CORE STRATEGY

SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL

WHAT IS THIS DROP IN DAY FOR?

This drop in session has been organised so you can find out more about how the Core Strategy will be assessed for its social, environmental and economic impacts.

Please feel free to speak to Forward Planning staff from the Council and also representatives from Hyder Consulting Ltrd, who are undertaking the assessment work

RibbleValley
Local Development Framework

Ribble Valley
Borough Council

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Borough Council

HOW TO VIEW THE DISPLAY

This drop in session has been organised so you can find out more about how the Core Strategy will be assessed for its social, environmental and economic impacts.

Please browse the display boards in numerical board order.

On these you will find information about the Core Strategy, including details of the work and public consultation undertaken so far, what this has shown us and how it has influenced the development of the Core Strategy.

You will also find information on the Sustainability Appraisal, how it will influence the Core Strategy and the process the appraisal must follow.

Members of staff are available in the room to offer further information, guidance and answer any question you may have.

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WHY ARE WE DOING THIS?

All planning applications are determined against a plan, which contains a set of objectives, visions and policies.

The current Local Plan is being replaced by a new plan, called a Local Development Framework (LDF).

As you might imagine, replacing the Local Plan with the Local Development Framework has to be heavily informed by evidence and be tested and consulted upon throughout its production.

When each LDF document is complete, it then has to be independently examined by a Planning Inspector through an Examination in Public to ensure that the process has been followed correctly and that the correct decisions have been made.

LDF documents can only be adopted once the Inspectors report has been received which says that the document has been approved.

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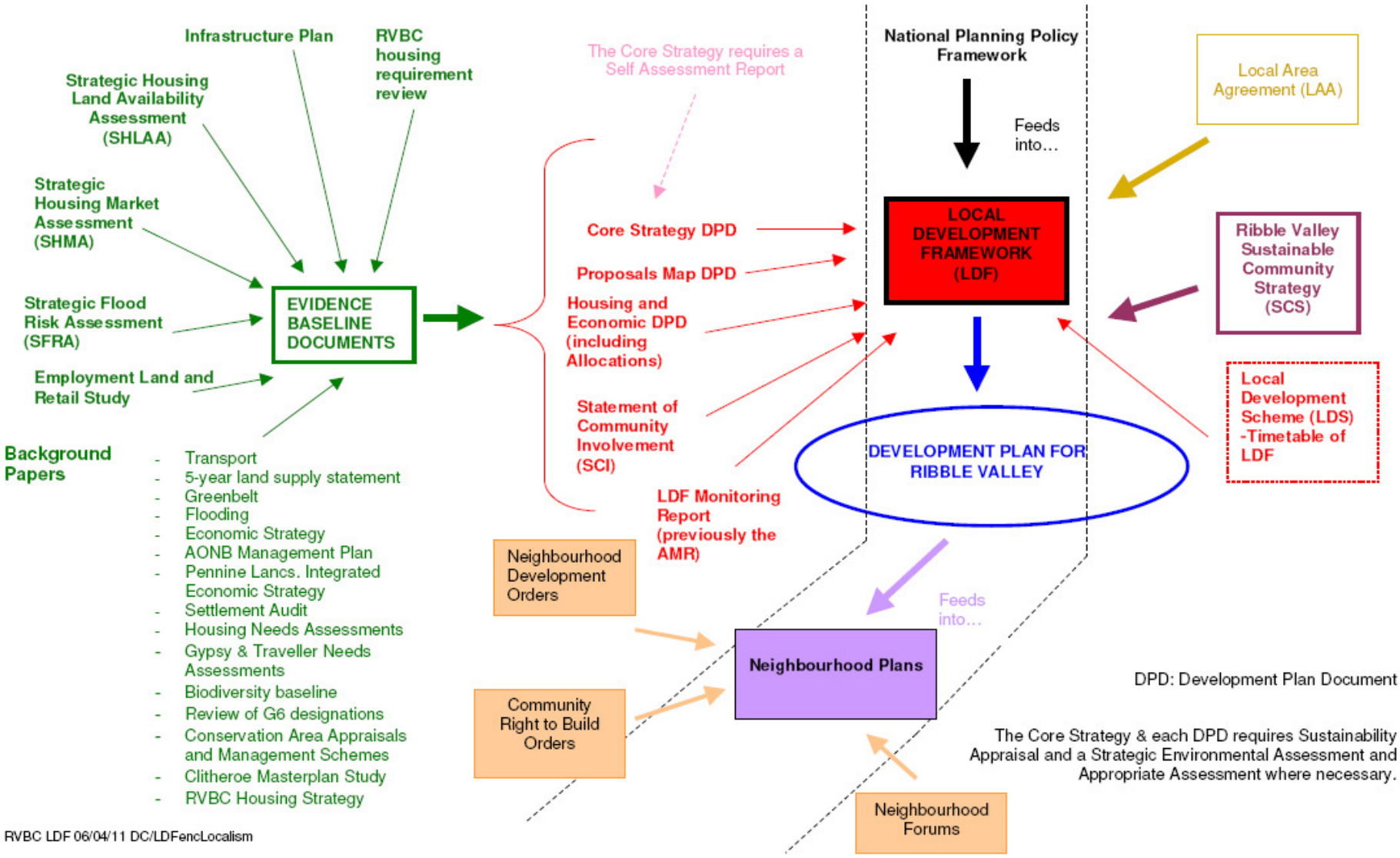
WHAT DOES THE LDF LOOK LIKE?

Local Development Framework (LDF)



RVBC LDF 06/04/11 DC/LDFencLocalism

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WHAT IS THE CORE STRATEGY?

The Core Strategy is the central part of the Local Development Framework (LDF), setting out the vision, objectives, key statements, broad areas for development (established through a preferred option) and policies. All these will be used to determine planning applications once the Core Strategy is adopted.

The Core Strategy must go through the following stages:

WE ARE HERE
Between Reg 25 and Reg 27

- **Regulation 25- Evidence gathering, consideration of options and issues**
- **Regulation 27- Chosen/ Preferred Option**
- **Regulation 30 – Formal submission to Secretary of State**
- **Regulation 31- Public Examination**
- **Adoption**

In determining a preferred option for where development should go, a series of potential options have been developed and consulted upon over the past 12 months.

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WHAT WORK HAS BEEN UNDERTAKEN ON THE CORE STRATEGY SO FAR?

Between August & October 2010, 3 potential options were consulted upon for where development could be located in the borough- these were options 1, 2 and 3

A high level of public response to this showed that further work should be undertaken to consider additional, alternative options.

Between June and August 2011, public consultation was undertaken on a further 5 additional, alternative options – these were options A, B, C, D & E.

This created 8 potential options in total.

A very high level of constructive response has been received following this consultation, which is currently being analysed.

From this a comprehensive report will be produced which outlines the key issues raised and will indicate which is the most popular option

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SO IS THE MOST POPULAR OPTION THE PREFERRED OPTION?

Not necessarily. It must be ensured that the option taken forward as the preferred option is appropriate in terms of its sustainability.

This involves assessing the options for their social, environmental and economic impacts.

This is done through the SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL process.

Sustainability Appraisal is a statutory process that is a high level, strategic assessment of the 8 options and their impacts and helps to determine the preferred option.

Once this has been determined, the sustainability appraisal will assess the preferred option in more detail.

What is Sustainability Appraisal (SA)?

'a systematic process for evaluating the environmental, social and economic consequences of proposed policy, plan or programme initiatives in order to ensure they are fully included and appropriately addressed at the earliest appropriate stage of decision-making'

What is Sustainable Development?

Sustainable development is a pattern of resource use that aims to meet human needs while preserving the environment so that these needs can be met not only in the present, but also for generations to come.

The term was used by the United Nations (Brundtland Commission). Their definition of sustainable development is:

> *"Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."*
>
> *(Bruntland Commission 1987)"*

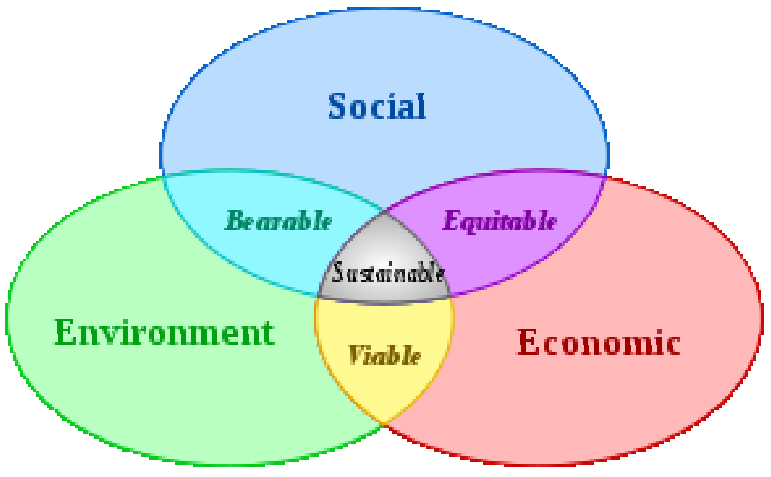
The UK Sustainable Development Strategy "Securing the Future"

describes a common purpose for Sustainable Development:

"The goal of sustainable development is to enable all people throughout the world to satisfy their basic needs and enjoy a better quality of life, without compromising the quality of life for future generations."

The UK Sustainable Development Strategy 2005 set a new framework for sustainable development and describes how this should be pursued. Five Guiding Principles are identified:

- **Living within environmental limits**
- **Ensuring a Strong, Healthy and Just Society**
- **Achieving a Sustainable Economy**
- **Promoting Good Governance**
- **Using Sound Science Responsibly**



Timeline To-Date…

Gathering Evidence for the Core Strategy

Developing Issues and Options Consultation

Consultation on three potential Development Options

Consultation on five further alternative Development Options

Preparation of Core Strategy Document including Preferred Development Option, Core Policies and Key Statements

Public consultation on Draft Core Strategy

Apr 2007 **Oct-Dec 2007** **Aug – Oct 2010** **Jun – Aug 2011** **Autumn/Winter 2011**

May 2009 **Jul – Sep 2011**

Preparation and consultation on SA Scoping Report

Further Consultation on Scoping Report

17 August 2011 – Workshop on SA of Options

8 September 2011 – Public Drop-in Session

SA of draft Core Policies and Key Statements

Feedback of Recommendations to Planning Team

Public Consultation on SA Report

SA of all eight alternative Development Options

Feedback of Recommendations to Planning Team

SA of Preferred Option

Feedback of Recommendations to Planning Team

Key Features of Sustainability Appraisal (SA)

It includes a series of reports for consultation

Starts at the beginning of the plan-making process

It is integral to plan-making and there is a regular interaction between the two processes

It is a tool to inform the decision-making process

Identifies positive and negative impacts of the Core Strategy

It aims to promote sustainable development

It is high-level and does not seek to consider site-specific details

Identif

and to maximise benefits

Stages of SA (1)

Stage A

- Agree scope of what we are assessing
- Characterise the existing environment – desk-study, maps, statistics
  - E.g. Biodiversity, water, soils, landscape, heritage, climate, population and social data, economy, air quality, waste, transport
- Review what policy and established environmental protection objectives say
  - European Directives, International Conventions, Planning Policy Guidance, National Strategies, Lancashire and Ribble Valley strategies
- Develop assessment framework (SA Objectives/Criteria)
- Produce a scoping report for consultation with Natural England, Environment Agency, English Heritage and others

Stage B

- Review the Core Strategy Vision and Objectives against the assessment framework
- Assess the strategic options against the assessment framework
  - Identify the likely risks posed by each to help make decisions
  - Undertake an assessment workshop with technical specialists
  - Obtain feedback from public at drop-in session
- Assess the preferred strategy option against the assessment framework
- Assess the Core Policies against the assessment framework
- Make recommendations to the plan-making team about how to reduce or avoid negative effects or create enhancements

Stages of SA (2)

Stage C

- Prepare a report for public consultation on the findings of the SA Process (the SA Report)
- Include a short Non-Technical Summary of the report

Stage D

- The SA Report is consulted upon publicly alongside the draft Core Strategy
  - Include Natural England, Environment Agency and English Heritage specifically
- If amendments are made to the Core Strategy following this, the SA should also be updated

Stage E

- Once the Core Strategy is adopted, the significant sustainability effects identified in the SA should be monitored using a framework developed in the SA Report

Assessing Options – Key Principles

Required elements:

- Test the development plan document objectives against the sustainability appraisal objectives
- Develop and refine the options for the development plan document
- Predict and appraise the significant effects of the options
- Consider ways of mitigating adverse effects and maximising beneficial impacts
- Propose measures to monitor the significant effects of implementing the development plan document

How can effects be characterised?

Consideration must be given to potential:

- Short, medium, long term effects
- Direct and indirect effects
- Effects over different spatial scales – who/where/what might be affected/benefit?
- Reversibility of effects
- Cumulative and synergistic effects
- Transboundary effects

Extract of summary appraisal reporting example

	Option 1: Key aspects of the option: ***Development will be directed towards the service centres comprising Clitheroe, Longridge and Whalley, including the opportunity to expand their existing settlement limits to accommodate residential and employment growth. Limited development will be accommodated through appropriate village growth and/or expansion where appropriate.***				
SA Objectives	**Impact**	**What does this option do that is beneficial to the SA topics?** Who/Where will benefit?	**What does this option do that could detract from achieving the topics?** Who/Where will be affected?	**Is there anything that this option does not do which perhaps it should – eg any current issues which it doesn't address?** Who/Where is missed out?	**Could any of the adverse effects be mitigated easily? Could it be enhanced?**
To reduce crime, disorder and fear of crime	**0**	The option promotes development in Clitheroe and Whalley where there is good access to services and public transport links. There is also a secondary school in Clitheroe. 20% of growth in villages would help to meet rural housing needs and secure services in those areas. There is access to open space in Clitheroe which can encourage healthier lifestyles. The option is unlikely to have a significant impact on crime levels although there is some uncertainty regarding this.	The level of growth proposed for Whalley may put pressure on the level of services in that area.	The option cannot stipulate the level of affordable housing provision. The option includes very little development in Longridge and as such is a missed opportunity to capitalise on services and educational facilities in that area.	Provision of service such as health and social care could be enhanced in Whalley. A different distribution of development to include more in Longridge would be beneficial.
To improve levels of educational attainment for all age groups and all sectors of society	+ I S-M-T,R,C				
To improve physical and mental health for all and reduce health inequalities	+ I S-M-T,R,C				
To increase the availability of quality affordable housing and social and sheltered accommodation in areas most at need	+ D S-M-T,R,C				
To protect and enhance community spirit and cohesion	?				
To improve access to basic goods, services and amenities for all groups	+ D S-M-T,R,C				

Key Stages in the SA Process

Stages in the SA Process

Stage A

Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope of the appraisal

A1: Identifying other relevant policies, plans and programmes and sustainability objectives
A2: Collecting baseline information
A3: Identifying sustainability issues and problems
A4: Developing the SA Framework / SA Objectives/criteria
A5: Consulting on the scope of the SA

Stage B

Developing and refining strategic alternatives and appraising the effects

B1: Testing the Core Strategy objectives against the SA Framework
B2: Developing the Core Strategy Options
B3: Predicting the effects of the Core Strategy
B4: Evaluating the effects of the Core Strategy
B5: Considering ways of mitigating adverse effects and maximising beneficial effects
B6: Proposing measures to monitor the significant effects of implementing the Core Strategy

Stage C

Preparing the SA Report

C1: Preparing the SA Report

Stage D

Consulting on the SA Report and the Draft Core Strategy

Revisions to Core Strategy and SA

D1: Public participation on the proposed submission documents
D2: Appraising significant changes resulting from representations
D3: Making decisions and providing information

Stage E

Monitoring the significant effects of implementing the Core Strategy

E1: Finalising aims and methods for monitoring
E2: Responding to adverse effects

Key Stages in the Plan-Making Process

Starting Out and Gathering Evidence for the Core Strategy

Developing Issues and Options

Public Participation during the preparation of the Core Strategy

Developing a Vision

Developing Alternative Development Strategy Options

Developing a Preferred Option

Developing Core Policies and Key Statements

Publication of Core Strategy (consultation)

Revisions to Core Strategy based on Representations

Submission of Core Strategy

Adoption of Core Strategy

Sustainability Issues and Opportunities(1)

Population

- The Borough has a small, ageing and dispersed population, which has implications for access to services for those living outside of the main urban centres (Clitheroe and Longridge).
- Availability of health care provision, in particular, is likely to be an issue for elderly residents in some settlements.
- The ageing population may have specific housing requirements also.
- The need to retain the younger sectors of the population is important for the economy of the Borough and its attractiveness for inward investment.

Education

- Educational attainment in the Borough is very good compared to county, regional and national levels, and this needs to be maintained.
- A number of people commute daily into the Borough for educational reasons as a result of the high level of attainment and the quality of Ribble Valley schools.
- Opportunities to improve vocational training opportunities should be pursued.
- The Ribble Valley Economic Strategy identifies the exodus of young talented, well-educated people as a key threat to the local economy.

Health

- Health in Ribble Valley is generally good, although poorer levels of health have been identified in Littlemoor and Whalley wards.
- There is an elderly population in the Borough and it is essential that the elderly have sufficient access to health care facilities.
- There are opportunities to further promote the outdoor recreational pursuits to benefit the health of the local population.

Crime

- Ribble Valley has very low crime levels compared to other parts of Lancashire.
- Whilst incidents of crime are low, there are issues associated with juvenile nuisance and anti-social behaviour.
- Opportunities should be sought through the Core Strategy to promote safety by design in new developments in the Borough.

Living Environment and Deprivation Levels

- Ribble Valley is overall a very prosperous Borough with low levels of deprivation.
- Owing to its rural nature there are issues associated with access to services and facilities in more remote areas.
- There will be long-term challenges associated with the localised closure of facilities such as post offices.
- Maintaining and ensuring access to centres and facilities in the Borough is important.

Housing

- There is a shortage of affordable housing across Ribble Valley.
- There has been an increase in the number of in-migrants to the Borough in recent years which is creating housing affordability problems for local people.
- There is need for increased provision of sheltered housing for the elderly.
- The Core Strategy must include appropriate policies regarding the provision of affordable housing.
- The issue of homelessness must also continue to be effectively addressed.
- Since May 2008, the Government has introduced a mandatory rating against the Code for Sustainable Homes for all new homes. The promotion of the Code for Sustainable Homes and awareness raising about its use and application should be promoted where possible through the Core Strategy.

Sustainability Issues and Opportunities(2)

Water

- Water quality in the Borough is very good and it is important that these high levels are maintained.
- There are large areas of agricultural land in the Borough which means that diffuse pollution issues are more likely to be prevalent.
- Areas at risk from flooding should be protected from development that would increase that risk. New developments should be encouraged to use Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS – e.g. porous pavements) to manage runoff and further reduce flood risk.
- New developments and households within the Borough should also be encouraged to minimise water use and to re-use rainwater where possible.

Soil and Land

- Where previously developed sites exist, the aim should be to continue to remediate and re-use them where appropriate.
- Geological resources such as Regionally Important Geological Sites and Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) should be protected from inappropriate development and opportunities to raise awareness of geological designations and resources should be pursued where possible.

Air Quality

- No significant air quality issues have been identified in the Borough, although an Air Quality Management Area exists in Clitheroe Town Centre.
- Opportunities should be sought to reduce road traffic and promote public transport use to further improve air quality.

Energy and Climate Change

- The Borough consumes a large amount of energy compared with other Lancashire authorities.
- Reducing carbon footprint through energy conservation and efficiency and the promotion of renewable energy sources should be promoted where appropriate.
- Due care must be given to the preservation of the environment when siting renewable energy projects.

Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna

- There is a very high quality environment in the Borough, which needs to be preserved and enhanced.
- There are a number of important designated sites in the Borough including internationally important sites.
- The high quality of the environment provides an opportunity to develop sustainable recreation and tourism in the Borough.
- The condition of the SSSIs needs to be improved and opportunities should be sought to deliver biodiversity enhancements through the Core Strategy, for example by improving the connectivity between designated sites and areas of open space.

Cultural Heritage

- All cultural heritage features should be appropriately conserved and enhanced. Planning policies and decisions that take full account of the national importance of historic sites.
- In addition to protecting statutory sites it is important to ensure that the wider historic landscape is protected and also non-designated heritage and archaeological resources.
- Ribble Valley has great tourism potential due to the quality of its natural environment which is complemented in many cases by cultural heritage resources.
- Many of the Borough's towns/villages including Dunsop Bridge, Clitheroe and Slaidburn have a distinctive character that should be protected and enhanced.

Landscape and Townscape

- A large proportion of the Borough is designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Other areas also have good quality rural character as do a number of its towns and villages.
- It is essential that landscape character and quality is restored, maintained and enhanced.
- The Borough's high quality landscape is a very important resource for attracting visitors and enhancing the quality of life for residents.
- In addition to considering the wider strategic preservation of the Borough's landscape, opportunities should be sought to enhance design and landscaping at the local level to improve the quality of the local environment.

Minerals and Waste

- The major strategic landfill site for the Borough is located in a neighbouring authority and Ribble Valley is therefore an exporter of waste.
- Opportunities should be sought to further improve composting and recycling performance.
- Sustainable sourcing and waste management principles should be promoted for all new developments that occur in the Borough.

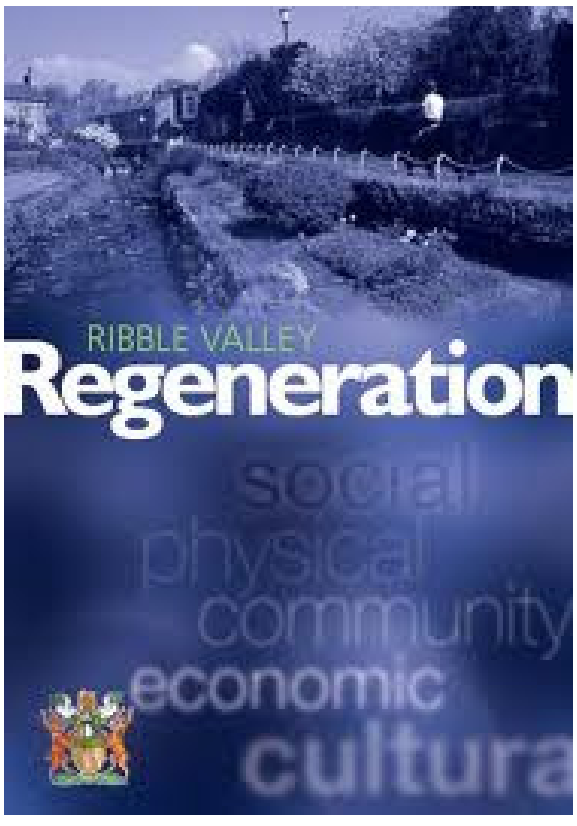
Sustainability Issues and Opportunities(3)

Transportation

- Opportunities should be sought to reduce dependence on the private car and increase public transport use.
- It will be important to ensure that any new employment sites can be easily accessed by public transport.
- The use of Information Communication Technology (e.g. spread of faster broadband) in the Borough needs to be promoted to increase the competitiveness of local businesses and to help reduce problems associated with rural isolation.
- The good road connections to other parts of Lancashire and proximity to the motorway network are both an opportunity and a threat to the Borough, as they could help to encourage inward investment but they also enable the Borough's residents to easily commute to neighbouring Boroughs.
- Whilst external linkages are good, internal linkages within the Borough could be improved and this is acknowledged as a weakness in the Economic Strategy.

Economy

- The Ribble Valley economy is performing well having lower levels of unemployment than other areas in Lancashire and supporting a strong culture of entrepreneurial behaviour.
- There are high skills levels in the Borough, although a significant number of people out-commute on a daily basis for employment purposes, leading to a daily leakage of skilled individuals.
- There is a need to provide jobs that maximise the skills of the resident population to promote more sustainable travel patterns and to benefit the Borough's long-term economy.
- A small number of employers provide a significant amount of the employment in the Borough and opportunities should be sought to promote diversification and to support new businesses and inward investment.
- There are potential opportunities for the Borough linked to the lack of high quality employment sites in other parts of location, for example along the M65 corridor where high-quality sites are already occupied.
- Whilst there is a general perception that the Borough is affluent with a well-performing economy, there are households in the Borough that experience lower than average incomes and addressing the needs of those on lower incomes and raising their skills levels should be a key priority.
- There are further opportunities to capitalise upon the Borough's environmental and cultural assets and to develop the tourist industry in a sustainable manner.



Sustainability Issues and Opportunities(4)

What do <u>you</u> think the main issues are????

CORE STRATEGY

SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT? HOW WILL I KNOW?

- Work on the Core Strategy Sustainability Appraisal will be on-going until the Core Strategy plan is submitted to the Secretary of State (anticipated by April 2012).

- The next stage of work will be published alongside the Regulation 27 stage Core Strategy by the end of the year.

- **If you are on our LDF consultation database you will be sent a letter providing details of how to get involved.**

- Details of all sustainability appraisal work will also be available on the Ribble Valley Borough Council Website at the following address:

www.ribblevalley.gov.uk

Ribble Valley Borough Council

(*under the Planning : Forward planning :Local Development Framework section*)

RibbleValley
Local Development Framework

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