

Rossendale Local Plan Examination – Matters,
Issues and Questions
Matter 2 Statement

Hollins Strategic Land
August 2019

1 Matter 2 – Vision and Spatial Strategy

Question c (iii) – Are the settlement groupings in the Development Hierarchy soundly based and supported by robust evidence?

- 1.1 Policy SS identifies Loveclough/Goodshaw as a joint settlement forming a Rural Local Service Centre (RLSC). Para. 23 of the LP states that RLSCs are “*discrete settlements with links to Key Service Centres that serve their own residents and those in nearby villages with basic services and are able to provide for future local housing and employment needs*”.
- 1.2 The Council evidently does not view Loveclough or Goodshaw as being “*discrete*” as they form a joint settlement for the purposes of policy SS. Moreover, both form a close relationship with adjoining Crawshawbooth, which is identified as a Local Service Centre (LSC) not a Key Service Centre (KSC).
- 1.3 It is unlikely that these settlements would be viewed as being individually separate and distinct when travelling along Burnley Road, north or south. As is common along the main roads in Rossendale, development extends right along the Burnley Road frontage, east and/or west. The settlements effectively merge into one another. Other than the village signs, there is little to distinguish between one settlement and the next.
- 1.4 There are also reasonably level and well-lit walking and cycling routes along Burnley Road, as well as frequent bus services (X43 and X44). This all acts to encourage sustainable modes of travel between the villages, enhancing their connection.
- 1.5 This degree of inter-relationship results in Lovelcough/Goodshaw and Crawshawbooth sharing local services and facilities, including Crawshawbooth primary school. For the purposes of the Development Hierarchy, it is considered that Loveclough/Goodshaw should be viewed as part of the wider Local Service Centre of Crawshawbooth. At the very least, the LP must acknowledge their relationship rather than suggest Loveclough/Goodshaw, as a RLSC, only has connections with the KSC of Rawtenstall.
- 1.6 To some extent, the LP does do this by allocating land for major housing developments in Loveclough. Its locational sustainability is forged upon its inter-relationship with Crawshawbooth. The Development Hierarchy can be amended to reasonably reflect this and to bring it more in line with policy SS.