiveness. (185) 	<p>The Local Plan is supported, and policies and allocations have been informed, by a number of key heritage evidence base documents such as the Heritage Impact Assessment of Housing and Employment Sites (2018) and Conservation Area Appraisals.</p> <p>The Spatial Strategy of the Local Plan makes specific reference to the Borough’s built and environmental heritage being fundamental to the unique character of the area.</p> <p>The Strategy also makes specific reference to the Borough’s built and environmental heritage being fundamental to the unique character of the area, recognising the importance of important buildings and historic areas.</p> <p>Policy ENV1 (High Quality Development in the Borough) includes a criteria that ensures that development does not cause unacceptable harm to heritage assets and their setting.</p> <p>Policy ENV2 (Heritage Assets) seeks specific consideration of heritage which, as well as specific buildings, structures and designated areas, includes a wide range of other assets including historic town centres, pre-industrial and industrial heritage, mining and quarrying heritage and historic open spaces, parks, gardens and cemeteries.</p> <p>A number of specific allocation policies (HS3 Edenfield, HS4 Loveclough and HS5 Swinshaw Hall; EMP7 New Hall Hey) include criteria to ensure that heritage assets, such as listed buildings and Conservation Areas, that may be affected by new development are taken into account and any effect is mitigated.</p> <p>Other policies also seek to protect and enhance heritage assets such as R6</p>

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		(Shopfronts) which seeks to retain frontages with historic interest (particularly in Conservation Areas). The Policies Map identifies existing and proposed Conservation Areas, Registered Parks and Gardens and Scheduled Ancient Monuments.
17. Facilitating the sustainable use of minerals (NPPF paras 203-211)		
<p>It is essential that there is a sufficient supply of material to provide the infrastructure, buildings, energy and goods that the country needs. However, since minerals are a finite natural resource, and can only be worked where they are found, it is important to make best use of them to secure their long-term conservation (203)</p> <p>Minerals planning authorities should plan for a steady and adequate supply of industrial materials (208)</p>	<p>Account taken of the matters raised in relation to paragraph 205 and 207, including matters in relation to land in national / international designations; landbanks; the defining of Minerals Safeguarding Areas; wider matters relating to safeguarding; approaches if non-mineral development is necessary within Minerals Safeguarding Areas; the setting of environmental criteria; development of noise limits; reclamation of land; plan for a steady and adequate supply of aggregates. This could include evidence of co-operation with neighbouring and more distant authorities.</p>	<p>The Local Plan does not cover minerals and waste planning as this is the responsibility of Lancashire County Council. The adopted Joint Lancashire Minerals and Waste Local Plan forms part of the development plan for Rossendale. The Policies Map identifies Minerals Safeguarding areas.</p>
<p>Justified: An appropriate strategy, taking into account the reasonable alternatives, and based on proportionate evidence</p> <p>To be 'justified' a DPD needs to be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Founded on a robust and credible evidence base involving: research / fact finding demonstrating how the choices made in the plan are backed up by facts; and evidence of participation of the local community and others having a stake in the area. • An appropriate strategy when considered against reasonable alternatives. 		
<p>Participation</p> <p>Has the consultation process allowed for effective engagement of all interested parties?</p>	<p>The consultation statement should set out what consultation was undertaken, when, with whom and how it has influenced the plan. The statement should show that efforts have been made to consult hard to reach groups,</p>	<p>Engagement throughout the Local Plan review process has been undertaken in accordance with the with the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) Regulations 2012 and the Statement of Community Involvement (most recently updated in February 2019). This statement provides an overview of engagement undertaken at each of the following stages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence Gathering at Regulation 18(3) stage: this included surveys, informal

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Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
	key stakeholders etc. Reference SCI.	<p>discussions with relevant bodies and researching Government policy and advice to ensure the evidence base is robust and up-to-date. This enabled issues and options to be identified to address needs. Evidence base documents included the Strategic Housing Market Area Assessment (SHMA), Local Plan Viability work etc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Production of Draft Local Plan (Regulation 18 stage): this included consultation on draft documents which took place between 24th July and 9th October 2017; once consultation was completed, responses were analysed and amendments made as appropriate during this ‘pre-submission’ stage. • Pre-Submission Publication Version of the Local Plan (Regulation 19 stage): this was consulted on between 23rd August and 5th October 2018. This was the start of the formal statutory consultation process, and the version represented the document that the Council wished to adopt. The consultation at this stage was largely to seek comment on legal and procedural matters. <p>Developers and adjoining authorities were invited to attend workshops to discuss housing and employment related matters which informed the original SHLAA and ELR.</p> <p>A Statement of Consultation has been prepared which sets out details of how and when consultation took place, alongside the Council’s response to this consultation.</p>
<p><i>Research / fact finding</i></p> <p>Is the plan justified by a sound and credible evidence base? What are the sources of evidence? How up to date, and how convincing is it?</p> <p>What assumptions were made in preparing the DPD? Were they reasonable and justified?</p>	<p>The studies, reports and technical papers that provide the evidence for the policies set out in the DPD, the date of preparation and who they were produced by.</p> <p>AND</p> <p>Sections of the DPD (at various stages of development) and SA Report which illustrate how evidence supports the strategy, policies and proposals, including key assumptions.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>A very brief statement of how</p>	<p>The Council has developed and maintained a comprehensive suite of evidence to inform the preparation of sound and deliverable policies and allocations within the Local Plan. The Council has endeavoured to ensure that information available at the time has been made accessible to consultees as part of each of the formal local plan consultation and representations stages.</p> <p>The full suite of evidence used to inform the Plan has been made available on the Council’s webpages. A full schedule of evidence documents has been submitted and includes the following (not including internally-produced Topic Papers and other assessments, such as the AMR):</p> <p>Access to Employment Sites Study Technical Note 2018</p> <p>Conservation Areas Appraisal including Management Plans</p> <p>Ecological Networks (Grassland) 2015</p>

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	<p>the main findings of consultation support the policies, with reference to: reports to the council on the issues raised during participation, covering both the front-loading and formulation phases; and any other information on community views and preferences.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>For each policy (or group of policies dealing with the same issue), a very brief statement of the evidence documents relied upon and how they support the policy (where this is not already clear in the reasoned justification in the DPD).</p>	<p>Ecological networks (Woodland) 2015 Employment Land Review (ELR) 2017; ELR 2019 update Environmental Network Study 2017 Green Belt Review 2016 Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showperson Accommodation Assessment 2016 Habitat Regulations Assessment of the Submission version of the Local Plan Heritage Impact Assessment of Housing and Employment Sites Highway Capacity Study 2018 Industrial Development Scheme Reports to Council and minutes Lancashire Ecological Network Approach and Analysis (version 1a) 2015 Landscape Capacity Study for Wind Energy Developments in the South Pennines 2010 Landscape Study 2015 and updated assessments Local Plan Viability Study 2015 New uses for old mills study Pennine Lancashire Playing Pitch Strategy 2016 Rossendale Employment Site Access Study 2019 South Pennines Wind Energy Landscape Study 2014 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment 2016 Strategic Housing land Availability Assessment 2018 Strategic Housing Market Assessment 2017 Strategic Housing Market Assessment 2019 Update Sustainability Appraisal of the Submission version of the Local Plan Town Centre, Retail, Leisure and Tourism Study Viability Study 2015, Updated Viability Study in relation to Affordable Housing 2017; Viability Study Update 2019 The explanatory text throughout the Local Plan reflects relevant evidence on issues that policies seek to address e.g. the SMHA is referenced within the housing policies and the Employment Land Review is referred to as part of the justification for the employment allocations. Evidence base documents which have been used to inform the Local Plan are</p>

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		<p>submitted for examination in support of the Plan. The Council considers the evidence to be suitably comprehensive, proportionate and robust to inform a sound understanding of the needs and constraints in the Borough and enable effective policy development. The available evidence has been subject to engagement comment and, where necessary, subsequent revisions and updates have been published. The Council has worked with key consultees where necessary to ensure the evidence informing the Plan is suitably up to date and credible.</p> <p>The SA has been an integral instrument in informing the preparation of the Local Plan.</p>
<p><i>Alternatives</i></p> <p>Can it be shown that the LPA's chosen approach is an appropriate strategy taking into account the reasonable alternatives? Have the reasonable alternatives been considered and is there a clear audit trail showing how and why the preferred approach was arrived at? Where a balance had to be struck in taking decisions between competing alternatives, is it clear how and why the decisions were taken?</p> <p>Does the sustainability appraisal show how the different options perform and is it clear that sustainability considerations informed the content of the DPD from the start?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reports and consultation documents produced in the early stages setting out how alternatives were developed and evaluated, and the reasons for selecting the preferred strategy, and reasons for rejecting the alternatives. This should include options covering not just the spatial strategy, but also the quantum of development, strategic policies and development management policies. • An audit trail of how the evidence base, consultation and SA have influenced the plan. • Sections of the SA Report showing the assessment of options and alternatives. • Reports on how decisions on the inclusion of policy were made. • Sections of the consultation document demonstrating 	<p>The Core Strategy was adopted in 2011. This represented "Part 1" of the Plan, setting out an overall strategy and associated policies. Work then began on preparing Part 2 of the Plan which was to identify site allocations and Development Management policies to support Part 1. A large amount of background work was undertaken on this, including developing an evidence base and consultation on a draft Part 2 Plan. As this progressed, it became apparent that due to changes in circumstances (primarily relating to the housing requirement in the Core Strategy), that it would no longer be appropriate to produce an allocations documents based on the Core Strategy. The Part 2 document was therefore formally withdrawn in 2016.</p> <p>As a great deal of work had already been undertaken in preparation of Part 1 and 2 of the Core Strategy (and because of the need for a review to take account of new circumstances), it was proposed that a revised Plan should be produced. This would enable the strategy, policies and allocations to be updated, whilst still being able to make use of the evidence and consultation responses from the previous Plan stages which had already considered a number of options.</p> <p>In drawing up the draft Local Plan the Council did consider four options:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Option 1: "Do nothing" Option 2: "Go for growth" Option 3: "Environmental protection focus" Option 4: "Draft Plan" <p>A document setting out more detail on these options, including the implications of</p>

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	<p>how options were developed and appraised.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any other documentation showing how alternatives were developed and evaluated, including a report on how sustainability appraisal has influenced the choice of strategy and the content of policies. 	<p>each approach, was published. It was then determined that the most appropriate option would be to prepare a new Plan and work on this was commenced accordingly. The SA discusses this in more detail.</p>
<p>Effective: deliverable over the plan period, and based on effective joint working on cross-boundary strategic matters that have been dealt with rather than deferred, as evidenced by the statement of common ground.</p> <p>To be 'effective' a DPD needs to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be deliverable with no regulatory or national planning barriers Demonstrate sound infrastructure delivery planning Have delivery partners who are signed up to it <p>Be coherent with the strategies of neighbouring authorities and demonstrate how the Duty to Co-operate has been fulfilled</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be flexible Be able to be monitored 		
<p><i>Be deliverable with no regulatory or national planning barriers</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is it clear how the policies will meet the Plan's vision and objectives? Are there any obvious gaps in the policies, having regard to the objectives of the DPD? Are the policies internally consistent? Are there realistic timescales related to the objectives? Does the DPD explain how its key policy objectives will be achieved? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sections of the DPD which address delivery, means of delivery and timescales for key developments and initiatives. Confirmation from the relevant agencies that they support the objectives and the identified means of delivery, such as evidence that the plans and programmes of other bodies have been taken into account (e.g. Water Resources Management Plans). Information in the local 	<p>The Plan has been developed through engagement with the key agencies and responses have been received from them – highlighting general support for the Plan's approach. Wherever possible, more significant issues have been addressed through further discussion.</p> <p>The Plan is accompanied by an IDP, setting out what will be required to implement its objectives.</p> <p>Specific policies and allocations have identified particular issues that need to be addressed and the means through which these could be resolved. Delivery of the site allocations has been assessed through the SHLAA, Employment Land Review and Site Access studies – and evidence of engagement with site owners and developers.</p>

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Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
	<p>development scheme, or provided separately, about the scope and content (actual and intended) of each DPD showing how they combine to provide a coherent policy structure.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section in the DPD that shows the linkages between the objectives and the corresponding policies, and consistency between policies (such as through a matrix). 	
<p><i>Demonstrate sound infrastructure delivery planning</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have the infrastructure implications of the policies clearly been identified? Are the delivery mechanisms and timescales for implementation of the policies clearly identified? Is it clear who is going to deliver the required infrastructure and does the timing of the provision complement the timescale of the policies? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A section or sections of the DPD where infrastructure needs are identified, and the proposed solutions put forward. A schedule setting out responsibilities for delivery, mechanisms and timescales, and related to a CIL schedule where appropriate. Confirmation from infrastructure providers that they support the solutions proposed and the identified means and timescales for their delivery, or a plan for resolving issues. Demonstrable plan-wide viability, particularly in relation to the delivery of affordable housing and the role of a CIL schedule. 	<p>The Plan is accompanied by an IDP, setting out what will be required to implement its objectives. This includes working with key partner organisations such as LCC Highways, Historic England, Public Health, Education and the East Lancashire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG).</p> <p>Specific policies and allocations have identified particular issues that need to be addressed and the means through which these could be resolved. Policy SD3 (Planning Obligations) outlines how developer contributions will be secured.</p> <p>The Plan is also supported by a Viability Assessment which provides further information on the ability of development to contribute to infrastructure provision and accord with policy requirements.</p>

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<p><i>Have delivery partners who are signed up to it</i> Does the DPD reflect the concept of spatial planning? Does it go beyond traditional land use planning by bringing together and integrating policies for the development and use of land with other policies and programmes from a variety of agencies / organisations that influence the nature of places and how they function?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sections of the DPD that reflect the plans or strategies of the local authority and other bodies • Policies which seek to pull together different policy objectives • Expressions of support/representations from bodies responsible for other strategies affecting the area. 	<p>The Plan identifies a clear spatial strategy for the Borough and sets out a policy and allocations framework which reflects and supports this. It has taken account of the unique characteristics of different areas within the Borough recognising constraints and opportunities which have shaped the development hierarchy. The Duty to Cooperate Statement confirms support to the spatial elements of the Plan from adjoining authorities, prescribed bodies and other key agencies.</p>
<p><i>Be coherent with the strategies of neighbouring authorities and Demonstrate how the Duty to Co-operate has been fulfilled</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is there sufficient evidence to demonstrate that the Duty to Co-operate has been undertaken appropriately for the plan being examined? • Is it clear who is intended to implement each part of the DPD? Where the actions required are outside the direct control of the LPA, is there evidence that there is the necessary commitment from the relevant organisation to the implementation of the policies? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A succinct Duty to Co-operate Statement which flows from the strategic issues that have been addressed jointly. • A Statement or Statements of Common Ground between strategic policy making authorities and relevant bodies prepared in accordance with planning guidance on plan making. 	<p>A Duty to Cooperate (DtcC) Statement incorporating Statement of Common Ground and a Statement of Community Involvement have been prepared and are published alongside the submitted Local Plan.</p> <p>The DtcC is produced in accordance with s.110 of the Localism Act of 2011 in respect of strategic cross-boundary matters. Discussions with relevant local planning authorities have taken place throughout the preparation of the Local Plan with many of these arrangements already in place. This sets out that there is broad agreement with the Local Plan approach – particularly in confirming that the Borough does not expect other authorities to take any unmet housing need and vice versa. It is acknowledged that, inevitably, further collaboration will be required– for example to take account of the many different stages which adjoining authorities are at with their Local Plan process.</p>
<p><i>Be flexible</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the DPD flexible enough to respond to a variety of, or unexpected changes in, circumstances? • Does the DPD include the remedial actions that will be taken if the policies need adjustment? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sections of the DPD setting out the assumptions of the plan and identifying the circumstances when policies might need to be reviewed. • Sections of the annual monitoring report and sustainability appraisal report describing how the 	<p>The Plan has sought to provide as much certainty as possible in identifying the mechanisms through which development will be brought forward. This includes highlighting where potential constraints may need to be overcome and how these could be addressed (e.g. through specific criteria in policies and allocations and through the IDP and Viability Assessment).</p> <p>A robust approach to determining likely delivery of housing sites has been adopted</p>

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Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
	<p>council will monitor:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. the effectiveness of policies and what evidence is being collected to undertake this; and b. changes affecting the baseline information and any information on trends on which the DPD is based. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk analysis of the strategy and policies to demonstrate robustness and how the plan could cope with changing circumstances • Sections within the DPD dealing with possible change areas and how they would be dealt with, including mechanisms for the rate of development to be increased or slowed and how that would impact on other aspects of the strategy and on infrastructure provision • Sections of the DPD identifying the key indicators of success of the strategy, and the remedial actions which will be taken if adjustment is required. 	<p>informed by an understanding of historic delivery and close engagement with landowners and developers. This has resulted in a realistic assessment of delivery which helps to support assumptions about how and when development will come forward.</p> <p>The Plan allocates a wide range of housing sites of various sizes and characteristics allowing for a great deal of flexibility in relation to the type and location of development that can be delivered. Sufficient land has been allocated and safeguarded for employment to allow flexibility for new economic development wishing to locate or expand within the Borough.</p>
<p><i>Be able to be monitored</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the DPD contain targets, and milestones which relate to the delivery of the policies, (including housing trajectories where the DPD contains housing allocations)? • Is it clear how targets are to be measured 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sections of the DPD setting out indicators, targets and milestones • Sections of the current annual monitoring report which report on indicators, targets, milestones and trajectories • Reference to any other 	<p>The Plan contains a housing trajectory for delivery of dwellings over the Plan period and which will be used to assess performance against these targets.</p> <p>There are a number of monitoring indicators set out in the Local Plan.</p> <p>The Authority Monitoring Report (AMR) reports will provide updates on the Plan's performance and effectiveness, the annual Five Year Housing Land Supply report</p>

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Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
<p>(by when, how and by whom) and are these linked to the production of the annual monitoring report?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is it clear how the significant effects identified in the sustainability appraisal report will be taken forward in the ongoing monitoring of the implementation of the plan, through the annual monitoring report? 	<p>reports or technical documents which contain information on the delivery of policies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sections of the current annual monitoring report and the sustainability appraisal report setting out the framework for monitoring, including monitoring the effects of the DPD against the sustainability appraisal. 	<p>and regular reviews of the SHLAA will provide an update on the land supply position.</p> <p>The SA sets out a number of monitoring mechanisms and indicators which can be used to assess environmental effects of the Plan and which can be carried forward through the AMR.</p>
<p>Consistent with national policy: <i>enabling the delivery of sustainable development in accordance with the policies in the National Planning Policy Framework</i> The DPD should not contradict or ignore national policy. Where there is a departure, there must be clear and convincing reasoning to justify the approach taken.</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does the DPD contain any policies or proposals which are not consistent with national policy and, if so, is there local justification? Does the DPD contain policies that do not add anything to existing national guidance? If so, why have these been included? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sections of the DPD which explain where and how national policy has been elaborated upon and the reasons. Studies forming evidence for the DPD or, where appropriate, other information which provides the rationale for departing from national policy. Evidence provided from the sustainability appraisal (including reference to the sustainability report) and/or from the results of community involvement. Reports or copies of correspondence as to how representations have been considered and dealt with. 	<p>It is considered that the Plan’s policies are fully consistent with national policy – and, indeed, many of the policies directly reference it. Where policies and allocations require further justification in relation to NPPF, such as the need to demonstrate exceptional circumstances for Green Belt release, it is considered that the approach the Council has taken still accords with national policy.</p> <p>The policies are underpinned and informed by evidence and have been reviewed through the SA. Appropriate mitigation and further action required has been highlighted where necessary to address potential negative effects.</p> <p>The policies are considered justified in that they add to or aid the implementation of national policies within the local context.</p>

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Planning policy for traveller sites

- Planning Policy for Traveller Sites was published in 23 March 2012 and came into effect on 27 March 2012 before being updated in August 2015. Circular 01/06: Planning for Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Sites and Circular 04/07: Planning for Travelling Showpeople have been cancelled. Planning Policy for Traveller Sites should be read in conjunction with the National Planning Policy Framework, including the implementation policies of that document.
- The government's aim in relation to planning for traveller sites is:
- 'To ensure fair and equal treatment for travellers, in a way that facilitates the traditional and nomadic life of travellers whilst respecting the interests of the settled community'.
- Government's aims in respect of traveller sites are:
- That local planning authorities (LPAs) make their own assessment of need for the purposes of planning
- That LPAs work collaboratively, develop fair and effective strategies to meet need through the identification of land for sites
- Plan for sites over a reasonable timescale
- Plan-making should protect green belt land from inappropriate development
- Promote more private traveller site provision whilst recognising that there will always be those travellers who cannot provide their own sites
- Aim to reduce the number of unauthorised developments and encampments and make enforcement more effective.

In addition, local planning authorities should:

- Include fair, realistic and inclusive policies
- Increase the number of traveller sites in appropriate locations with planning permission, to address under provision and maintain an appropriate level of supply
- Reduce tensions between settled and traveller communities in plan-making and decision-taking
- Enable provision of suitable accommodation from which travellers can access education, health, welfare and employment infrastructure
- Have due regard to protection of local amenity and local environment

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Policy Expectations	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
Policy A: Using evidence to plan positively and manage development (para 7)		
<p>Early and effective community engagement with both settled and traveller communities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early and effective engagement undertaken, including discussing travellers' accommodation needs with travellers themselves, their representative bodies and local support groups. 	<p>Local Plan Policy HS18 (Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople) and a specific transit site allocation as part of Mixed Use site M4 (Futures Park) contribute to meeting the accommodation needs for these communities. This has been informed by the Gypsy Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA) for Rossendale, which involved consultation with Gypsy and Traveller communities and helped to identify potential appropriate sites. A Gypsy and Traveller Topic Paper has been published in support of the Plan and establishes the context of the need for Gypsy sites and sets out the approach taken to the designation of sites within the Local Plan. Potential sites have been consulted on widely through the Plan process.</p>
<p>Co-operate with travellers, their representative bodies and local support groups, other local authorities and relevant interest groups to prepare and maintain an up-to-date understanding of likely permanent and transit accommodation needs of their areas.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstration of a clear understanding of the needs of the traveller community over the lifespan of your development plan. • Collaborative working with neighbouring local planning authorities. • A robust evidence base to establish accommodation needs to inform the preparation of your local plan and make planning decisions. 	<p>Local Plan Policy HS18 (Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople) and a specific transit site allocation as part of Mixed Use site M4 (Futures Park) contribute to meeting the accommodation needs for these communities.</p> <p>This has been informed by the GTAA (see above). Issues have also been considered through the Duty to Cooperate.</p>
Policy B: Planning for traveller sites (paras 8-13)		
<p>Set pitch targets for gypsies and travellers and plot targets for travelling showpeople which address the likely permanent and transit site accommodation needs of travellers in your area, working collaboratively with neighbouring LPAs.</p> <p>Set criteria to guide land supply allocations where there is identified need.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification, and annual update, of a supply of specific, deliverable sites sufficient to provide 5 years worth of sites against locally set target. Identification of a supply of specific, developable sites or broad locations for growth for years 6-10, and, where possible, for years 11-15. 	<p>Local Plan Policy HS18 (Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople) and a specific transit site allocation as part of Mixed Use site M4 (Futures Park) contribute to meeting the accommodation needs for these communities.</p> <p>HS18 identifies the needs for additional transit sites and pitches and other means of accommodating the Gypsy and Traveller communities. It also sets out other factors to be considered as part of any planning application relating to Gypsy and Traveller accommodation.</p>

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Policy Expectations	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
Ensure that traveller sites are sustainable economically, socially and environmentally.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An assessment of the need for traveller sites, and where an unmet need has been demonstrated a supply of specific, deliverable sites been identified. • Policy which takes into account criteria a-h of para 13 	
Policy C: Sites in rural areas and the countryside (para 14)		
When assessing the suitability of sites in rural or semi-rural settings LPAs should ensure that the scale of such sites do not dominate the nearest settled community.		HS18 contains a criteria ensuring that proximity to existing development and the settled community is considered as part of any planning application.
Policy D: Rural exception sites (para 15)		
If there is a lack of affordable land to meet local traveller needs, LPAs in rural areas, where viable and practical, should consider allocating and releasing sites solely for affordable travellers' sites.	If a rural exception site policy is used, and if so clarity that such sites shall be used for affordable traveller sites in perpetuity.	HS18 identifies the needs for additional transit sites and pitches and other means of accommodating the Gypsy and Traveller communities. It also sets out other factors to be considered as part of any planning application relating to Gypsy and Traveller accommodation.
Policy E: Traveller sites in Green Belt (paras 16-17)		
Traveller sites (both permanent and temporary) in the Green Belt are inappropriate development. Exceptional limited alteration to the defined Green Belt boundary (which might be to accommodate a site inset within the Green Belt) to meet a specific, identified need for a traveller site ... should be done only through the plan-making process.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Green Belt boundary revisions made in response to a specific identified need for a traveller site, undertaken through the plan making process. 	HS18 identifies the needs for additional transit sites and pitches and other means of accommodating the Gypsy and Traveller communities. It also sets out other factors to be considered as part of any planning application relating to Gypsy and Traveller accommodation. No specific sites have been proposed in the Green Belt.
Policy F: Mixed planning use traveller sites (paras 18-20)		
Local planning authorities should consider, wherever possible, including traveller sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consideration of the need for sites for mixed residential and 	A transit site has been proposed as part of Mixed Use site M4 (Futures Park).

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Policy Expectations	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
<p>suitable for mixed residential and business uses, having regard to the safety and amenity of the occupants and neighbouring residents.</p>	<p>business use (having regard to safety and amenity of the occupants and neighbouring residents), or separate sites in close proximity to one another.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N.B. Mixed use should not be permitted on rural exception sites 	
<p>Policy G: Major development projects (para 21)</p>		
<p>Local planning authorities should work with the planning applicant and the affected traveller community to identify a site or sites suitable for relocation of the community if a major development proposal requires the permanent or temporary relocation of a traveller site.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where a major development proposal requires the permanent or temporary relocation of a traveller site, the identification of a site or sites suitable for re-location of the community. 	<p>No developments are proposed that would affect existing gypsy and traveller sites.</p>