



Ribble Valley
Borough Council

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HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DPD SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL REPORT – SUBMISSION

Strategic Environmental Assessment and Sustainability
Appraisal

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Incorporating

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This report dated 04 July 2017 has been prepared for Ribble Valley Borough Council (the “Client”) in accordance with the terms and conditions of appointment dated 05 May 2016(the “Appointment”) between the Client and Arcadis Consulting UK (“Arcadis”) for the purposes specified in the Appointment. For avoidance of doubt, no other person(s) may use or rely upon this report or its contents, and Arcadis accepts no responsibility for any such use or reliance thereon by any other third party.

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ABBREVIATIONS

AAP	Area Action Plan
AMR	Annual Monitoring Report
AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
AQMA	Air Quality Management Area
BAP	Biodiversity Action Plan
BHS	Biological Heritage Site
cSAC	Candidate SAC
DCLG	Department of Communities and Local Government
DPD	Development Plan Document
FRA	Flood Risk Assessment
FZ	Flood Zone
GP	General Practitioner
HED	Housing and Economic Development
HRA	Habitats Regulations Assessment
IDP	Infrastructure Delivery Plan
IMD	Index of Multiple Deprivation
LA	Land Allocations
LDS	Local Development Scheme
LSOA	Lower Super Output Area
MSA	Minerals Safeguarding Authority
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
NPPG	National Planning Policy Guidance
NTS	Non-Technical Summary
pSPA	Potential SPA
RIGS	Regionally Important Geological/Geomorphological Site
RVBC	Ribble Valley Borough Council
SA	Sustainability Appraisal
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SCI	Sites of Community Importance
SCS	Sustainable Community Strategy
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SHLAA	Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment
SPA	Special Protection Area
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest
SuDS	Sustainable (urban) Drainage Systems

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction to and Purpose of this Report

This SA Report has been prepared by Arcadis UK Ltd (formerly known as Hyder Consulting (UK) Ltd.) on behalf of Ribble Valley Borough Council as part of the combined Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) (hereafter referred to as SA) of the emerging Housing and Economic Development Plan Document (HED DPD). The new HED DPD is scheduled for adoption in 2018 and will form part of the Local Plan sitting alongside the existing Core Strategy which was adopted in 2014. This SA Report relates to the Submission version of the DPD.

The SA process commenced in the summer of 2016 with a Scoping Study which set the scope and level of detail of the SA. This was consulted upon alongside the Issues and Options put forward by the Council. The strategic options were also subject to SA and the findings have been fed back to the Council during this process. These results are presented in this report.

This SA Report provides a summary of the SA process and documents the findings of the appraisal and its influence on the HED DPD's development. It was used as a consultation document and issued to statutory bodies and stakeholders for comment alongside the Consultation Draft HED DPD. It will also be made available to the public.

1.2 What is SA?

SA is a process for assessing the social, economic and environmental impacts of a plan and aims to ensure that sustainable development is at the heart of the plan-making process.

Sustainable Development

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 were identified:

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

It is a legal requirement that the HED DPD is subject to SA; this is set out in the Town and Country Planning, England Regulations 2012. Guidance stipulates that the SA must comply with the requirements of the SEA Regulations¹, which transpose the SEA Directive² into UK law.

SEA is a systematic process for evaluating the environmental consequences of plans and programmes to ensure that environmental issues are integrated and assessed at the earliest opportunity in the decision-making process. Article 1 of the SEA Directive states that the aim is to:

"...provide for a high level of protection of the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development."

¹ Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 June 2001 on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment

² The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004

It is possible to combine the processes of SEA and SA because they share a number of similarities.

The guidance which requires that SA and SEA be conducted as a combined process (i.e. a process which assesses social, economic and environmental effects) is that published by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG). Whilst there are formalised approaches for both SA and SEA, only SEA has a legal obligation to perform certain activities. These legal obligations have been and will continue to be adhered to throughout the SA of the HED DPD. This SA Report includes a series of boxes which clearly identify the specific requirements of the SEA Regulations that need to be fulfilled.

1.3 Habitats Regulations Assessment

European Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of natural habitats and of wild flora and fauna (the 'Habitats Directive') requires that any plan or programme likely to have a significant impact upon a Natura 2000 site (Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Area (SPA)), which is not directly concerned with the management of the site for nature conservation, must be subject to an Appropriate Assessment. The overarching process is referred to as Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA). In addition, it is a matter of law that candidate SACs (cSACs), Sites of Community Importance (SCI), Ramsar sites and potential SPAs (pSPAs) are also considered in this process.

HRA Screening has been undertaken to determine if the HED DPD (either in isolation and/or in combination with other plans or projects) would generate an adverse impact upon the integrity of a Natura 2000 site, in terms of its conservation objectives and qualifying interests. Its findings have been used to influence this SA where appropriate. This process is documented in a separate report submitted to Natural England for approval.

2 RIBBLE VALLEY AND THE HED DPD

2.1 Background to the Borough

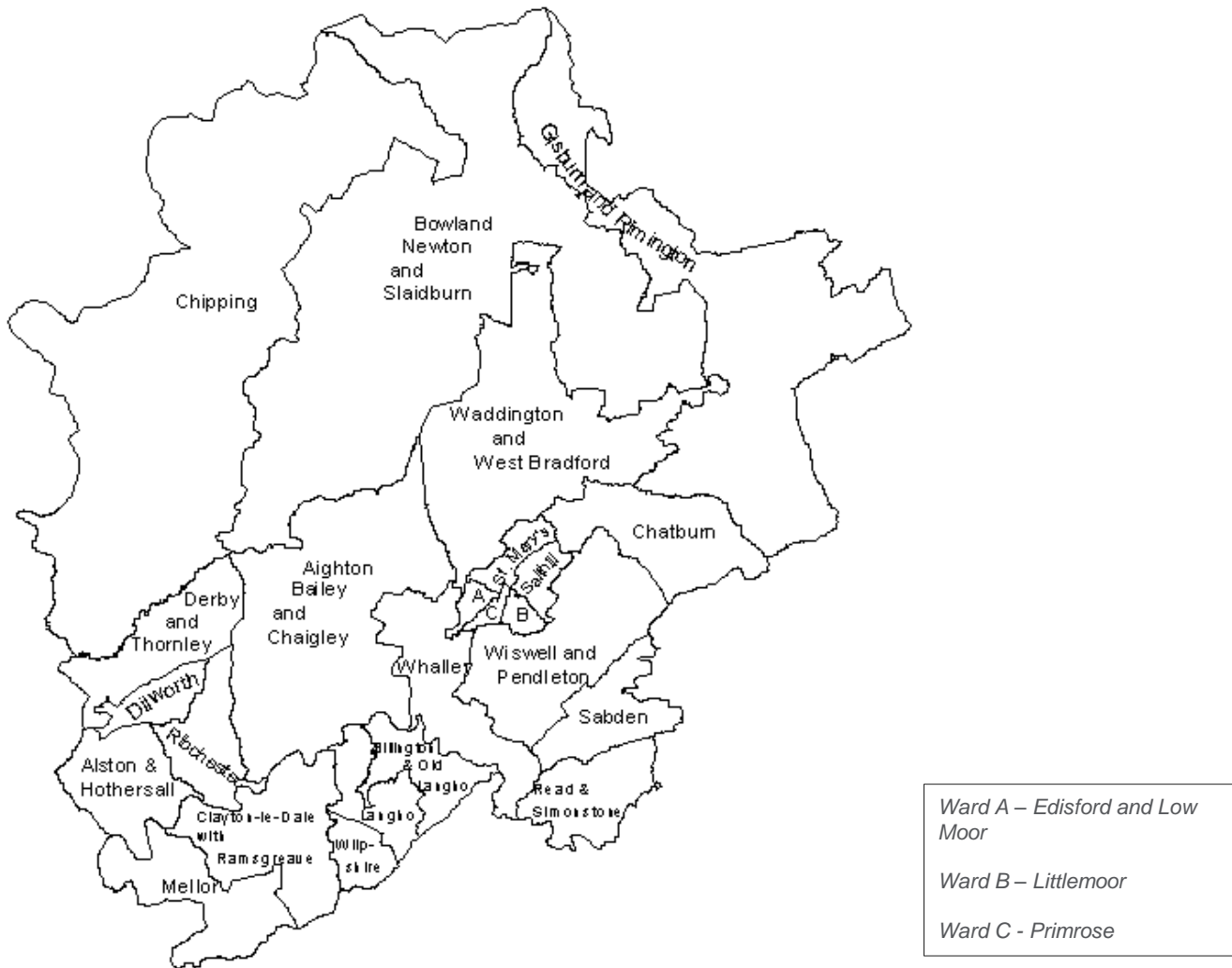
Ribble Valley is a predominantly rural borough situated in the northeast of Lancashire. It is situated to the east of the M6 motorway and Preston and lies to the north of the M65 and the towns of Blackburn and Burnley. It is the largest borough in the county of Lancashire covering an area of 585 square kilometres. The main commercial centres are Clitheroe, Longridge and Whalley. The Borough has a very high quality environment with the Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) occupying over 70% of the Borough's land area.

The Ribble Valley has excellent communications that open up the area to the rest of the North West. The A59 is a main artery through the Borough, linking directly to the M6 and serving access routes to the M65 motorway. There are rail services from Clitheroe to Preston and Manchester. Figure 1-1 shows the location of the Borough and Figure 1-2 is a map of the 24 wards in the Borough that are referred to in this Scoping Report.

Figure 1-1 Location of Ribble Valley (Source: Ribble Valley Economic Strategy, 2009 – 2013)



Figure 1-2 Wards in the Ribble Valley (Source: Lancashire County Council)



2.2 Background to the Local Plan and the HED DPD

The statutory plan-making process places a legal duty on all local planning authorities, including Ribble Valley Borough Council, to prepare and put in place a Local Plan. This will provide the basis for guiding investment decisions, determining planning applications and managing how the local area will change over future years.

The Core Strategy, which was formally adopted in December 2014, is the central document to the Local Plan and establishes the vision, underlying objectives and key principles that will guide the development of the area over the period 2008 to 2028. It sets the strategic level of planning policy for the area by identifying: an overall spatial development strategy; broad locations for development; a strategic development site (at Standen, Clitheroe); the amounts of housing and employment land to be provided for in the plan period; and key policies for environmental, housing, and economic matters. In addition, the Core Strategy includes a suite of Development Management policies to guide decisions on individual planning applications.

The Council's Local Development Scheme (LDS) sets out that it will also produce an HED DPD, the role and purpose of which is to provide more detailed policy coverage on key issues related to the economy and housing. It will include relevant allocations, including housing and employment land and policies for the town centres of Clitheroe, Longridge and Whalley. It will also establish constraints and allocations relating to wider environmental matters, and land uses emerging from the Core Strategy. Following on from this, the detailed information on potential allocations of land for development are set out in this document, which provides information on a series of issues and a number of options for allocation. These potential allocations include detailed boundaries set out on an Ordnance Survey plan base and show a number of potential specific sites that the Council proposes to allocate for differing forms of development.

Through the production of this document, allocations will be made as required for housing, employment uses and for town centre development as identified.

In setting out potential allocation sites, details are included such as the number and expected nature of housing and the nature and type of employment land uses. Detailed settlement boundaries to help manage development across the defined settlements are also provided and are set out on the Proposals Map. The HED DPD includes six sections which clearly set out the various allocations and policies included within the Plan, these are presented below:

- Section 1: Introduction, background and context ;
- Section 2: Housing Allocations;
- Section 3: Employment Land Allocations;
- Section 4: Retail Allocations;
- Section 5: Open Space Policy; and
- Section 6: Traveller Sites.

3 THE SA PROCESS

3.1 Stages in the SA Process

Government guidance³ subdivides the SA process into a series of stages. Whilst each stage consists of specific tasks, the intention should be that the process is iterative. Table 3-1 presents the key stages in the SA process and indicates where specific tasks have been addressed in this SA Report. The table also demonstrates how each of the SA stages is linked to the preparation and development of the HED DPD.

Table 3-1 Stages in the SA Process

SA Stage	SEA Regulations Requirements The environment report must:	Section of the Report (where applicable)	Application to Ribble Valley's HED DPD SA
Stage A: Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope			
A1: Identifying other relevant policies, plans and programmes and sustainability objectives	...describe "the relationship (of the plan or programme) with other relevant plans and programmes" (Schedule 2-1) ...describe "the environmental protection objectives, established at international, Community or Member State level, which are relevant to the plan or programme and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation" (Schedule 2-5)	Chapter 3 and Appendix A	Stage A corresponds to the scoping stage of the SA and the findings of this stage are presented in the Scoping Report which was, most recently, consulted upon for a five-week period in June-July 2016. During this stage, the scope of the SA was defined. Comments received on the proposed SA scope have been taken into account, and incorporated into this SA Report where applicable.
A2: Collecting baseline information	...describe "relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without its implementation of the plan or programme" (Schedule 2-2) and, "the environmental characteristics of the areas likely to be significantly affected" (Schedule 2-3)	Chapter 3 and Appendix B	
A3: Identifying sustainability issues and problems	...describe "any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to Directives 79/409/EEC and 92/43/EEC"© (Schedule 2-4)		
A4: Developing the SA Framework	...provide "a description of how the assessment was undertaken including any difficulties (such as technical deficiencies or lack of know-how) encountered in compiling the required information" (Schedule 2-8)	Chapter 3	
A5: Consulting on the scope of the SA	...allow that the authorities referred to in Regulation 4 are consulted when deciding on the scope and level of detail of the information which must be included in the environmental report. (Regulation 12-(5))	Chapter 3,	
Stage B: Developing and Refining Options and Assessing Effects			
B1: Testing the Plan objectives against the SA Framework	... "identify, describe and evaluate the likely significant effects on the environment of":	Chapter 4	Stage B of the SA process is linked to the overall production of the HED DPD which includes the development of options and
B2: Developing the Plan Options	"...reasonable alternatives taking into account the objectives and the geographical scope of the plan or programme"	Appendices C, D, E and F	

³ <http://planningguidance.communities.gov.uk/blog/guidance/strategic-environmental-assessment-and-sustainability-appraisal/sustainability-appraisal-requirements-for-local-plans/>
Paragraph: 013 Reference ID: 11-013-20140306

SA Stage	SEA Regulations Requirements The environment report must:	Section of the Report (where applicable)	Application to Ribble Valley's HED DPD SA
B3: Predicting the effects of the Plan	...and...“...implementing the plan or programme...” (Regulation 12-(2))		the selection of the revised preferred option. There has been interaction between the plan-making and SA teams during Stage B which has enabled potential adverse effects of the HED DPD to be avoided / minimised and potential sustainability benefits maximised. Stage B is the primary assessment stage of the SA process and is the main output of this report.
B4: Evaluating the effects of the Plan	...give “an outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with” Schedule 2-8		
B5: Considering ways of mitigating adverse effects and maximising beneficial effects	...describe “measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme...” Schedule 2-7		
B6: Proposing measures to monitor the significant effects of implementing the Plan.	... provide “a description of the measures envisaged concerning monitoring” Schedule 2-9		
Stage C: Preparing the Sustainability Appraisal Report			
C1: Preparing the SA Report	... include “the information that may reasonably be required taking into account current knowledge and methods of assessment, the contents and level of detail in the plan or programme, its stage in the decision-making process and the extent to which certain matters are more appropriately assessed at different levels in that process in order to avoid duplication...”. Details of the information to be given in the Environmental Report are provided in Schedule 2.	This Report	This SA Report has been produced in line with the requirements of the SEA Regulations for producing an Environmental Report. A Non-Technical Summary (NTS) is also provided.
Stage D: Consultation on the Preferred Option HED DPD and the SA Report			
D1: Public participation on the proposed submission documents	... provide that statutory authorities and the public are given ‘ <i>early and effective opportunity within time frames to express their opinions</i> ’	N/A	This SA Report and the HED DPD are being consulted upon in accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012.
D2: Appraising significant changes resulting from representations	N/A	Future stage	This SA Report will be updated to reflect comments received from the consultation. Reasons for selecting preferred options in light of the SA findings and consultation on the SA will be documented.
D3: Making decisions and providing information		Future stage	
Stage E: Monitoring the significant effects of implementing the HED DPD			
E1: Finalising aims and methods for monitoring	N/A for the Environmental Report. The requirement is as follows: “ <i>The responsible authority shall monitor the significant environmental effects of the implementation of each plan or programme with the purpose of identifying unforeseen adverse effects at an early stage and being able to undertake appropriate remedial action</i> ” (Regulation 17)	Chapter 5	Monitoring to be undertaken of environmental performance of the HED DPD should be proposed.
E2: Responding to adverse effects		Monitoring will commence once the HED DPD has been adopted.	

3.1.1 Stage A: Setting the Context and Objectives, Establishing the Baseline and Deciding on the Scope

Geographical Scope of the SA

The geographical scope of the SA has been driven by the geographical scope of the HED DPD – i.e. the entirety of Ribble Valley. Regarding the allocations element of the HED DPD, the SA has considered the spatial extent of their likely impacts. In some cases, this has remained local to the site in question, whereas in other cases, the impacts of the allocation are predicted to be felt over a wider area, potentially including outside of the Ribble Valley Borough. Similarly, the cumulative effects of a number of allocations may result in impacts occurring over a wider area. These have also been considered in the SA.

Temporal Scope of the SA

As the Local Plan is intended to apply until 2028 the HED DPD is also intended to cover this period. If there are likely to be any sustainability effects of the HED DPD that would last longer than this, these have also been considered.

Review of Relevant Plans, Programmes and Environmental Objectives

The box below stipulates the SEA Regulations’ requirements for this stage of the process:

Box 1: SEA Regulations’ Requirements for the Review of Plans Programmes and Environmental Protection Objectives

The SEA Regulations require that the SEA covers:

“...an outline of the contents, main objectives of the plan or programme and relationship with other relevant plans and programmes’ (Schedule 2-1).”

“...the environmental protection objectives, established at international, Community or Member State level, which are relevant to the plan or programme and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation’ (Schedule 2-5)

A review of other plans and programmes that may affect the preparation of the HED DPD was undertaken in order to contribute to the development of both the SA and the plan itself. This included:

- Identification of any external social, environmental or economic objectives, indicators or targets that should be reflected in the SA process;
- Identification of any baseline data relevant to the SA;
- Identification of any external factors that might influence the preparation of the plan, for example sustainability issues;
- Identification of any external objectives or aims that would contribute positively to the development of the HED DPD; and
- Determining whether there are clear potential conflicts or challenges between other identified plans, programmes or sustainability objectives and the emerging HED DPD.

The review included documents prepared at international, national, regional (sub-regional) and local scale. A brief summary of the documents reviewed and the main findings are summarised in Table 3-2. Further details are presented in Appendix A.

Table 3-2 Review of Plans and Programmes

Level	Summary
International Plans and Programmes	A review was undertaken of key International Conventions and European Directives that could potentially influence the development of the Local Plan and the SA. European Directives are transposed into national legislation in each individual Member State and, therefore, there should be a trickle-down effect of the key principles and an application to the relevant national, regional and local circumstances in other planning documents.

Level	Summary
National Plans and Programmes	<p>Central Government establishes their guidelines and policies for a variety of different topics within the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and Planning Policy Guidance (PPG).</p> <p>The Framework sets out planning policies for England and how they are expected to be applied. It provides guidance for local planning authorities and decision-takers, both in drawing up plans and making decisions about planning applications. The Framework was reviewed to ensure that the SA process aligned with its aims and objectives.</p> <p>A review was also undertaken of relevant White Papers, plans and strategies including the Sustainable Development Strategy which outlines the over-arching Government objective to raise the quality of life in our communities.</p>
Regional and County Level Plans	<p>Where appropriate, county and sub-regional level plans have been considered. The objectives of these plans as well as some of the challenges they raise need to be taken on board as appropriate. However, it must be noted that the overarching goals of these plans and strategies may be outside the remit of the HED DPD which forms only individual parts of a number of different vehicles trying to deliver the county level targets.</p>
Local Policy	<p>Plans produced at the local level specifically address issues relating to various environmental aspects, economy; health; safety; sustainable communities; housing and employment. The HED DPD and the SA should draw from these documents and transpose their aims in their policies and proposals where appropriate. These plans, should in theory, have included the main influences of international, national, regional and county level plans through the 'trickle-down effect'. They should also provide more of a local focus for the borough. It is, through identifying these themes and incorporating them into the HED DPD that synergies can be achieved with other relevant documents.</p>

There were many common themes identified in the review of plans, programmes and environmental protection objectives. Whilst specific results relating to each document are presented in Appendix A, the list below provides a summary of the main themes and issues identified:

- The need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase energy efficiency.
- The need to ensure that new housing development meets the borough needs (for all sections of society).
- The need to protect and enhance the vibrancy of both rural and urban areas.
- The need for the protection and enhancement of the quality and character of urban and rural areas.
- Recognising the importance of protecting and enhancing landscape character, particularly within the Forest of Bowland AONB.
- Recognising the need for the landscape to evolve and for development to be appropriate to the landscape setting and context.
- The need to conserve and enhance biodiversity as an integral part of economic, social and environmental development.
- The need to protect and enhance the historic environment. The Government has an overarching aim for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment and heritage assets.
- To need to promote sensitive waste management.
- To need to promote more sustainable transport choices and to improve accessibility.
- The need to promote the use of renewable/low carbon energy and renewable/low carbon technologies in appropriate locations.
- Recognising the importance of open spaces, sport and recreation and the contribution that they make to enhancing quality of life.
- The prudent use of natural resources.

- The need to promote and protect the water environment including issues such as quality and resource use.
- The need to protect and enhance air quality.
- The need to promote community cohesion and to establish towns and villages where individuals want to both live and work.
- The need to broaden the economic base of rural areas and to promote sensitive rural diversification schemes.
- The need to adapt to the threat and mitigate the effects posed by climate change.
- The need to protect and enhance biodiversity resources particularly sites of international importance e.g. SPAs, SACs and Ramsar sites.
- The need for long-term sustainable patterns of development that provide for the economic and social needs of all populations.
- The need to reduce crime and fear of crime.
- The need to protect and enhance ecosystem functions and services.
- Raising levels of health and well-being and promoting greater levels of physical activity.
- Promoting sustainable economic development and a range of employment opportunities that meet the needs of all sectors of the population and all skills levels.
- Providing opportunities to achieve strong and sustainable economic growth.
- Promoting higher levels of design quality including improvements to energy efficiency.
- The importance of education and knowledge based industries should be built upon.

The European Spatial Development Perspective identified a potential conflict that is likely to prevail in all countries, irrespective of their location and this concerns balancing the social and economic claims for spatial development with an area’s ecological and cultural functions to ensure that the most sustainable patterns of development are achieved. Through the SA process and the inclusion of suitable SA Objectives, indicators and targets it should be possible to identify where potential issues and conflicts may arise and to develop suitable policy modifications and mitigation measures.

The Sustainability Baseline and Key Sustainability Issues

Box 2 defines the SEA Regulations requirements for this element of the process.

Box 2: SEA Regulations Requirements for Baseline Data Collation

**“the environmental characteristics of the areas likely to be significantly affected” (Schedule 2-3)
 “any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to Directives 79/409/EEC and 92/43/EEC”© (Schedule 2-4)**

Characterising the environmental and sustainability baseline, issues and context is an essential part of developing the SA Framework. It comprises the following key elements:

- Characterising the current state of the environment of Ribble Valley as a district including social and economic aspects; and
- Using this information to identify existing problems and opportunities that could be considered in the HED DPD.

The environmental, social and economic baseline was characterised through the following methods:

- Review of relevant local, regional, national and international plans, strategies and programmes; and
- Data research based around a series of baseline indicators developed from the SEA Regulations topics (biodiversity, population, human health, flora, fauna, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets,

cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage and landscape), the Government’s guidance and the data available for Ribble Valley as a district. Data was also collated for additional socio-economic topic areas including deprivation, housing and employment to ensure that a broad range of environmental, social and economic issues were considered.

The collation of baseline data also enabled the identification of key sustainability issues and opportunities affecting Ribble Valley as a district.

Appendix B summarises the key baseline trends across Ribble Valley. Each section is subdivided to present the following:

- The baseline indicators that have been used (some are also contextual indicators and may not actually form part of the SA Framework);
- Descriptive text, graphs and statistics about Ribble Valley; and
- Key data gaps.

Sustainability issues and opportunities identified from the baseline review are detailed below.

The SEA Regulations require ‘material assets’ to be considered within the SA. ‘Material assets’ refers to the stock of valuable assets within a study area and can include many things from valuable landscapes, natural and cultural heritage through to housing stock, schools, hospitals and quality agricultural land. It is considered that the material assets of Ribble Valley are appropriately covered in the following baseline sections, and consequently will not be repeated as a separate section:

- Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna;
- Soils and Geology;
- Cultural Heritage;
- Landscape;
- Housing; and
- Transportation.

Key Sustainability Issues and Opportunities

Table 3-3 presents the key sustainability issues and opportunities for the Ribble Valley district.

Table 3-3 Key Sustainability Issues and Opportunities

Baseline Topic	Key Issues / Opportunity
Population	<p>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).</p> <p>Availability of health care provision, in particular, is likely to be an issue for elderly residents in some settlements.</p> <p>There are also potential challenges that could arise in the future relating to the type and tenure of housing provision on offer in the Borough as explained in the Ribble Valley Borough Council strategic housing market assessment.</p> <p>An increasingly ageing population in the Borough could also have long-term effects on the vitality and vibrancy of settlements.</p> <p>The need to retain the younger sectors of the population is a theme that is highlighted in other sections of this Scoping Report as it could also have effects upon the economy of the Borough and its attractiveness for inward investment.</p>
Education and Qualifications	<p>Educational attainment in the Borough is very good compared to county, regional and national levels, and this needs to be maintained.</p> <p>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.</p>

Baseline Topic	Key Issues / Opportunity
	<p>However, opportunities to improve vocational training opportunities should be pursued, as this is likely to benefit local employers and would also help to develop training linked to key growth sectors across the region and could help to encourage more inward investment in the Borough.</p> <p>The Ribble Valley Economic Strategy identifies the loss of young talented, well-educated people as a key threat to the local economy.</p>
Human Health	<p>Health in Ribble Valley is generally good, although poorer levels of health have been identified in Littlemoor and Whalley wards.</p> <p>There is an elderly population in the Borough and it is essential that the elderly have sufficient access to health care facilities.</p> <p>The elderly population is also likely to put increasing pressure on health facilities in the Borough.</p> <p>There are opportunities to further promote the outdoor recreational pursuits in the Forest of Bowland AONB to benefit the health of the local population.</p>
Water	<p>Water quality in the Borough is very good and it is important that these high levels are maintained.</p> <p>There are large areas of agricultural land in the Borough which means that diffuse pollution issues are more likely to be prevalent than in other Lancashire boroughs.</p> <p>Significant areas of Flood Risk exist, primarily associated with the River Ribble and its tributaries. Areas at risk from flooding should be protected from development that would increase that risk.</p> <p>New developments should be encouraged to use Sustainable (urban) Drainage Systems (SuDS) to manage runoff and further reduce flood risk.</p> <p>New developments and households within the Borough should also be encouraged to minimise water use and to re-use rainwater where possible.</p>
Soil and Land Quality	<p>Where previously developed sites exist, the aim should be to continue to remediate and re-use them, although this should be undertaken on a site-by-site basis as some brownfield sites may have biodiversity constraints.</p> <p>Geological resources such as Regionally Important Geological Sites (RIGS) and Site of Specific Scientific Interests (SSSIs) should be protected from inappropriate development and opportunities to raise awareness of geological designations and resources should be pursued where possible.</p>
Air Quality	<p>An Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) was declared for NO₂ in 2010 but no new areas of poor air quality have been identified, as such no further AQMAs have been declared.</p> <p>Opportunities should be sought to reduce road traffic and promote public transport use to further improve air quality.</p>
Climatic Factors and Energy	<p>Reducing carbon footprint through energy conservation and efficiency and the promotion of renewable energy sources should be a priority for the Borough given its relatively high consumption of energy.</p> <p>New developments should be encouraged to include sustainable design principles such as the incorporation of solar panels, although due care must be given to the preservation of biodiversity, landscape and heritage resources when siting renewable energy projects.</p>
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	<p>There is a very high quality environment in the Borough, which needs to be preserved and enhanced. In particular, the Bowland Fells Special Protection Area (SPA) is subject to international protection and has a series of Conservation Objectives which need to be met.</p>

Baseline Topic	Key Issues / Opportunity
	<p>The high quality of the environment provides an opportunity to develop recreation and tourism in the Borough, although care needs to be taken to ensure that such developments are appropriate and do not adversely affect the quality of the natural environment.</p> <p>The condition of the SSSIs needs to be improved and opportunities should be sought to deliver biodiversity enhancements through the DPD.</p> <p>Opportunities should be sought to promote land management schemes as these can lead to a number of environmental benefits and enhancements.</p>
Cultural Heritage	<p>The Borough has a large number of statutory and non-statutory heritage assets including scheduled monuments, listed buildings, conservation areas etc. which could potentially be affected either directly or indirectly by new development.</p> <p>The setting of heritage assets is an important consideration when allocating land for development.</p> <p>All cultural heritage features should be appropriately conserved and enhanced.</p> <p>Whalley Abbey Scheduled Monument has declined in condition in recent years which should be considered when allocating land in the vicinity.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Ribble Valley has great tourism potential due to the quality of its natural environment which is complemented in many cases by cultural heritage resources.</p> <p>Many of the Borough's towns and village including Dunsop Bridge, Clitheroe and Slaidburn (amongst others) have a distinctive character that should be protected and enhanced.</p>
Landscape	<p>A large portion of the Borough is designated as part of the Forest of Bowland AONB. It is essential that landscape quality and character is restored, maintained and enhanced.</p> <p>The Borough's high quality landscape is a vital resource for attracting visitors and enhancing the quality of life for residents.</p> <p>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.</p>
Waste and Minerals	<p>The major strategic landfill site for the Borough is located in a neighbouring authority and Ribble Valley is therefore an exporter of waste.</p> <p>Opportunities should be sought to further improve composting and recycling performance in new developments.</p> <p>Sustainable sourcing and waste management principles should be promoted for all new developments that occur in the Borough.</p>
Transportation	<p>Opportunities should be sought to reduce dependence on the private car and increase public transport use.</p> <p>It will be important to ensure that any new employment sites can be easily accessed by public transport.</p> <p>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 for employment purposes leading to a leakage of skills and also daily spending from the Borough.</p> <p>Whilst external linkages are good, internal linkages within the Borough could be improved and this was acknowledged as a weakness in 2009-2014 Economic Strategy.</p>

Baseline Topic	Key Issues / Opportunity
Economy	<p>Key statistics suggest that the Ribble Valley economy is performing well having relatively low levels of unemployment and supporting a strong culture of entrepreneurial behaviour. It will be important for such qualities to be maintained and further improved.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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. For example, there is potential to develop the A59 into an employment corridor.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>There are further opportunities to capitalise upon the Borough's environmental and cultural assets and to develop the tourist industry.</p>
Deprivation and Living Environment	<p>Ribble Valley is overall a very prosperous Borough with low levels of deprivation. However, owing to its rural nature there are issues associated with access to services and facilities which largely affect the wards in the north of the Borough.</p> <p>There will be long-term challenges associated with the localised closure of facilities such as post offices. Maintaining and ensuring access to other centres and facilities in the Borough will be particularly important.</p> <p>There may be scope in the future to more actively involve the local community in decision-making which will also enable the Council to understand the needs and desires of the residents which in the long-term could help contribute to the establishment of more sustainable communities.</p>
Housing	<p>Although there has been increase in recent years there still remains a shortage of affordable housing across Ribble Valley therefore affordable housing should remain a priority for the Borough.</p> <p>There has been an increase in the number of wealthy in-migrants to the Borough in recent years which is creating housing affordability problems for local people.</p> <p>Investment is also required to upgrade the significant numbers of unfit and vacant housing.</p> <p>There is need for increased provision of sheltered housing for the elderly and also to provide for the housing needs of the younger sectors of society.</p> <p>The issue of homelessness must also continue to be effectively addressed.</p> <p>Sustainable development should be promoted where possible. The overarching aim is to make the design of homes more resilient and sustainable and to reduce carbon footprint.</p>

SA Framework

Background to the SA Framework

The SA Framework underpins the assessment methodology and comprises a series of SA Objectives (covering social, economic and environmental issues) that are used to test the performance of the plan being assessed. Whilst the SEA Regulations do not require the use of SA Objectives, they are a recognised tool for

undertaking the assessment and are aspirations/goals that an authority/organisation should work towards achieving.

The SA Objectives are separate from the objectives of the HED DPD, although there may be some overlaps between them. To help measure the performance of the HED DPD’s components against the SA Objectives, it is beneficial if they are supported by a series of indicators and targets. Baseline data has been collated to support each of the indicators, as this provides a means of determining current performance across the borough and gauging how much intervention or the extent of work needed to achieve the targets that have been identified. The following section provides further details about the development of the SA Framework.

Development of the SA Objectives

The SA Objectives have been developed using the review of other relevant plans, programmes and environmental objectives, the baseline data, the key issue and opportunities, and the outcomes of consultation on the SA scope.

Table 3-4 presents the proposed SA Objectives and Sub-Objectives that have been used in the appraisal of the HED DPD s and its options, including for site options by providing a framework for identifying and applying relevant spatial criteria (see Section 3.1.2).

Table 3-4 SA Framework

SA Objective and Sub-Objectives
1. To reduce crime, disorder and fear of crime
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To maintain low crime levels To reduce the fear of crime To reduce levels of anti-social behaviour To encourage safety by design
2. To improve levels of educational attainment for all age groups and all sectors of society
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To maintain and increase levels of participation and attainment in education for all members of society. To improve the provision of education and training facilities To improve access to and involvement in higher education for 16-19 year olds
3. To improve physical and mental health for all and reduce health inequalities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To reduce health inequalities amongst different groups in the community To improve access to health and social care services To promote healthy lifestyles
4. To increase the availability of quality affordable housing and social and sheltered accommodation in areas most at need
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To tackle homelessness more effectively To increase the availability of affordable housing To reduce the number of unfit homes To reduce the number of vacant housing
5. To improve access to basic goods, services and amenities for all groups
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To improve access to cultural and leisure facilities To maintain and improve access to essential services and facilities
6. To encourage sustainable economic growth and business development across the borough
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To diversify employment opportunities To increase employment opportunities To encourage economic growth

SA Objective and Sub-Objectives
7. To develop the skills and training needed to establish and maintain a healthy labour market
To increase levels of participation and attainment in education for all members of society To improve the number of 16-19 moving in to higher education
8. To encourage economic inclusion
To reduce levels of unemployment To improve physical accessibility to jobs
9. To protect and enhance biodiversity
To protect and enhance designated sites of nature conservation importance To protect and enhance wildlife especially rare and endangered species To protect and enhance habitats and wildlife corridors To provide opportunities for people to access wildlife and open green spaces
10. To protect and enhance the borough's landscape and townscape character and quality
To protect and enhance landscape character and quality To protect and enhance townscape character and quality To promote sensitive design in development
11. To protect and enhance the cultural heritage resource
To protect and enhance historic buildings and sites To protect and enhance historic landscape/townscape value
12. To protect and enhance the quality of water features and resources
To protect and enhance ground and surface water quality
13. To guard against land contamination and encourage the appropriate re-use of brownfield sites within the urban boundary and to protect soil resources
To reduce the amount of derelict, contaminated, and vacant land. To encourage development of brownfield land where appropriate To protect soil functions
14. To limit and adapt to climate change
To reduce or manage flooding To reduce greenhouse gas emissions To encourage the inclusion of SuDS
15. To protect and improve air quality
To protect and improve local air quality
16. To increase energy efficiency and require the use of renewable energy sources
To increase energy efficiency To increase the use of renewable energy To reduce the use of energy
17. To ensure sustainable use of natural resources
To reduce the demand for raw materials To promote the use of recycled and secondary materials in construction

SA Objective and Sub-Objectives
18. To minimise waste, increase re-use and recycling
To increase the proportion of waste recycling and re-use To reduce the production of waste To reduce the proportion of waste landfilled
19. To promote the use of more sustainable modes of transport
To reduce the use of private car To encourage walking, cycling and the use of public transport Encourage the uptake of ICT

The SA Scoping Consultation

The SA Scoping Report was consulted upon for more than the statutory five-week minimum period between August and October 2016 with comments being received from Natural England and Historic England.

3.1.2 Stage B: Developing and Refining Options and Assessing Effects

The HED DPD proposes five new site allocations (two housing and three employment sites) together with an existing 59 commitments. The Councils Issue & Options (I&O) Consultation Report (Regulation 18) also identified 33 alternative options for the new allocations, 32 of which were rejected and one site was taken forward to the options stage. This site (Site 10) forms one of the five preferred options.

Appraisal of Reasonable Alternatives

As identified in Box 3, the SEA Regulations require that the assessment process considers alternatives:

Box 3: Consideration of Alternatives

The SEA Regulations require that an SEA environmental report:
 “...identify, describe and evaluate the likely significant effects on the environment of—(a) implementing the plan or programme; and (b) reasonable alternatives taking into account the objectives and the geographical scope of the plan or programme.’ (Regulation 12-(2))”;
 ...and provides
 “...an outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with” (Schedule 2-8).

Government guidance advises that only realistic and relevant alternatives should be considered and they should be sufficiently distinct to enable a meaningful comparison of their different environmental effects.

Assessment Approach – Allocations and Alternative Sites

The assessment of proposed allocations (and alternative allocations) is based on spatial data wherever possible. The SA Framework was translated into a set of criteria for allocations assessment, which is presented in Appendix G. The scale used is as presented in Table 3-5 below.

Table 3-5 Key to the assessment of allocations and alternative sites

Symbol	Definition
Effects identified	
++	Major positive criterion met.
+	Minor positive criterion met.

Symbol	Definition
O	Neutral / negligible criterion met.
-	Minor negative criterion met.
--	Major negative criterion met.
N/A	Not applicable - criterion not met.
Timing of effects	
ST	Short-term
MT	Medium-term
LT	Long-term
S-MT, S-LT, etc.	Short to Medium Term, Short to Long Term, etc.
N/A	Not Applicable
Uncertainty of assessment (i.e. that the effect would occur in accordance with the symbol)	
H	High uncertainty (i.e. effect may not occur at all)
M	Medium uncertainty (effect likely, but may vary in extent / level of significance)
L	Low uncertainty (effect is likely to occur as assessed)
N/A	Not Applicable

An initial assessment was then conducted across this range of criteria, resulting in a summary score for each SA topic / objective based on the following:

- the worst score would take precedence, so any major negative criterion met would score major negative for the entire SA objective, followed by minor negative;
- if no negative criteria were met, the most positive score would take precedence, so any major positive criterion met would score major positive for the entire SA objective, followed by minor positive; and
- in the absence of the above, an SA objective would score neutral / negligible.

Each SA objective was then reviewed for mitigation recommendations or other special notes about that allocation, and a residual effect score was assessed. In principle, a score would only be changed if mitigation could be recommended that would likely, or had highly promising potential to, make negative effects neutral or negligible, or would increase neutral or minor positive scores by generating greater net benefits. As such, if an SA objective had both negative and positive scores at the outset, neutralising a negative score would 'bring out' the positive criteria for that SA topic / objective. This precautionary approach helps to ensure that risks of negative impacts receive appropriate attention.

A summary of the results of the assessments of the preferred option, committed sites and rejected alternative sites are presented in Chapter 4. The full site assessment summary sheets can be found in Appendices D, E and F.

Assessment of Policies

In addition to the site allocations, the HED DPD includes four Policies put forward by the Council. These policies have been assessed against the SA Framework using a slightly different matrix than that used for the allocations. The matrices have used the following notation:

- Impact - whether the effect is positive, negative or neutral when assessed against the objectives;
- Timescale – the timescale over which the impact is likely to be realised (i.e. short-term, medium-term or long-term);
- Reversibility – whether the impact is reversible or irreversible.;
- Certainty – the level of certainty of the impact prediction i.e. whether it is low, medium or high; and
- Spatial Scale – whether the effect is likely to be realised in specific locations or across the District.

The nature, impact and potential significance of the potential effects has been assessed using a standard scoring approach based on the approach used for the original Local Plan: Part One SA. This is presented in Table 3-6 below.

Table 3-6 Scoring approach for the policy assessment

Impact	Description	Symbol
Major Positive Impact	The policy/site contributes to the achievement of the SA Objective and is likely to deliver enhancements.	++
Positive Impact	The policy/site contributes partially to the achievement of the SA Objective but not completely.	+
No Impact/ Neutral	There is no clear relationship between the policy/site and/or the achievement of the SA Objective or the relationship is negligible.	0
Negative Impact	The policy/site partially detracts from the achievement of some elements of the SA Objective.	-
Major Negative Impact	The policy/site detracts from the achievement of all elements of the SA Objective.	--
Uncertain impact – more information required	It is not possible to determine the nature of the impact as there may be too many external factors that would influence the appraisal or the impact may depend heavily upon implementation at the local level.	?
Positive and Negative Impacts	The policy/site has a combination of both positive and negative contributions to the achievement of the SA Objective.	+/-

A summary of the results of the assessments of the four Policies are presented in Chapter 4. The full policy assessment summary sheets can be found in Appendix F.

3.2 Technical Limitations and Uncertainties

The SA is, out of necessity, conducted at a high level, using baseline information at an appropriate level of detail, including geographically. The potential for effects predicted is always subject to a changing baseline, which can be influenced by many factors outside of planning, and outside of those captured by the SA research conducted. These uncertainties are normally dealt with by taking a 'worst-case', unless there is a documented and justifiable reason to expect a better baseline. With such exceptions, the SA does (or should, subject to any consultation responses) identify relevant areas of future baseline research and monitoring required.

As a result of the above, in terms of temporal effects and considering potential timescales, there is a limit to the accuracy of predicted effects into the long term. Long-term effects of the HED DPD as they are proposed are in fact probably unlikely, as there are likely to be changes in policy, economics, technology, etc. in that time period, and the HED DPD is likely to be superseded by future plans and strategies which respond to changing circumstances. However, the long-term assessment is still useful, as the SA uses the best available information at the current time to make its predictions.

Site-level baseline data used in this assessment is also highly changeable – for example, any given community facility can close down or move within a period of months, and thus an assessment which considers a site to have good access to this facility pre-development, may not do so by the time construction begins, even if this is only within a few years. These circumstances are impossible to predict, and are an inherent part of the SA and indeed planning process. The planning system is generally robust enough to deal with such changes by re-assessing the needs of sites / communities at the time applications are made.

During the assessment of the HED DPD, there has sometimes been uncertainty when predicting the potential effects. Where this has occurred, the uncertainty is identified within the appraisal matrices and as with all potential adverse effects identified, this is accompanied by recommendations to mitigate such effects where possible.

The HED DPD essentially acts as a guidance document for the future development of the Ribble Valley Borough. There is therefore reliance upon future decision-makers, in particular planning officers, as well as on-going planning enforcement to ensure sustainable development is achieved.

4 SA OF THE DRAFT HED DPD

4.1 Introduction

The Draft HED DPD includes five preferred options in the form of individual land allocations and five policies. However, also as described in Chapter 2, the HED DPD will help set out the specific development needs and policies for the Ribble Valley area while working in tandem with other development policies set out by the UK Government and within the overlapping Lancashire County district. The current key documents are:

- The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF);
- Joint Lancashire Minerals and Waste Development Framework Core Strategy DPD 2009;
- Forest of Bowland Management Plan 2014 - 2019;
- Ribble Valley Borough Council Core Strategy Adopted 2014;

4.2 Appraisal of the HED DPD Land Allocations and their Alternatives

The HED DPD includes two new housing and three new employment allocations. The Council initially proposed 13 site options in their 2016 report, '*Regulation 18 Issues and Options Consultation Housing and Economic Development DPD*' and following public consultation refined this down to the four preferred options and one alternative site was brought forward as a preferred option totalling five preferred options. A summary of the preferred options can be found in Sections 4.2.1 and 4.2.2 with the detailed site assessment sheets for the all site options available in Appendix C. Table 4-1 sets out the preferred and rejected options.

The HED DPD also includes 59 allocations which are already committed having secured or are in the process of securing planning consent and these matters were considered through the Development Management process.

Table 4-1 Preferred and rejected site options

Preferred Site Options	Rejected Site Options
Mellor1 – 0.29ha (10 dwellings)	Wilpshire1 - 2.5ha (27 dwellings)
Wilpshire3 – 5.37ha (227 dwellings)	Wilpshire2 – 0.36ha (14 dwellings)
Employment Site 1 – 1.7ha	Mellor2 – 0.09ha (3 dwellings)
Employment Site 4 – 1ha	Mellor3 – 0.14ha (5 dwellings)
Site 10 Land at Higher College Farm - 1.5ha	Chatburn1 – 0.1ha (3.5 dwellings)
	Chatburn2 – 0.39ha (14 dwellings)
	Chatburn3 – 0.21ha (7 dwellings)
	Employment Site 2 – 1.8ha
	Employment Site 3 – 2.2ha

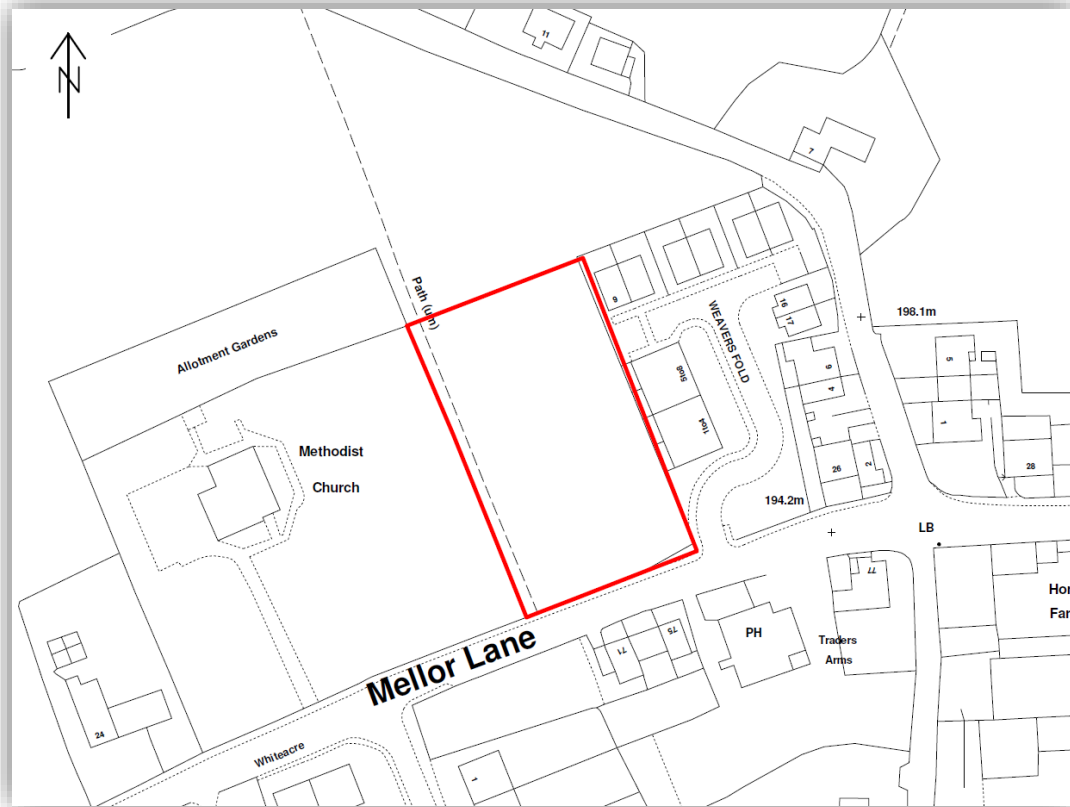
33 alternative site allocations were also put forward through the 'call for sites' exercise undertaken by the Council, however, it was deemed that all but one of these sites did not meet the Council's Development Strategy and therefore were rejected as unreasonable alternatives. Site 10 (Land at Higher College Farm) was the only alternative site to advance to the Options stage and was consequently taken forward as a preferred option (see section 4.2.2). A brief summary of the appraisals of the preferred, committed and alternative options are summarised in the remaining sections of this chapter, the detailed site assessment summaries can be found in Appendix E.

4.2.1 HED DPD Housing Allocation Preferred Options

Mellor1 Option

One of the three sites proposed in Mellor has been taken forward by the Council. This 0.29ha site was identified through and included within the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) and proposes 10 residential dwellings.

Figure 4-1 Mellor1 allocation boundary



The Mellor1 Option would contribute towards meeting the Borough’s housing needs and has potential to result in minor positive economic effects. This is because the site is close to a key employment area, which when coupled with the existing sustainable transport links available in the area could increase accessibility to jobs. Educational facilities (including further educational facilities) are in close proximity thereby improving access to education.

The site also has good access to community services and a General Practitioner (GP) surgery and access to open space could improve health levels in the area through an increase in physical activity.

However, the site could result in negative effects on both local character and the setting of local heritage assets through the development of greenfield land and being close to a Scheduled Monument. Given the sale of the site the effects are likely to be small and it should be possible to mitigate this through incorporating green infrastructure and sensitive design methods to integrate the new development with its surroundings and to avoid adverse effects on the setting of the Scheduled monument.

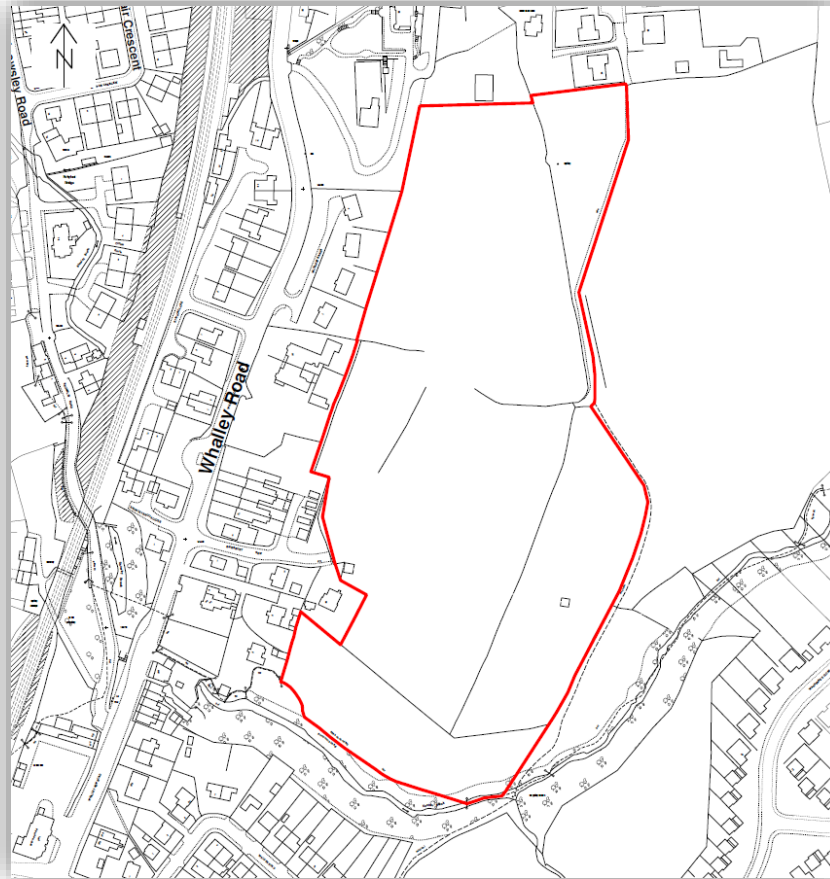
As with all development, the proposal would also lead to a likely increase in demand for natural resources and increase the amount of waste sent to landfill. The Council should seek to promote the use of recycled/ reused materials in order to decrease the demand on raw materials during construction and provide on-site waste separation facilities wherever possible to encourage recycling in the areas earmarked for development.

There is a total of two relatively small sites proposed in Mellor therefore it is deemed unlikely that any significant cumulative effects will occur through the development of these sites.

Wilpshire3 Option

One of the three sites proposed in Wilpshire has been taken forward by the Council. This 5.67ha site was identified though and included within the SHLAA and proposes 227 residential dwellings. It is identified as being deliverable and has the potential to support residential development.

Figure 4-2 Wilpshire3 allocation Boundary



Overall, the Wilpshire3 Option would make a significant contribution towards meeting the housing needs of Wilpshire and thus the Borough’s housing needs and has potential to result in positive economic effects. This is because the site is easily accessible to a number of employment areas including Balderstone and Blackburn, which when coupled with the existing sustainable transport links available in the area could increase accessibility to jobs. Educational facilities (including further educational facilities) are in close proximity thereby improving access to education.

The site also has good access to community services, a GP surgery and access to open space. The latter could improve health levels in the area through an increase in physical activity.

However, the site could result in negative effects on local landscape character through the development of greenfield land. Given the sale of the site the effects could be significant locally, however, it should be possible to mitigate these negative effects through incorporating green infrastructure and sensitive design methods to integrate the new development with its surroundings. The loss of greenfield land in the development of this site has potential to affect biodiversity. It is adjacent to a non-priority habitat and could also reduce habitat connectivity. However, it should be possible to provide appropriate mitigation in the form of retention of creation of new green infrastructure.

The site is adjacent to a waterbody which could lead to pollutants entering the watercourse resulting in negative effects. Site drainage should be designed to account for the flow of domestic pollutants away from the water body and to an appropriate water treatment method.

The activity generated by the site could increase traffic congestion on local roads by increasing the number of private cars on the roads could lead to an increase in emissions to air having a negative effect on local air quality. However, the site is well served by sustainable transport links which could help to reduce this impact.

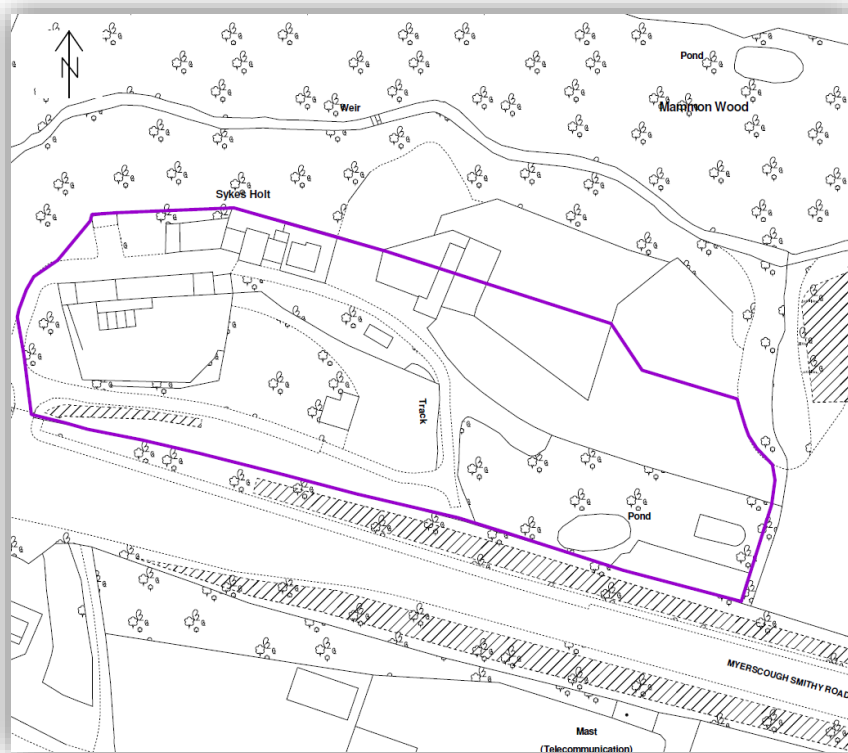
Wilpshire3 is one of two sites that has been put forward for development in this area – the other being a small employment site. Cumulatively, the activity generated by these sites could increase traffic congestion on local roads by increasing the number of private cars on the roads and could also lead to an increase in emissions to air having a negative effect on local air quality. However, the site is well served by sustainable transport links which could help to reduce this impact. The two sites however would contribute significantly to the Boroughs housing target and could also generate positive economic effects for the area.

4.2.2 HED DPD Employment Allocation Preferred Options

Employment Site 1 (Land at Sykes Holt, Mellor)

This 1.7ha site was identified through evidence base work and has been identified by the Council as being deliverable and has the potential to support an employment-based development.

Figure 4-3 Employment Site 1 allocation boundary



Employment Site 1 would increase accessibility to local employment opportunities and would help strengthen the Borough’s economy. This is a large employment site located close to existing residential areas and the area is relatively well served by sustainable transport links.

The activity generated by the site could increase traffic congestion on local roads by increasing the number of private cars journeys which in turn could lead to a rise in emissions to air although this would be very localised. However, the site is well served by sustainable transport links which should help to offset this impact.

The site would result in localised negative effects on both local landscape character and the setting of local heritage assets, notably nearby listed buildings. However, it should be possible to partly mitigate this through incorporating green infrastructure (for example replacement woodland planting) and sensitive design methods. The site is at high risk of affecting protected or priority species as it would result in the loss of an area of woodland habitat. It is recommended that an appropriate ecological survey is undertaken and the current woodland loss is avoided, reduced or replaced.

The development of greenfield land could also create a new target from crime although given crime rates are low in the Borough this is not considered to be significant and it should be possible to reduce this risk further through appropriate secure by design principles.

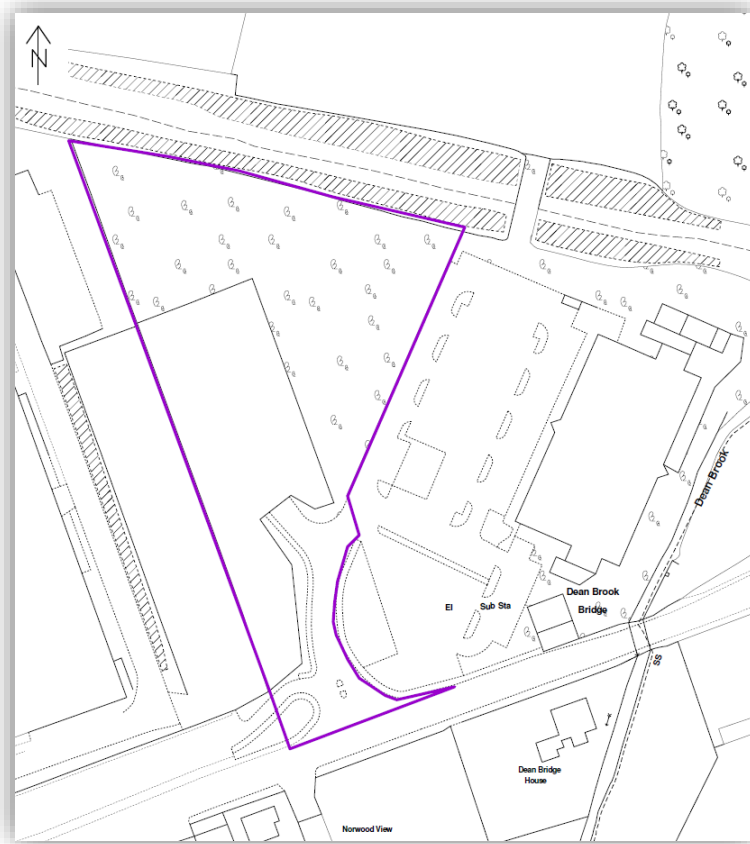
The site is both adjacent to and contains a waterbody which could be at risk of pollution from run-off or construction. Site drainage should be designed to account for the flow of commercial and domestic pollutants away from the water body and to an appropriate water treatment method.

There is a total of two relatively small sites proposed in Mellor, therefore it is deemed unlikely that any significant cumulative effects will occur through the development of these sites.

Employment Site 4 (Time Technology Park)

This 1ha site was identified through evidence-base work. It has been identified by the Council as being deliverable and has the potential to support an employment-based development.

Figure 4-4 Employment Site 4 allocation boundary



Employment Site 4 is a relatively large employment site which would increase accessibility to local employment opportunities and could help to reduce the Borough’s unemployment rate as the site falls within an area of higher than average employment deprivation. Furthermore, existing sustainable transport networks in the area are strong thereby adding to the improvement in accessibility to jobs.

The site would develop a largely brownfield site which could lead to positive effects on the local landscape character and reduces the uptake of greenfield land. It is a sustainable use of land resources.

The activity generated by the site could increase traffic congestion on local roads by increasing the number of private cars and could lead to a rise in emissions to air having a minor, localised negative effect on local air quality. However, the site is well served by sustainable transport links which could help to reduce this impact.

The site is adjacent to a waterbody which could be at risk of pollution from run-off or construction. Site drainage should be designed to account for the flow of commercial and domestic pollutants away from the water body and to an appropriate water treatment method.

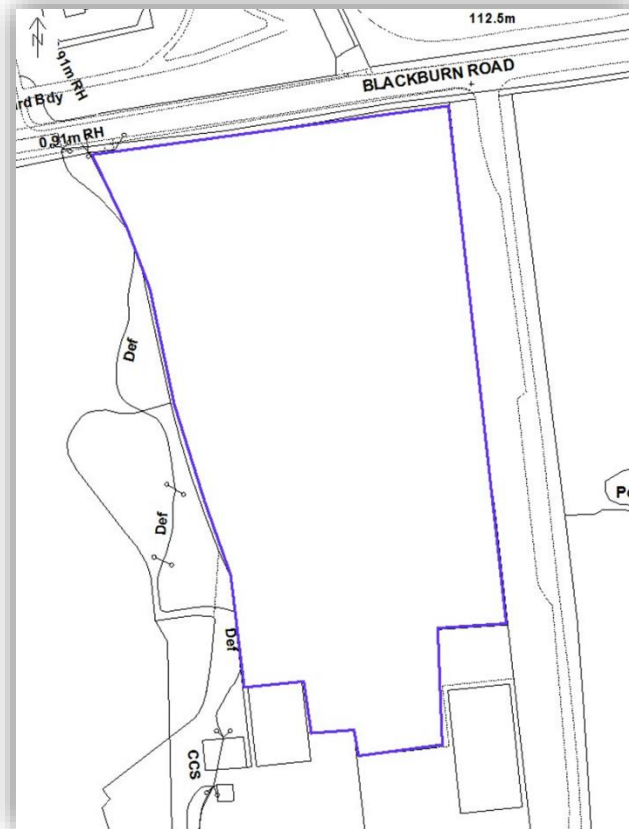
Employment Site 4 is one of six sites in Balderstone, Read and Simonstone (five of which are commitments) all of which are in close proximity to each other. Cumulatively, the activity generated by these sites will bring about negative impacts on local transport routes by increasing the number of private cars on the roads leading to increased traffic congestion on local roads particularly at peak times on and around the A59. It is likely that local emissions to air will increase due to the use of private cars accessing the employment and housing developments. However, poor air quality is currently not a significant issue in these areas and increased sustainable transport provisions have been recommended in order to ease potential congestion and help maintain current air quality standards.

The employment sites proposed are likely to contribute to a positive cumulative effect on the local economy through additional job creation and increased inward investment.

Site 10 (Land at Higher College Farm)

This 1.5ha site was put forward during the ‘call for sites’ exercise undertaken by the Council and has been identified by the Council as being deliverable and has the potential to support an employment-based development.

Figure 4-5 Site 10 allocation boundary



The development of Employment Site 10 would increase accessibility to local employment opportunities and would help strengthen the Borough’s economy. This is a large employment site located close to existing residential areas and the area is relatively well served by sustainable transport links.

The activity generated by the site could increase traffic congestion on local roads by increasing the number of private cars on the roads and could lead to a rise in emissions to air having a minor negative effect on local air quality. The site is served by sustainable transport links however these are relatively poor. In order to reduce the identified impacts, it is recommended that these transport links are greatly improved and new and improved pedestrian crossings are included as part of the development mitigation in order to ensure and safe access to the site.

The site could result in a negative effect on local landscape character through the development of greenfield land. However, it should be possible to partly mitigate this through incorporating green infrastructure and sensitive design methods to integrate the new development with its surroundings. The loss of greenfield land

in the development of this site has potential to affect biodiversity. However, it should be possible to provide appropriate mitigation in the form of retention or creation of new green infrastructure.

The development of greenfield land could also create a new target for crime although given crime rates are low in the Borough. It should be possible to reduce this risk further through appropriate secure by design principles.

The site is both adjacent to and contains a waterbody which could be at risk of pollution from run-off or construction. Site drainage should be designed to account for the flow of commercial and domestic pollutants away from the water body and to an appropriate water treatment method.

Site 10 is one of seven sites in Longridge (six of which are commitments) all of which are in relatively close proximity to each other. Cumulatively, the activity generated by these sites may bring about negative impacts on local transport routes by increasing the number of private cars on the roads leading to increased traffic congestion on local roads particularly at peak times in and around central Longridge. It is likely that the large size of the developments will cause a cumulative impact on local landscape/ townscape character of Longridge. Green infrastructure and sensitive design measures have been proposed in order to ensure these effects are mitigated against. It is likely that local emissions to air will increase due to the use of private cars moving in/out of employment and housing developments although at this scale it is not clear whether or not this would be significant. Increased sustainable transport provisions have been recommended in order to help maintain current air quality standards.

Negative cumulative effects may occur on local educational and health care facilities due to increased demand that development of the area will attract. Sustainable transport provisions should be increased to key service areas in order to allow easier access to a GP surgery, primary/ secondary schools and key amenities. Furthermore, consideration should be given to commissioning additional educational and healthcare capacity in the area.

4.2.3 HED DPD Committed Site Allocations

59 committed sites are also included in the HED DPD. These include 45 housing sites (inclusive of the one residentially-led mixed-use site) in: Gisburn, Clitheroe, Chatburn, Longridge, Hurst Green, Barrow, Whalley, Billington, Sabden, Read, Ribchester and Langho. This equates to a total of 4,331 new dwellings and at least 18.7ha of employment land is also included in Balderstone, Barrow, Clitheroe, Simonstone and Wilpshire. A summary of the committed site assessment can be found below, the detailed site assessment sheets can be found in Appendix D.

Overall, the committed developments would contribute significantly to meeting the Borough's housing needs. The committed employment sites would increase accessibility to jobs and maintain and improve levels of economic growth and inward investment potential.

The overall location of development has sought to maximise proximity to existing services and facilities through proximity to existing settlements. This includes schools and health care facilities. However, some negative cumulative effects may occur due to the increase in demand caused by development. New infrastructure of this kind may be required as part of the Infrastructure Delivery Plan. Sustainable transport provisions should also be increased to key service areas in order to allow easier access to healthcare, schools and key amenities. The development of housing and employment sites on greenfield land could also provide new targets for crime. However, crime levels in the Borough are generally very low and new development is generally of either a very small scale or it would be possible to mitigate through secure by design measures. Cumulatively, the activity generated by these sites could bring about potential negative impacts on local transport routes by increasing the number of private cars on the roads leading to increased traffic congestion on local roads particularly at peak times in and around urban centres and main transport routes. This increase in private car use would lead to increased emissions to air having a negative effect on local air quality, this is a particular problem in the Clitheroe area where there is currently an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA). However, this problem could be offset or reduced because the existing sustainable transport network in the borough is relatively strong. It is recommended that further sustainable transport opportunities should be maximised and promoted to mitigate potential air quality and congestion issues.

It is likely that development on this scale would also cause a cumulative impact on the Borough's local landscape and townscape character. The majority of the sites are located on greenfield land, although many sites are very small and close to or within existing settlements. The larger sites (for example at Standen) would have a greater overall impact although impacts are expected to be more localised and it is not anticipated

that this would affect the Borough's most sensitive landscapes in the AONB. Through careful design that respects local character and includes green infrastructure as appropriate it should be possible to greatly reduce this impact. Some allocations may also have adverse effects on the setting of heritage assets. However, again it should be possible to minimise or neutralise these effects through careful design.

Similarly, there would be a collective loss of greenfield sites and rural features which may adversely affect biodiversity. No designated sites would be affected, however, and it should be possible to provide appropriate mitigation in the form of retention of features such as trees, hedgerows or ponds or to provide alternative planting as part of new green infrastructure on all but the small sites.

A number of sites fall within Flood Zone 2 (FZ2) and/or Flood Zone 3 (FZ3) and are at risk of flooding or at risk of exacerbating current flood risk therefore a Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) should be carried out on each relevant site and development should include flood defences and ensure the use of SuDS where necessary.

4.2.4 HED DPD Rejected Alternative Site Allocations

It is a requirement of the SEA Directive that alternatives are assessed and, therefore, alternative options will be assessed using the SA Framework. The purpose of the assessment will be to determine the sustainability strengths and weaknesses of each option such that this information can be used by the plan-makers to inform their decision to select the preferred options.

33 alternative site allocations were put forward through the 'call for sites' exercise undertaken by the Council, however, it was deemed that all but one of these sites did not meet the Council's Development Strategy and therefore were rejected as being unreasonable alternatives. Site 10 (Land at Higher College Farm) was the only alternative site to advance to the Options stage and was consequently taken forward as a preferred option (see section 4.2.2).

Further to the 33 alternative allocations an additional 13 site options were put forward by the Council. Of the 13 site options, nine of these options were rejected and four were taken forward as preferred options together with Site 10 (Land at Higher College Farm) taking the total number of preferred options to five, these are covered in Section 4.2.2. A summary of the SA appraisals for the nine rejected options can be found below.

Mellor2 and Mellor3

Both sites scored mainly positively for social and economic objectives. This is because the sites are close to an existing employment area in Balderstone and also relatively close to the centre of Blackburn, which when coupled with the existing sustainable transport links available in the area could increase accessibility to jobs and services. Educational facilities (including further educational facilities) are in close proximity having positive effects on educational attainment.

The sites also have good access to community services and a GP surgery and access to open space which could improve health levels in the area and increase levels of physical activity.

However, the sites could result in negative effects on both local landscape/townscape character and local heritage assets through the development of greenfield land. Both sites are close to a Listed Building with Mellor3 also being close to a Scheduled Monument. Given the scale of the sites the effects are likely to be small and it should be possible to mitigate this through incorporating green infrastructure and sensitive design methods to integrate the new development with its surroundings and to avoid adverse effects on the setting of the both the Listed Building and the Scheduled monument.

Mellor2 and Mellor3 have not been taken forward as allocations as it was considered that the sites would involve narrow, ribbon development which would prove difficult to develop.

Wilpshire1 and Wilpshire2

Both sites scored mainly positively for social and economic objectives. This is because the sites are close to an existing employment area, which when coupled with the existing sustainable transport links available in the area could increase accessibility to jobs and services. Educational facilities (including further educational facilities) are in close proximity having positive effects on educational attainment.

The sites also have good access to community services and access to open space which could improve health levels in the area through an increase in physical activity.

Wilpshire1 could result in a negative effect on both local landscape/townscape character through the development of greenfield land however, it should be possible to mitigate this through incorporating green infrastructure and sensitive design methods to integrate the new development with its surroundings.

Both sites could result in negative effects on local biodiversity as the sites are adjacent to a non-priority habitat and development may lead to loss of habitats. It may be feasible to mitigate or replace lost habitat following appropriate ecological surveys.

In terms of the potential allocation options in Wilpshire, sites 1 and 2 are not being taken forward as, together with the issues set out above, Wilpshire3 is able to meet the remaining housing requirement in the settlement and has existing access. Consultation responses at Issues and Options stage also showed an overall preference for Wilpshire3 to be development rather than Wilpshire 1 or Wilpshire2.

Chatburn Options (1, 2, 3)

All three sites generally score positively for social and economic objectives. This is because the sites are close to an employment area in Clitheroe, which when coupled with the existing sustainable transport links available in the area could increase accessibility to jobs and services. Educational facilities (including further educational facilities) are in close proximity having positive effects on educational attainment.

Chatburn2 and 3 could lead to positive effects on health through access to open space in the area which could help to improve levels of physical activity.

Chatburn1 and 3 would involve the development of brownfield land which could lead to positive effects on the local landscape character if developed to a high standard of design. However, Both Chatburn1 and 3 are both close to a Site of Special Scientific Interest which could have potential for indirect negative effects on local biodiversity through the loss of or disturbance to the protected habitats or species.

Whilst the 3 options for Chatburn were presented at the Regulation 18 consultation stage, it is not proposed that any of the sites, or any of the alternatives submitted during the call for sites exercise, will be taken forward as a preferred allocation. This is due to the remaining housing requirement in Chatburn having now been effectively addressed such that no further allocations are deemed warranted.

Employment Sites 2 and 3

Both sites score positively for economic objectives as they are both large employment sites which would offer new employment opportunities and increase accessibility to jobs.

The activity generated by these sites could increase traffic congestion on local roads by increasing the number of private cars on the roads could lead to an increase in emissions to air having a negative effect on local air quality. However, both sites are also well served by sustainable transport links which could reduce this impact.

Both sites could result in a negative effect on local landscape character through the development of greenfield land, however, it should be possible to partly mitigate this through incorporating green infrastructure and sensitive design methods to integrate the new development with its surroundings. The development of housing and employment sites on greenfield land could also provide new targets for crime. However, crime levels in the Borough are generally very low and new development is generally of either a very small scale or it would be possible to mitigate through secure by design measures.

Both sites are adjacent to waterbodies which could lead to pollutants entering the watercourse resulting in negative effects. Both sites fall within FZ3 and are at high risk of flooding therefore an FRA should be carried out and development should include flood defences and ensure the use of SuDS.

It is clear that there are more potential options for employment land than is required to meet the remaining requirement of 2.41ha. Based upon the information set out above and to some extent the consultation responses it is considered that these sites do not need to be included as allocations at the Regulation 19 Publication stage. The consultation process highlighted that in relation to Employment Land Option site 2 (land at Grimbaldeston Farm, Longridge) the landowner is unwilling to bring forward the site for this land use.

4.3 Appraisal of the HED DPD Policies

The HED DPD includes five policies these have also been assessed to determine their sustainability performance and to provide recommendations for sustainability improvements (detailed policy appraisal sheets can be found in Appendix F).

4.3.1 Policy CRM1 - Clitheroe Market Redevelopment

Overall, Policy CRM1 scored relatively positively against the SA objectives particularly for the social and economic aspects. The policy encourages growth in central Clitheroe, an existing centre, which could help to reduce instances of crime and anti-social behaviour through the regeneration of this site. This central location could also help to encourage the use of public transport, pedestrian and cycle links compared with out-of-town areas. This may also indirectly benefit healthier lifestyles and increased physical activity.

The improvements to and introduction of new facilities, shops and services in central Clitheroe would benefit accessibility given its central location near to a large local population and easily accessible to pedestrians, cyclists and public transport users. By increasing the provision of facilities, retail and services in Clitheroe, the policy encourages employment in an area of relatively high employment deprivation which is already served by infrastructure. The policy could thereby potentially increase the diversity and the number of employment opportunities in Clitheroe. By promoting retail growth in Clitheroe, employment opportunities will be promoted in this area that are accessible to some of the highest areas of employment deprivation in the district. The focus of potentially lower-skilled jobs in these areas has potential to encourage economic inclusion.

Focusing well-designed development in Clitheroe can help benefit townscape character and quality and also utilise previously developed land. Encouraging further amenities in Clitheroe could lead to a higher likelihood of car journeys in and around the city centre consequently resulting in a likely increase in local greenhouse gas emissions thus having a negative effect on local air quality. Development of the market could lead to an increase in energy consumption and therefore it is recommended that the lowest possible carbon footprint is achieved in line with national technical standards (and local policy). This would, however, be offset by the good accessibility of the site allowing easy access via sustainable means. Development would also lead to an increase in waste production and would likely trigger an increase in demand for raw materials during the construction stage of redevelopment. However, the development would make use of a previously developed site as opposed to greenfield land. It is recommended that the policy promotes the use of recycled/ reused materials during construction in order to reduce this demand and on-site waste separation facilities should be provided wherever possible in order to encourage the recycling/ reuse of waste materials.

Development in the areas identified could promote more sustainable modes of transport through increased demand of new and improved goods and services in Clitheroe. Improving sustainable transport provisions could help to decrease the use of private car movements identified earlier and thus offset greenhouse gas/air emissions.

4.3.2 Policy MCB - Main Centre Boundaries

Overall, Policy MCB would result in mainly neutral effects against the SA objectives with some minor positive effects. By clearly defining main centre boundaries in the district and securing the future of existing shopping areas, this would help to increase accessibility to basic goods and services. This could also help to create and maintain thriving economic centres, an effect that could be increased through the introduction of new retail areas within the urban edges so long as they are still accessible. Furthermore, the relevant Core Strategy policy also states that these developments are 'intended to serve a wide catchment area' which could help promote economic inclusion in the borough.

The reuse of underused brownfield land or buildings in the main centres could result in positive effects on the local landscape character and the setting of any heritage assets in the area through replacement of unsympathetic buildings.

4.3.3 Policy OS1 - Open Space

Policy OS1 scored positively overall against social and environmental SA objectives. In seeking to protect local open spaces, recreation and leisure from inappropriate development, the policy could help to encourage and promote healthier lifestyles through increased physical activity levels.

The policy could maintain connectivity within open space networks which could benefit tourism through the maintenance or even enhancement of Ribble Valley's natural assets.

The policy has the potential to protect and enhance biodiversity through the protection of open spaces and has the potential to indirectly protect heritage assets if there are unknown heritage assets in the locations that are afforded protection. There could also be indirect, positive impacts for the setting of built heritage and the historic landscape and the policy could also support the protection of local townscapes and landscape character. The retention of green space in the Borough could aid in the management of flood risk the areas

identified and could potentially even reduce any exacerbation of this risk through climate change as these areas can provide flood storage capacity or benefit infiltration.

4.3.4 Policy TV1 - Traveller Sites

Policy TV1 performed relatively positively against the SA objectives with positive effects mainly being recorded against social and economic objectives. The policy take account of the amenity of neighbouring properties and makes reference to the site having no ‘unacceptable impacts on the immediate surroundings’.

Policy states that sites should be located close to amenities, services and goods which could reduce reliance on private cars however, development could still lead to an increase in private car movements in the areas identified for development therefore increasing local emissions to air. Policy also states that sites will be located in close proximity to educational and health facilities potentially increasing educational attainment for residents of sites and improving health and wellbeing.

Development would lead to increase in waste production. It is recommended that the policy promotes the use of recycled/ reused materials in order to reduce demand for raw materials and on-site waste separation facilities should be provided wherever possible to encourage recycling/ reuse of waste materials.

4.4 Appraisal of Cumulative Effects of the Draft HED DPD

The SEA Directive requires that the assessment includes identification of cumulative and synergistic effects (where the combined effects are greater than the sum of their component parts).

Cumulative effects are an important aspect of the SA as none of the policies would ever be implemented in isolation and the plan has to be read as a whole. There is also the potential for the plan to have cumulative effects with other plans and programmes that are produced by other authorities such as neighbouring local authorities or the Environment Agency. Table 4-2 presents those plans that have been considered as part of this process.

Table 4-2 Relevant Plans and Programmes

Authority	Relevant Plan/Project
United Utilities	Water Resources Management Plan (2015).
Environment Agency	Lune and Wyre Abstraction Licensing Strategy (2013)
Lancashire County Council	Local Transport Plan 2011 – 2021: A Strategy for Lancashire May (2011).
Lancashire County Council	Joint Lancashire Minerals and Waste Development Framework Core Strategy (2009) (Site Allocations document in preparation).
AONB Unit	The Forest of Bowland AONB Management Plan 2014-2019 (adopted 2014)
Blackburn with Darwen Council	Local Plan Part 1: Core Strategy (adopted 2011) Local Plan Part 2 (adopted 2015)
Burnley Borough Council	Local Plan (adopted 2006) (New Local Plan in preparation)
Craven District Council	Saved policies from the 1999 Local Plan (New Local Plan in preparation)
Hyndburn Borough Council	Core Strategy (adopted 2012) Accrington Area Action Plan (adopted 2012) Development Management DPD (New Local Plan in preparation)
Lancaster City Council	Lancaster City Council Core Strategy (adopted 2008) (New Local Plan in preparation) Morecambe Area Action Plan (2014)

Authority	Relevant Plan/Project
	Arnsdale and Silverdale AONB DPD (with South Lakeland District Council)
Ribble Valley Borough Council	Core Strategy (adopted 2014)
Pendle Borough Council	Core Strategy (adopted 2015) Bradley Area Action Plan (2011) Saved policies from the Replacement Pendle Local Plan (adopted 2006)
Preston City Council	Core Strategy (adopted 2012) Local Plan (adopted 2015)
South Lakeland District Council	Local Plan Part 1 - Core Strategy (adopted 2010) Local Plan Part 2 – Land Allocations (adopted 2013) Local Plan Part 3 - Currently in preparation
South Ribble Borough Council	Local Plan (adopted 2015)
Wyre Borough Council	Wyre Borough Local Plan (Adopted 1999) (New Local Plan in preparation).

Table 4-3 summarises the cumulative and synergistic impacts of the plan together with any relevant issues from other plans as appropriate. The approach identifies receptors, for example the economy or the townscape, that may be affected by cumulative impacts. It also acknowledges where uncertainty has influenced the assessment.

Table 4-3 Cumulative and Synergistic Impacts

Receptor	Cumulative / Synergistic Effect (Positive, Negative, Neutral)	Commentary and Effects
Education provision and educational attainment.	Positive	Educational attainment in the district is generally good although there are some concentrations of poor attainment. It is considered unlikely that the DPD could result in a positive change to educational attainment across the district as this is not the focus of the plan.
Crime and Fear of Crime	Neutral	Crime levels are generally low across the district. Effects are assessed as neutral/negligible as the development of greenfield land in the district has the potential to attract crime due to increased opportunities for crime whereas the development of brownfield site has the potential to deter crime associated with anti-social behaviour on disused or derelict sites. This being the case, crime levels are low in Ribble Valley so cumulative effects of the DPD are likely to be negligible.
Access to goods and services	Positive	There is a clear focus in the policies upon ensuring the long-term viability of goods and services however policies should ensure that new development is accessible by public transport as well as walking and cycling links.
Health and Well-Being	Neutral / Positive	Levels of health are already good across the district. By ensuring that new housing and employment development is well designed and accessible and that there is an excellent green infrastructure network and areas of green space that are available for

Receptor	Cumulative / Synergistic Effect (Positive, Negative, Neutral)	Commentary and Effects
		<p>formal and informal recreation. In the long-term there could be indirect benefits for health and well-being.</p> <p>The Forest of Bowland AONB Management Plan and the Core Strategy will also help contribute towards these benefits within those areas through the protection of the natural environment of the Borough.</p>
Housing	Positive	<p>Housing affordability is a significant issue in the district and needs to be addressed. Affordable housing is referenced only once in the HED DPD in relation to the Mellor1 development. <i>The housing related policies in the HED DPD should not only ensure that future development meets the needs of a wide range of people i.e. affordable housing but should also ensure that new housing development occurs in the most appropriate locations.</i></p> <p>Relevant housing policies set out in the Core Strategy will also help contribute towards these benefits</p>
Community Spirit and Cohesion	Positive	<p>The provision of high quality housing and employment opportunities to meet those needs of local people have the potential to contribute positively to community spirit and cohesion by creating locations where people want to live and work. <i>The provision of local services in areas identified for development through the HED DPD should be included where necessary.</i></p> <p>The Forest of Bowland AONB Management Plan and the Core Strategy will also help contribute towards these benefits within those areas through the protection of the natural environment of the Borough.</p>
Sustainable Economic Growth	Positive	<p>The HED DPD includes a number of allocations that could encourage the Borough's economy by creating more job opportunities and improving accessibility to jobs. These developments combined with investment and projects being delivered by outside investors could have cumulative positive effects for the local economy.</p> <p>The retention and enhancement of the Borough's natural environment and historic and cultural assets i.e. Forest of Bowland AONB could also have a potentially positive cumulative effect through an increase in tourism.</p> <p>The Forest of Bowland AONB Management Plan and the Core Strategy will also help contribute towards these benefits within those areas through the protection of the natural environment of the Borough.</p>
Biodiversity	Negative	<p>There are a large number of designated sites across the district that will be protected from inappropriate development. However, a large amount of greenfield land would be lost through the development of the proposed allocations. Whilst many of these can be mitigated at the project level and through following the provisions in the Core Strategy, there is still potential for cumulative impacts on the Borough's biodiversity through loss of habitat. <i>It is recommended through the site assessments that significant green infrastructure is included in the designs of development that results in a loss of greenfield land.</i></p> <p>The Forest of Bowland AONB Management Plan and the Core Strategy would also help contribute towards these benefits within those areas.</p>

Receptor	Cumulative / Synergistic Effect (Positive, Negative, Neutral)	Commentary and Effects
Landscape/ Townscapes	Positive and Negative	<p>There is a very high quality landscape in the district and there are some very distinctive townscapes within the settlements that also need to be protected and enhanced.</p> <p>Development should focus upon the use of brownfield land and the re-use of derelict buildings may also contribute positive cumulative impacts on the Borough's landscape and townscape resource.</p> <p>A large amount of greenfield land would be lost through the development of the proposed allocations which has potential to result in cumulative impacts on the Borough's landscapes and townscapes. This has been taken into account at the site assessment level. <i>It should be ensured that new development is of an appropriate scale and location and is designed to reflect the local landscape/townscape character.</i></p> <p>The Forest of Bowland AONB Management Plan together with the Environmental policies set out in the Core Strategy would also help contribute towards these benefits within the district.</p>
Climate Change Air Quality Energy Efficiency Natural Resources Waste Sustainable Transport	Positive and Negative	<p>The amount of development proposed by the Council would likely lead to an increase in private car use and consequently increasing local emissions to air resulting in a negative effect on local air quality. <i>Sustainable transport provisions should be strengthened in areas that have been identified for development to reduce local emissions to air from increased private car use.</i></p> <p>However, there is a degree of uncertainty about these cumulative effects being realised as this is reliant upon travel choices of individual residents and workers. Many of the proposed sites are relatively small scale and are generally served by sustainable transport options and/or are in accessible town centre locations.</p> <p>There is no direct reference to energy efficiency within the HED DPD however the Core Strategy contains numerous policies regarding climate change, renewable energy and sustainable development therefore positively complimenting the HED DPD through positive cumulative effects.</p> <p>All new development across the Borough has the potential to result in a cumulative increase in the use of natural resources and waste sent to landfill. Mitigation measures have been included in the individual site assessments, however this issue is difficult to fully mitigate.</p>
Water Resources	Positive and negative	<p>New development across the Borough is likely to place pressure on water resources and increase consumption of water resources. However, there is mitigation provided within the individual site assessment sheets and policies as there is a clear focus upon ensuring sustainable design, ensuring that flood risk is managed and that sustainable (urban) drainage systems are incorporated into new development.</p> <p>The water management policy set out in the Core Strategy would also help contribute towards these benefits within those areas.</p>

5 SA MONITORING FRAMEWORK

5.1 Introduction

This section provides an outline framework for monitoring the significant effects of implementing the HED DPD. Monitoring is an ongoing process integral to the plan's implementation and can be used to:

- Determine the performance of the plan and its contribution to objectives and targets;
- Identify the performance of mitigation measures;
- Fill data gaps identified earlier in the SA process;
- Identify undesirable sustainability effects; and
- Confirm whether sustainability predictions were accurate.

The SEA Regulations require that the plan is monitored to test the actual significant effects of implementing the plan against those predicted through the assessment. This process helps to ensure that any unforeseen, undesirable environmental effects are identified and remedial action is implemented accordingly. Likewise, it is beneficial to check that the effects (including beneficial effects) occur as predicted by the SA.

Based on the assessment conducted on the options and identification of potential significant environmental effects, a monitoring framework. Monitoring will be undertaken following adoption of the HED DPD.

5.2 Approach

The monitoring framework has been developed to measure the performance of the plan against changes in defined indicators that are linked to its implementation. These indicators have been developed based on the following:

- The objectives, targets and indicators that were developed for the SA Framework;
- Features of the baseline that will indicate the effects of the plan;
- The likely significant effects that were identified during the assessment; and
- The mitigation measures that were proposed to offset or reduce significant adverse effects.

The monitoring framework has been designed to focus mainly on significant sustainability effects including those:

- That indicate a likely breach of international, national or local legislation, recognised guidelines or standards.
- That may give rise to irreversible damage, with a view to identifying trends before such damage is caused.
- Where there was uncertainty in the SA, and where monitoring would enable preventative or mitigation measures to be taken.

As well as measuring specific indicators linked to the implementation of the plan, contextual monitoring of social, environmental and economic change has been included i.e. a regular review of baseline conditions in the borough. This enables the measurement of the overall effects of the HED DPD.

There are numerous SA indicators available and it is not always possible to identify how a specific plan has impacted a receptor, for example housing provision is likely to be influenced by a number of actions and different plans. A thorough analysis of the data collated and the emerging trends will, therefore be important.

A fundamental aspect of developing the monitoring strategy is to link with existing monitoring programmes and to prevent duplication of other monitoring work that is already being undertaken.

Consideration has, therefore, been given to the monitoring framework that will be used to monitor delivery of the plan policies.

5.3 Proposed Monitoring Framework

Table 5-1 provides a framework for monitoring the effects of the plan and determining whether the predicted sustainability effects are realised. The framework is structured using the SA Objectives and includes the following elements:

- The potentially significant impact that needs to be monitored or the area of uncertainty;
- A suitable monitoring indicator with a potential source for the data identified and
- A target (where one has been devised).

The impacts predicted in the SA will not be realised until development occurs. The monitoring framework presented in Table 5-1 can then be updated to include targets as and when they are developed.

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Table 5-1 Outline Monitoring Framework

SA Objective	Effect to be Monitored	Indicators	Targets (to be refined and developed further once the Plan is adopted)	Potential Data Sources
Reduce crime, disorder and fear of crime	Effect of plan on contributing to a reduction in crime levels.	<p>Number and distribution of wards with LSOAs in the bottom 30% most deprived for crime deprivation.</p> <p>Crime rates per 1,000 of the population for key offences.</p> <p>Percentage of males/females feeling 'fairly' or 'very' unsafe after dark</p> <p>Potential future monitoring indicators:</p> <p>Number of new development actively incorporating Secured by Design principles.</p> <p>Number of new initiatives implemented to tackle anti-social behaviour.</p> <p>Number of developments with Secured by Design methods.</p>	<p>Reduce the number of crimes per 1000 population</p> <p>Reduce the number of wards with LSOAs in the bottom 30% most deprived.</p> <p>Reduce incidences of violent crime</p> <p>No specific target for reducing fear of crime although overall target should be to reduce fear of crime.</p>	<p>Index of Multiple Deprivation</p> <p>Lancashire County Council</p> <p>Ribble Valley Forward Planning Team</p>
Improve levels of educational attainment for all age groups and all sectors of society	<p>Effect of plan on ensuring access to educational opportunities</p> <p>Ensuring that sufficient primary and secondary school capacity is available to accommodate new residents</p>	<p>Number and distribution of wards with LSOAs in the bottom 30% nationally for education, skills and training deprivation</p> <p>Location and number of school places available</p>	<p>Ensure sufficient school places are available to meet the needs of new development</p>	<p>Index of Multiple Deprivation</p> <p>Lancashire County Council</p> <p>Annual Monitoring Report 2015/2016</p>
Improve physical and mental health for all and reduce health inequalities	<p>Monitor levels of health and well-being across the Borough. The implementation of the plan policies has the potential to improve the green infrastructure network, improve</p>	<p>Percentage of resident population who consider themselves to be in good health</p> <p>Number of wards with LSOAs in the bottom</p>	<p>Reduce the number of wards with LSOAs in the bottom 30% most deprived for health deprivation</p>	<p>Index of Multiple Deprivation</p> <p>Office of National Statistics</p>

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SA Objective	Effect to be Monitored	Indicators	Targets (to be refined and developed further once the Plan is adopted)	Potential Data Sources
	<p>accessibility and provide opportunities for residents to pursue healthy lifestyles.</p> <p>Conversely there may also be risk of loss of areas of open space as a result of new development and increased pressure on health services.</p>	<p>30% most deprived for health deprivation</p> <p>Amount of new residential development within 1km of 5 basic services (GP, Food Store, Primary School, Bus Stop and Post Office)</p> <p>GPs per 1,000 population</p> <p>Public open space per 1,000 population New public space delivered annually Children's play space delivered annually Distribution of sports facilities</p> <p>Cycle route length and integration/connectivity across settlements</p> <p>Number of Health Impact Assessments for major planning applications on strategic sites and locations, with outcomes implemented.</p>	<p>Ensure that there is at least one 20 hectares natural green space site within 2km of people's homes</p>	<p>Ribble Valley Health Profile</p>
<p>Increase the availability of quality affordable housing and social and sheltered accommodation in areas most at need</p>	<p>Monitor the type, tenure, density and affordability of the housing that is delivered across the borough as a result of the application of the policies.</p> <p>Environmental and sustainable construction standards achieved in new housing development should also be monitored.</p>	<p>Net additional dwellings completed Dwelling stock by type and tenure Number of affordable homes built</p> <p>Number and location of wards with LSOAs in the bottom 30% nationally for Living Environment deprivation</p> <p>Percentage of unfit and vacant dwellings Provision for all ages</p> <p>Number of new and converted dwellings on previously developed land</p>	<p>Annual dwelling completions against requirement target of 280 per annum.</p> <p>Number of market housing schemes of 10 or more homes that provide 30% affordable homes</p> <p>Decrease number of unfit and vacant dwellings</p> <p>Reduce number of wards with LSOAs in bottom 30% for living environment deprivation</p>	<p>Ribble Valley Forward Planning Team</p> <p>Annual Monitoring Report 2015/2016</p>

HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DPD SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL REPORT – SUBMISSION

SA Objective	Effect to be Monitored	Indicators	Targets (to be refined and developed further once the Plan is adopted)	Potential Data Sources
			Number of homes within developments of 15 or more designed to specifically accommodate the elderly	
Improve sustainable access to basic goods, services and amenities for all groups	Effects of the plan on service provision and accessibility of key services for the population across the Borough.	<p>Number of LSOAs in the bottom 30% most deprived for barriers to housing and services provision.</p> <p>Percentage of new dwellings built within 400m of a bus stop or 800m of a railway station.</p> <p>Amount of new residential development within 1km of 5 basic services</p> <p>Length of Public Rights of Way</p>	<p>Reduce number of wards with LSOAs in bottom 30% for barriers to housing and services provision</p> <p>Increase the percentage of areas in Ribble Valley that are within 15 to 30 minutes by public transport of at least four key services.</p> <p>No net loss of Public Rights of Way</p>	<p>Index of Multiple Deprivation</p> <p>Ribble Valley Forward Planning Team</p>
Encourage sustainable economic growth, inclusion and business development across the borough	<p>Amount of new employment development that occurs across the borough, the type of jobs created and the accessibility of the jobs to key population centres.</p> <p>Amount of rural economic development.</p>	<p>Location of key industries and major employers.</p> <p>Economic activity rate</p> <p>Employment by sector and occupation</p> <p>Availability of employment land</p> <p>Number of wards with LSOAs in bottom 30% most deprived for employment deprivation and income deprivation</p> <p>Percentage of working age population claiming jobseekers allowance</p> <p>Employment land take-up</p>	<p>To reduce number of wards with LSOAs in the bottom 30% for employment and income deprivation.</p> <p>Recommend that targets are developed once the plan is adopted.</p>	<p>Ribble Valley Forward Planning Team</p> <p>Annual Monitoring Report 2015/2016</p> <p>Index of Multiple Deprivation</p>
Develop the skills and training needed to establish and maintain	Effects of DPD on participation and attainment in education.	Number of 16 year olds with at least five GCSEs	Recommend that targets are developed once the plan is	Office of National Statistics

HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DPD SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL REPORT – SUBMISSION

SA Objective	Effect to be Monitored	Indicators	Targets (to be refined and developed further once the Plan is adopted)	Potential Data Sources
a healthy labour market	Effects of DPD on the number of 16-19 year olds moving into higher education in the Borough.	Number of 16-19 year olds in higher education.	adopted.	Ribble Valley Forward Planning Team Annual Monitoring Report 2015/2016
Encourage economic inclusion	Effects of DPD on levels of unemployment in the Borough. Monitor effects on physical accessibility to jobs.	Number of Job Seekers Allowance (JSA) applicants in the borough Number of LSOAs in the bottom 30% of most deprived for employment deprivation	To reduce number of wards with LSOAs in the bottom 30% for income and employment deprivation.	Office of National Statistics Ribble Valley Forward Planning Team Annual Monitoring Report 2015/2016 Index of Multiple Deprivation
Protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity	Monitor effects of new development on biodiversity assets across the borough. Opportunity for new features to be provide as part of new development e.g. wetlands, landscaping etc.	Number and distribution of designated sites including SAC, SPA, Ramsar sites, SSSI, NNR, LNR) and BHS – monitor change in area of the sites Number of sites granted permission against Natural England advice. Condition of SSSIs (percentage in favourable condition) Number of BHSs under Active Management. Area of habitat created Areas of woodland, including ancient woodland Woodland/farmland bird populations Access to greenspace	Maintain and improve condition of designated sites Increase area of habitat provided across the district No sites granted against Natural England advice. No net loss of biodiversity No loss of ancient woodland as a result of new development Ensure that there is at least one 20 hectare natural green space site within 1km of people's homes	Lancashire BAP Ribble Valley Forward Planning Team Annual Monitoring Report 2015/2016 Natural England Lancashire County Council
Protect and enhance	Effect of new development on the	Contextual information based upon landscape	No net loss of sport,	Ribble Valley Forward

HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DPD SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL REPORT – SUBMISSION

SA Objective	Effect to be Monitored	Indicators	Targets (to be refined and developed further once the Plan is adopted)	Potential Data Sources
the borough's landscape and townscape character and quality	<p>borough's landscapes and townscapes.</p> <p>Integration of new development into the townscape/landscape</p> <p>Positive contribution of new development to the green infrastructure network across the Borough</p>	<p>and townscape character assessments</p> <p>Amount of sport, recreation and informal open space lost to other uses (without appropriate mitigation)</p> <p>Landscape/townscape characterisation Development on greenfield land</p> <p>Number of applications involving sites wholly or partly within the AONB.</p> <p>Some biodiversity indicators are also relevant in relation to greenspace access.</p>	<p>recreation and informal open space to other uses (without appropriate mitigation).</p> <p>No inappropriate development in the AONB</p> <p>100% of new and converted dwellings to be completed on previously developed land</p>	<p>Planning Team</p> <p>Annual Monitoring Report 2015/2016</p>
Protect and enhance the cultural heritage resource	Protection afforded to the Borough's heritage assets through application of the plan's policies.	<p>Number of heritage assets at risk</p> <p>Consider developing an indicator to monitor the extent to which new development has an adverse effect on the setting of heritage assets.</p>	Reduce number of heritage assets at risk	<p>Ribble Valley Forward Planning Team</p> <p>Historic England</p> <p>Annual Monitoring Report 2015/2016</p>
Protect and enhance the quality of water features and resources and reduce the risk of flooding	Monitor the effect of new development on flood risk, the number of new developments that include SuDS and the effects of new development on water quality across the Borough.	<p>Percentage of rivers with good/fair chemical and biological water quality</p> <p>Number of planning applications granted permission contrary to Environment Agency advice regarding flooding.</p> <p>Number of water meters and water recycling measures installed within new developments.</p>	<p>Prevent deterioration of the status of all surface water and groundwater bodies</p> <p>Protect, enhance and restore all bodies of surface water and groundwater.</p> <p>To meet EU bathing water standards</p> <p>No planning permissions to be granted contrary to EA</p>	<p>Bathing Waters Directive</p> <p>Environment Agency</p> <p>Ribble Valley Forward Planning Team</p> <p>Annual Monitoring Report 2015/2016</p>

HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DPD SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL REPORT – SUBMISSION

SA Objective	Effect to be Monitored	Indicators	Targets (to be refined and developed further once the Plan is adopted)	Potential Data Sources
			advice on flooding	
Guard against land contamination and encourage the appropriate re-use of brownfield sites within the urban boundary and to protect soil resources	Effects of the DPD on the uptake of greenfield land for development.	Percentage of brownfield land that has been developed. Percentage of available greenfield land that has been developed.	100% of new and converted dwellings to be completed on previously developed land Percentage of land permitted for employment development on previously developed land (pdl) to be greater than 51%.	Ribble Valley Forward Planning Team
Limit and adapt to climate change	Effects of the development plan on ensuring energy efficiency in new developments and achievement of sustainable construction standards in new developments.	Local rail and bus patronage Cycle route length Percentage of new dwellings built within 400m of a bus stop or 800m of a railway station.	Targets to be developed	Ribble Valley Forward Planning Team Lancashire County Council Annual Monitoring Report 2015/2016
	Effects on reducing travel and promoting use of public transport	New dwellings within 0.5km of the Borough's cycle path network Indicators used to monitor the implementation of the Local Transport Plan may also be relevant Number of Sustainability Statements accompanying major planning applications, with objectives implemented.		
Protect and improve air quality	Effect of the plan and new development on air quality across the borough.	Number, extent and distribution of AQMAs. Local air quality monitoring results for nitrogen and particulates	No new AQMAs to be designated or extended in the District. Achievement of UK Air Quality Strategy objectives for specific pollutants	UK Air Quality Strategy
Increase energy efficiency and require the use of renewable energy sources	Energy efficiency levels across district	Total CO ₂ emissions per capita per year. Annual average domestic gas and electricity consumption per consumer.	To reduce per capita CO ₂ emissions each year.	Ribble Valley Forward Planning Team UK Renewable Energy

HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DPD SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL REPORT – SUBMISSION

SA Objective	Effect to be Monitored	Indicators	Targets (to be refined and developed further once the Plan is adopted)	Potential Data Sources
		Annual gas and electricity consumption in the commercial/industrial sector.	To reduce annual average domestic gas and electricity consumption per consumer To reduce annual gas and electricity consumption in the commercial/industrial sector	Strategy
Ensure the sustainable use of natural resources Minimise waste, increase re-use and recycling	Effects of the plan on waste management are likely to be limited but number of recycling schemes implemented as part of new development and use of recycled and secondary materials in construction projects could be monitored.	Number of inappropriate developments granted in the Green belt built within the Greenbelt Implementation of recycling schemes for new development Percentage use of secondary and recycled materials in construction of new developments	100% of applications referred to the Minerals Authority as being within Mineral Safeguarding Areas (MSAs). No inappropriate development granted on greenbelt land. Increase use of secondary and recycled materials in construction for new developments.	Annual Monitoring Report 2015/2016 Ribble Valley Forward Planning Team Lancashire County Council
Promote the use of more sustainable modes of transport	Effects of the plan on the uptake of sustainable transport modes. Effects of the plan on access to high-speed broadband services	Local rail and bus patronage Cycle route length Percentage of new dwellings built within 400m of a bus stop or 800m of a railway station. Number of households with access to high-speed broadband services.	Targets to be developed	Ribble Valley Forward Planning Team Lancashire County Council

6 NEXT STEPS

This SA Report along with the Non-Technical Summary will now be submitted to the Secretary of State for consideration.

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