

Ribble Valley Borough Council Local Plan Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report

Consultation Draft

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Purpose

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Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Definition
ALC	Agricultural Land Classification
AMR	Authority Monitoring Report
AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
AQMA	Air Quality Management Area
BAP	Biodiversity Action Plan
BHS	Biological Heritage Sites
CCC	Committee on Climate Change
DBS	Disclosure and Barring Service
DCLG	Department for Communities and Local Government
DECC	Department for Energy and Climate Change
DEFRA	Department for the Environment, Food, and rural Affairs
DoH	Department of Health
EA	Environment Agency
FRMP	Flood Risk Management Plans
GSCE	General Certificate of Secondary Education
GVA	Gross Value Added
HEDDPD	Housing and Economic Development, Development Plan Document
HRA	Habitats Regulation Assessment
JNCC	Joint Nature Conservation Committee
LDF	Local Development Framework
LRMS	Lancashire and Blackpool Flood Risk Management Strategy

Abbreviation	Definition
LGS	Local Geodiversity Sites
LLFA	Lead Local Flood Authority
LNP	The Longridge Neighbourhood Plan
LNR	Local Nature Reserve
LSOA	Lower Layer Super Output Areas
MSA	Mineral Safeguarding Areas
NCA	National Character Area
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
NPS	National Policy Statements
NVQ	National Vocational Qualification
ODPM	Office of the Deputy Prime Minister
ONS	Office of National Statistics
RIGS	Regionally Important Geological and Geomorphological Sites
RMA	Risk Management Authority
SA	Sustainability Appraisal
SAC	Special Areas of Conservation
SCI	Statement of Community Involvement
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SFRA	Strategic Flood Risk Assessment
SHENA	Strategic Housing and Economic Needs Assessment
SHLAA	Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment
SLA	Special Landscape Areas
SPA	Special Protected Areas
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest
SuDS	Sustainable Drainage Systems

1 Introduction

1.1 Purpose of the Scoping Report

Ribble Valley Borough Council is currently producing a new Local Plan, intended to update the adopted Core Strategy and set out the strategic policies aimed at guiding development within the borough. This Scoping Report has been prepared as a part of the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the Local Plan.

This report represents the initial stage in the SA, in which the context and scope of the process are set. Its purpose is to propose and agree with the SEA Statutory Bodies the:

- Geographical, or spatial, scope of the forthcoming SA
- Temporal, or time, scope in terms of looking for short, medium and long-term effects
- Technical scope, in terms of a proposed extent of environmental, social and economic issues it will consider for potential significant effects

In order to achieve the above, it identifies relevant plans, policies and programmes that will inform the process and considers their influence on the Local Plan and sustainability in general. It also identifies relevant baseline information and the main sustainability issues within the borough, including cross-boundary issues where relevant. Then, an SA Framework consisting of sustainability objectives is presented, against which the Local Plan can be assessed in the later stages of the SA. Other aspects of SA scope are considered, including approach to assessment and temporal (i.e. time) scope of the plan and assessment.

This Scoping Report draws upon a wide range of existing information. This includes the evidence base used to inform the preparation of the existing Core Strategy (2008-2028) and Housing and Economic Development, Development Plan Document (HEDDPD) adopted in 2019, along with the latter's accompanying Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report (Arcadis, 2016).

The statutory "SEA consultation bodies" have been consulted on the scope of the SA as set out in this report to ensure an adequate level of detail has been included to allow the continuation of the SA process. Their responses are set out in Appendix C, and are addressed within relevant sections of this final draft scoping report. This consultation was run for a five-week period from 12 November 2021 to 17 December 2021, and then extended to enable a response from all three statutory bodies.

The proposed scope of the SA has been revised in order to address the consultee comments received, as represented herein.

1.2 Ribble Valley Local Plan

Ribble Valley Borough Council currently has an adopted Core Strategy, Housing and Economic Development, Development Plan Document (HEDDPD) and The Longridge Neighbourhood Plan (LNP). These documents, along with the Ribble Valley Proposal's Map comprise its Local Development Framework (LDF) which provides the basis for planning applications, investment decisions, and managing change in the local area.

Ribble Valley is now preparing a new Local Plan following the updates to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) on 19th February 2019 where the need for a new, single Local Plan for the Borough was identified. This will bring the Core Strategy up

to date and will bring forward the provisions of the HEDDPD, guiding the development needs of Ribble Valley to 2033.

The new Local Plan will set out will set out strategic policies aimed at guiding the spatial pattern and broad scale of development within the borough. It will include commitments for housing, employment and other development and will set out the specific criteria against which planning applications for the development and use of land and buildings will be considered. In addition, the Local Plan will seek to address local needs in terms of community facilities and infrastructure and set out policies for promoting and protecting key environmental features and resources within the area, adapting to climate change and securing good design.

1.3 Sustainable Development

The term 'sustainable development' has been used in policy-making since 1987 following the publication of the World Commission on Environment and Development Report 'Our Common Future', commonly referred to as the Brundtland Report. The report developed guiding principles for sustainable development as it is generally understood today and contained the following definition of sustainable development.

Development that meets the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs¹

The concept of sustainable development gained additional momentum after the Rio Earth Summit in 1992, which encouraged the UK government to develop its own themes for sustainable development. The initial themes were presented in a document entitled 'A Better Quality of Life: a Strategy for Sustainable Development in the United Kingdom'. This was updated in 2005, when the Government produced a new UK framework for sustainable development 'Securing the Future'. This document listed the following five principles of sustainable development which are used to guide the implementation of sustainable development in the UK:

- Living within environmental limits
- Ensuring a strong, healthy and just society
- Achieving a sustainable economy
- Promoting good governance
- Using good science responsibly

The NPPF, first published by the UK Government in 2012 and most recently updated in July 2021, outlines the Government's approach to achieving sustainable development within Section 2. This outlines that there are three overarching interdependent objectives to achieving sustainable development:

- a) **An economic objective** – to help build a strong, responsive and competitive economy, by ensuring that sufficient land of the right types is available in the right places and at the right time to support growth, innovation and improved productivity; and by identifying and coordinating the provision of infrastructure;
- b) **A social objective** – to support strong, vibrant and health communities, by ensuring that a sufficient number and range of homes can be provided to meet the needs of present and future generations; and by fostering well-designed, beautiful and safe places, with accessible services and open spaces that reflect

¹ Brundtland, G. (1987). Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development: Our Common Future. United Nations General Assembly document A/42/427

current and future needs and support communities' health, social and cultural well-being; and

- c) **An environmental objective** – to protect and enhance our natural, built and historic environment; including making effective use of land, improving biodiversity, using natural resources prudently, minimising waste and pollution, and mitigating and adapting to climate change, including moving to a low carbon economy.

1.4 Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment

A Sustainability Appraisal (SA) is a systematic process which is required in the UK by the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 during the preparation of a Local Plan. The role of an SA is to promote sustainable development by assessing the impacts of the plan on environmental, economic, and social sustainability objectives.

A Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) considers only the potential environmental impacts of a Local Plan and therefore should be undertaken if plans and programmes may have significant positive or negative environmental effects.

There are many crossovers between SA and SEA and as such they are often undertaken together. The Government have published guidance for undertaking SA of Local Plans that ensure the process meets all requirements of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004. This means a separate SEA should not be required and allows the combined SA/SEA process to be referred to as Sustainability Appraisal (SA), concurrent with this document.

The work will be completed in accordance with the guidance detailed in A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive produced by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) (ODPM, 2005) and Planning Practice Guidance provided by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) (DCLG, 2014).

The first output from the Sustainability Appraisal process is the production of a Scoping Report, which outlines the scope and methodology of the assessment. A proportionate approach has been adopted towards establishing the scope of the Sustainability Appraisal, reflecting the high-level nature of the Local Plan. Consultation with the statutory consultees (Historic England, Natural England and the Environment Agency) will be undertaken to refine and confirm the methodology and scope of the assessment. These aspects will be reviewed iteratively as the Local Plan develops to ensure the plan fully considers the environmental and sustainability impacts of its implementation before it is adopted.

Once the scope of the Sustainability Appraisal has been agreed, an Environmental Report will be prepared that assesses and describes the likely significant sustainability impacts of implementing the Local Plan policies.

1.5 Habitats Regulations Assessment

The Habitats Regulations published for England and Wales in July 2017 confirmed the requirement to undertake Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) of development plans. The Habitats Regulations translate Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Flora and Fauna (Habitats Directive) and 79/409/EEC (Birds Directive) into UK law and remain a legal requirement despite the UK exiting the European Union.

The purpose of the HRA is to establish whether the Local Plan will have a 'likely significant effect' on sites designated for their nature conservation interest at an

international level. These sites (known collectively as 'European Sites') include special areas of conservation (SAC), special protection areas (SPA), and by UK Government policy, Ramsar sites.

The HRA process will be undertaken alongside the SA/SEA process and will also feed iteratively into the Local Plan revision. The HRA will principally follow guidance contained within The Habitats Regulations Assessment of Local Development Documents Revised Draft Guidance for Natural England (2009)².

Where relevant, additional new or updated guidance and best practice, together with any retained case law and Planning Inspectorate decisions that emerge during the lifetime of the SA, will be taken into consideration.

The HRA process will progress through a series of stages. This will be applied to each stage of the Local Plan revision as required, including for the Issues and Options (Regulation 18), Publication stage (Regulation 19) and Submission stage consultation. However, the baseline data collation will be applicable to all stages, updated as required through the lifetime of the plan development. The HRA for the Local Plan will be reported separately to the SA, however, the findings will be taken into account in the SA where relevant.

1.6 Ribble Valley Borough

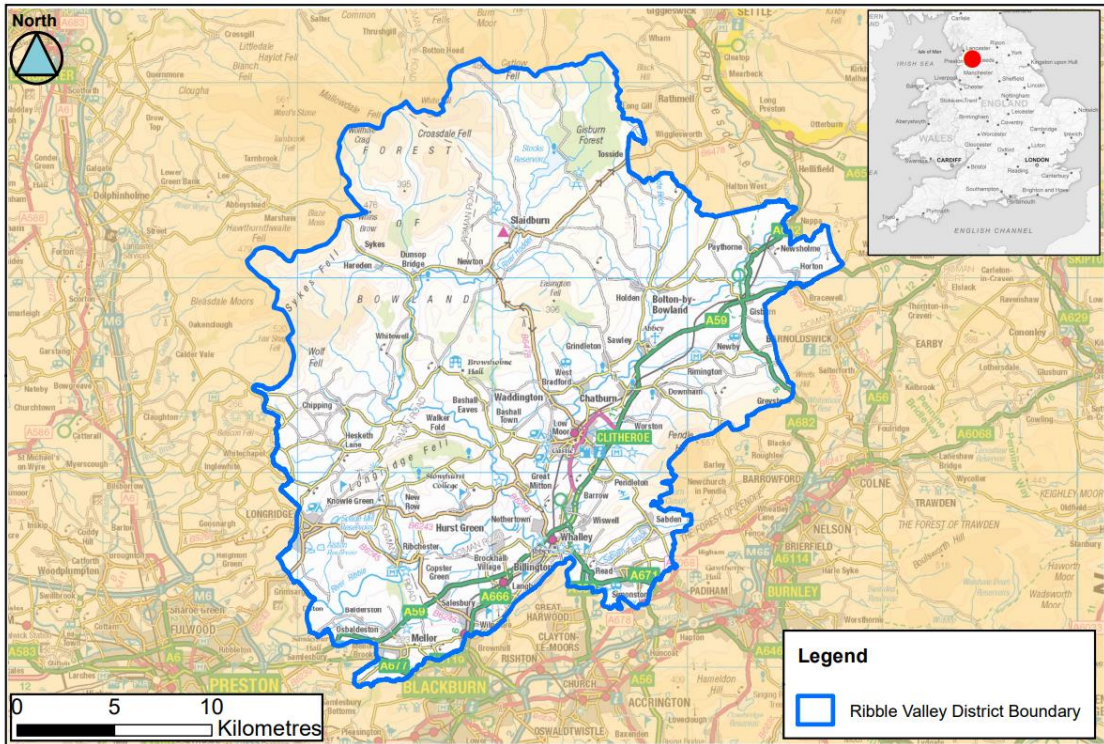
Ribble Valley, situated in the northeast of Lancashire, is the largest borough in Lancashire in geographical terms, covering 585 square kilometres (km²) or 58,500 hectares (ha). It borders North Yorkshire in the northeast of the borough. Ribble Valley is situated to the east of the M6 motorway and Preston, and north of the M65 and the towns of Blackburn and Burnley.

The borough has a predominantly rural nature and thus has the lowest population density (e.g. people per km²) in the county, as well as the smallest population overall. The total population in 2019 was 60,888. The main urban areas in the area include Clitheroe and Longridge, with 2019 populations of 16,653 and 8,215 respectively. These areas are situated in the south of the borough. Other main settlements in the area include the large villages of Whalley and Chatburn, as well as small hamlets such as Great Mitton and Paythorne. The remainder of the area is mainly rural: Ribble Valley has a high-quality environment with over 70% of the total area being covered by the Forest of Bowland area of outstanding natural beauty (AONB).

The Ribble Valley is well connected to the rest of the North West of England, with the A59 as the main artery through the borough, linking directly to the M6 and serving access routes to the M65 motorway. The borough is well connected by rail, with services from Clitheroe to Preston and Manchester.

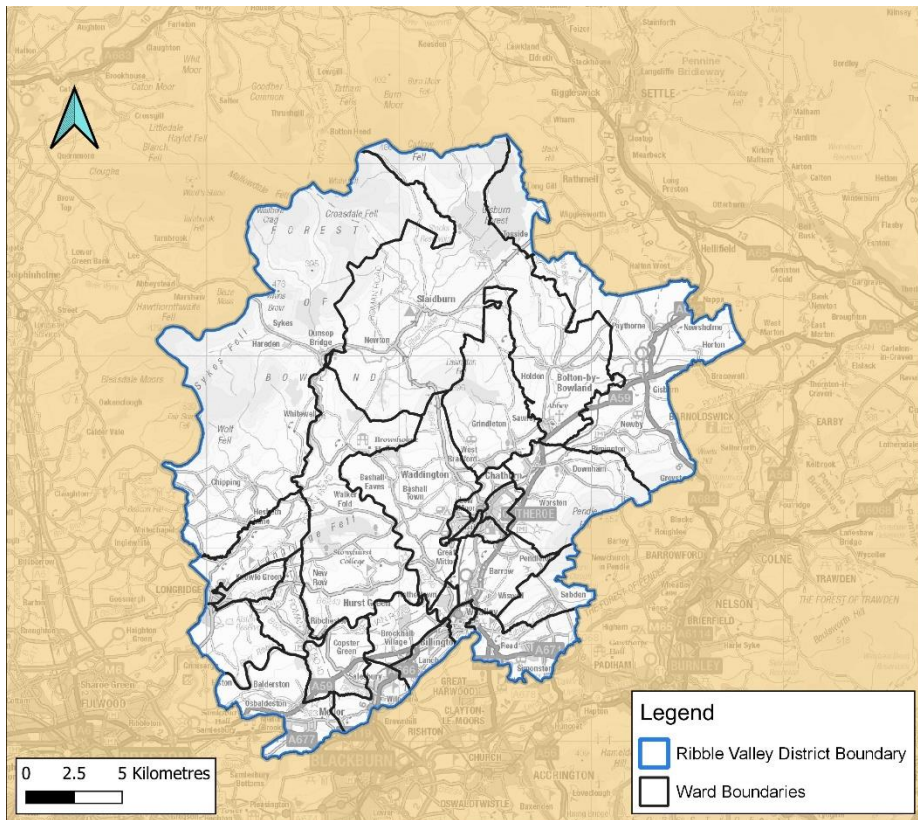
Figure 1-1 shows the location of the Ribble Valley, and Figure 1-2 shows the 24 wards that make up the Ribble Valley that are referenced in this Scoping Report.

² Tyldesley, D. 2009. The Habitats Regulations Assessment of Local Development Documents Revised Draft Guidance for Natural England. Natural England, Sheffield.



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Figure 1-1: The location and boundary of Ribble Valley Borough



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Figure 1-2: Ribble Valley Ward Boundaries

The Forest of Bowland area of outstanding natural beauty (AONB) is situated across the northwest of the borough. Additional ecological and biodiversity designations include Bowland Fells special protected area (SPA), North Pennine Dales Meadows special area of conservation (SAC) and 16 sites of special scientific interest (SSSI) across the borough. Additionally, a proportion of the borough is designated as a Green Belt.

There are numerous heritage assets throughout Ribble Valley, including 8,262 listed buildings, 29 Scheduled Monuments, and 4 registered historic parks and gardens.

These designations and their associated protective objectives and aims will be considered and incorporated into the SA Framework to ensure sustainable and appropriate future development.

1.7 Key challenges facing Ribble Valley

There are a number of key challenges for new development in the Ribble Valley. The Core Strategy (adopted 2014) identifies the following as key issues to be addressed within the borough:

- Focus of development
- High and unaffordable house prices
- Retaining the high quality environment/protection of the AONB and Green Belt
- Sustainable villages
- Travelling out of the borough to access work
- Employment
- Loss of the young population from the borough

Additional and more recent challenges for any new development in the borough include:

- Adequate resource supply to deliver developments within expected timeframes
- Local resistance against developments required to address housing affordability and commuting issues
- Climate change adaptation and mitigation
- Ensuring adequate progress with health provision objectives and targets

2 Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Methodology

2.1 Meeting the requirements of the SEA Regulations

Sustainability Appraisal is a compulsory requirement for certain development plans under section 19 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. Its purpose is to provide a systematic assessment of the extent to which Local Plan policies will contribute to the achievement of environmental, social and economic objectives. The information gained from the SA process is used to aid the selection of a preferred policies for the Local Plan, which are those that best meet its economic, environmental and social objectives, and legal requirements.

Government guidance requires that Sustainability Appraisals should incorporate the requirements of the SEA Regulations. Therefore, the Sustainability Appraisal of the new Ribble Valley Local Plan will meet the obligations of both the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and SEA Regulations – in practice, Sustainability Appraisal and SEA follow very similar methodologies and it is possible to combine them without losing the essence of either. Therefore, for the remainder of this document ‘Sustainability Appraisal’ refers to the combined process.

As required by the SEA Regulations, the full range of environmental receptors have been considered when developing the scope of the Sustainability Appraisal. This meets the requirements of the SEA Regulations, which states that an assessment should identify the potentially significant impacts on ‘*biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic, material assets including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors*’. As an integrated Sustainability Appraisal and SEA is being undertaken, consideration of other ‘sustainability’ topics has also been made, and therefore the Sustainability Appraisal appraises other issues including housing, transport, waste, social inclusion and deprivation, and economic and employment characteristics. Schedule 2 of the SEA Regulations sets out the scope of information to be provided. This is shown in Table 2-1 below, which also identifies where in the Sustainability Appraisal process each requirement will be met.

Table 2-1: Stages in the SA/SEA process as identified within Schedule 2 of the SEA Regulations

SEA Regulations requirement	Where in the SA
1. An outline of the contents and main objectives of the plan or programme, and of its relationship with other relevant plans and programmes	Scoping Report (Section 3)
2. The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme	Scoping Report (Section 4)
3. The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected	Scoping Report (Section 4)
4. 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 Council Directive 79/409/EEC on the conservation of wild birds(a) and the Habitats Directive	Scoping Report (Section 4)
5. 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	Scoping Report (Sections 3 and 4)

SEA Regulations requirement	Where in the SA
6. The likely significant effects on the environment, including short, medium and long-term effects, permanent and temporary effects, positive and negative effects, and secondary, cumulative and synergistic effects, on issues such as— (a) biodiversity; (b) population; (c) human health; (d) fauna; (e) flora; (f) soil; (g) water; (h) air; (i) climatic factors; (j) material assets; (k) cultural heritage, including architectural and archaeological heritage; (l) landscape; and (m) the inter-relationship between the issues referred to in sub-paragraphs (a) to (l)	Environmental Report (to be prepared)
7. The measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme.	Environmental Report (to be prepared)
8. An outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with, and 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	Environmental Report (to be prepared)
9. A description of the measures envisaged concerning monitoring in accordance with regulation 17	Environmental Report (to be prepared)
10. A non-technical summary of the information provided under paragraphs 1 to 9	Environmental Report (to be prepared)

2.2 Stages of the Sustainability Appraisal Process

Sustainability Appraisal is an iterative process that aims to identify the significant environmental, social and economic effects of a plan. For the Local Plan, this involves assessing the Plan strategies against a series of Sustainability Appraisal objectives to identify the extent to which sustainable development is likely to be achieved.

This Scoping Report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the SEA Regulations and follows good practice guidance produced by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) (ODPM, 2005³) and Planning Practice Guidance provided by the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government, 2015).

The ODPM guidance sets out a five-stage process (A to E) to be followed (see Table 2-2). This Scoping Report Addresses Stage A of the process wherein the context and objectives of the Sustainability Appraisal are identified and the scope of the assessment is determined. For the purposes of this assessment, stages A1 to A4 will

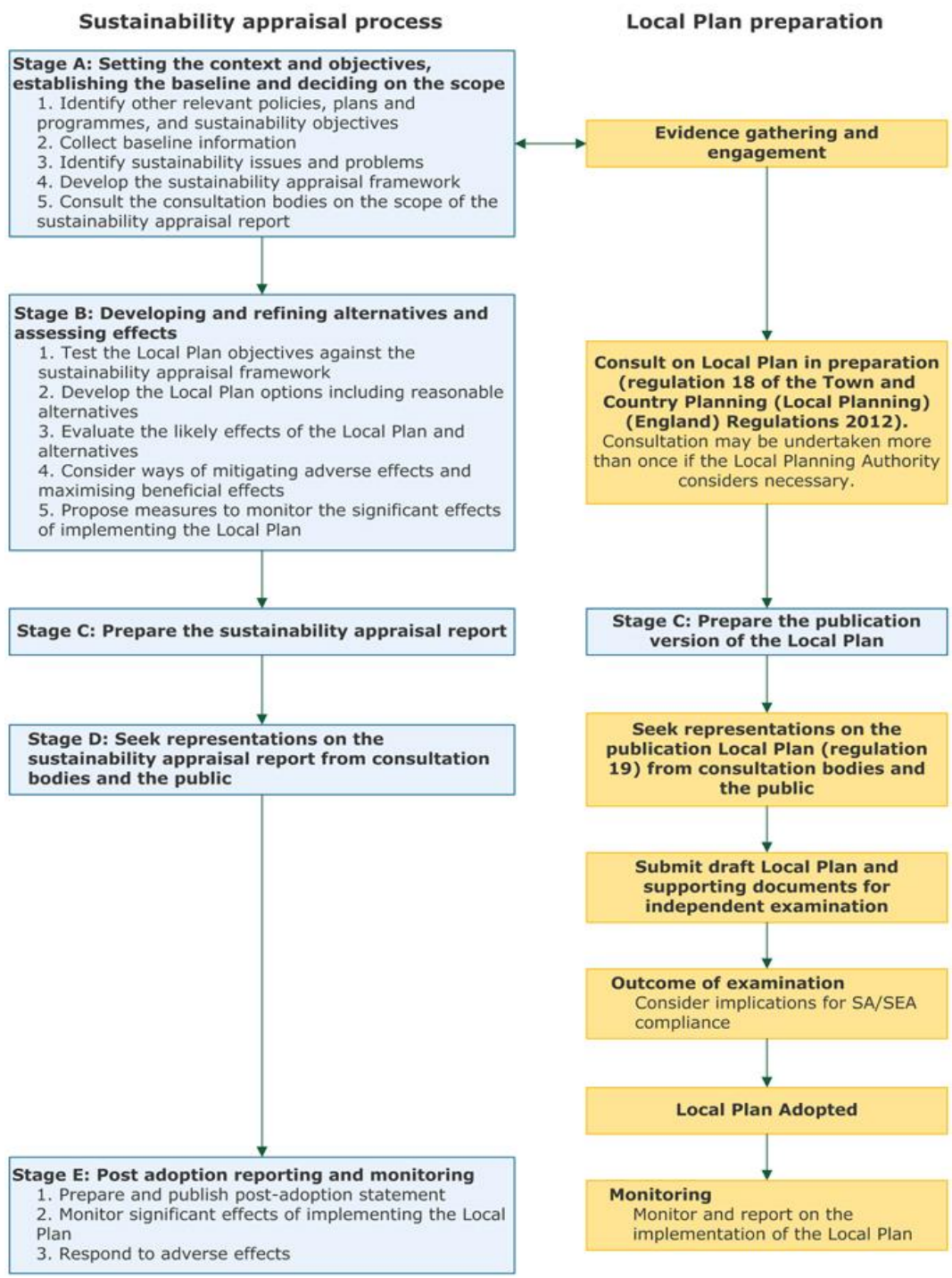
³ ODPM, 2005. A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive. London, ODPM. https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/7657/practical_guidesea.pdf

be completed, whilst stage A5 comprises consultation on this Scoping Report, which will be conducted as outlined in Section 6 of this document.

Table 2-2: Stages in the Sustainability Appraisal process

SEA stages and tasks	Purpose	Where covered in the SA
Stage A	Set out the context, objectives and approach of the assessment; and identify relevant environmental, economic and social issues and objectives.	Scoping Report
(A1) Identifying other relevant plans, programmes and environmental protection objectives	To establish how the plan or programme is affected by outside factors, to suggest ideas for how any constraints can be addressed and to help to identify Sustainability Appraisal objectives.	Scoping Report (Section 3, Appendix A)
(A2) Collecting baseline information	To provide an evidence base for environmental problems, prediction of effects, and monitoring; to help in the development of Sustainability Appraisal objectives.	Scoping Report (Section 4)
(A3) Identifying potential environmental problems	To help focus the SA and streamline the subsequent problems, prediction of effects, and monitoring; to help in the development of Sustainability Appraisal objectives.	Scoping Report (Section 5)
(A4) Developing SEA objectives	To provide a means by which the environmental performance of the plan or programme and alternatives can be assessed.	Scoping Report (Section 5)
(A5) Consulting on the scope of SEA	To ensure that the SA covers the likely significant environmental effects of the plan or programme.	Scoping Report (Section 6)
Stage B	Developing and refining options and assessing effects.	Environmental Report (to be prepared)
Stage C	Preparing the Environmental Report.	Environmental Report (to be prepared)
Stage D	Consulting on the draft Local Plan and the Environmental Report.	Environmental Report (to be prepared)
Stage E	Monitoring the significant effects of implementing the Local Plan	Environmental Report (to be prepared)

The relationship between the Sustainability Appraisal process and development of the Local Plan is summarised in Figure 2-1.



Source: Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government, 2015⁴

Figure 2-1: Key stages of Local Plan preparation and their link with the Sustainability Appraisal process

⁴ Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government, 2015. Strategic environmental assessment and sustainability appraisal. [Online] Available at: <http://planningguidance.planningportal.gov.uk/blog/guidance/strategic-environmental-assessment-and-sustainability-appraisal/strategic-environmental-assessment-and-sustainability-appraisal-and-how-does-it-relate-to-strategic-environmental-assessment/>

2.3 SA Scoping Methodology

2.3.1 Stage A1: Identifying other relevant policies, plans and programmes, and environmental protection objectives

The relationship between various policies, plans, programmes and environmental protection objectives may influence the Local Plan. The relationships are analysed to:

- Identify any external social, environmental or economic objectives that should be reflected in the Sustainability Appraisal process;
- Identify external factors that may have influenced the preparation of the plan; and
- Determine whether the policies in other plans and programmes might lead to cumulative or synergistic effects when combined with policies in the plan.

The plans and programmes that need to be considered include those at the international, national, regional and local scale. These are identified and evaluated in Section 3.

2.3.2 Stage A2: Collecting baseline information

Sustainability Appraisal guidance and the SEA Regulations identify a range of environmental and sustainability topics that must be considered during the assessment process. These topics are shown in Table 5-1 against the sustainability issues and indicators.

Baseline information has been collected in relation to each of these topics, many of which are inter-linked. A desk study was undertaken to identify baseline information, which was used to determine the key environmental, social and economic characteristics of the Ribble Valley Borough Council. The information search included information from a range of sources including the following organisations:

- Ribble Valley Borough Council
- Natural England
- Environment Agency
- Office for National Statistics
- Historic England
- Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC).

Where information was available, key sustainability targets and objectives have been identified; established and predicted trends in the status or condition of environmental features have been described; and significant environmental and sustainability issues have been highlighted. Trends evident in the baseline information have been used to predict the future baseline situation, which has assumed a continuation of the existing trends in some cases.

2.3.3 Stage A3: Identifying environmental and sustainability issues and problems

The identification of significant sustainability issues of direct relevance to the Ribble Valley is an important step in establishing an appropriate appraisal framework. Such issues have been identified directly through the baseline information review or identified by evaluating the relationship between the aims of the Sustainability Appraisal and the established environmental baseline.

2.3.4 Stage A4: Developing the Sustainability Appraisal objectives

Sustainability Appraisal objectives are a key tool used to assess the potential positive and negative environmental and sustainability effects of the Local Plan. Together with associated appraisal criteria, they form an assessment framework that provides a means to predict, describe and analyse the effects that are likely to arise from the implementation of the Plan policies. The Plan options and policies are appraised individually against each Sustainability Appraisal objective, thereby allowing environmental, economic and social effects, in particular those which are significant, to be identified. The use of comparable alternatives can also be incorporated into the assessment once the assessment framework has been established to aid in the identification of the most appropriate option for each Plan policy.

2.3.5 Stage A5: Consultation on the scope of the SA

A key aspect of the Sustainability Appraisal process is consultation. The Sustainability Appraisal process provides a mechanism to ensure that stakeholder engagement requirements are achieved, by providing interested parties/organisations and the public an opportunity to inform the process and comment on decisions taken. Stakeholder engagement also ensures that environmental and social issues, constraints and opportunities are identified and assessed at an early stage of the project.

This draft Scoping Report has been subject to a consultation with the statutory consultation bodies (Natural England, Historic England and Environment Agency) for a five-week period between 12 November and 17 December 2021. Comments received have been reviewed and the scope of the assessment revised where relevant.

The SA Report will be the next output in the SA process, and it will document the assessment of the Local Plan against the SA objectives.

3 Relevant Plans, Programmes and Environmental Objectives

3.1 Introduction

The Sustainability Appraisal process requires a review of other plans, programmes and policies and their environmental protection and sustainability objectives, to identify how these strategic objectives may influence the development of the Local Plan and the SA process. It is also a requirement of the SEA Regulations to identify the environmental protection objectives, established at international, Community or national 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-e). The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) also requires that “planning policies and decisions must also reflect relevant international obligations.”⁵

Identifying these relationships enables potential synergies to be determined, strengthening the benefits that can be gained from implementation of the Local Plan. This information is also used to inform the development of the baseline review and the identification of key issues and problems. In addition, any inconsistencies or constraints can be identified, which could hinder the achievement of the environmental protection objectives or those of the Local Plan, and therefore providing a broad appraisal of the strategy’s compliance with international, national, and local considerations.

Existing plans and strategies were reviewed within the context of this report. Additionally, as a review had already been undertaken in a prior SA Scoping Report for the Housing and Economic Development, Development Plan Document (HEDDEP), the review has been updated for this report. This task included revisiting all of the relevant international, national, regional and local plans, programmes and strategies that had been previously reviewed. Any gaps were filled in and updated where necessary.

The ODPM SEA guidance recognises that no list of plans or programmes can be definitive and as a result this report describes only the key plans, programmes and policies that may influence the Local Plan. There is also a range of legislation that developers must comply with that need to be taken into account that have not been included in this review. Key legislation (as relevant to planning and construction-type development) to be aware of includes:

- Equality Act 2010
- Housing and Planning Act (2016)
- Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act (2004)
- Wildlife and Countryside Act as amended by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000
- National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949
- Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
- Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979
- Control of Pollution Act 1974 (as amended)
- Environment Act 1995
- Environmental Protection Act 1990 (England, Scotland and Wales)

⁵ Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (2021). p4. *National Planning Policy Framework*. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2>

- Pollution Prevention and Control Act 1999 / Pollution Prevention and Control Regulations 2000
- Environmental Noise (England) Regulations 2006
- Water Act 2003
- Flood and Water Management Act 2010
- Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Regulations 2003
- Climate Change Act 2008
- Planning and Energy Act 2008
- Environment Act 2021

Relevant planning policy advice outlined in the NPPF that is particularly relevant to the preparation of locally-prepared plans is outlined below, categorised by the key themes identified by the review. This is then supplemented by key messages from regional and local-level strategies, plans, programmes and policies. A summary of the relevant plans, programmes, and policies and their relevance to the Ribble Valley Local Plan and the SA process is set out in Appendix A.

3.2 Climate

The NPPF highlights that plans should take a proactive approach to mitigating and adapting to climate change, with policies supporting appropriate measures to ensure the future resilience of communities and infrastructure to the impacts of climate change. Positive strategies for energy from renewable and low carbon heat and energy sources should be provided by plans, with the potential for development maximised and the adverse impacts addressed where possible. Areas and infrastructure for these energy sources should be identified if feasible and opportunities for development to use these sources of energy should be identified in plans.

The framework also states that planning policies should support the development of an appropriate mix of public transport across an area to minimise the number and lengths of journeys to encourage sustainable transport use. This includes the design and maintenance of walking and cycling networks and their supporting facilities. Sites and routes throughout Ribble Valley that could be critical in developing transport infrastructure should be identified and protected, and the active involvement of stakeholders should be encouraged throughout policy development.

The NPPF outlines that strategic policies should support the expansion of electronic communications networks and set out how high quality infrastructure will be delivered and upgraded over time to support high quality communications in the plan area. The number of new mast sites should be minimised where possible

The policy review revealed requirements to reduce future greenhouse gas emissions across all socio-economic sectors to limit the impacts of climate change on people and the environment; and provision of measures to enable future adaptation to the impacts of climate change and increased resilience.

3.3 Population, human health, and well-being

The NPPF states that planning policies should aim to achieve healthy, inclusive, and safe places that enable and support healthy lifestyles. The provision and use of shared facilities, services, and spaces should be planned positively, and the delivery of local strategies to improve health, social, and cultural well-being should be supported by strategic policies. The loss of valued facilities and services should be guarded against, with established facilities being retained and possibly developed and modernised where

appropriate. Robust assessments of the need for open space, sport, and recreation facilities should be the basis of planning policies to determine opportunities for new provision. Additionally, strategic policies should protect and enhance public rights of way and access.

The framework also states that strategic plans should establish a housing requirement figure for the area that will be met over the plan period, setting out requirements for both affordable and rural housing in these strategies. This should be informed by a local housing need assessment and reflect the overall strategy for the pattern and scale of housing development. The framework also states that policy-making authorities should have a clear understanding of the land available in their area, with specific, deliverable sites for short-term and long-term development. The supply of these deliverable sites should have a buffer to ensure sustainable development can be achieved throughout the plan period.

A review of international, national, regional and local policies highlighted a focus on the protection and improvement of human health, wellbeing and living standards; greater integration of socio-economic and environmental objectives to deliver sustainable development; promotion of prosperous, sustainable and coherent communities; provision of better public transport and access; reduction of flood risk; enhancement of recreation and amenity resources to benefit health and wellbeing; and development and provision of measures to enable adaptation to the impacts of climate change.

3.4 Economy

The NPPF identifies that planning policies should set out a clear economic vision and strategy to encourage sustainable economic growth. Criteria should be set to ensure that local and inward investment needs can be met over the plan period, with any potential barriers being addressed. Strategic policies should be flexible to accommodate unanticipated future needs and enable a rapid response to economic changes.

In order to support a prosperous rural economy, the NPPF advises that plans enable sustainable growth and expansion of all types of business in rural areas, including the development and diversification of agricultural and other land-based businesses. Furthermore, local services and community facilities should be retained and developed.

The review of relevant policies, plans, and programmes evidenced the need to maximise economic value and the benefits of innovation; encourage economic development through the delivery of sufficient land and tourism development; encourage enterprise, including the creation of new businesses and aiding the growth and development of small businesses; release local growth potential; tackle worklessness and deprivation; promote links with neighbouring economies to allow the full potential of regional strengths to be recognised.

Ribble Valley has a strong agricultural and tourist economy. In mitigating and adapting to climate change as per the NPPF (Section 3.2 above), it is important to note how these two sectors might change. Agriculture is one of the most vulnerable sectors to the impacts of climate change, as well as being the sector responsible for the fourth highest greenhouse gas emission globally – land management and farming practices are likely to have to change into the future, and it is noted that land may be freed up to be taken out of agricultural use and deliver climate change mitigation and adaptation⁶. A report on climate change and the visitor economy specifically in the North West of England produced in 2006 noted that “recreational behaviour in the

⁶ UK Parliament (2019). *Climate change and agriculture*. <https://post.parliament.uk/research-briefings/post-pn-0600/>

Northwest appears to be fairly resilient to the weather – this resonates with other recent research findings internationally. Climate influence on visitor behaviour is more likely to be overshadowed by socio-economic trends, particularly how we choose to spend our leisure time in the future⁷. The visitor economy, like with agriculture, may also change in order to mitigate and adapt to climate change, including the interaction with agriculture and rural areas (landscape management, etc.), resilience to extreme weather, and reducing visitor impacts.

3.5 Biodiversity and nature conservation

The NPPF outlines that planning policies should protect and enhanced valued sites of biodiversity and geodiversity value, recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside and the wider benefits from natural capital and ecosystem services. Additionally, impacts on biodiversity should be minimised, with net gains provided through development.

Components of local wildlife-rich habitats and wider ecological networks should be identified, mapped, and safeguarded through strategic policies, promoting conservation, restoration, and enhancement of priority habitats and species. Great weight should be given to conservation of designated areas, with development being limited where possible.

Regarding Green Belts, strategic plans should ensure consistency with the definition of boundaries to ensure identified requirements can be met and sustainable development is championed in these areas. As Green Belts are generally already established, any new proposals should be set out in strategic policies and should meet criteria to demonstrate the necessity.

The review of relevant policies and plans identified the need for protection of international and national designated sites and their qualifying features; preservation and enhancement of notable habitats and species, particularly those noted for their conservation value or under threat; identification of the roles and responsibilities of organisations including local authorities to protect and enhance biodiversity including the creation of local biodiversity action plan (BAP) habitats and species and promotion of BAP species; provision of new/restored habitat to enable species to adapt to the future impacts of climate change.

3.6 Landscape character

The NPPF states that great weight should be given to conservation of designated areas, with development being limited in these sensitive landscape assets where possible.

To maintain and enhance the vitality of town centres, the NPPF outlines that planning policies should define a network and hierarchy of town centres and allow them to grow and diversify in a way that can respond to rapid changes in the retail and leisure industries. The distinctive characters of towns should be reflected in strategic policies, with these policies looking at least 10 years ahead to meet the likely scale and type of development that is likely to be required.

The framework evidences that to ensure well-designed places, plans should set out a clear design vision that is developed with local communities so that local aspirations are reflected in the landscape. These designs should function and be sympathetic to

⁷ McEvoy, D., Handley, J. F., Cavan, G., Ayles, J., Lindley, S., McMorrow, J. and Glynn, S. (2006). *Climate Change and the Visitor Economy: the challenges and opportunities for England's Northwest, Sustainability Northwest* (Manchester) and UKCIP (Oxford). https://www.research.manchester.ac.uk/portal/files/40949916/FULL_TEXT.PDF

local character and history, helping to establish a strong sense of place. Strategic policies should ensure that places are safe, inclusive, and accessible.

A review of policies and plans evidence the need for the protection of sensitive landscape assets (including special landscape areas (SLA) and areas of outstanding natural beauty (AONB)); promotion of the conservation and enhancement of natural beauty and amenity of important landscapes, including inland waters; definition and protection of regional and local landscape character; and the provision and enhancement of green infrastructure to benefit people and the environment.

3.7 Historic environment

The NPPF delineates the importance of strategic plans sustaining and enhancing the significance of heritage assets. Plans should consider the wider social, cultural, and environmental benefits that the conservation of the historic environment can bring: this should be reflected in the positive contribution of new development to local character and distinctiveness.

A review of relevant plans and policies brought focus to the protection and enhancement of nationally and locally important heritage assets and historic landscapes; better integration of heritage protection within the planning process; and provision of better access to heritage sites including their promotion as an economic asset.

3.8 Water environment

The NPPF states that strategic planning policies should be informed by a strategic flood risk assessment, with inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding being avoided and redirected. All plans should apply a risk-based approach to the location of development to minimise risk to people and property and reduce the impacts of flooding where possible. Additionally, strategic policies should prevent new and existing development contributing to, being put at risk from, or being adversely affected by, unacceptable levels of water pollution.

The plan and policy review highlighted the need for the promotion of the sustainable use of water resources to meet future growth in demand and impacts of climate change; better regulation and management of the water environment to benefit water resources and flood risk, and the reduction of water pollution; and promotion of sustainable drainage systems (SuDS).

3.9 Land

The NPPF outlines that planning policies should set out a clear strategy for accommodating objectively assessed land needs, making as much use of brownfield land as is feasible. Policies should encourage multiple benefits from rural and urban land through varied schemes, taking opportunities to achieve net environmental gains where possible. Under-utilised land and buildings, particularly the airspace above existing residential and commercial premises, should be promoted and supported for development. The plan should aim to optimise land use and meet housing need. Furthermore, strategic policies should prevent new and existing development contributing to, being put at risk from, or being adversely affected by, unacceptable levels of soil pollution and land stability. Plans should ensure that sites are suitable for proposed development, taking into account the ground conditions, land contamination, and the likely effects of pollution as a result of the development. As such, adequate site investigations and assessments should be prepared to inform strategic policies.

Through the policy and plan review it was determined that key themes of sustainable land issues include long term protection, improvement and sustainable management of soil quality and quantity, including the preservation of best and most versatile land; and the management and remediation of contaminated land to reduce the risk to human health and the environment, particularly soils and water quality.

3.10 Air quality and noise

The NPPF states that plan should strategic policies should prevent new and existing development contributing to, being put at risk from, or being adversely affected by, unacceptable levels of air and noise pollution. Relevant limit values for pollutants such as air quality management zones (AQMA) and clean air zones should be complied with throughout the borough.

A review of relevant plans and policies highlighted a need for the protection of air quality through enhanced management of polluting emissions.

3.11 Material assets

The planning framework highlights the importance for the sustainable use of material assets throughout development in a plan area. Strategic policies should encourage the use of secondary or recycled materials before considering the extraction of primary materials to enable sustainable use. Plans should aim to source materials indigenously.

The review highlighted the need for improvement and better management of material assets including highways and utilities infrastructure; greater provision and enhancement of green infrastructure to deliver benefits to people and the environment; and provision of better public services to deliver socio-economic benefits.

3.12 Waste and minerals

As outlined by the NPPF, overall waste and minerals waste should be reduced by taking into account secondary and recycled minerals to form the supply of materials.

Regarding mineral use and extraction, planning policies should provide for the extraction of mineral resources of importance but not identify new sites or extensions to existing sites for peat extraction. Minerals should be safeguarding through policies defining mineral safeguarding areas and mineral consultation areas. Additional policies should be set to encourage the prior extraction of minerals if it is necessary for non-mineral developments. Criteria should be set out to ensure permitted and proposed operations don't have unacceptable adverse impacts on the environment or human health.

The review of relevant plans and policies highlighted the key themes of improvement and better management of waste, including promotion of the waste hierarchy; implementation of waste reduction schemes; sustainable use of mineral resources and improvement in the effects on the environment of their extraction.

4 Environmental, social and economic characteristics of the Ribble Valley Borough

4.1 Introduction

A desk study review of baseline environmental, social and economic information has been undertaken to identify the key baseline characteristics of Ribble Valley borough. This includes details of the status and condition of notable environmental features; current and future predicted trends in the evolution of the environment, social and economic aspects; and issues and problems currently affecting the environment and population. As a review was undertaken in a previous SA Scoping Report for the borough, this process involved updating this information to ensure all information presented is accurate and relevant.

The information obtained through this review process is set out in the following topic-specific sections, many of which are inter-linked. The information used to characterise the baseline environment is broadly strategic in nature and reflects the high-level nature of the Local Plan. It has been obtained from a broad range of sources and no new investigations or surveys have been undertaken as part of the scoping process. The baseline information will be required throughout the SA process and will be updated as the Local Plan is developed further. Some data may be refreshed as new information becomes available while the SA process is undertaken. A section noting known data that will be published and incorporated at a later date is included at the end of this chapter.

4.2 Climate (greenhouse gas emissions)

Within the SA, climate change will be addressed as follows:

- Adaptation to climate change – as part of the predicted future baseline for each SA topic area, the key environmental issues under each topic, and in assessing how proposals of the Local Plan (sites and policies) impact on this adaptation and/or can enhance or improve adaptation to climate change; and
- Contribution to climate change – as a standalone SA topic, assessing the potential impact on climate change itself in terms of the potential greenhouse gas emissions from proposals from the Local Plan.

As such, this section discusses the latter of the two aspects above, and adaptation to climate change is covered under each of the remaining SA topics where relevant.

Within Ribble Valley, per capita emissions of greenhouse gases (measured as carbon dioxide equivalents – CO₂e) were higher than the national level in 2019 due to a large cement works that is a major emitter of greenhouse gases, with CO₂e emissions from industry and commerce being a key contributor to the high emissions seen. CO₂e rates per head were 15.2 tonnes in the borough, which is one of the highest in Lancashire County. This cement works is also a major source of nitrogen oxides and sulphur dioxides, known atmospheric pollutants. However, it is worth noting that the value for emissions from the land use, land use change, and forestry sector in Ribble Valley is negative, indicating that land in the district was acting as a sink and overall removing CO₂ from the atmosphere in 2019.

Energy use in Ribble Valley was above average in 2012 for gas and electricity when compared to the national and regional average. However, consumption had decreased in the period from 2007-2012, with energy use being 35% lower in 2012 compared to 1990.

4.3 Population Profile

The borough has strong overall population growth similar to regional and national levels, with the 2021 population estimate at 60,888 (AMR, 2021). The population is predicted to increase by 13.3% between 2018 and 2043 - ahead of growth rates predicted for other parts of Lancashire and England. The urban settings of Clitheroe and Longridge have highest population compared to other settlements within the borough, with populations of 16,653 and 8,215 respectively. The population size of other settlements varies within Ribble Valley, from large villages with relatively higher population estimates in large villages compared to small hamlets.

4.4 Human Health and Well-being

4.4.1 Headline data and health equality

Ribble Valley is one of the 20% least deprived districts in England regarding public health, with life expectancy not being significantly different for people living in the most and the least deprived areas. In the 2011 census, 83.7% of people in the borough considered themselves to be in either good or very good health, higher than both regional and national averages. However, there are still localised areas with relatively poorer health: 3 wards within Ribble Valley fall into the bottom 40% most deprived regarding health deprivation and disability. These areas are in the urban areas of Clitheroe and Longridge and fall within the wards of Littlemoor, Edisford & Low Moor, and Derby & Thornley. This particular deprivation domain identifies high rates of premature death and those whose quality of life is limited due to disability or poor health⁸.

Life expectancy is higher than the national average for both males and females, while the under 75 mortality rate and infant mortality rate are lower than the rest of England. Percentages of overweight or obese adults are lower than the national average, as is the percentage of overweight or obese children in year 6.

4.4.2 Access to health and social care

As at 2012, Ribble Valley has three hospitals (two NHS, one private), the GP surgeries, and pharmacies, dental surgeries and opticians' at Longridge, Whalley and Clitheroe, with further ones outside of the borough in Settle, Barnoldswick, Colne, Burnley, Accrington, Blackburn and Preston. There are also two pharmacies near Mellor.

Accessibility is generally worse in the rural north of the borough, improving as one moves west, east or south.

4.4.3 Green infrastructure, open space and rights of way

Over 70% of the area of the borough is designated under the Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and is managed for a variety of purposes, including public access. There are no formally designated Country Parks within the borough.

As of 2016⁹, in total, there is over 92 ha of formal open space in the borough, and a further 68.9 ha of informal open space. These open spaces are integrated with public footpaths and access areas, providing opportunities for local residents to access the countryside. A total of 5.67 ha are children's play areas. As a predominantly rural

⁸ Public Health England (2018). *Ribble Valley District: Local Authority Health Profile 2018*. <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile/health-profiles/data#page/13/ati/201/are/E07000124>

⁹ RVBC (2016). *Open Space & Sport & Recreation Provision Topic Paper*. https://www.ribblevalley.gov.uk/downloads/file/10727/open_space_topic_paper_march_2016

borough, formal public park provision is limited to the two main settlements of Clitheroe and Longridge. The other key service centre of Whalley has no formal park provision. All parks are considered to be well located within their settlements and are well used.

Natural and semi-natural greenspaces include river valley areas, Local Nature Reserves and woodlands that benefit wildlife conservation, biodiversity and raising environmental education awareness and countryside recreation. As a largely rural borough Ribble Valley is fortunate to have ready access, through a dense public rights of way (PROW) network (see 3.11 below), from all settlements to the wider countryside. This allows access to a wide variety of habitats including river valleys such as the Ribble and Hodder, and a variety of designated wildlife conservation sites in both the upland and lowland parts of the area.

4.4.4 Active leisure facilities and participation

The latest data for participation in sport and physical activity is from 2011 (reported 2013¹⁰). Ribble Valley residents are typically physically active and engaged in sport on a regular basis with residents participating 3 or more times a week, above both national and regional levels. Ribble Valley also has below average levels of inactivity. The borough out-performs its national peers and national and regional averages in terms of obesity and the costs to the health service as a result of its active and participative population profile.

The borough has no Athletics facility, although an Athletics club exists which uses facilities at Blackburn, and it has 43 pitches, a high proportion of which are owned and managed by educational facilities. Only 8 of 24 wards have no direct access to these facilities.

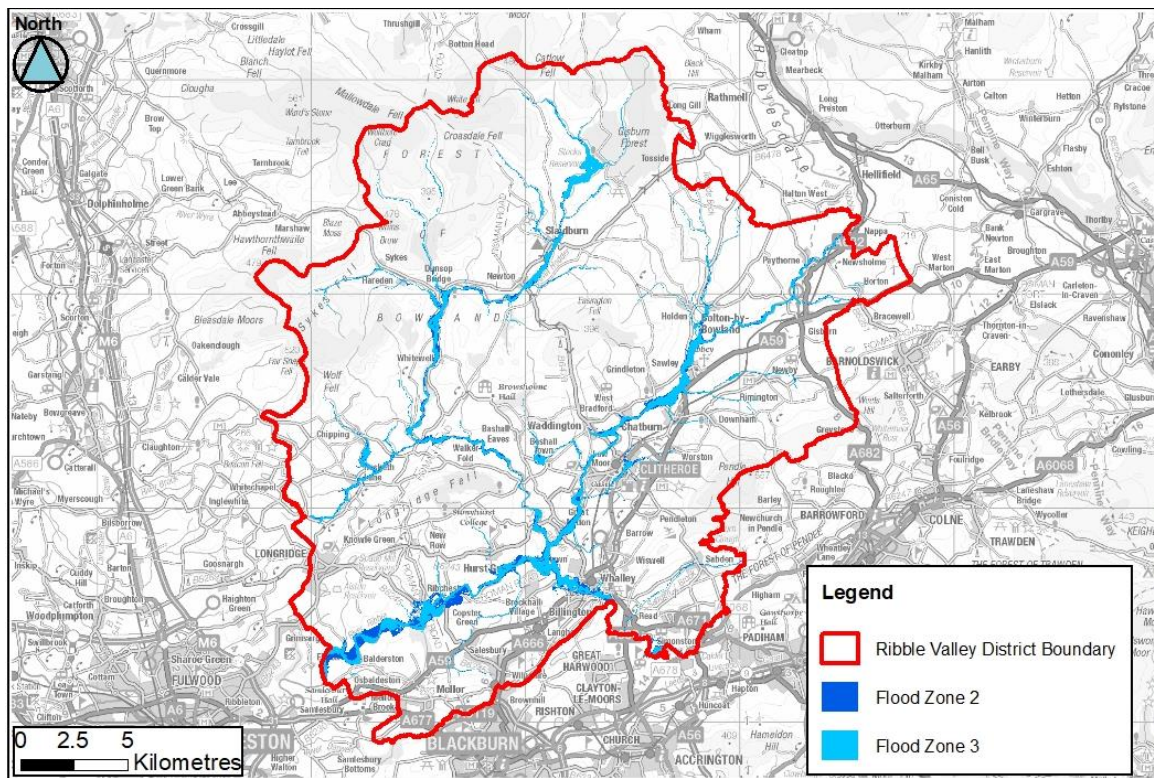
4.4.5 Flood risk

Although flood risk is centred around and caused through water environment features, the net effect of flooding can be argued to be mainly on people and where they live, affecting homes, communities and infrastructure. One of its main affects is on health, whether this is the safety of residents and others, physical injury (or even death) or lost access to healthcare and emergency services, or people’s mental health due to the impacts and recovery from flooding.

Flood risk as a cross-cutting theme as well in terms of how it affects the natural environment and the economy, and is exacerbated by climate change.

Flood mapping for fluvial flooding (i.e. from main rivers) illustrates that several areas have medium or high flood risk. The areas of Flood Zone 3 are located on land adjacent to the River Ribble and it’s associated tributaries, including the River Calder and the River Hodder. This elevated flood risk encapsulates urban areas within the borough such as Clitheroe. The flood risk zones in Ribble Valley are depicted in Figure 4-1.

¹⁰Lancashire Sport Partnership (2013). *Ribble Valley Facilities Review*.
https://www.ribblevalley.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/11185/ribble_valley_facilities_review_2013_-_lancashire_sports_partnership.pdf



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Figure 4-1: Flood risk zones (fluvial) in Ribble Valley Borough

A Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment (PFRA) for Lancashire was conducted in 2011 and reviewed in 2017 (with no significant changes). It considers flood risk from non-fluvial sources, such as ordinary watercourses, surface water, groundwater and artificial water-containing features such as reservoirs. The PFRA identifies that the number of people at risk from surface water flooding in the borough as 2,567. However, this flood risk does not meet the threshold of significance set by Government for defining 'Flood Risk Areas' for priority action, and there are no identified (statutory) 'Flood Risk Areas' in the borough.

4.4.6 Crime

Recorded crime for 2021 indicates that Ribble Valley has the lowest crime rate in the county, with 1,027 offences recorded from July 2020 to July 2021. For context, the next highest number of offences recorded in a Lancashire borough was 2,044 in Fylde. Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) data for crime shows that the highest levels of crime in the borough are at Clitheroe and Longridge. However, the crime level in the worst affected neighbourhoods / areas¹¹ is comparatively low at the 40% highest levels nationally (where 50% would be approximately average), especially when compared to conurbations just outside of the borough which have neighbourhoods falling within the highest crime levels in the country.

4.5 Equality and Accessibility

Analysis of the Index of Deprivation indicates that levels of deprivation are low, with all areas having lower overall levels than the national average. Only one LSOA is within the bottom 40% of the IMD, with this area within the Littlemoor ward in Clitheroe. Overall, Ribble Valley is in the least deprived 20% nationally, contrasting with relatively

¹¹Shown as and measured by lower-level super output area (LSOA)

higher levels of deprivation seen in other Lancashire boroughs. These higher levels are particularly witnessed in the urban areas to the south of the borough boundary such as Burnley, Blackburn, and Preston.

The rural nature of the borough has resulted in reduced physical and financial accessibility of housing and local services when comparing to national levels. Additionally, access to services such as GPs, primary schools, post offices, bus stops and food shops can be limited.

4.5.1 Housing Need

Ribble Valley has the fewest dwellings of any Lancashire borough, however the number of households is predicted to increase by 21.4% between 2018 and 2043, higher than the national average of 16.2%. 2021 was the 7th year in a row in which the annualised requirement of 280 additional dwellings completed in the borough has been exceeded. Furthermore, the target was exceeded for the number of affordable units completed. This is important as the ratio of median house price to median gross annual earnings indicates issues with housing affordability in the borough particularly compared to regional values, with the ratio for Ribble Valley being 6.66 and the ratio for Lancashire being 5.21 (ONS, 2021).

Of the 40 lower layer super output areas (LSOA) in Ribble Valley, 14 are in the bottom 40% most deprived for barriers to housing and services provision. These areas are situated in the north of the borough and in other rural areas. Areas with the lowest levels of deprivation in this domain are in and surrounding urban areas such as Clitheroe and Longridge.

The mean household size in the 2011 census was 2.38, a slight decrease compared to the mean household size in the 2001 census. This is associated with increases in one person households and lone parent households as well as couples with only non-dependent children. While the number of couples with dependent children has declined, this is thought to be a wider societal trend and does not appear to be caused by a lack of housing provision in the market.

The IMD sub-domain 'wider barriers'¹² measures household overcrowding, homelessness and housing affordability. IMD data for 2019 shows that there are no neighbourhoods¹¹ in the borough with high levels of deprivation for housing, with even the worst-performing area being in the 30% least deprived neighbourhoods nationally.

For gypsies and travellers, as of 2013¹³, there were nine pitches on private sites in the borough, and no identified unmet need nor evidence of any unmet need arising up to 2023. However, there may be a need for further accommodation beyond 2023, given younger children reaching adulthood.

4.5.2 Accessibility and access to services

The IMD sub-domain 'geographical barriers'¹² measures road distance to a post office, primary school, general store or supermarket, and to a GP surgery. IMD data for 2019 suggests poor proximity to such essential services and facilities in the borough, with 21 out of 40 (52.5%) neighbourhoods / areas¹¹ in the 30% most deprived neighbourhoods nationally (i.e. in the lowest-performing 30% for proximity).

¹²Office for National Statistics (2019). *File 4: sub-domains of deprivation.*

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/english-indices-of-deprivation-2019>

¹³Opinion Research Services (2013). *Ribble Valley Council: Gypsy, Traveller and Showperson Accommodation Assessment Update.*

https://www.ribbonvalley.gov.uk/downloads/file/8954/gypsy_and_traveller_accommodation_assessment_2013

Furthermore, 31 out of 40 (77.5%) areas are in the lowest-performing 50% for proximity.

However, geographical proximity provides only a partial picture of overall accessibility, as public transport plays an important role in ensuring everyone has equal access to services and facilities, including for households of lower income or hitting financial difficulty.

There are four train stations in the southwest of the borough which mainly connect conurbations which are each well-served by their own services and facilities, and which therefore somewhat guarantee a high level of accessibility to services and facilities in these areas. There are also integrated bus services to and from Clitheroe, enabling those in more remote communities to be connected to the rail network. While the Forest of Bowland AONB to some extent constrains train network development, a Clitheroe Community Rail Partnership Action Plan has been developed with the aim to improve stations and service frequency.

There is an established public bus network throughout the borough. However, some smaller hamlets do not have a bus stop and therefore have limited public transport infrastructure. Community transport services such as 'Little Green Bus' provide safe and accessible transport to those finding it difficult to use regular public transport.

Cycling facilities are good throughout the borough, particularly within the Forest of Bowland AONB where there is an extensive network of cycling routes for a range of abilities. These more sustainable transport facilities can be used to boost healthier lifestyles of residents as well as encourage tourism.

4.6 Education

Ribble Valley has 32 primary schools and 6 secondary schools. Attainment was higher than county, regional, and national levels in 2019, with several LSOAs being in the top 10% least deprived in the education, skills, and training domain. However, some wards in Clitheroe and Longridge had relatively higher levels of deprivation in this domain, with 3 LSOAs identified overall in the borough.

A number of people commute into Ribble Valley daily for educational reasons. However, the Sustainable Community Strategy 2014-2019 identified that vocational training provision for 16-19 year olds is lacking. Additionally, population growth and rises in housing development within the borough have been identified as issues that may affect education provision.

The 2011 Census has a lower proportion of the population with no qualifications compared to regional and national levels as well as higher proportions of those possessing a degree level qualification or above: 34% of those in Ribble Valley have a degree qualification compared to 27.4% in England. This information will be updated with the release of the 2021 Census.

4.7 Economy and employment

Between 2013 and 2018, the local economy grew by 15.9%, a growth rate greater than those seen both regionally and nationally. The manufacturing sector was a significant contributor to this economic growth.

Employment opportunities are primarily located in the south and the east of Ribble Valley, in and around towns such as Clitheroe and Longridge as well as along the A59 corridor. Many are situated close to the boundary border. The most prominent sectors include manufacturing and utilities, employing a quarter of the workforce in 2018, as well as food and accommodation, education, and health. Overall, the indexed number

of employees was lower in Ribble Valley in 2018, with the growth of this figure being slower when compared to regional and national rates. Only a few companies employ a significant proportion of people in the area, with a higher proportion of jobs in the private sector than the national average. Opportunities should be taken to diversify employers and encourage small business employment.

The growth and strength of the visitor economy indicates that tourism is becoming an important industry in Ribble Valley, with the amount of people employed in the accommodation and food sector accounting for 14.3% of employment. This proportion is second only to the manufacturing sector. Further sustainable development should aim to enhance diversification of the sector.

In March 2017, there were 3,330 businesses within Ribble Valley, with 550 businesses in the agriculture, forestry & fishing sector. However, this sector does not represent much of the authority's total employee numbers, indicating that these businesses are of a smaller scale: analysis of the business base illustrates that almost 90% of businesses in the borough can be categorised as a micro enterprise type meaning they employ 0-9 people. However, business density is higher than witnessed in Lancashire and across England, supporting the conclusion that there are higher numbers of smaller businesses.

Low levels of unemployment are seen in Ribble Valley as illustrated by the relatively low claimant count in 2021: 3.2% of the population are unemployed compared to 6.6% regionally and 6% nationally. In 2020, 80% of 16-64 year olds were economically active in the borough, greater than the regional average of 77.6% and the national average of 79.1%. The average annual income remained higher than the regional and national average in 2020 despite the economic uncertainty of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, the borough's average weekly earnings decreased by 4.6% in comparison to the 2019 average.

Between April 2020 and March 2021 a total of 0.54ha of new employment land was developed, with no net loss of employment land reported over the same period. Of this developed land, only 40.9% had been previously developed, failing to meet the borough's target of this value being greater than 51%. While these targets have been met in the past, continuously meeting this target is an important for sustainable development.

Large proportions of workers commute long distances to employment, suggesting there could be a mismatch with the employment opportunities available and the skill levels of residents. This leads to a leakage of skills and investment out of the borough.

4.8 Ecology and Biodiversity

4.8.1 National and international designated nature conservation sites

The borough encompasses many high-quality environments and as such has statutory and non-statutory ecological designations throughout, illustrated in Figure 4-2. The Bowland Fells Special Protected Area (SPA) is of particular note as its associated international protection incorporates objectives that must be met by the borough. This is designated under the Wild Birds Directive¹⁴ as the site is important for species of upland breeding birds. This SPA is located in the northwest of Ribble Valley and covers a total area of 16,007 hectares.

The North Pennine Dales Meadows special area of conservation (SAC) covers 481 hectares in total, with small areas in the north of the borough included as units of this habitat. This designated area contains a major part of remaining mountain hay

¹⁴ Council Directive 79/409/EEC on the conservation of wild birds

meadows in the UK and is designated under the Habitats Directive¹⁵. Summary details of these sites are provided in Table 4-1.

There are also nine sites of special scientific interest (SSSI) designated for nature conservation within Ribble Valley (and six for geological conservation), consisting of 26 SSSI areas. According to the authority monitoring report (AMR) 2021, six of these areas within the SSSIs were listed as being in a condition that is unfavourable but recovering. This indicates that while standards are not currently met, appropriate management is in place to allow standards to be achieved. There are 20 areas in a favourable condition, showing conservation standards are met in these areas. Further details of these sites are provided in Appendix B.

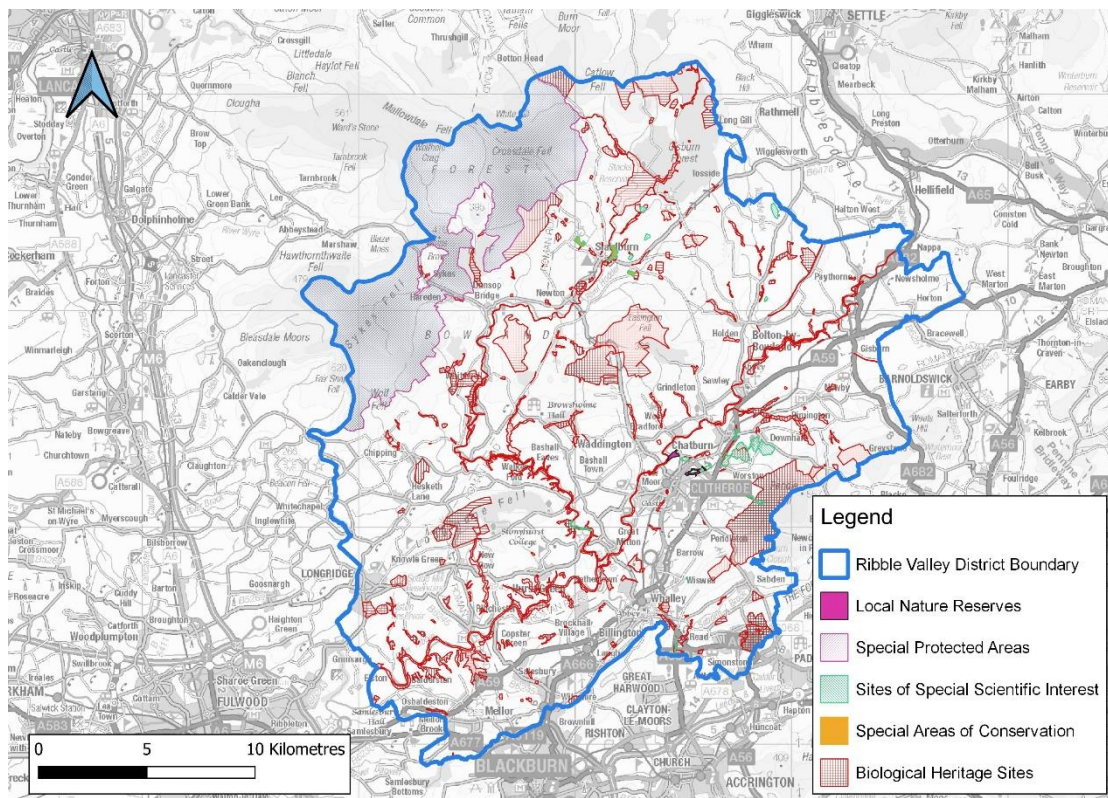


Figure 4-2: The ecological designations within Ribble Valley Borough

Table 4-1: European sites in Ribble Valley

Site	Location	Qualifying features	Key challenges
Bowland Fells SPA	Northwest	Presence of Annex 1 upland breeding birds – hen harrier and merlin.	Maintaining the high-quality environment to ensure the continued presence of upland bird populations
North Pennine Dales Meadows SAC	North	Encompasses the range of variation exhibited by mountain	Maintaining and protecting this important habitat to

¹⁵ Council Directive 92/443/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats Wild Flora and Fauna

Site	Location	Qualifying features	Key challenges
		hay meadows, containing the majority of this remaining habitat type in the UK.	ensure its continued presence in the UK

4.8.2 Local designated nature conservation sites

There are two local nature reserves (LNR) within the borough, both situated near Clitheroe. Opportunities to improve and enhance the natural environment within designation regulations should be undertaken to improve tourism potential. A summary of details is provided in Table 4-2.

There are also 39 Biological Heritage Sites in the borough, which are local wildlife sites in Lancashire. This non-statutory designation indicates sites that are significantly contributing to the biodiversity in Lancashire. The locations of local designated nature conservation sites are shown in Figure 4-2.

Table 4-2: Local Nature Reserves in Ribble Valley

Site	Location	Site features
Cross Hill Quarry	Southeast	Calcareous grassland habitat with specialist limestone plant species. Exceptional refuge for wildlife. Important geological features and fossils.
Salthill Quarry	Southeast	Grassland habitat with many wildflower species. Important geological features and fossils.

4.8.3 Notable habitats and species

The Lancashire Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) sets out priority habitats and species that are present in Ribble Valley. Priority species present are water vole; brown hare; otter; bats; red squirrel; great crested newt; skylark; reed bunting; song thrush; lapwing; freshwater white-clawed crayfish; birds-eye primrose; and the greater butterfly orchid.

Priority habitats present in the district are broadleaved and mixed woodland; species-rich neutral grassland; calcareous grassland; rivers and streams; and moorland/fell.

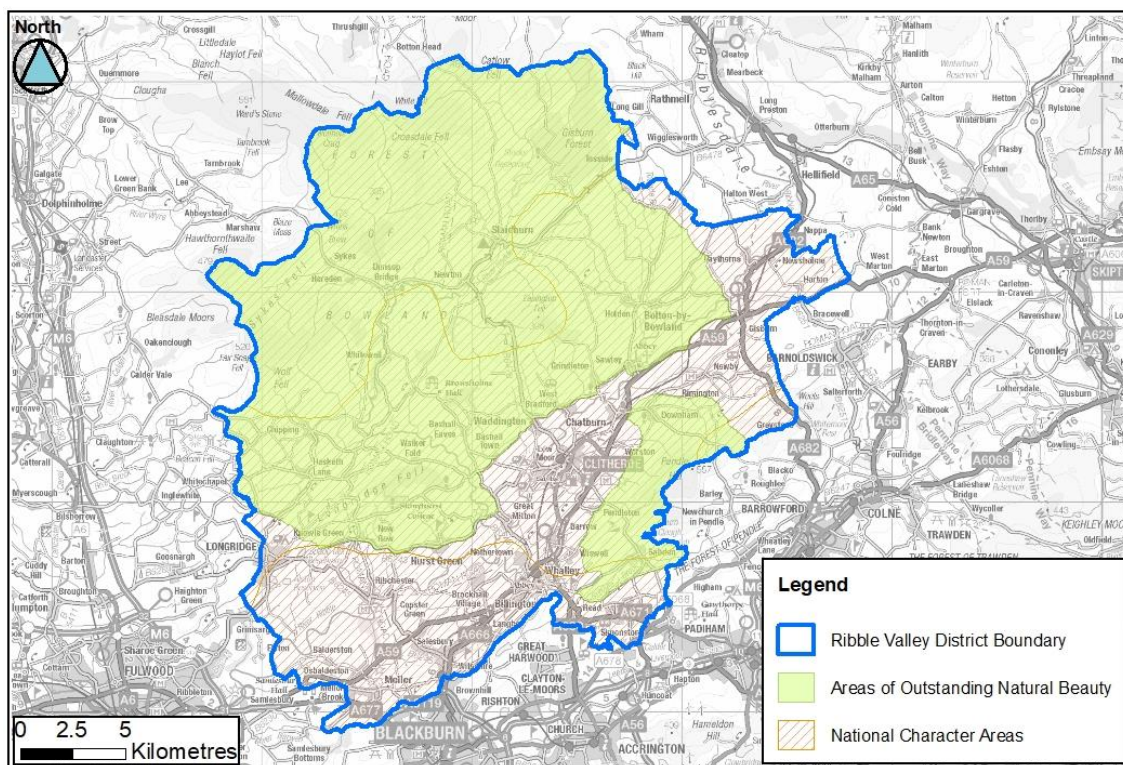
4.9 Landscape

4.9.1 Landscape character

There are two national character areas (NCA) within the borough; Bowland Fells and Bowland Fringe and Pendle Hill. The Bowland Fells is a distinctive upland area consisting of upland pasture, steep escarpments, and expansive open moorland. Bowland Fringe and Pendle Hill is characterised as a transitional landscape that envelopes the Bowland Fells NCA and consists of rich meadows, pastures, broadleaf woodland, parkland, and waterbodies. These NCAs are illustrated in Figure 4-3.

The Ribble Valley has eight local landscape character areas within its boundary: moorland plateau, moorland hills, moorland fringe, undulating lowland farmland, farmed ridges, valley floodplains, drumlin field, and rolling upland farmland. Any

development must be appropriate to the character type and should contribute to conservation, enhancement, or restoration and any new features must be appropriate.



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Figure 4-3: The landscape designations within Ribble Valley district

4.9.2 Landscape designations

The Forest of Bowland AONB covers 2 distinctive areas within the borough, the northwest and the southeast. This AONB is an important asset that should be preserved and enhanced in order to maintain tourism potential and improve the quality of life of local residents. The cover of this AONB within Ribble Valley is shown in Figure 4-3.

4.10 Historic Environment

4.10.1 Heritage assets

The borough has a number of statutory and non-statutory cultural heritage assets including over 862 listed buildings, 29 Scheduled Monuments, and 4 registered historic parks and gardens. A total of 7 heritage assets were identified on the Historic England ‘Heritage at Risk’ Register published in 2021, with conditions of these assets ranging from ‘generally satisfactory with significant localised problems’ to ‘very bad’. These assets provide tourism potential and thus should be enhanced and preserved. The location of these heritage assets is illustrated in Figure 4-4.

Table 4-2: Heritage assets in Ribble Valley Borough included in the Historic England Heritage at Risk Register.

Site name	Designation	Condition
Fooden Hall, Fooden Lane, Bolton-by-Bowland	Listed Building grade II*	Poor
Bellmanpark lime kilns and part	Scheduled Monument	Poor

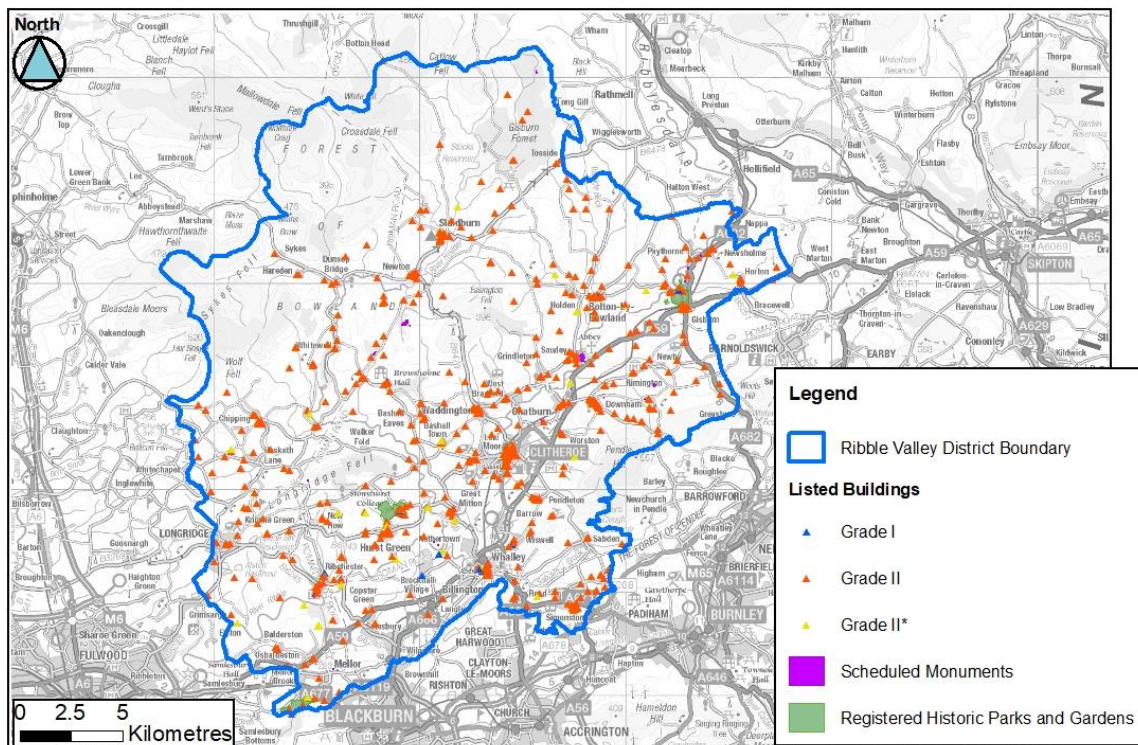
Site name	Designation	Condition
of an associated tramway 180 north west of Bellman Farm, Clitheroe.		
The Old Lower Hodder Bridge, Great Mitton/ "Aighton	Scheduled Monument, 2 Listed Buildings	Very bad
Whalley Abbey (west range) Whalley	Scheduled Monument and Listed Buildings – 2 grade 1, Listed Building Grade II, Conservation Area	Very bad
Church of St Mary and All Saints, Church Land, Whalley	Listed Place of Worship grade I, Conservation Area	Poor
Peter of Chester's Chapel, Whalley Cistercian Abbey, Whalley	Scheduled Monument and Listed Buildings – 2 grade 1, Listed Building grade II, Conservation Area	Generally unsatisfactory with major localised problems.
Woodfold Park, Mellor/ Pleasington/ Samesbury	Registered Park and Garden grade II, & Listed Buildings	Generally satisfactory but with significant localised problems.

In September and October 2021, Northern Archaeological Associates delivered an archaeological excavation along a short section of Roman road between Clitheroe and Worston. The work was funded as part of the Community Archaeology project, supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund within Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership.

Some of the most prominent heritage assets within the borough include: Stonyhurt College, Clitheroe Castle, Whalley Abbey, Pendle Hill, Roman Ribchester, Browsholme Hall and Holmes Mill. Multiple of these assets include museum and interactive displays for the public.

4.10.2 Historic Landscapes

There are also 22 designated conservation areas in Ribble Valley, protected under local legislation for their special historic and architectural interest. Any current or future developments should consider the proximity to these sites and the likelihood of negative impacts.



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Figure 4-4: The heritage assets present in Ribble Valley district

4.11 Water Environment

4.11.1 Surface Water

The River Ribble flows from Nappa in the east of Ribble Valley through to Elston in the southwest. It then flows through Preston upon exiting the borough boundary. Other main rivers in the district include the River Hodder, River Loud, and River Calder. These main rivers are all tributaries to the River Ribble. Numerous urban areas are situated along the river and its associated tributaries. The borough lies almost entirely within the catchment area for the River Ribble.

4.11.2 Groundwater

The groundwater vulnerability maps indicate how vulnerable groundwater sources are to a pollutant according to hydrological, geological, hydrogeological, and soil properties in the vicinity. Data from 2017 shows much of Ribble Valley's groundwater to be at a low, medium-low, and medium vulnerability to pollution. This indicates a low-medium likelihood of a pollutant reaching the groundwater. However, pockets of medium-high and high vulnerability are scattered across the district. Additionally, a large proportion of Ribble Valley has been identified as being under soluble rock risk, meaning that areas may have solution features that enable rapid movement of a pollutant.

4.11.3 Water resources

Aquifer designations identify different types of aquifer from which water can be extracted from groundwater resources. Data from 2021 indicates that the underlying aquifers in Ribble Valley are designated as secondary aquifers for both bedrock and superficial drift aquifers.

United Utilities is the public water company that, alongside approximately 310 private water supplies, provides the water supply within Ribble Valley. The borough is situated

within the Strategic Resource Zone, with water resource zones being defined as areas in which water resources can be shared effectively. United Utilities forecast a small deficit in this zone towards 2045. However, in response the company have enhanced their targets for leakage reduction over the plan period. Supply demand solutions will be critical for sustainable future water use.

4.11.4 Water quality

The classification of water quality of the main rivers in the borough was moderate overall in 2019. However, the chemical classification failed in the same year. The water industry, the agricultural industry, and urban and transport are the main categories responsible for not achieving good status of water quality and reasons for deterioration. This is in stark contrast to 99.3% of rivers achieving good/fair chemical quality in 2015, indicating deteriorations regarding pollution and oxygen levels.

4.12 Land

4.12.1 Soils and Geology

The soilscape within Ribble Valley is varied. The most common soil is slowly permeable seasonally wet acid loamy and clayey soils. In the northwest of the borough, the soilscape consists of blanket bog peat soils with pockets of very acid upland soils and very acid loamy upland soils, both with a peaty surface. In the southwest, soils are slowly permeable and seasonally wet slightly acid but base-rich loamy and clayey soils interspersed with freely draining floodplain soils and slightly acid loamy and clayey soils with impeded drainage.

The prevalent bedrock geology in the district consists of mudstone, siltstone, and sandstone. The two identifiable bedrock formations made up of these deposits are the Millstone Grit Group and the Bowland High Group and Craven Group. The Bowland High Group and Craven Group also consists of limestone deposits formed in the Carboniferous period. Additionally, there are pockets of sandstone and conglomerate interbedded in the south of the borough in the Permian Rocks grouping. The most prominent superficial deposit in the area is till, a heterogenous sediment with varying size and shapes of clay, sand, and gravel. Other superficial deposits include sand and gravel from the River Terrace grouping, alluvium, and peat, with peat deposits situated in the northwest within the Forest of Bowland.

4.12.2 Geodiversity

There are seven nationally designated SSSIs designated for geological conservation within Ribble Valley, consisting of 14 SSSI areas. According to the authority monitoring report (AMR) 2021, one of these areas within the SSSIs were listed as being in a condition that is unfavourable but recovering. This indicates that while standards are not currently met, appropriate management is in place to allow standards to be achieved. There are 13 areas in a favourable condition, showing conservation standards are met in these areas. Further details of these sites are provided in Appendix B.

Nearly 100 local geodiversity sites (LGS) are notified in Lancashire, designated for their geodiverse significance and afforded the same level of protection as Biological Heritage Sites under planning policies. They illustrate areas where geological landscape features should be preserved. This local designation must be considered if any development is in close proximity.

There are a total of 21 LGSs in Ribble Valley scattered across the district, with sites particularly concentrated to the northwest of the urban area of Clitheroe. This is the

second highest number of designations within Lancashire, with Lancaster having 25 sites.

The Geodiversity Action Plan for Lancashire aims to provide a strategy to ensure geoconservation policies are sound and are used to inform all relevant aspects of life within the county of Lancashire. The plan consists of 6 objectives that address the principal issues associated with geoconservation, including extending geological knowledge, identifying available resources for geoconservation engagement, and setting up a community programme of conservation activities.

4.12.3 Agricultural land

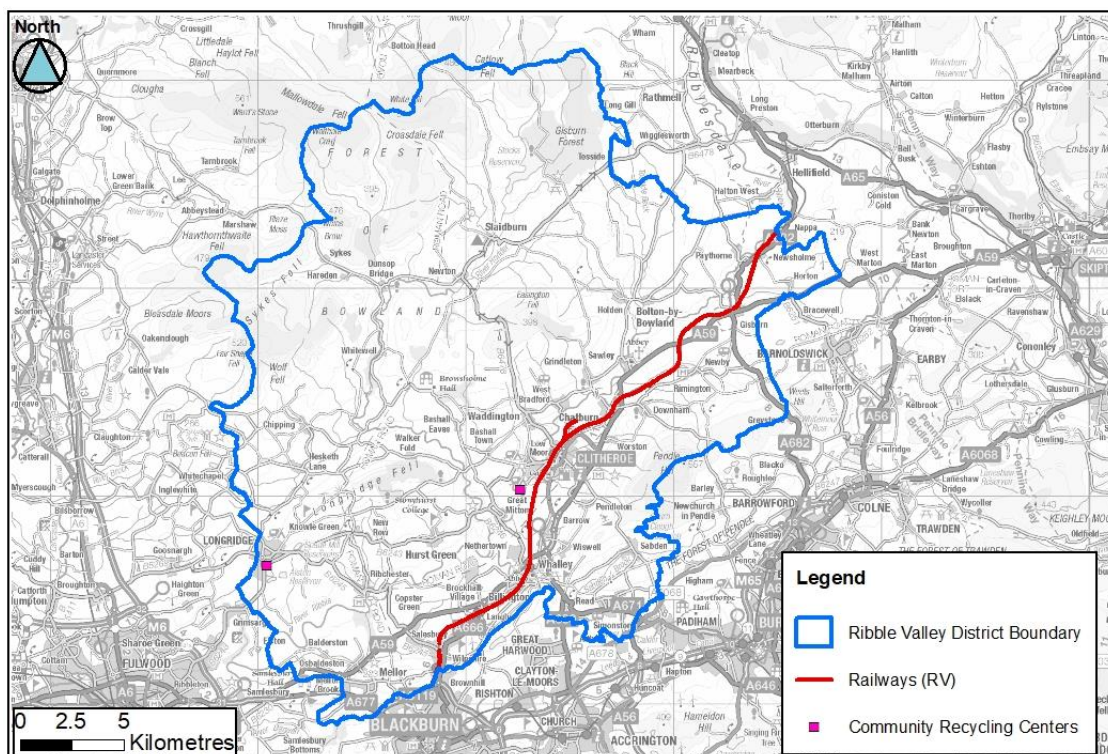
Agricultural land classification (ALC) illustrates moderate to good quality agricultural land predominantly in the southwest portion of the district with a classification of Grade 3. In the north and northeast the ALC is Grade 4 and Grade 5, showing poor to very poor quality with severe limitations on crop yields. There are pockets of non-agricultural and urban land throughout Ribble Valley.

4.12.4 Land contamination

The past and present industrial activity across Ribble Valley may have resulted in a legacy of contaminated land that present issues for redevelopment and regeneration, indicated on Figure 4-5 through the location of railways and recycling centres. The railway lines running through the east of the borough are a source of pollution to soils, with soils in proximity being contaminated with a range of materials. There are currently two operating Community Recycling centres, one in proximity to Clitheroe and one in proximity to Longridge.

Ribble Valley contains many historic mining and mineral extraction sites, with the Ashnott Lead Mine being a notable example. Further historical extraction sites include Sykes Mine, Cross Hill Quarry, and Salthill Quarry which may have a legacy of contamination. There are also numerous historic landfill sites in Ribble Valley, primarily concentrated nearby urban areas such as Clitheroe, which also may have contributed to land contamination.

The Council undertakes monitoring in regard to industrial activities in the borough and their potential to lead to land contamination. Pootentially contaminating land uses will be considered as part of the SA relative to any proposed new development.



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Figure 4-5: A contamination map of Ribble Valley district

4.13 Air quality

The primary source of air pollution in Ribble Valley is road traffic. An Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) was declared in 2010 for nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) along a section of Whalley Road, an A road to the south of Clitheroe.

4.14 Material assets

4.14.1 Transportation infrastructure

Ribble Valley has good transport links, with the A59, running east to Yorkshire and west to Preston as well as B-roads throughout the borough. The strategic road network consisting of the M6 and the M65 are also close and accessible.

There are four train stations which are served by trains running from Clitheroe to Preston and Manchester. Connections at Blackburn provide access across the rest of Lancashire. There are also integrated bus services to and from Clitheroe, enabling those in more remote communities to be connected to the rail network. While the Forest of Bowland AONB to some extent constrains train network development, a Clitheroe Community Rail Partnership Action Plan has been developed with the aim to improve stations and service frequency.

There is an established public bus network throughout the district. However, some smaller hamlets do not have a bus stop and therefore have limited public transport infrastructure.

Community transport services such as 'Little Green Bus' provide safe and accessible transport to those finding it difficult to use regular public transport.

Both Manchester Airport Leeds Bradford International Airport are approximately a one-hour drive away.

Cycling facilities are good throughout the district, particularly within the Forest of Bowland AONB where there is an extensive network of cycling routes for a range of abilities. These more sustainable transport facilities can be used to boost healthier lifestyles of residents as well as encourage tourism.

The Ribble Valley Borough Council Corporate Strategy 2019-2023 included the short-term priority to install electric charging points on Council owned car parks. A paper was submitted to Community Service Committee in March 2018 which identified 3 existing charging point locations within the borough at Hackings Cavarvan Park Old Langho, Northcote Hotel, and Mytton Fold Hotel, Langho.

4.14.2 Transport patterns

Data from the 2011 Census indicated that 70.8% of people used a private car for travelling to work in Ribble Valley, higher than regional and national levels of 62.6% and 57% respectively. Perhaps as a consequence, use of public transport was much lower than seen elsewhere in England. It is expected that this data will have changed in the 2021 Census in line with changes to work patterns due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Recent public transport use statistics are available at county level only. In Lancashire, rail and tram provision saw sustained growth until 2017 when there was then a sharp decline in rail numbers seen up to 2019. Bus passenger numbers also decreased substantially, however these numbers recovered slightly in 2019. While Lancashire districts have been above the national average for walking and cycling rates in the past, this was not the case in 2018 where all authorities were below national levels. Again, it is anticipated that the COVID-19 pandemic will have impacted public transport use and therefore this data is expected to have changed in recent years.

More recent data shows that the use of bus services declined in the in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, consistent with trends across the UK. Ribble Valley and Lancashire County Council are taking part in the government's National Bus Strategy campaign to increase the use of buses as public transport across the county.

4.14.3 Services

Due to it's rural nature, accessibility to services is limited in Ribble Valley when compared to the Lancashire region. Urban areas such as Clitheroe and Longridge have an increased number frequency of public transport services when compared to more rural areas with limited routes. Some small hamlets have very limited public transport options, with no services running to these settlements.

4.15 Minerals and Waste

There is a high concentration of mineral safeguarding areas (MSA) across the district regarding deposits of minerals such as limestone, sand and gravel, and sandstone. These MSAs should be considered in any current or future developments and appropriate planning permission must be sought out if development is pursued.

There are two Mineral Waste Local Plan Site Allocations in close proximity to Clitheroe. There is only one registered landfill site in Ribble Valley, Henthorne Road Landfill Site, approximately 2km outside of Clitheroe. As a result, general waste from the borough is currently disposed of at Whinney Hill Landfill Site in Hyndburn, making Ribble Valley an exporter of waste.

The percentage of household waste sent for reuse, recycling, or composting was below the regional and national average in 2019/2020 at 34.6%, with regional and national rates being 45.7% and 43.8% respectively. However, this rate has increased by 2.9%

compared to the previous 12-month period, showing improvements, and opportunities should be taken to continue to improve these rates.

The average residual household waste per household was also greater than regional and national levels and was in fact the highest average in the Lancashire-12 area at 580.5kg.

From 2019-2020, there were 725 reported fly-tipping cases in Ribble Valley. This was the third lowest number of cases recorded in the Lancashire-12 area therefore levels are among the lowest in Lancashire.

4.16 What would happen if no new Local Plan was prepared?

4.16.1 Environment

The current Local Development Framework guides the development of the borough through to 2028. The new Local Plan will guide the development needs of Ribble Valley 5 years further, through to 2033. An updated Local Plan is required as valued local natural assets may be at risk of being lost through ad hoc developments without strategic planning during this period. Additionally, opportunities to improve biodiversity value through the preservation and enhancement of local landscapes may be lost. This element holds particular importance with the incoming requirements of biodiversity net gain in association with development which will require adequate and appropriate strategic planning to ensure targets are met.

4.16.2 Housing

The number of dwellings within Ribble Valley is expected to increase by 21.4% between 2018 and 2043, requiring adequate and strategic planning to ensure sustainable development. The current Core Strategy housing policies set out an annual target of 280 completed dwellings, with 2021 being the 7th consecutive year that this target has been met and exceeded. As such, the district is on target to meet housing development requirements. However, without the Local Plan being developed, there is a risk that there will be an insufficient supply of strategically planned land to meet the housing needs of the future population in Ribble Valley. Furthermore, it is essential that affordable housing targets are achieved and that affordable housing is incorporated into housing targets. This is necessary to reduce the ratio of median house price to median gross annual earnings and adapt the housing market to suit the working population, subsequently reducing commuting into the borough. Additionally, infrastructure and facilities needed to support planning development will not be prepared to support housing developments long-term, affecting the sustainability of Ribble Valley.

4.16.3 Economy

The Ribble Valley economy is currently performing well. In order to maintain this, the local plan will be necessary to maintain business and employment development through to 2033. However, currently, a proportion of highly skilled workers outcommute for employment purposes, leading to a leakage of skilled individuals. The local plan is needed to address this imbalance to maximise the skills of the resident population to encourage more sustainable travel patterns and benefit the local long-term economy. Additionally, some households in the borough have lower levels of income than witnessed in other areas, requiring skills levels to be raised. In the absence of the local plan the imbalance of skills and income may not be addressed to an adequate level.

4.17 Data Amendments

The baseline information will be amended and revised as updated data becomes available. Known data currently under development includes:

- Ribble Valley Climate Change Strategy
- Borough economic baseline study
- Public transport position paper
- Open space (including sport and recreation) topic paper
- A gypsy and traveller accommodation review

This information will be incorporated into the SA process upon publication.

5 Proposed Scope of Assessment and SA Framework

5.1 Introduction

The Sustainability Appraisal framework is used to identify and evaluate the potential environmental issues associated with the implementation of the Local Plan. The framework comprises a set of Sustainability Appraisal objectives that have been developed to reflect the key environmental, social and economic issues identified through the baseline information review. These objectives are supported by a series of appraisal criteria, which are used as a means to measure the potential significance of the sustainability issues, and associated indicators, which can be used to monitor the effects of implementation of the Local Plan. The Local Plan is tested against the Sustainability Appraisal framework to identify whether each Local Plan policy will contribute to or conflict with the achievement of each objective. Table 5-1 below summarises the purpose and requirements of the Sustainability Appraisal objectives, appraisal criteria and indicators.

Table 5-1: Definition of Sustainability Appraisal objectives, appraisal criteria and indicators

Item	Purpose
Objective	Provide a benchmark 'intention' against which the sustainability effects of the plan can be tested. The need to be fit-for-purpose and represent the key sustainability issues of relevance to the Local Plan area.
Indicator	Provide a means of measuring the progress towards achieving the sustainability objectives over time. They need to be measured and relevant, and ideally rely on existing monitoring networks.
Sub-Objectives	Aid the assessment of impact significance. Provide a means of ensuring that key environmental and sustainability issues are considered by the assessment process.

5.2 Key Sustainability Issues

The review of the environmental, social and economic baseline information identified a range of sustainability issues affecting Ribble Valley district. A summary of these issues is provided in Table 5-2 below.

Table 5-2: Summary of key sustainability issues

Baseline topic	Key sustainability issues/Opportunities
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). 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>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>

Baseline topic	Key sustainability issues/Opportunities
Human Health	<p>Health in Ribble Valley is generally good, although poorer levels of health have been identified Littlemoor, Edisford & Low Moor, and Derby & Thornley wards.</p> <p>There is an elderly population in the district and it is essential that the elderly have sufficient access to health care facilities. 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>
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 district.</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>
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 district.</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>
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 district for educational reasons as a result of the high level of attainment and the quality of Ribble Valley schools.</p> <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</p>

Baseline topic	Key sustainability issues/Opportunities
Economy	<p>talented, well-educated people as a threat to the economy.</p> <p>Key statistics suggest that the Ribble Valley economy is performing well having 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 outcommute 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 district 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 district 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>
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> <p>The North Pennine Dales Meadow SAC is subject to international protection under the Habitats Directive and must be protected and enhanced in accordance with the objectives in this legislation.</p> <p>The high quality of the environment provides an opportunity to develop recreation and tourism in the district, 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 Local Plan.</p> <p>Opportunities should be sought to promote land management schemes as these can lead to a number of environmental benefits and enhancements.</p>
Landscape	<p>A large portion of the borough is designated as part of the Forest of Bowland AONB, with numerous RIGS scattered across</p>

Baseline topic	Key sustainability issues/Opportunities
	<p>the area. It is essential that landscape quality and character is restored, maintained and enhanced.</p> <p>The district’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>
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>All cultural heritage assets should be appropriately conserved and enhanced.</p> <p>The setting of heritage assets is an important consideration when allocating land for development.</p> <p>In 2020, six of the borough's heritage assets were identified as being at risk with their conditions ranging from 'generally unsatisfactory' to 'very bad'. Restoration and maintenance of these assets and land allocation for development in close proximity should be carefully considered.</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>
Water	<p>Water quality has deteriorated in the borough; despite 99.3% of rivers achieving good/fair chemical quality in 2015, the chemical classification failed in 2019. The overall quality of water is moderate and should be improved upon by addressing key industries responsible for the deterioration.</p> <p>Potential future issues with water supplies have been identified by local water companies. Supply and demand should be monitored closely to ensure that water use is sustainable.</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. There are pockets of medium-high groundwater vulnerability across the district in which any pollution issues should be carefully considered.</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 SuDS to manage runoff and further reduce flood risk. New developments and households within the borough should also be encouraged to minimise water use and to re-use rainwater where possible.</p>
Soil and Land Quality	<p>Where previously developed sites exist, the aim should be to continue to remediate and reuse them, although this should be</p>

Baseline topic	Key sustainability issues/Opportunities
	<p>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 local geodiversity sites (LGS) should be protected from inappropriate development and opportunities to raise awareness of geological designations and resources should be pursued where possible.</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 district 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>
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>
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 district's residents to easily commute to neighbouring districts 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.</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 district.</p>

5.3 Sustainability Appraisal objectives and appraisal criteria

Sustainability Appraisal objectives and appraisal criteria have been compiled for each of the sustainability receptors (see Table 5-3). These objectives are currently in draft form and can be refined or revised in response to comments received during the consultation phase on this Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report and in light of any additional information obtained during the life of the project.

The objectives and appraisal criteria have been informed and developed by a range of information including the baseline review, and the key sustainability issues identified in the current scoping report.

Following the review of baseline information the appraisal objectives, criteria, indicators and targets have been updated where appropriate.

Table 5-3: Sustainability Appraisal objectives, appraisal criteria, indicators and targets

SA Objectives and Sub-Objectives	Indicators (Current and Proposed)	Targets
1. To prevent and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, thus limiting the impacts of climate change into the long term		
<p>To reduce greenhouse gas emissions.</p> <p>To increase energy efficiency and require the use of renewable energy sources.</p> <p>To reduce the use of energy.</p> <p>To promote the use of more sustainable modes of transport.</p> <p>To reduce the use of private car.</p> <p>To encourage walking, cycling and the use of public transport.</p> <p>Encourage the uptake of ICT.</p> <p>To promote offsetting emissions which cannot be prevented.</p>	<p>Total carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions per capita per year.</p> <p>Annual average domestic gas and electricity consumption per consumer.</p> <p>Annual gas and electricity consumption in the commercial/industrial sector.</p> <p>Number of applications for renewable energy developments and details of their location.</p> <p>Journey to work by mode.</p> <p>Public transport patronage.</p> <p>Percentage of dwellings approved and located within 400m of an existing or proposed bus stop or within 800m of an existing or proposed railway station.</p> <p>Number of homes with broadband internet access.</p> <p>Number of tree planting or carbon sequestration schemes.</p>	<p>To reduce per capita CO₂ emissions each year.</p> <p>Number of new developments where SuDS and NFM are appropriately used to increase each year.</p> <p>To reduce Annual average domestic gas and electricity consumption per consumer.</p> <p>To reduce Annual gas and electricity consumption in the commercial/industrial sector</p> <p>90% of permissions granted fulfilling renewable energy requirements within policy and by type of renewable energy [2021 AMR].</p> <p>20MW/pa delivery of renewable energy generation permitted [2021 AMR].</p> <p>To increase use of sustainable transport and reduce private car dependence.</p> <p>To increase access to broadband internet across the borough (for residential and employment uses).</p>
2. To improve human health and well-being		
<p>To reduce health inequalities amongst different groups in the community.</p> <p>To improve access to health and social care services.</p> <p>To promote healthy lifestyles.</p> <p>To reduce or manage flooding.</p> <p>To maintain low crime levels.</p> <p>To reduce the fear of crime.</p>	<p>Percentage of the resident population who consider themselves to be in good health.</p> <p>Number of wards with LSOAs in the bottom 40% most deprived for health deprivation and disability.</p> <p>Life expectancy at birth for males and females.</p> <p>Percentage of working-age population with a long-term limiting illness.</p> <p>Percentage of adults (16+)</p>	<p>Maintain and increase number of people claiming to be in good health.</p> <p>Increase access to health services.</p> <p>Increase the number of adults and young people participating in sport and physical activity through increasing accessibility to sport facilities and recreational space.</p> <p>Reduce the number of crimes per '000 population.</p>

SA Objectives and Sub-Objectives	Indicators (Current and Proposed)	Targets
<p>To reduce levels of anti-social behaviour.</p> <p>To encourage safety by design.</p> <p>To protect or enhance recreational assets.</p>	<p>taking part in sport and active recreation at least three times a week).</p> <p>Number of planning applications granted permission contrary to Environment Agency advice regarding flooding.</p> <p>Distribution of areas at risk of fluvial flooding (Environment Agency)</p> <p>Number and distribution of wards with LSOAs in the bottom 40% most deprived for crime deprivation.</p> <p>Crime rates per 1,000 of the population for key offences.</p> <p>Number of new development actively incorporating safety by design principles.</p> <p>Number of new initiatives implemented to tackle anti-social behaviour.</p> <p>Quality and extent of recreational assets, such as formal or informal footpaths.</p>	<p>No planning applications permitted contrary to EA advice on flooding.</p>
<p>3. To improve equality and access to amenities and facilities</p>		
<p>To increase the availability of quality affordable housing and social and sheltered accommodation in areas most at need.</p> <p>To tackle homelessness more effectively.</p> <p>To increase the availability of affordable housing.</p> <p>To reduce the number of unfit homes.</p> <p>To reduce the number of vacant housing.</p> <p>To improve access to cultural and leisure facilities.</p> <p>To maintain and improve access to essential services and facilities.</p> <p>To promote the use of more sustainable modes of transport.</p> <p>To encourage walking, cycling and the use of public transport.</p>	<p>Average house price.</p> <p>Ratio of median house prices to median income</p> <p>Percentage of homes deemed unfit.</p> <p>Number of LSOAs in the bottom 40% most deprived for barriers to housing and services provision.</p> <p>Percentage of housing vacant.</p> <p>Number of affordable housing completions per annum.</p> <p>Number of homeless presentations.</p> <p>Number of essential services and facilities within local settlements.</p> <p>Number and distribution of sports facilities and recreational space.</p> <p>Journey to work by mode.</p> <p>Public transport patronage.</p> <p>Percentage of dwellings approved and located within 400m of an existing or</p>	<p>Increase the number of affordable homes provided in the district in accordance with housing targets.</p> <p>Increase the number of empty properties brought back into use.</p> <p>Reduce proportion of homes deemed unfit.</p> <p>Reduce levels of homelessness.</p> <p>Increase access to basic services and amenities.</p> <p>No net loss of basic services and amenities.</p> <p>To increase use of sustainable transport and reduce private car dependence.</p> <p>To increase access to broadband internet across the borough (for residential and employment uses).</p>

SA Objectives and Sub-Objectives	Indicators (Current and Proposed)	Targets
	<p>proposed bus stop or within 800m of an existing or proposed railway station.</p> <p>Number of homes with broadband internet access.</p>	
<p>4. To improve levels of educational attainment and skills and training development for all age groups and all sectors of society</p>		
<p>To maintain and increase levels of participation and attainment in education for all members of society.</p> <p>To improve the provision of education and training facilities.</p> <p>To improve access to and involvement in higher education for 16-19 year olds.</p>	<p>Location and number of educational establishments in Ribble Valley.</p> <p>Number and distribution of wards with LSOAs in the bottom 40% most deprived for education, skills and training deprivation.</p> <p>Percentage of 15 year old pupils in local authority schools achieving 5 or more GCSEs at Grades 9 - 4 or equivalent.</p> <p>Percentage of people aged 19-64 achieving national vocational qualification (NVQ) level 4 or above.</p> <p>Percentage of resident adults with no qualifications.</p> <p>Percentage of 16-19 year olds continuing in to higher education.</p>	<p>At least 95% of adults to have basic skills in both functional literacy and numeracy.</p> <p>At least 90% of adults to hold at least level 2 qualifications or equivalent.</p> <p>At least 40% of adults to hold at least level 4 qualifications or equivalent.</p> <p>[Based on Pennine Lancashire Integrated Economic Strategy]</p> <p>No net loss of educational establishments.</p>
<p>5. To encourage sustainable economic growth, business development, and economic inclusion across the borough.</p>		
<p>To diversify employment opportunities.</p> <p>To increase employment opportunities.</p> <p>To encourage economic growth.</p> <p>To reduce levels of unemployment.</p> <p>To improve physical accessibility to jobs.</p>	<p>Location of key industries and major employers.</p> <p>Economic activity rate.</p> <p>Employment by sector.</p> <p>Number of VAT registered businesses including sectoral information.</p> <p>Visitor numbers and tourist revenue data.</p> <p>Number of wards with LSOAs in the bottom 40% most deprived for employment deprivation.</p> <p>Number of wards with LSOAs in the bottom 40% for income deprivation.</p> <p>Percentage of unemployed working-age population.</p> <p>Location of employment areas relative to housing.</p>	<p>Increase number of VAT registered businesses.</p> <p>Provision of sufficient employment land to meet economic needs.</p> <p>No net loss in employment land provision.</p> <p>Increase accessibility to employment areas in particular for LSOAs exhibiting higher levels of employment and income deprivation.</p> <p>No increase in businesses relocating outside the borough. [2021 AMR]</p> <p>Net gain in number of planning permissions involving new or improved tourism or recreational facilities [2021 AMR]</p> <p>Increase the visitor spend on tourism</p> <p>Decrease the numbers of employed people currently working outside of the</p>

SA Objectives and Sub-Objectives	Indicators (Current and Proposed)	Targets
		district.
6. To protect, restore and enhance biodiversity		
<p>To protect and enhance designated sites of nature conservation importance.</p> <p>To protect and enhance wildlife especially rare and endangered species.</p> <p>To protect and enhance habitats and wildlife corridors.</p> <p>To provide opportunities for people to access wildlife and open green spaces.</p> <p>To increase biodiversity net gain.</p> <p>To ensure current ecological networks are not compromised.</p> <p>To ensure that future improvements in habitat connectivity are not prejudiced.</p>	<p>Number and distribution of designated sites including SAC, SPA, Ramsar sites, SSSI, NNR, LNR) and BHS.</p> <p>Condition of SSSIs.</p> <p>Proportion of the population that has full access to the requirements of the Accessible Natural Green Space Standard</p>	<p>Maintain and improve number of SSSIs in favourable condition.</p> <p>Increase access to greenspace per head.</p> <p>No net loss of BHS or other statutory ecological conservation site</p> <p>Minimum 10% net gain in biodiversity in association with development.</p> <p>Achieve all ten Principles of Biodiversity Net Gain in future development.</p>
7. To protect and enhance the borough's landscape and townscape character and quality		
<p>To protect and enhance landscape character and quality.</p> <p>To protect and enhance townscape character and quality.</p> <p>To promote sensitive design in development.</p>	<p>Number, location, size and character of Conservation Areas.</p> <p>Amount of development in AONB</p> <p>Conservation Areas at risk</p>	<p>No inappropriate development in AONB</p> <p>No net loss of Conservation Areas.</p> <p>No increase in Conservation Areas at risk.</p>
8. To conserve and enhance the historic environment		
<p>To protect and enhance historic environment and heritage assets.</p> <p>To protect and enhance historic landscape/townscape value.</p>	<p>Number of Listed Buildings, Scheduled Monuments, Conservation Areas and Registered Parks and Gardens.</p> <p>Percentage of listed buildings or other assets on the English Heritage at risk register.</p> <p>Number of permissions granted against Historic England advice</p>	<p>No increase in heritage at risk as a result of new development.</p> <p>No permissions granted against English heritage advice [2021 AMR].</p>
9. To protect and enhance the quality of water features and resources		
<p>To protect and enhance ground and surface water quality</p> <p>To encourage the inclusion of SuDS and NFM.</p>	<p>Percentage of rivers with good/fair chemical and biological water quality</p> <p>Number of SuDS and NFM implemented across the borough.</p> <p>Number of planning applications granted</p>	<p>To introduce SuDs and NFM into new development</p> <p>No planning permissions granted against EA advice</p>

SA Objectives and Sub-Objectives	Indicators (Current and Proposed)	Targets
	permission contrary to Environment Agency advice	
10. To conserve and enhance soil resources and guard against land contamination		
<p>To reduce the amount of derelict, contaminated, and vacant land.</p> <p>To encourage development of brownfield land where appropriate.</p> <p>To protect soil functions.</p> <p>To prevent the loss of best and most versatile agricultural land.</p>	<p>Percentage of housing completions on previously developed land.</p> <p>Percentage of employment development on previously developed land.</p>	<p>100% of new and converted dwellings on previously developed land</p> <p>Greater than 51% of employment land permitted for development on previously developed land [2021 AMR]</p>
11. To protect and improve air quality		
<p>To protect and improve local air quality.</p> <p>To promote the use of more sustainable modes of transport.</p> <p>To reduce the use of private car.</p> <p>To encourage walking, cycling and the use of public transport.</p>	<p>Number and distribution of AQMAs.</p> <p>Combined Air Quality Indicator Scores for LSOAs in Ribble Valley.</p> <p>Distribution of known key polluting industries.</p>	<p>No new AQMAs to be designated in the borough.</p> <p>To increase use of sustainable transport and reduce private car dependence.</p>
12. To protect material assets and minimise waste		
<p>To ensure sustainable use of natural resources.</p> <p>To reduce the demand for raw materials</p> <p>To promote the use of recycled and secondary materials in construction</p> <p>To increase the proportion of waste recycling and reuse</p> <p>To reduce the production of waste</p> <p>To reduce the proportion of waste landfilled</p>	<p>Incorporation of secondary and recycled materials in new development projects.</p> <p>Number of grey water recycling and water minimisation schemes implemented.</p> <p>Number of sustainable design schemes implemented. Use of BREEAM4 in new developments.</p> <p>Levels of composting and recycling achieved.</p> <p>Levels of fly-tipping</p> <p>Amount of household waste landfilled.</p> <p>Number and distribution of Household Waste Recycling Centres</p>	<p>Increase use of secondary and recycled materials in construction for new developments.</p> <p>Increase use of water efficiency schemes in new developments.</p> <p>Increase the percentage of municipal waste that is recycled or composted.</p> <p>Decrease the amount of fly-tipping.</p>

5.4 Impact significance

The unmitigated impacts of the Local Plan policies on achieving the Sustainability Appraisal objectives will be identified through the analysis of the baseline conditions and use of professional judgement. The significance of effects will be scored using the five-point scale summarised in Table 5-4. The level of uncertainty regarding the likelihood and potential significance of an impact (either positive or negative) will be assessed separately on a scale from “Very high” to “very low”. Where certainty is

lower, the 'worst case' impact will be assessed and illustrated, with commentary how the effect may be better or improved through action.

Table 5-4: Impact significance key

Impact significance	Description	Impact symbol
Significant positive impact	The allocation contributes to the achievement of the SA Objective and is likely to deliver enhancements.	++
Minor positive impact	The allocation contributes partially to the achievement of the SA Objective but not completely.	+
Neutral impact	There is no clear relationship between the allocation and/or the achievement of the SA Objective or the relationship is negligible.	0
Minor negative impact	The allocation partially detracts from the achievement of some elements of the SA Objective.	-
Significant negative impact	The allocation detracts from the achievement of all elements of the SA Objective.	--

5.5 Sustainability Assessment approach

5.5.1 Developing alternatives

The SEA Regulations require an assessment of the plan and its 'reasonable alternatives'. In order to assess reasonable alternatives, different options for delivering the Local Plan will be developed and assessed at a strategic level against the above Sustainability Appraisal objectives and baseline conditions as detailed in Section 4. The results of this assessment will be used to inform the decision-making process in choosing a preferred way of delivering the Local Plan.

The Local Plan's policies (in Sustainability Appraisal terms called 'alternative options') are not yet sufficiently developed to detail in this scoping report. However, they will be assessed at a later stage, with details of each provided in the Environmental Report.

The Sustainability Appraisal will also consider a 'do nothing' scenario (i.e. how the situation would develop in relation to each environmental receptor without implementation of the Local Plan).

5.5.2 Assessment approach

The Local Plan will be evaluated in light of its potential cumulative, synergistic and indirect effects on the Sustainability Appraisal objectives. The assessment of these effects will be informed by the baseline data collected at this scoping stage, professional judgement and experience with other Sustainability Appraisals, as well as an assessment of national, regional and local trends. In some cases, the assessment will draw upon mapping data and GIS to identify areas of potential pressure, for example due to flood risk or presence of environmental designations.

Throughout the assessment the following will apply:

- Positive, neutral and negative impacts will be assessed, with uncertain impacts highlighted.

- The duration of the impact will be considered over the short, medium and long term.
- The reversibility and permanence of the impact will be assessed (e.g. temporary construction impacts, impacts which can be mitigated against/restored over time or completely irreversible changes to the environment).
- In-combination effects will also be considered.

The significance of effects upon each of the Sustainability Appraisal objectives will then be evaluated and used to inform option selection.

5.6 Geographical / spatial scope

5.6.1 Ribble Valley Borough

The proposed study area for the SA is Ribble Valley district, defined by the boundary illustrated in Figure 1-1, and its neighbouring authorities. Some themes addressed in the SA are part of national and international issues, such as climate change, and as such it is likely that the effects will extend beyond the boundaries of the borough. However, there can be regional and local indicators of the effects of these impacts as well as objectives at this level that can mitigate these global issues. This is what the scope of the SA will focus on.

Data has been collected as part of a baseline review as a part of the SA scoping process, with further data collated as information has become available regarding policies and plans relevant to the Local Plan. This has included information about the surrounding districts and Lancashire.

5.6.2 Transboundary Issues

For many authorities, the geographical scale of particular issues means that they relate closely to neighbouring authorities. For example, housing provision and education can all result in flows of people across local authority boundaries. In order to help to characterise the scope further, some of these key 'transboundary' issues have been identified below.

- Over half of the borough's population out-commute daily from Ribble Valley to other boroughs for employment reasons, and this may be contributing to problems associated with a decline in local spending.
- Ribble Valley is a popular place for people to relocate to live.
- Waste disposal is a significant strategic issue for all of East Lancashire with the main waste disposal site being located in Hyndburn. This is likely to have adverse traffic movements around this area.
- There are limited adult education training facilities in the borough and therefore people may be commuting out of the borough for educational reasons. The absence of a further and Higher Education establishment in the district is a weakness identified in the Economic Strategy, as well as a lack of vocational training opportunities for 16-19 year olds.
- Housing, business, and road developments in close proximity to the borough border can result in changes in traffic patterns that impact several local authorities.

5.7 Temporal scope

The temporal scope of the SA is the plan period (to 2033), and a period of approximately 10 years beyond to ensure that the long-term implications of any decisions implemented during, and especially towards the end of, the plan period have

been considered. This will help to identify whether the effects are likely to be permanent (i.e. irreversible at least through the lifetime of the proposed measures/scheme) or temporary.

6 Next steps in the Sustainability Appraisal process

6.1 The Environmental Report

Following the consultation period on the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report, the Local Plan will be developed, concurrently with the Sustainability Appraisal, following the framework outlined above. The results of this will be summarised in an Environmental Report. A proposed structure for the Environmental Report is outlined in Table 6-1 below.

Table 6-1: Proposed structure for the Environmental Report

Section	Information to be included
Non-technical summary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-technical summary of the Sustainability Appraisal process.
Methodology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who carried out the Sustainability Appraisal, how, who was consulted, and when. • Difficulties in collecting data or assessment.
Background	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purpose of the Sustainability Appraisal and integration with the Local Plan.
Baseline characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summary of baseline review, including the future baseline without the plan. This will be updated from the Scoping Stage with information brought to light during the consultation period. • Links to other plans, programmes and relevant environmental protection objectives, and how they have been incorporated. • Existing and foreseeable future environmental problems. • Limitations of the data, assumptions etc.
Sustainability framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainability Appraisal objectives and appraisal criteria.
Plan issues and alternatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Description of significant sustainability effects of the Local Plan policies. • Assessment matrix for each policy/option. • How problems were considered in developing the policies and choosing the preferred alternatives. • Other alternatives considered, and why these were rejected. • Proposed mitigation and enhancement measures to deliver Sustainability Appraisal objectives.
Implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Links to project environmental impact assessment, design guidance etc. • Proposals for monitoring and reporting.



Appendices



Appendix A Plans, Policies and Programmes Reviewed

A.1 International Objectives

International Objectives		
Source	Key Objectives or Requirements relevant to SA	Implications for Local Plan and SA
Aarhus Convention (1998)	Establishes a number of public rights, including access to environmental information held by public authorities, the right to public participation in environmental decision-making and access to justice in environmental matters regarding community institutions and bodies.	The preparation process of the Local Plan and its SA will need to have regard to the convention through ensuring effective public participation and ensuring the accessibility of environmental information relating to the plan.
EU Directives on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air quality (2008/50/EC, 2004/107/EC, 2015/1480/EC) • Bathing water (2006/7/EC) • Conservation of wild birds (79/409/EEC amended to 2009/147/EC) • Emission reductions (2018/410/EC) • Environmental noise (2002/49/EC) • Flood risk (2007/60/EC), • Habitats (92/43/EEC) • Landfill of Waste (99/31/EC) • Marine strategy framework (2008/56/EC) • Maritime spatial planning (2014/89/EC) • Promotion of use of energy from renewable sources (2018/2001/EC) • Waste (2018/851/EC) • Water framework (2000/60/EC) 	<p>Directives are legal acts of the EU that require member states to achieve a particular result without dictating the means of achieving that result, leaving them with a certain amount of leeway as to how it can be achieved. They tend to be implemented by the transposition into legislation e.g. Regulations by the Member States.</p> <p>Relevant objectives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improvement and management of ambient air quality. • Improvement and management of bathing water quality. • Conservation of wild birds and their habitats, including identifying Special Protection Areas (SPAs). • Reduction of overall greenhouse gas emissions of the Union by at least 40% below 1990 levels by 2030. • Providing a framework for national and local noise policy and requiring the production of strategic noise maps. • Reducing and managing the risks that floods pose to human health, the environment, cultural heritage and economic activity, and the requirement for Member States to carry out preliminary assessments to identify river basins and coastal areas at risk of flooding and to establish flood risk management plans. • Ensure the conservation, maintenance and restoration of natural habitats and wild fauna/flora. • Preventing and reducing the negative effects of landfill waste on the environment and health, and setting waste reduction targets. • Establishing a framework for member states to take measures to maintain or achieve good environmental status in the marine environment by 2020. • Establishment of marine spatial planning in Member States. • Promotion of renewable energy and setting of target for 15% of energy to be from renewable sources by 2020. • Preventing and reducing the generation of waste, the adverse impacts of waste generation and management, and reducing the overall impacts of resource use and improving the efficiency of resource use. • Improvement of water quality for ground and surface waters ('good' status to be achieved for all water bodies), and co-ordinated river basin management. 	The Local Plan will need to have regard to the relevant UK legislation that has been transposed from these EU Directives.
Our life insurance, our natural capital: an EU biodiversity strategy to 2020,	The EU Biodiversity Strategy aims to halt the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services in the EU and help stop global biodiversity loss by 2020. It reflects the commitments taken by the EU in 2010, within the international Convention on Biological Diversity. In	The Local Plan should have regard to the relevant goals of the strategy, particularly in relation to protecting habitats and species. The SA should

International Objectives		
European Commission (2011)	2011, the EU adopted an ambitious strategy setting out 6 targets and 20 actions to halt the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services in the EU by 2020. The mid-term review of the strategy assesses whether the EU is on track to achieve this objective. It shows progress in many areas, but highlights the need for much greater effort.	assess potential effects of the plan on biodiversity and seek to maximise positive impacts.
Convention on Biological Diversity (1993) and Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020	The three main objectives are to conserve biodiversity, the sustainable use of the components of biodiversity, and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilisation of genetic resources. In 2010, the Convention adopted a revised Strategic Plan for Biodiversity to provide an overarching framework on biodiversity, not only for the biodiversity-related conventions, but for the entire United Nations system and all other partners engaged in biodiversity management and policy development.	The Local Plan will need to have regard to the government's Biodiversity 2020 strategy. The SA will assess potential impacts on biodiversity from the plan, and identify required mitigation.
Bern Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (1979)	The Convention aims to ensure conservation of wild flora and fauna species and their habitats. The Parties undertake to take all appropriate measures to ensure the conservation of the habitats of the wild flora and fauna species. Such measures should be included in the Parties' planning and development policies.	The Local Plan will need to have ensure the appropriate conservation of wild flora and fauna and species and their habitats through its development strategy, site allocations and policies. The SA (and HRA) will assess potential effects of the plan on species and habitats and identify any required mitigation.
Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat (1971)	The Convention on Wetlands, called the Ramsar Convention, is the intergovernmental treaty that provides the framework for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources. The Convention's mission is "the conservation and wise use of all wetlands through local and national actions and international cooperation, as a contribution towards achieving sustainable development throughout the world".	The Local Plan will need to ensure that its policies and proposals do not adversely affect Ramsar sites (e.g. Morecambe Bay). Potential effects will be assessed using the SA process and Habitats Regulations Assessment and Appropriate Assessment.
Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals	An environmental treaty under the aegis of the UN Environment Programme, which provides a global platform for the conservation and sustainable use of migratory animals and their habitats. It lays the legal foundation for internationally coordinated conservation measures. Its objective is to ensure co-ordinated action across a range of parties to protect migratory species and habitats and to avoid any migratory species becoming endangered.	The Local Plan should assess its potential impacts on migratory species and minimise the loss or harm to important migratory habitats. This will be achieved through the SA and HRA process.
European Landscape Convention – Florence Convention (2000)	The European Landscape Convention (ELC) is the first international convention to focus specifically on landscape. Created by the Council of Europe, the convention promotes landscape protection, management and planning, and European co-operation on landscape issues. Signed by the UK Government in February 2006, the ELC became binding from March 2007. It applied to all landscapes, towns and villages, as well as open countryside; the coast and inland areas; and ordinary or even degraded landscapes, as well as those that are afforded protection. It highlights the importance of developing landscape policies dedicated to the protection, management and creation of landscapes and establishing procedures for the general public and other stakeholders to participate in policy creation and implementation.	The Local Plan will need to ensure the protection, management and creation of landscapes through its policy making and development strategy. Landscape character assessments will be used to inform policy making and site selection in the Local Plan, and landscape effects will be assessed through the SA.
European Convention on the Protection of	The Convention replaced and updated the original London Convention of 1969. It reflected the change in the nature of threats to the archaeological heritage,	The Local Plan should have due regard to archaeological heritage through the

International Objectives		
<p>Archaeological Heritage (Revised from 1985 Granada version) – Valetta Convention (1992)</p>	<p>which now came less from unauthorised excavations, as in the 1960s, and more from the major construction projects carried out all over Europe from 1980 onwards. It established new basic legal standards for Europe, to be met by national policies for the protection of archaeological assets. The revised text makes the conservation and enhancement of the archaeological heritage one of the goals of urban and regional planning policies. It is concerned in particular with arrangements to be made for cooperation among archaeologists and town and regional planners in order to ensure optimum conservation of archaeological heritage. The Convention sets guidelines for the funding of excavation and research work and publication of research findings.</p>	<p>development of its proposals and policies, and the SA should assess potential effects on archaeological heritage.</p>
<p>UNESCO Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (1972)</p>	<p>Preservation of natural and cultural heritage sites. Countries that have signed the convention pledge to conserve not only the World Heritage sites in their territory but also to protect their national heritage. States are encouraged to integrate the protection of cultural and natural heritage into regional planning programmes and undertake research and adopt measures that give heritage a function in the day to day life of the community.</p>	<p>The SA will assess the Local Plan's potential effects on cultural and natural heritage to ensure that it is protected and enhanced.</p>
<p>Paris Agreement (2016) United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)</p>	<p>In 2015, Parties to the UNFCCC reached a landmark agreement to combat climate change and to accelerate and intensify the actions and investments needed for a sustainable low carbon future. The Paris Agreement builds upon the Convention and – for the first time – brings all nations into a common cause to undertake take ambitious efforts to combat climate change and adapt to its effects, with enhanced support to assist developing countries to do so.</p> <p>The Paris Agreement's central aim is to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change by keeping the global temperature rise this century well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase even further to 1.5 degrees Celsius. The Paris agreement effectively supersedes the Kyoto Protocol (1997).</p>	<p>The Local Plan should help deliver carbon reductions locally to contribute to the achievement of the Paris agreement at a national and international level.</p>
<p>UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (1992)</p>	<p>The ultimate objective of the convention was the stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system, and the limiting of average global temperature averages. Such a level should be achieved within a timeframe sufficient to allow ecosystems to adapt naturally to climate change, to ensure that food production is not threatened and to enable economic development to proceed in a sustainable manner.</p>	<p>The Local Plan will need to ensure carbon reductions in line with current national and international targets.</p>
<p>Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2015)</p>	<p>Signed at a UN Summit in 2015, the agenda contains a set of 17 sustainable development goals and 169 targets across topics including poverty, food security, health and well-being, inclusive and equitable education for all, gender equality, sustainable water management, sustainable energy, economic growth, settlements that are safe, inclusive and resilient, sustainable consumption, climate change, marine conservation, ecosystems and biodiversity, peaceful and inclusive societies and global partnerships.</p> <p>The 2030 Agenda takes all of the goals set by Agenda 21, and re-asserts them as the basis for sustainable development, and adds on 17 agreed goals revolving around the same concepts of Agenda 21.</p> <p>The 17 goals are:</p>	<p>The Local Plan should take account of the sustainable development goals and they should be reflected in the SA. Many are directly related to spatial planning.</p>

International Objectives		
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) End poverty in all its forms everywhere 2) End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture 3) Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages 4) Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all 5) Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls 6) Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all 7) Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all 8) Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all 9) Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation 10) Reduce inequality within and among countries 11) Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable 12) Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns 13) Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts 14) Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development 15) Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss 16) Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels 17) Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development. <p>National progress against these goals is measured using a series of indicators and UK data is available at https://sustainabledevelopmentuk.github.io/.</p>	
EU Seventh Environment Action Programme to 2020 (2014)	<p>The 7th Environment Action Programme (EAP) guides European environment policy until 2020. In order to give more long-term direction it sets out a vision beyond that, of where it wants the Union to be by 2050:</p> <p>"In 2050, we live well, within the planet's ecological limits. Our prosperity and healthy environment stem from an innovative, circular economy where nothing is wasted and where natural resources are managed sustainably, and biodiversity is protected, valued and restored in ways that enhance our society's resilience. Our low-carbon growth has long been decoupled from resource use, setting the pace for a safe and sustainable global society."</p> <p>The programme identifies three priority areas where more action is needed to protect nature and strengthen ecological resilience, boost resource-efficient, low-carbon growth, and reduce threats to human health and wellbeing linked to pollution, chemical substances, and the impacts of climate change.</p>	<p>The Local Plan needs to reflect the objectives of the programme. Particularly, it must consider the impacts of climate change and present a strategy that will enable Ribble Valley to grow within its environmental limits.</p>
Europe 2020	<p>The Europe 2020 strategy is the EU's agenda for</p>	<p>The Local Plan should have</p>

International Objectives		
<p>strategy</p>	<p>growth and jobs for the current decade. It emphasises smart, sustainable and inclusive growth as a way to overcome the structural weaknesses in Europe's economy, improve its competitiveness and productivity and underpin a sustainable social market economy. It includes targets around employment levels, education, poverty and climate change and renewables. The Europe 2020 strategy is used as a reference framework for activities at EU and at national and regional levels.</p> <p>EU governments have set national targets to help achieve the overall EU targets, and are reporting on them as part of their annual national reform programmes. In the UK the 'Europe 2020: UK National Reform Programme 2019' sets out the actions the government is taking to address structural reform challenges facing the UK. It sets out the key areas of focus for the UK of limiting the nominal growth rate of net primary government expenditure, boosting housing supply, and addressing skills and progression needs.</p>	<p>regard to the national focus areas, particularly around boosting housing supply, and should ensure that it helps contribute to national priorities to support economic growth. The SA should assess the impacts of boosting housing supply and growth and ensure that an appropriate balance is struck between economic, social and environmental objectives.</p>
<p>European Spatial Development Perspective – Brussels (1999)</p>	<p>The ESDP defines at a Union level policy objectives and general principles of spatial development to ensure the sustainable balanced development of the European territory which respects its diversity. The policy objectives and options of the ESDP are addressed to all those involved in spatial development at the European, national, regional and local levels. They are as follows: A) the establishment of a polycentric and balanced urban system, B) the promotion of integrated transport and communications concepts offering parity of access to infrastructure and knowledge throughout the Union, C) the development and conservation of the natural and cultural heritage.</p>	<p>The Local Plan should have regard to the policy objectives in the ESDP and consider how it can contribute to them.</p>
<p>European Sustainable Development Strategy (2006)</p>	<p>This strategy provides an EU-wide policy framework to deliver sustainable development, i.e. to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. It rests on four separate pillars - economic, social, environmental and global governance - which need to reinforce one another. The economic, social and environmental consequences of all policies thus need to be examined in a coordinated manner and taken into account when those policies are being drawn up and adopted. This strategy, which complements the Lisbon Strategy, is a catalyst for policy makers and public opinion, to change society's behaviour. It is built around measures covering the main challenges identified, as well as cross-cutting measures, adequate funding, the involvement of all stakeholders and effective policy implementation and follow-up.</p>	<p>The principles of sustainable development contained within the strategy need to be considered by all policy makers in the EU. The Local Plan therefore needs to be built around these principles and the economic, social and environmental consequences of all the policies and sites need to be examined a coordinated manner through the Sustainability appraisal.</p>
<p>Rio Declaration on Environment and Development (1992) and Agenda 21</p>	<p>Reaffirmed the Declaration of the UN Conference on the Human Environment, adopted at Stockholm in 1972 and sought to build upon it. Sets out 27 principles of sustainable development, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Principle 3: 'The right to development must be fulfilled so as to equitably meet developmental and environmental needs of present and future generations' • Principle 4: 'In order to achieve sustainable development, environmental protection shall constitute an integral part of the development process and cannot be considered in isolation from it' <p>Agenda 21 was a product of the Rio Earth Summit and is a vast work programme for the 21st Century representing 98% of the world's population. It is a blueprint for a global partnership and strives to</p>	<p>The SA will ensure that sustainability principles are embedded into the Local Plan.</p>

International Objectives	
	reconcile the twin requirements of a high-quality environment and a healthy economy for all people of the world. The Rio declaration, and the global commitment to sustainable development has been confirmed, reasserted and added to at subsequent UN conferences including Johannesburg 2002 and Rio 2012 (see The Future We Want that re-affirmed the Rio 1992 declaration 20 years on)

A.2 National Policy Review

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A.2.1 Overview of national strategies and plans

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) Sets out the Government’s planning policies for England and how these should be applied, providing a framework within which locally-prepared plans for housing and other development can be produced. This framework must be taken into account when preparing the development plan alongside international obligations and statutory requirements.

The NPPF generally captures the local development planning aspects of other national strategies, plans and policies. However, these have been considered in this review and include:

- Natural Environment White Paper, 2011 The Natural Choice: securing the value of nature (HM Government, 2011)
- Biodiversity 2020: A Strategy for England’s Wildlife and Ecosystem Services (DEFRA, 2011)
- UK Post 2020 Biodiversity Framework (2012)
- Conserving Biodiversity – the UK approach (2007)
- Circular 06/05: Biodiversity & Geological Conservation – Statutory Obligations and their impact within the Planning System (2005)

- Keepers of time: a statement of policy for England's ancient and native woodland (2019)
- Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to improve the Environment (2018)
- Defra (2013) Governments Forestry and Woodlands Policy Statement
- The National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy for England (Environment Agency, 2011) Infrastructure Act (2015)
- Making Space for Water: Developing a new Government strategy for flood and coastal erosion risk management in England (DEFRA 2004: a consultation exercise Marine and Coastal Access Act (2009)
- National Infrastructure Delivery Plan (2016) to 2021
- National Policy Statements (NPS)
- Managing England's woodlands in a climate emergency (2019)
- Laying the Foundations: A Housing Strategy for England (DCLG, 2011)
- Securing the Future: Delivering UK Sustainable Development Strategy (DEFRA, 2005)
- The Energy Efficiency Opportunity in the UK (DECC, 2012)
- The National Adaptation Programme – Making the Country Resilient to a Changing Climate (Defra, 2013)
- Healthy Lives, Healthy People: our Strategy for Public Health in England (DoH, 2010)
- The Air Quality Plan for nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) UK (2017)
- The Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland Wales and Northern Ireland (Defra, 2007)
- Clean Air Strategy (2019)
- Housing Standards Review (2014)
- The Carbon Plan: Delivering Our Low Carbon Future (2011)
- Clean Growth Strategy: Leading the way to a Low Carbon Future (2017 – amended 2018)
- Decarbonising Transport – Setting the Challenge (2020)
- Choosing Health: Making Healthier Choices Easier (White Paper: 2004)
- DTI Energy White Paper: Our Energy Future – Creating a Low Carbon Economy (2003)
- Energy Security Strategy (2012)
- Sustainable Communities: Building for the Future (2003)
- National Capital Natural Capital Committee advice on reaching net zero by 2050: nature based interventions
- Net Zero: The UK's contribution to stopping global warming Committee on Climate Change (CCC) (2019)
- The National Adaptation Programme and the Third Strategy for Climate Adaptation Reporting: Making the country resilient to a changing climate (July 2018)
- England Biodiversity Strategy Climate Change Adaptation Principles (2008)
- Community Energy Strategy (DECC, 2014)
- Fixing our broken housing market. White paper (2017)
- Quality and Choice for Older People's Housing (2001)
- Planning Policy for Traveller Sites (DCLG, 2012)
- Healthy Lives, Healthy People: Our Strategy for Public Health in England (2010)

- Laying the Foundations: A Housing Strategy for England (2011)
- Industrial Strategy: Building a Britain fit for the future (2016)
- The Energy Efficiency Strategy: The Energy Efficiency Opportunity in the UK (2012)
- Our Energy Challenge - Securing Clean, Affordable Energy for the Long-term (2006) – Consultation Document
- Planning our Electric Future: A White Paper for Secure, Affordable and Low-carbon Electricity (July 2011)
- Renewable Energy Roadmap (July 2011)
- The Future of Transport: A Network for 2030 (2004)
- The Future of Transport White Paper (2004)
- Planning for the Future (2020)
- National Planning Policy for Waste (October 2014)
- Resources and waste strategy for England (2018)
- Safeguarding our soils: A strategy for England (2009)
- Noise Policy Statement for England (2010)

A.2.2 Achieving sustainable development

A presumption in favour of sustainable development is at the heart of the NPPF to ensure sustainable development is pursued. This means that:

- All plans should promote a sustainable pattern of development – meets development needs, aligns growth and infrastructure, improves the environment, mitigates climate change through effective land use, and adapts to climate change
- Strategic policies should provide for assessed needs for housing and other uses (unless the application of the framework provides a strong reason for restricting development or adverse impacts would outweigh the benefits)
- Developmental proposals that are in accord with an up to date development should be approved without delay

However, this presumption doesn't change the statutory status of the development plan as the starting point for decision making.

Sustainable development is defined in the UK by the Sustainable Development Strategy (2005). The strategy set out the following goal:

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 of future generations. For the UK Government and the Devolved Administrations, that goal will be pursued in an integrated way through a sustainable, innovative and productive economy that delivers high levels of employment; and a just society that promotes social inclusion, sustainable communities and personal wellbeing. This will be done in ways that protect and enhance the physical and natural environment, and use resources and energy as efficiently as possible. Government must promote a clear understanding of, and commitment to, sustainable development so that all people can contribute to the overall goal through their individual decisions. Similar objectives will inform all our international endeavours, with the UK actively promoting multilateral and sustainable solutions to today's most pressing environmental, economic and social problems. There is a clear obligation on more prosperous nations both to put their own house in

order, and to support other countries in the transition towards a more equitable and sustainable world.

A.2.3 Plan-making

The NPPF sets out that plans should provide a positive vision for the future, a framework for addressing housing needs and other priorities, and a platform for local people to shape their surroundings. Plans should:

- Be prepared with the objective of contributing to the achievement of sustainable development
- Be prepared positively, in a way that is aspirational but deliverable
- Be shaped by early, proportionate and effective engagement between planmakers, stakeholders, and statutory consultees
- Contain policies that are clearly written and unambiguous, so it is evident how a decision maker should react to development proposals
- Be accessible through the use of digital tools to assist public involvement and policy presentation
- Serve a clear purpose, avoiding unnecessary duplication of policies that apply to a particular area

Effective cooperation should be maintained throughout, with authorities collaborating and engaging with their local communities and relevant bodies including Local Enterprise Partnerships, Local Nature Partnerships, the Marine Management Organisation, county councils, infrastructure providers, elected Mayors and combined authorities.

Strategic policymaking authorities should prepare and maintain one or more statements of common ground, documenting the cross-boundary matters being addressed and progress in cooperating to address these in accordance with national planning guidance, and which should be made publicly available.

A.2.4 General environmental and sustainability integration into planning

Plans should ensure that developments set out a clear design vision and expectations, and are developed with local communities so they reflect local aspirations. They should ensure that developments will function well and add to the overall quality of the area over the lifetime of the development.

Strategic policies should set out an overall strategy for the pattern, scale, and design quality of places over a minimum of 15 years (if larger scale developments, at least 30 years). They should make sufficient provision for housing, employment, retail, leisure and other commercial development, and infrastructure for:

- transport
- telecommunications
- security
- waste management
- water supply
- wastewater
- flood risk and coastal change management
- the provision of minerals and energy
- community facilities

Policies should provide for the conservation and enhancement of the natural, built and historic environment, including landscapes and green infrastructure, and planning measures to address climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Plans should set out the contributions expected from development:

- Levels and types of affordable housing required
- Infrastructure needed for education, health, transport, flood and water management, green and digital infrastructure

Such policies should not undermine the deliverability of the plan.

Strategic policies should be informed by a local housing need assessment unless exceptional circumstances justify an alternative appropriate approach. The size, type and tenure of housing needed for different groups in the community should be assessed and reflected in planning policies. Where a need for affordable housing is identified, planning policies should specify the type of affordable housing required. Provision of affordable housing should not be sought for residential developments that are not major developments, other than in designated rural areas

Where vacant buildings are being reused or redeveloped, any affordable housing contribution due should be reduced by a proportionate amount to encourage brownfield land re-use. Where major development involving the provision of housing is proposed, planning policies and decisions should expect at least 10% of the total number of homes to be available for affordable home ownership (exemptions apply).

Local planning authorities should support opportunities to bring forward rural exception sites that will provide affordable housing to meet identified local needs. Housing should be located where it will enhance or maintain the vitality of rural communities.

A.2.5 Climate change

Plans should take a proactive approach to mitigating and adapting to climate change and policies should support appropriate measures to ensure the future resilience of communities and infrastructure to climate change impacts. New development should be planned for in a way that avoids increased vulnerability to climate change and that helps reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Plans should:

- Provide a positive strategy for energy from renewable and low carbon heat and energy sources, that maximises the potential for suitable development, while ensuring that adverse impacts are addressed
- Consider identifying suitable areas for renewable and low carbon energy sources, and supporting infrastructure
- Identify opportunities for development to draw its energy supply from decentralised, renewable or low carbon energy supply systems and for co-locating potential heat customers and suppliers

(See also 'Sustainable Transport' below.)

A.2.6 Economy and vitality of town centres

Planning policies should set out a clear economic vision and strategy which positively and proactively encourages sustainable economic growth, having regard to Local Industrial Strategies and other local policies for economic development and regeneration. They should set criteria, or identify strategic sites, for local and inward investment to match the strategy and to meet anticipated needs over the plan period, seeking to address potential barriers to investment.

Policies should be flexible enough to accommodate needs not anticipated in the plan, allow for new and flexible working practices (such as live-work accommodation), and to enable a rapid response to changes in economic circumstances. They should recognise the needs and address specific locational requirements of different sectors, and should support a prosperous rural economy, including:

- the sustainable growth and expansion of all types of business in rural areas
- the development and diversification of agricultural and other land-based rural businesses
- sustainable rural tourism and leisure developments
- the retention and development of accessible local services and community facilities

It is important that development does not have an unacceptable impact on local roads and exploits any opportunities to make a location more sustainable.

Planning policies should define a network and hierarchy of town centres and promote their long-term vitality and viability – by allowing them to grow and diversify in a way that can respond to rapid changes in the retail and leisure industries, allows a suitable mix of uses (including housing) and reflects their distinctive characters. Where suitable and viable town centre sites are not available for main town centre uses, allocate appropriate edge of centre sites that are well connected to the town centre. If sufficient edge of centre sites cannot be identified, policies should explain how identified needs can be met in other accessible locations that are well connected to the town centre.

A.2.7 Healthy and safe communities

Planning policies should plan positively for the provision and use of shared spaces, community facilities and other local services. They should take into account and support the delivery of local strategies to improve health, social and cultural well-being for all sections of the community, and guard against the unnecessary loss of valued facilities and services. They should ensure that established shops, facilities and services are able to develop and modernise, and are retained, and an integrated approach to considering the location of housing, economic uses and community facilities and services.

They should also aim to achieve healthy, inclusive, and safe place which:

- Promote social interaction
- Are safe and accessible
- Enable and support healthy lifestyles, especially where this would address identified local health and well-being needs

Sufficient school places should be proactively planned for, and authorities should work with promoters to ensure faster delivery of public service infrastructure.

Planning policies and decisions should promote public safety and take into account wider security and defence requirements.

A.2.8 Open space, recreation and green space

Planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the need for open space, sport and recreation facilities (including quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses) and opportunities for new provision. Plans should seek to accommodate any provision determined by assessments. Existing open space should not be built upon unless subject to exceptions.

Planning policies and decisions should protect and enhance public rights of way and access. Communities can identify and protect green areas of particular importance to them, which should be consistent with the local planning of sustainable development and complement

investment in sufficient homes, jobs and other essential services. Green spaces should only be designated when a plan is prepared or updated, be capable of enduring beyond the end of the plan period, and only be designated when certain criteria is met. Management policies for green space should be consistent with those for Green Belts.

A.2.9 Sustainable transport

Transport issues should be considered from the earliest stages of plan making. Planning policies should:

- Support an appropriate mix of uses across an area to minimise the number and length of journeys needed
- Be prepared with the active involvement of local highways authorities, other transport infrastructure providers and operators and neighbouring councils
- Identify and protect sites and routes which could be critical in developing infrastructure
- Provide for attractive and well-designed walking and cycling networks with supporting facilities
- Provide for any large scale transport facilities that need to be located in the area and the infrastructure and wider development required to support their operation
- Recognise the importance of maintaining a national network of general aviation airfields

Criteria should be taken into account if local parking standards are being set.

In considering development proposals, it should be ensured that:

- Appropriate opportunities to promote sustainable transport modes can be – or have been – taken up
- Safe and suitable access to the site can be achieved for all users
- The design of streets, parking areas, other transport elements and the content of associated standards reflects current national guidance
- Any significant impacts from the development on the transport network (in terms of capacity and congestion), or on highway safety, can be cost effectively mitigated to an acceptable degree

Development should only be prevented or refused on highways grounds if there would be an unacceptable impact. Applications for development should:

- Give priority first to pedestrian and cycle movements and facilitate access to high quality public transport,
- Address the needs of people with disabilities and reduced mobility in relation to all modes of transport
- Create places that are safe, secure and attractive – which minimise conflicts between pedestrians, cyclists and vehicles, avoid unnecessary street clutter
- Allow for the efficient delivery of goods, and access by service and emergency vehicles
- Be designed to enable charging of plug-in and other ultra-low emission vehicles in safe, accessible and convenient locations

All developments that will generate significant amounts of movement should be required to provide a travel plan and be supported by a transport statement/assessment.

A.2.10 Communications infrastructure

Planning policies and decisions should support the expansion of electronic communications networks, including next generation mobile technology and full fibre broadband

connections. They should set out how high-quality digital infrastructure is expected to be delivered and upgraded over time and should prioritise full fibre connections to existing and new developments.

Policies should minimise the number of radio and electronic communications masts. If new sites are required, equipment should be sympathetically designed and camouflaged. There should be evidence to demonstrate that electronic communications infrastructure is not expected to cause significant and irremediable interference with other electrical equipment, air traffic services or instrumentation. Proposals should have considered the possibility of the construction of new buildings or other structures interfering with broadcast and electronic communications services. Applications for development should be supported by a variety of evidence to justify the proposed development

A.2.11 Geology, soils and effective use of land

Planning policies and decisions should protect and enhance sites of geological value and soils. Planning policies should prevent new and existing development from contributing to, being put at unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by, unacceptable levels of soil pollution or land instability. Policies should ensure that developments remediate and mitigate despoiled, degraded, derelict, contaminated and unstable land, where appropriate.

Strategic policies should set out a clear strategy for accommodating objectively assessed needs, in a way that makes as much use as possible of previously-developed or 'brownfield' land. Planning policies should:

- Encourage multiple benefits from both urban and rural land, including through mixed use schemes and taking opportunities to achieve net environmental gains
- Recognise that some undeveloped land can perform many functions
- Give substantial weight to the value of using suitable brownfield land within settlements for homes and other identified needs, and support appropriate opportunities to remediate despoiled, degraded, derelict, contaminated or unstable land
- Promote and support the development of under-utilised land and buildings, especially if this would help to meet identified needs for housing where land supply is constrained and available sites could be used more effectively
- Support opportunities to use the airspace above existing residential and commercial premises for new homes
- Support development that makes efficient use of land, taking different objectives into account

Appropriate densities of housing should be achieved through effective use of land, with the plan aiming to optimise land use and meet housing needs.

Planning policies and decisions should ensure that:

- A site is suitable for its proposed use taking account of ground conditions and any risks arising from land instability and contamination
- After remediation, as a minimum, land should not be capable of being determined as contaminated land under Part IIA of the Environmental Protection Act 1990
- Adequate site investigation information, prepared by a competent person, is available to inform these assessments

The Soil Strategy for England provides additional and current policy context on soils and a number of core objectives for policy and research. The strategy's vision is that:

- agricultural soils will be better managed and threats to them addressed
- soils will play a greater role in the fight against climate change and in helping us to adapt to its impacts
- soils in urban areas will be sufficiently valued for the ecosystem services they provide and given appropriate weight in the planning system
- where development occurs, construction practices will ensure that vital functions can be maintained
- pollution of soils is prevented and our historic legacy of contaminated land is being dealt with

A.2.12 Well-designed places (landscape / townscape) and Green Belt

Planning policies and decisions should protect and enhance valued landscapes, and recognise the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside. Great weight should be given to conserving and enhancing landscape and scenic beauty in National Parks, the Broads and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and the scale and extent of development within all these designated areas should be limited. Within areas defined as Heritage Coast planning policies and decisions should be consistent with the special character of the area and the importance of its conservation.

Plans should ensure that developments are visually attractive as a result of good architecture, layout and appropriate and effective landscaping. They should ensure development which is sympathetic to local character and history, while not preventing or discouraging appropriate innovation or change. They should ensure that new development is appropriate for its location taking into account living conditions and the natural environment, as well as the potential sensitivity of the site or the wider area. This includes light pollution.

Plans and development should:

- establish or maintain a strong sense of place, using the arrangement of streets, spaces, building types and materials to create attractive, welcoming and distinctive places to live, work and visit.
- Optimise the potential of the site to accommodate and sustain an appropriate amount and mix of development and support local facilities and transport networks
- Create places that are safe, inclusive and accessible and which promote health and well-being and where crime and disorder, and the fear of crime, do not undermine the quality of life or community cohesion and resilience.

All local planning authorities should prepare design guides or codes consistent with the principles set out in the National Design Guide and National Model Design Code, and which reflect local character and design preferences.

New streets should be treelined, trees should be incorporated elsewhere into developments, and existing trees should be retained where possible.

Local planning authorities should ensure that they have access to, and make appropriate use of, tools and processes for assessing and improving the design of development

As Green Belts are generally already established, any proposals for new Green Belts should be set out in strategic policies and should meet criteria that demonstrate why it is necessary. Green Belt boundaries should only be altered where exceptional circumstances are fully evidenced and justified, through the preparation or updating of plans - strategic policies should establish the need for any changes to Green Belt boundaries. When defining Green Belt boundaries, plans should:

- Ensure consistency with the development plan's strategy for meeting identified requirements for sustainable development
- Not include land which it is unnecessary to keep permanently open
- Where necessary, identify areas of safeguarded land between the urban area and the Green Belt, in order to meet longer-term development needs stretching well beyond the plan period
- Make clear that the safeguarded land is not allocated for development at the present time. Planning permission for the permanent development of safeguarded land should only be granted following an update to a plan which proposes the development
- Be able to demonstrate that Green Belt boundaries will not need to be altered at the end of the plan period
- Define boundaries clearly, using physical features that are readily recognisable and likely to be permanent

Once defined, local planning should be done positively to enhance their beneficial use such as improved access, improved opportunities for outdoor sport and recreation, improve biodiversity etc. Inappropriate development in the Green Belt should not be approved except in exceptional circumstances.

A.2.13 Flood risk

Inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding should be avoided by directing development away from areas at the highest existing or future risk. Strategic policies should be informed by a strategic flood risk assessment, and should manage flood risk from all sources.

All plans should apply a sequential, risk-based approach to the location of development to avoid risk to people and property, managing risk by applying tests, safeguarding land, reducing impacts of flooding in new developments where possible. If not possible for development to be located in areas of lower risk, the exceptional test may need to be applied – this will depend on the vulnerability of the site and should be carried out by a strategic flood risk assessment to determine if this test is passed.

Major developments should incorporate sustainable drainage systems where applicable.

In coastal areas, planning policies and decisions should take account of the UK Marine Policy Statement and marine plans. Integrated Coastal Zone Management should be pursued across local authority and land/sea boundaries. Plans should reduce risk from coastal change by avoiding inappropriate development in vulnerable areas and they should identify as a Coastal Change Management Area any area likely to be affected by physical changes to the coast. Development in a Coastal Change management Area will only be appropriate under certain circumstances.

A.2.14 Biodiversity and nature conservation

Planning policies and decisions should protect and enhance sites of biodiversity value, minimise impacts and provide net gains for biodiversity. They should recognise the wider benefits from natural capital and ecosystem services.

Plans should distinguish between the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites and allocate land with the least environmental or amenity value, where consistent with other policies in this Framework. Potential SPAs, SACs, and Ramsar sites should be given the same protection as habitat sites.

Plans should identify, map and safeguard components of local wildlife-rich habitats and wider ecological networks. They should promote the conservation, restoration and enhancement of priority habitats, ecological networks and the protection and recovery of

priority species; and identify and pursue opportunities for securing measurable net gains for biodiversity.

Local planning authorities should apply specific principles when determining planning applications regarding biodiversity. The presumption in favour of sustainable development does not apply where the plan or project is likely to have a significant effect on a habitats site.

A.2.15 Air quality and noise

Planning policies should prevent new and existing development from contributing to, being put at unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by, unacceptable levels of air noise pollution. Policies should ensure that new development is appropriate for its location taking into account the likely effects of pollution on health, as well as the potential sensitivity of the site or the wider area. This includes noise pollution.

Policies should ensure that development contributes and complies with relevant limit values for pollutants, including air quality management areas and Clean Air Zones.

A.2.16 Water environment

Planning policies should prevent new and existing development from contributing to, being put at unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by, unacceptable levels of water pollution.

A.2.17 Historic environment

Plans should set out a positive strategy that takes into account:

- The desirability of sustaining and enhancing the significance of heritage assets, and putting them to viable uses consistent with their conservation
- The wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits that conservation of the historic environment can bring
- The desirability of new development making a positive contribution to local character and distinctiveness
- Opportunities to draw on the contribution made by the historic environment to the character of a place

Local planning authorities should maintain or have access to a historic environment record. Local authorities have criteria to follow regarding proposals that may affect heritage assets and considerations of the potential impacts.

Local planning authorities should look for opportunities for new development within Conservation Areas and World Heritage Sites, and within the setting of heritage assets, to enhance or better reveal their significance.

A.2.18 Facilitating the sustainable use of minerals

Planning policies should:

- Provide for the extraction of mineral resources of local and national importance, but not identify new sites or extensions to existing sites for peat extraction
- So far as practicable, take account of the contribution that substitute or secondary and recycled materials and minerals waste would make to the supply of materials, before considering extraction of primary materials, whilst aiming to source minerals supplies indigenously
- Safeguard mineral resources by defining Mineral Safeguarding Areas and Mineral Consultation Areas, adopting appropriate policies so that known locations of specific

minerals resources of local and national importance are not sterilised by non-mineral development

- Set out policies to encourage the prior extraction of minerals if it is necessary for non-mineral development to take place
- Safeguard existing, planned and potential sites for: the bulk transport, handling and processing of minerals; the manufacture of concrete and concrete products; and the handling, processing and distribution of substitute, recycled and secondary aggregate material
- Set out criteria or requirements to ensure that permitted and proposed operations do not have unacceptable adverse impacts on the natural and historic environment or human health

Local planning authorities should not normally permit other development proposals in Mineral Safeguarding Areas if it might constrain potential future use for mineral working.

A.3 Regional and County Level Plans and Programmes

Regional and County Level Plans and Programmes		
Policy/Plan /Programme/ Strategy	Key Objectives or Requirements relevant to SA	Implications for Local Plan and SA
Countryside Character Volume 2: North-West (1998)	This document presents the results of Natural England’s survey of the countryside character and landscape of the North-West. It reflects the guidance issued by the Countryside Agency and Scottish Natural Heritage (2002).	The SA Framework should include an objective on landscape quality. Landscape character should form a component of the Local Plan baseline and should be considered when proposing new development.
Lancashire Landscape Character Assessment and Landscape Strategy (2000)	<p>The four main objectives of the landscape character assessment are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To outline how the landscape of Lancashire has evolved in terms of physical forces and human influences • To classify the landscape into distinct landscape types identifying key characteristics and sensitivities and providing principles to guide landscape change • To describe the current appearance of the landscape, classifying it into distinct zones of homogenous character, summarising the key features of each landscape character area • To describe the principal urban landscape types across the County, highlighting their historical development. The document outlines the characteristics of the Lancashire landscape and divides the landscape into character areas <p>The strategy objectives are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To review the forces for change that are affecting the landscape, highlighting key issues and implications of different forms of development and land use change for landscape character and quality • For each landscape character type, to identify key environmental features and the specific implications of change, as well as appropriate strategies and actions to manage and guide the landscape change in a positive way • To produce an overview of strategic issues for Lancashire, identifying the key actions that need to be taken to bring about positive landscape change, including the development of landscape indicators and targets <p>For each of the landscape character types a series of recommendations are outlined to protect, restore and enhance various landscape elements.</p>	The landscape character assessment has been used to identify the baseline conditions and the SA Framework should include objectives, indicators and targets relating the preservation and enhancement of landscape and townscape quality. The Local Plan should seek to restore, protect, and enhance the landscape and townscape character and quality.

Regional and County Level Plans and Programmes		
Policy/Plan /Programme/ Strategy	Key Objectives or Requirements relevant to SA	Implications for Local Plan and SA
	It will be important for the SA to take into consideration the recommendations for each of the relevant landscape character types.	
Biodiversity Action Plan for Lancashire (various dates)	<p>The plan comprises a series of action plans for habitats and species in Lancashire. For each of the habitats and species information is provided about current national, regional and local status.</p> <p>For each habitat type/species a series of objectives, actions and timescales for implementation are identified. The actions are also assigned a priority for implementation i.e. low, medium and high.</p>	The relevant objectives, targets, and indicators should be integrated into the SA framework. The Local Plan should support and promote the enhancement of biodiversity.
Lancashire Woodland Vision 2006-2015	<p>The document seeks to guide new planting and woodland management in the context of the Lancashire landscape strategy. Main objectives are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formulate a strategy or vision to guide the development of woodlands and associated businesses in Lancashire • Produce local woodland vision statements for the 21 landscape character types and urban landscape types of Lancashire • Identify priorities for woodland planting and management action • Assist in formulating advice and targeting resources through existing and proposed grant aid schemes • Inform the public at large of woodlands and their management in the context of Lancashire landscapes. <p>There is a specific vision and objective for the woodland resource in each of the landscape character types.</p>	The SA Framework should include objectives that seek to protect biodiversity including woodland. The Local Plan should take opportunities to promote and protect the wider biodiversity resource.
Forest of Bowland Management Plan April 2019 - March 2024	<p>The aims and vision of the Forest of Bowland Management Plan are to provide a positive and pro-active management framework for the AONB Partnership; highlighting the special qualities of the designated area, the importance of the relevant landscape features and identifying those features which are vulnerable to change. The Plan also seeks to outline an integrated vision for the future of the AONB; alongside objectives and actions for delivery by the AONB Partnership, based on a high level of shared aspirations for the area.</p> <p>In addition the plan includes an action plan with many detailed objectives organised under three key themes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. An Outstanding Landscape for Natural and Cultural Heritage 2. Resilient and Sustainable Communities 3. A Strong Connection between People and the Landscape 	The SA Framework should include objectives that seek to ensure the protection and enhancement where possible of the Forest of Bowland AONB. The Local Plan should seek to protect (and enhance where possible) the Forest of Bowland AONB and other sensitive landscapes within the borough.
Water for life and livelihoods Part 1: North West river basin district River basin management plan (Updated 2015)	<p>The river basin management plan provides a framework for protecting and enhancing the benefits provided by the water environment as well as informing decisions on land-use planning. This plan contains statutory objectives for protected areas and water bodies. The default objective is for water quality to be of a good ecological and chemical status. Measures are included that will aid the achievement of environmental objectives and prevent deterioration, including those specific to local government operators such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grant land drainage consents under the Land Drainage Act 1991 • Consider impact on hydromorphology when preparing spatial plans and local flood risk management plans, decisions on development management, new buildings and infrastructure • Consider the impact on water quality in their preparation of spatial plans, decisions on spatial planning, development management, new buildings and infrastructure • Use planning conditions, legal agreements and enforcement 	The relevant objectives and measures should be integrated into the SA framework. The Local Plan should support and promote the enhancement of water quality and continue to meet objectives set for local governments.

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Policy/Plan /Programme/ Strategy	Key Objectives or Requirements relevant to SA	Implications for Local Plan and SA
	<p>powers under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 to prevent or stop pollution from developments, roads and other infrastructure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that new developments address potential pollution problems by using sustainable drainage systems to manage surface water • Consider urban diffuse pollution pressures when developing spatial plans, determining planning applications and designing and constructing local council owned buildings, infrastructure and grounds. These should incorporate sustainable drainage schemes and water efficiency measures where practical and affordable • Incorporate green and blue infrastructure into regeneration schemes where possible • Local plan policies should require new homes to meet the tighter water efficiency standard of 110 litres per person per day as described in Part G of Schedule 1 to the Building Regulations 2010 • Consider the impact of pollution when preparing spatial plans, minerals and waste plans and making decisions on development management, new rural buildings and rural infrastructure • Use planning conditions, legal agreements and enforcement powers under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 to prevent or stop pollution from rural developments, roads and other rural infrastructure 	
Ribble, Douglas and Crossens Abstraction Licensing Strategy (2013)	<p>The Licensing Strategy sets out how water resources are managed in the Ribble, Douglas and Crossens area. It provides information about where water is available for further abstraction and an indication of how reliable a new abstraction license may be. The Ribble, Douglas and Crossens Catchment Abstraction Licensing Strategy supercedes the Integrated Catchment Management Plan for the Ribble and Douglas Catchment Abstraction Strategy.</p> <p>Water is currently available across the Ribble CAMS area however it is not available in the Lower Hodder, Upper Hodder, Langden Brook and the River Brennand and there is restricted water available in the River Loud.</p>	The SA Framework should consider impacts upon water supply. The Local Plan should consider water availability, as set out in this strategy, when allocating sites and considering levels of potential development.
North West River Basin District Flood Risk Management Plan 2015-2021 (2016)	<p>Risk Management Authorities are committed to producing flood risk management plans (FRMPs) required by the EU Floods Directive. This FRMP is an important part of meeting that objective and aligns with the Defra Strategy and guiding principles of the National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy.</p> <p>The FRMP will provide the evidence to support decision making. The FRMP will also help promote a greater awareness and understanding of the risks of flooding, particularly in those communities at high risk, and encourage and enable householders, businesses and communities to take action to manage the risks. The highest priority is to reduce risk to life.</p>	The SA Framework should include objectives that promote reduction and management of flood risk. The Local Plan should consider potential flood risk, and prevent development within the floodplain.
North West River Basin Management Plan: Part 1 and Part 2 (2015)	<p>The River Basin Management Plan provides a framework for protecting and enhancing the benefits provided by the water environment. To achieve this, and because water and land resources are closely linked, it also informs decisions on land-use planning. This plan contains 4 sets of information that groups who manage land and water should pay particular attention to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baseline classification of water bodies • Statutory objectives for protected areas 	The SA Framework should include objectives that consider effects upon water quality and resource. The Local Plan should consider how the water environment can be protected and enhanced within the borough.

Regional and County Level Plans and Programmes		
Policy/Plan /Programme/ Strategy	Key Objectives or Requirements relevant to SA	Implications for Local Plan and SA
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statutory objectives for water bodies • Summary programme of measures to achieve statutory objectives This plan is an update of and replaces the river basin management plan published in 2009 <p>The Plan identifies contributions to environmental outcomes for 2021 including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A programme of improvements (currently in development phase) including actions to improve habitat quality and connectivity, improve water quality, provide natural flood management for improved climate resilience • Additionally, a sub-project targeting rural pollution in the Lower Ribble will improve water quality and contribute to improvement of bathing waters 	
Lancashire and Blackpool Flood Risk Management Strategy (2013)	<p>The Lancashire and Blackpool flood risk management strategy (LFRMS) has been produced by Lancashire County Council as lead local flood authority (LLFA), in partnership with Blackpool Council. The Flood Water Management Act places a legal duty on each LLFA to produce a LRMS and this document creates a framework around which flood risk management will be undertaken by the LLFA.</p> <p>The LFRMS identifies strategic objectives which are sub-divided into short term (within 1 year) and medium term (within 1 to 3 years). These strategic objectives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify risk management authorities (RMAs) and define each RMA’s roles and responsibilities in relation to managing risk from all sources of flooding • Deliver flood risk management through effective partnership working • Establish effective data sharing agreements. • Take account of climate change when fulfilling duties and responsibilities in flood risk management • Understand key local flood risks • Work together with other RMAs to investigate and manage interactions between Main River, coastal flooding, sewer flooding and local flood risks • Record, investigate and report flooding incidents. • Ensure alignment of local Flood Risk Management and Emergency Planning functions • Manage development so that it reduces flood risk • Promote the use of SuDS • Encourage stakeholder and community involvement in flood risk management • Set out an asset management plan • Work with the owners of assets with a flood risk management function • Define the approach to, and opportunities for, resourcing and funding local flood risk management activities • Encourage beneficiaries to invest in local flood risk management • Integrate economic, social and environmental improvements with local flood risk management in line with sustainability principles • Encourage innovation in local flood risk management • Allow RMAs to make efficient decisions on flood risk management and exploit opportunities effectively • Five RMAs powers to undertake flood related works 	The SA Framework should include indicators, targets and objectives that address flood risk management. The Local Plan should consider how flood risk will be managed.
Lancashire	The Lancashire Climate Change Strategy sets out the	The SA Framework should

Regional and County Level Plans and Programmes		
Policy/Plan /Programme / Strategy	Key Objectives or Requirements relevant to SA	Implications for Local Plan and SA
Climate Change Strategy 2009 -2020	<p>Partnership’s long-term vision that Lancashire is “low carbon and well adapted by 2020”. The key objectives of this strategy are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce greenhouse gas emissions resulting from the use of energy in homes, by improving energy efficiency, minimising waste and exploiting renewable sources of energy • Reduce greenhouse gas emissions through better waste management, including waste minimisation and increased recycling • Develop and maintain an integrated, efficient and sustainable transport system • Increase the use of public transport, walking and cycling • Promote the use of more efficient vehicles and alternative transport fuels, including sustainable bio-fuels • Encourage a sustainable and competitive Lancashire economy that will measure, mitigate and reduce its contribution to climate change, through energy and resource efficiency actions • Create an informed, skilled and environmentally responsible work force and work place able to compete in an emerging and diverse ‘environmental economy’ • Ensure that future economic plans ensure a low carbon economy • More efficient use of resources and more environmentally-aware procurement, including of infrastructure • Actively promote decentralised energy production and medium and large scale renewable energy generation • Make the most of Lancashire’s environmental assets and ensure that the climate change mitigation and adaptation functions of Lancashire’s green infrastructure are maximised to deliver economic, environmental and social benefits • Support the development of mechanisms to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through the sustainable management of Lancashire’s woodlands • Manage Lancashire’s upland and lowland peat lands to sequester carbon and prevent its release • Identify what the impacts of climate change on biodiversity will be in Lancashire and support the uptake of practical adaptation measures • Ensure development and critical infrastructure is resilient to flooding and other climate change impacts and the risk of these impacts are managed effectively • Realise the economic development opportunities associated with developing adaptation capacity in Lancashire • Support practical measures to allow Lancashire’s biodiversity to adapt to climate impacts • Encourage strong community participation in climate solutions <p>A key target of this strategy is the aim to reduce CO₂ emissions by at least 30% in 2020 relative to 1990.</p> <p>The strategy also includes the following national indicators which may be of relevance to the SA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CO₂ reduction from local authority operations. • Per capita reduction in CO₂ emissions in the LA area. • Tackling fuel poverty - % of people receiving income based benefits living in homes with a low energy efficiency rating. • Planning to adapt to climate change. 	<p>include objectives, indicators and targets that relate to climate change and the need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The Local Plan should recognise local action needs to be taken with regard to climate change issues and should seek to contribute towards achieving Lancashire’s CO₂ reduction target.</p>
Pennine Lancashire	<p>The Pennine Lancashire Housing Strategy has three strategic objectives to outline how the region will make best use of</p>	<p>The SA Framework should consider these objectives</p>

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Housing Strategy Refresh 2011	<p>resources within the national and regional policy frameworks and meet the vision of the strategy. These objectives are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To ensure a sufficient quantity, quality, and appropriate type of housing supply, to meet the economic growth aspirations and social needs of Pennine Lancashire • To develop sustainable neighbourhoods that can retain and attract successful households, reducing the disparities between neighbourhoods and providing linkages to economic growth and employment opportunities; improving the economic performance of the sub-region • To meet the housing, health and support needs of residents and vulnerable people; promoting better services, with greater choice and accessibility that are fully integrated into local communities <p>Pennine Lancashire Housing Strategy vision: "To have a balanced housing market which, supports economic growth and social well-being in Pennine Lancashire. Over the next twenty years we will maximise the potential of our housing markets, to diversify and improve the housing offer; to ensure it is attractive and affordable, and meets the needs and aspirations of our communities. We will transform Pennine Lancashire into a place where people, across the region, choose to live, work and invest."</p>	<p>in it's development to ensure they can be met. The Local Plan should seek to meet these objectives.</p>
Lancashire Growth Deal (2014)	<p>Lancashire's Growth Deal takes the vision, objectives and priorities of the SEP and sets out an integrated programme of interventions that the LEP believes are capable of generating the step change required to move the local economy forward. The Growth Deal identifies six key priorities, set out below, against which the LEP's Single Local Growth Fund is set out These are linked to aims and projects and collectively contribute to improving the local economy. The six key priorities are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sector Development & Growth - Realise the full potential of Lancashire's competitive economic strengths and business base 2. Innovation Excellence - Maximise the economic value of Lancashire's centres of research and innovation excellence and globally competitive business clusters 3. Skills for Growth - Refocus Lancashire's approach to skills provision, ensuring it is responsive to business needs and demands 4. Business Growth & Enterprise - Strengthen and refresh Boost, Lancashire's business growth hub, and improve our strategic marketing capacity to attract new investors and occupiers 5. Releasing Local Growth Potential - Create the right conditions for business and investor growth, and unlock new development and employment opportunities across Lancashire 6. The Renewal of Blackpool - Focus on addressing Blackpool's unique characteristics which require a specific focus, to create economic opportunities for its local communities 	<p>The SA Framework should include objectives, targets and indicators that seek to enable economic growth. The Local Plan must recognise the significance of the growth deal in shaping the local economy and facilitate this and future growth.</p>
Lancashire Growth Plan 2013/2014	<p>The plan sets out how the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership intends to achieve strong and sustainable economic growth. The Growth Plan provides the opportunity to articulate the LEPs agenda for change and includes a number of aims and projects that collectively seek to contribute to improving the local economy. The purpose and focus of the LEPs is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish Lancashire as a natural home for high growth companies • Reclaim Lancashire's role as one of the nation's key centres for advanced manufacturing • Maximise the economic value and benefits of an emerging arc 	<p>The SA Framework should include objectives, targets and indicators that seek to enable economic growth. The Local Plan must recognise the significance of the growth deal in shaping the local economy and facilitate this and future growth.</p>

Regional and County Level Plans and Programmes		
Policy/Plan /Programme/ Strategy	Key Objectives or Requirements relevant to SA	Implications for Local Plan and SA
	<p>of innovation across Lancashire</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drive forward the Lancashire Enterprise Zone and Preston City Deal, as the key drivers of new growth • Oversee and develop complementary Local Growth Accelerator Strategies • Develop Sector Delivery Plans to unlock opportunities of national significance in emerging and established growth sectors • Create the right local conditions for business success • Refocus the local skills system to make it more responsive to business skills demands • Ensure Lancashire’s major transport projects are fully aligned with the delivery of key economic priorities • Strengthen Lancashire’s strategic case making and refresh the area’s offer to attract new investors and businesses. 	
<p>City Implementation Plan 2015-2018</p>	<p>The Preston, South Ribble and Lancashire City Deal agreed with Government, builds on the strong economic performance of the area over the last 10 years and will help to ensure that the city deal area continues to grow by addressing strategic transport infrastructure and development challenges to deliver new jobs and housing across the city deal area.</p> <p>This document sets out the arrangements for the City Deal implementation for the period 2015-2018 outlining critical financial and project delivery milestones and risks, and the management mechanisms in support of government monitoring and reporting processes.</p> <p>Over a ten-year period the deal will generate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More than 20,000 net new private sector jobs, including 5,000 in the Lancashire Enterprise Zone • Nearly £1 billion growth in gross value added (GVA) • 17,420 new homes • £2.3 billion in leveraged commercial investment 	<p>The SA Framework should include objectives, targets and indicators that relate to transport infrastructure. The Local Plan should consider the city deal priorities and should address the development of transport infrastructure.</p>
<p>Joint Lancashire Structure Plan 2001-2016</p>	<p>The Plan aims to secure the efficient and effective use of land in the interests of the public. It sets out strategic policies and proposals for the development, use and conservation of land in Lancashire and for the management of traffic and waste. It establishes the amount and general location of development. Furthermore, it provides the strategic framework for the preparation of Local Plans/Local Development Frameworks and for the determination of planning applications. It guides investment decisions taken by developers and others concerned with transport provision, waste management, resource conservation and sustainable development. The key targets and objectives of the plan are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help to deliver a higher value added, higher wage economy • Protect and enhance the vitality of town centres. • Promote a more diverse rural economy • Help to reduce problems of obsolete and unpopular housing • Reduce the house building rate to a level which matches Lancashire’s own requirements • Encourage the most efficient use of Lancashire’s land resources <p>The Joint Lancashire Structure Plan vision: “Our vision is to fundamentally change the way in which development is accommodated in Lancashire. Rather than accepting a future that would see decline in the coastal resorts and East Lancashire Towns and excessive rates of greenfield development along the M6 corridor, we want to achieve a better</p>	<p>The SA Framework should consider the key targets and objectives of the Plan to support and encourage its implementation. The objectives should be considered in the development of the Local Plan.</p>

Regional and County Level Plans and Programmes		
Policy/Plan /Programme/ Strategy	Key Objectives or Requirements relevant to SA	Implications for Local Plan and SA
	balance between the County’s sub-regions.”	
Enhanced Partnership Plan 2021	The Enhanced Partnership Plan will be a detailed agreement between Lancashire County Council and transport operators about how bus services will operate and be improved in the future. This will be in place by the end of March 2022. The aim is to create services that are more frequent, reliable and affordable, while making them easier for passengers to understand and use.	The SA Framework should consider the objectives that will be included in the Plan to support its implementation. The Local Plan should promote the transport priorities and outcomes of this plan.
Lancashire Strategic Economic Plan (2014)	The LSEP identifies key priorities and programmes, which command local support and funding commitments. All programmes have the ability to deliver and benefit from Growth Deal and European Structural & Investment Fund support from 2015/16 onwards. The LSEP is also seeking a number of specific Government policy flexibilities to maximise their impact. The Growth Deal Innovation Excellence Programme represents a comprehensive £270m investment framework, involving 11 major initiatives, which can deliver nearly 3,000 new employment opportunities, safeguard a further 1,500 jobs, and generate almost £400m in new GVA by 2020.	The SA Framework should consider objectives, targets and indicators that support this plan. The Local Plan should promote the priorities and outcomes of this plan.
Lancashire County Council Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2015-2025 Consultation Draft	<p>The plan consists of an assessment which sets out the adequacy of the rights of way and wider access network in Lancashire and a Statement of Action which sets out how the council will work with others to address the demands and needs identified in the assessment; as summarised below: The assessment of need:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The extent to which local rights of way meet present and future needs of the public • The opportunities presented by local rights of way for exercise and other forms of open-air recreation and the enjoyment of the authorities' area with particular emphasis on footpaths, cycle tracks, bridleways and restricted byways • The accessibility of the local rights of way network to blind or partially sighted persons and others with mobility problems • The statement of actions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage public rights of way • Secure an improved network of public rights of way • Improve wider public access <p>Aims and objectives identify an action and timescale to monitor progress:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Condition and connectivity of the wider access network 2. Education and information provision 3. Twenty to thirty minute walks 4. Multi user routes 5. Encourage community involvement in improving wider access 6. The Definitive Map and other records 	Baseline information, issues and opportunities are identified within the Improvement Plan. These should be considered when developing the SA Framework. The implications on rights of way, access and recreation should be considered in the preparation of the Local Plan.
Lancashire's Local Transport Plan 2011 – 2021	<p>There are seven transport goals for the plan which will enable the shared transport priorities and the wider social and economic objectives of the County Council to be met. They are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To help to secure a strong economic future by making transport and travel into and between our major economic centres more effective and efficient and by improving links to neighbouring major economic areas and beyond • To provide all sections of the community with safe and convenient access to the services, jobs, health, leisure and educational opportunities that they need • To improve the accessibility, availability and affordability of 	The SA Framework should include the goals and indicators within the plan to address transport and accessibility, and seek to ensure that any new transport development in the borough is sustainable and encourages a modal shift away from the use of the private car. The Local

Regional and County Level Plans and Programmes		
Policy/Plan /Programme / Strategy	Key Objectives or Requirements relevant to SA	Implications for Local Plan and SA
	<p>transport as a contribution to the development of strong and cohesive communities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To create more attractive neighbourhoods by reducing the impact of transport on our quality of life and by improving our public realm • To reduce the carbon impact of Lancashire's transport requirements, whilst delivering sustainable value for money transport options to those who need them • To make walking and cycling more safe, convenient and attractive, particularly in the more disadvantaged areas of Lancashire, bringing improvements in the health of Lancashire's residents • In all that we do, to provide value for money by prioritising the maintenance and improvement of Lancashire's existing transport infrastructure where it can help to deliver our transport goals <p>The LTP states that Lancashire County Council will invest £22.21 million on highways and transport services in Ribble Valley, with £7.70 million of capital funding and £14.51 million of revenue support. It will be targeted at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proper access to employment areas for those without access to a car • Tackling rural isolation <p>Progress of the LTP will be measured using a series of performance indicators.</p>	<p>Plan must encompass transport issues and the LTP goals.</p>
<p>Joint Lancashire Minerals and Waste Development Framework Core Strategy DPD (2009)</p>	<p>The Core Strategy sets the vision and direction – the amounts, broad locations and priorities – for future mineral extraction and waste management in Lancashire, Blackburn with Darwen and Blackpool. It will guide the more specific locations for any new quarries and waste facilities, including sites for recycling and composting facilities, treatment plants, and any possible new landfill sites in the future. Its high level objectives are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safeguarding Lancashire's mineral resources • Minimising the need for minerals extraction • Meeting the demand for new minerals • Identifying sites and areas for minerals extraction • Achieving sustainable minerals production • Community involvement and partnership working • Promoting waste minimisation and increasing waste awareness • Managing our waste as a resource • Identifying capacity for managing our waste • Achieving sustainable waste management <p>Key targets include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 25% of construction aggregates to be recycled or secondary materials by 2021 • Zero growth in industrial and commercial waste and 1% growth in municipal waste • 1% growth in construction and demolition waste • Recycle and compost 46% of MSW by 2010, to reach 56% by 2015 and 61% by 2020 • Additionally recover value from 18% of MSW by 2015 • Recycle 35% of industrial and commercial waste by 2010, 40% by 2015 and 45% by 2020 • Additionally recover value from 30% of I&C waste by 2010, falling to 25% by 2020 • Recycle 50% of commercial and domestic waste by 2010, 55% by 2015 and 60% by 2020 	<p>The SA Framework should include objectives, targets and indicators that seek to promote sustainable waste management and effective resource use. The Local Plan should take any mineral and waste issues that are likely to affect the borough into account.</p>

Regional and County Level Plans and Programmes		
Policy/Plan /Programme/ Strategy	Key Objectives or Requirements relevant to SA	Implications for Local Plan and SA
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additionally recover value from 42 % of C&D waste by 2010, falling to 35% by 2020 	
Joint Lancashire Minerals and Waste Local Plan – Site Allocation and Development Management Policies Part 1 and Part 2 (2013)	<p>The plan provides site specific policies and allocations, and detailed development management policies for minerals and waste planning in the areas covered by the Councils of Lancashire, Blackpool and Blackburn with Darwen. It should be read together with the Joint Lancashire Minerals and Waste Local Plan Core Strategy adopted in 2009 and the individual local plans of the two unitaries and the twelve districts which make up the Plan area</p> <p>When read in conjunction with the Minerals and Waste Core Strategy, the plan outline development management policies support key targets and indicators identified within the core strategy</p>	<p>The SA Framework should include objectives, targets and indicators that seek to promote sustainable waste management and effective resource use. The Local Plan should take any mineral and waste issues that are likely to affect the borough into account.</p>
Lancashire’s Municipal Waste Strategy 2008 – 2020 Rubbish to Resources	<p>The key Strategy objectives are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To recognise municipal waste as a resource • To minimise the amount of municipal waste produced • To maximise recovery of organic and non-organic resources • To deal with waste as near to where it is produced as possible • To minimise contamination of the residual waste stream • To minimise the amount of waste going for disposal to landfill • Where landfill does occur to minimise its biodegradable content • To effectively manage all municipal waste within the wider waste context • To develop local markets and manufacturing for recovered materials • To achieve sustainable waste management • To develop strong partnerships between local authorities, community groups and the private sector • To ensure services are accessible to all residents <p>Key targets of this strategy include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce and stabilise waste to 0% growth each year • Continue to provide financial support for awareness raising, education campaigns and other initiatives • Extend the three-stream collection to all households and to extend the segregated collection service to all households to include the collection of food waste for composting • Recycle and compost 56% of all waste by 2015, increasing to 61% by 2020 • Recover 81% of all waste by 2015 and 88% by 2020 • Reuse, recycle and compost 70% every year at each Household Waste Recycling Centre • Provide a network of facilities to manage and treat Lancashire County Council and Blackpool Council's municipal waste 	<p>The SA should promote sustainable waste management principles. The planning process of the Local Plan should promote recycling and re-use of materials in preference to landfilling. The key objectives in the plan should be carried forward into the Local Plan.</p>

A.4 Local Plans and Programmes

Local Plans		
Policy/Plan/ Programme/ Strategy	Key Objectives or Requirements relevant to SA	Implications for Local Plan and SA
Core Strategy 2008 – 2028 A Local Plan for	<p>The central document of the Local Development Framework (LDF), establishing the vision, key principles, and underlying objectives that will guide development in Ribble Valley through</p>	<p>The SA Framework and the Local Plan should include objectives</p>

Local Plans		
Policy/Plan/ Programme/ Strategy	Key Objectives or Requirements relevant to SA	Implications for Local Plan and SA
Ribble Valley (adopted 2014)	<p>to 2028.</p> <p>The Core Strategy was adopted by the Council on 16 December 2014 and now forms part of the statutory Development Plan for the Borough.</p> <p>The Core Strategy will be subject to a monitoring process to ensure its policies are addressing the aims and objectives of the plan and also that it is kept up to date with regard to any implications of changes to the underlying evidence base or legislative or national policy framework.</p> <p>A number of strategic objectives, strategic spatial policies, and development management policies and saved policies are outlined in the Core Strategy that will enable the achievement of the vision for the borough.</p> <p>The Core Strategy Vision:</p> <p>'The Ribble Valley will be an area with an exceptional environment and quality of life for all, sustained by vital and vibrant market towns and villages acting as thriving service centres, meeting the needs of residents, businesses and visitors. We will seek to create an area with unrivalled quality of place, respecting the unique natural, social and built heritage of the area.</p> <p>New development to meet the needs of the area for growth, services and quality of life will be managed to ensure the special characteristics of the area are preserved for future generations.'</p>	relating to the vision and policy themes included within the strategy.
Housing and Economic Development Plan Document	<p>A central document to the LDF providing more detailed policy coverage on key issues related to the economy and housing. This includes relevant allocations, including housing and employment land and policies for the town centres of Clitheroe, Longridge and Whalley, as well as existing open spaces and settlement boundaries, which are necessary for the implementation of the Core Strategy. The document outlines the location of new housing developments, strategic employment opportunities, and settlement developments.</p>	The SA Framework should include objectives that relate to the allocations of housing and employment land throughout Ribble Valley. The Local Plan must incorporate these allocations into future development decisions.
Longridge Neighbourhood Plan 2028	<p>A central document to the LDF that will be used to determine future planning applications in the Longridge Town Council area. To achieve the vision laid out in this statutory document, six objectives have been identified:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To help manage future housing growth in Longridge 2. To ensure a suitable level of infrastructure is in place 3. To protect local character, heritage and landscape 4. To maintain and enhance local shops and services 5. To protect and enhance community facilities 6. To protect and enhance local employment opportunities <p>Each objective has associated planning policies and proposals that will be used to achieve the vision.</p> <p>The Longridge Neighbourhood Plan vision:</p> <p>Longridge will be regarded by its residents as a vibrant town in which to live, work and play, having retained its historic centre and its blend of urban and rural characteristics. The town centre will have a wide range of retail premises, attractive to both residents and visitors, with well-maintained highways that are free from congestion and supported by off-street parking facilities.</p> <p>Residents will have access to a range of public services, healthy leisure activities and designated green spaces, whilst community facilities in the town will be improved and enhanced. Existing employment areas will be protected and opportunities for</p>	The SA Framework should consider the vision, policies, and objectives laid out in this document and incorporate these into future development and the Local Plan.

Local Plans		
Policy/Plan/ Programme/ Strategy	Key Objectives or Requirements relevant to SA	Implications for Local Plan and SA
	<p>business expansion identified.</p> <p>Any future growth will be proportionate to the size of Longridge and sustainable in terms of its impact on the existing local community, infrastructure and services.</p>	
Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (Level one) Revised 2017	<p>This strategic flood risk assessment (SFRA) summarises the current situation regarding flood-risk. It describes the current state of various flood related strategies, reports and policy documents produced by a variety of bodies, including significantly the Environment Agency, Lancashire County Council and United Utilities that will affect the borough in the short, medium and long term. The SFRA will also inform the Council of how current and future climate change will influence flood risks from all sources within its area, and also the risks to and from surrounding areas within the same river catchments.</p> <p>There are a number of actions outlined in this revised document as well as details about flooding in specific parts of the borough.</p>	<p>The SA Framework should include objectives that promote the reduction and management of flood risk. The Local Plan should consider potential flood risk and floodplain proximity with any future development.</p>
Statement of Community Involvement 2020	<p>The statement of community involvement (SCI) sets out how the council will involve all elements of the community in the planning process, both in the preparation of planning policy and involvement in planning applications. It shows how they will consult on the development of the various documents that will eventually make up the Local Plan that will replace the current Ribble Valley Core Strategy adopted in December 2014.</p> <p>It describes who the Council will consult, when they will be consulted and about which documents and issues they need opinions on. Through this process we hope to give local people information as to how they will be consulted and what tools are available to help them shape their future environment through informed and active participation.</p>	<p>Sufficient time should be provided for consultation on the SA documents. The development of the Local Plan should be a transparent process.</p>
Ribble Valley Community Strategy 2014 - 2019	<p>This document aims to address the issues of concern to the Ribble Valley community. It highlights the strategy that will be followed and the actions required to make changes. The council is working together with partners in seven core areas to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support our Communities in articulating their hopes, needs and priorities • Focus the actions of all public, private, voluntary and community organisations operating locally • Create a working document that sets objectives and allows reports on 'direction of travel' • Help the Council identify its corporate priorities • Encourage partnership working <p>There are 8 core areas where action is required, with key targets in each area that should be considered during the development of the Local Plan:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Education and economy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop opportunities with schools and appropriate agencies to enable improved vocational training provision for 16-19 year olds. • Support initiatives for business development, improving tourism, and reducing the pockets of deprivation witnessed around the borough. 2. Community safety <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to work with the Community Safety Partnership to maintain low levels of crime in Ribble Valley. • Improve awareness and education around road safety issues. 3. Local democracy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued community consultation to strengthen local democracy. 4. Environment 	<p>The SA Framework should include a range of objectives that assess the Local Plan from a range of sustainability perspectives. Recommendations should be provided through the assessment process to improve the performance of the Local Plan and its contribution towards the targets of the Community Strategy.</p>

Local Plans		
Policy/Plan/ Programme/ Strategy	Key Objectives or Requirements relevant to SA	Implications for Local Plan and SA
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walking programmes which encourage active and social lifestyles should be continued as well as continued work with community transport initiatives which offer vital lifelines for the community. 5. Housing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to address housing needs through collaborative working and developing innovative solutions. Detailed allocations and policy need to be implemented. 6. Vulnerable people and families <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working to support those in need, imparting knowledge and support through contact at key intervention point and working with partners. 7. Health and older people <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop services and facilities in villages for target groups to reduce the incidence of isolation. This includes developing groups and transport options. • Make contact with other local authorities to build relationships and optimise services for residents covered by these localities. • Identify initiatives and opportunities for joint working to fulfil identified priorities. • Continue to develop services to support the aging population of the borough. This is being done in partnership with Public Health, the Seniors Forum, and the Good Neighbours Project. • Build on the Dementia Friends initiative • Continue to develop and support community transport initiatives to allow residents to go to the shops and attend events, allowing wellbeing check ups and companionship. 8. Facilities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop services and facilities in villages for those target groups to reduce the incidence of isolation, including development of groups and transport – including community transport. • New initiatives resulting in increased outreach to the villages are needed. • Work with the Village Halls Association to strengthen the work of individual halls to improve. • Further support the work of volunteers through assisting with Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks and training facilities and sustainability. • Encourage young people to volunteer for projects in their communities. • Reinstate the Play Alliance which has the potential to be a vehicle that could collectively improve the sustainability and maintenance of existing play provision. 	
Ribble Valley, Health Profile 2019	<p>This profile gives a picture of people’s health in Ribble Valley. With other local information, the Health Profile is designed to support action by local government and primary care services understand their community’s needs, so that they can work together to improve people’s health and reduce health inequalities.</p> <p>Baseline indicators include children in poverty (under16s), long term unemployment, the percentage of people recorded with diabetes, life expectancy, smoking related deaths, the estimated number of adults who are obese and infant deaths. This data will be used to inform the SA and the consideration of health issues.</p>	<p>The SA Framework should include objectives, indicators and targets which address health issues and deprivation and seek to reduce health inequalities. The Local Plan need to recognise the role that development and planning can play in enhancing the quality of life in Ribble Valley. The pursuit of active travel and health</p>

Local Plans		
Policy/Plan/ Programme/ Strategy	Key Objectives or Requirements relevant to SA	Implications for Local Plan and SA
		lifestyles should be encouraged.
Ribble Valley Play Strategy 2007	<p>The purpose of the strategy is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a Play Alliance • Address the play needs of children and young people, under 15, across Ribble Valley • Provide increased play opportunities • Help identify current play provision • Promote consultation and community involvement • Provide clear aims and objectives for future delivery and development • Ensure the sustainability of play provision • Promote creative and innovative approaches to play • Assist in attracting funding for improved play opportunities • Communicate and raise the profile of play provision in the Ribble Valley 	The SA Framework should include objectives that promote the improvement of areas of open space and that seek to improve health and well-being. The Local Plan should promote effectively land use across Ribble Valley to improve the quality of formal and informal recreation areas.
Homelessness Strategy 2018-2021	<p>The strategy objectives are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure all households in the borough are aware of the provision of the housing needs service • Ensure all new housing schemes reflect the housing needs of the locality • Completely eradicate the use of bed and breakfast accommodation for all homeless households • Sustain our levels of homelessness presentations and acceptances • Continue to ensure that homelessness is prevented wherever possible and to prevent reoccurring • Reduce the length of time in temporary accommodation to an average of 7 weeks • Meet our corporate ambition of delivering 75 affordable homes per year and ensure they address the identified need of the borough. <p>The Homelessness Strategy Vision: "Through partnership working with all stakeholders the Council's strategy sets out to prevent homelessness, provide effective support for households who are or may become homeless and make available sufficient affordable accommodation within the borough."</p>	The SA Framework should include objectives that address housing issues including affordable housing. The Local Plan should address issues that can result in homelessness in the borough such as a lack of affordable housing.
Gypsy, Traveller and Showperson Accommodation Assessment Update (2013)	<p>The study seeks to provide an evidence base to enable the authority to comply with their requirements to wards Gypsies and Travelling Showpeople under the Housing Act 2004, the NPPF 2012 and Planning Policy for Traveller Sites 2012. The main objective of this study is to provide the Council with robust, defensible and up-to-date evidence about the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople in Ribble Valley in the period until 2028.</p>	Gypsy and traveller provision should be considered when developing the SA Framework and assessment findings should be incorporated into the Local Plan.
The Ribble Valley Economic Plan 2019 – 2022	<p>The strategy sets out the aims and objectives for a successful and sustainable economic environment for the borough. A vision is provided alongside detailed objectives, providing a framework for partnership working, supporting and influencing strategies, priorities and the resource allocation of others operating in economic development across Ribble Valley.</p> <p>The objectives of the Economic Plan are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To encourage economic development throughout the borough with specific focus on tourism, the delivery of sufficient land for business development, and supporting high growth business opportunities • To seek to improve the transport network, especially to our 	<p>The SA Framework should include objectives relating to sustainable economic growth and diversification.</p> <p>The SA Framework should also include objectives promoting lifelong learning and developing the skills of the borough's</p>

Local Plans		
Policy/Plan/ Programme/ Strategy	Key Objectives or Requirements relevant to SA	Implications for Local Plan and SA
	<p>rural areas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To work with our partners to ensure that the infrastructure in the Ribble Valley is improve To promote stronger, more confident and more active communities throughout the borough <p>The plan sets out five thematic action areas in which these objectives will focus:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. People Focuses on those actions and projects that will be a catalyst for business growth, more local employment opportunities and the skills to support aspirational growth. 2. Places Focuses on those actions and projects that will ensure the right land and premises are available along with opportunities to place the attractive environment at the heart of key sectors. 3. Business Support and Growth Focuses on those actions and projects that will equip residents and businesses with the right information to support new and existing businesses along with enabling experience and knowledge sharing opportunities. 4. Connectivity Focuses on those actions and projects that will act as the catalyst for job creation and growth. 5. Tourism Focuses on those actions and projects that will promote the development of accommodation, improve hospitality and support events building on the attraction of the local area. 	<p>population.</p> <p>The Local Plan should seek to encourage sustainable economic development and complement the objectives and actions of the strategy.</p>
Strategic Housing and Economic Needs Assessment 2020	<p>The strategic housing and economic needs assessment (SHENA) presents evidence on the overall local housing need in Ribble Valley for the Council to draw upon in establishing its housing requirement in the emerging Local Plan. This includes a separate calculation of the need for affordable housing in the borough. The assessment also separately considers how this overall need is segmented into a need for different types, sizes and tenures of housing as well as a more detailed consideration of the specific needs of individual groups in the local housing market.</p>	<p>The SA Framework and Local Plan must incorporate this assessment into future housing development plans to ensure adequate housing provision.</p>
Pennine Lancashire Integrated Economic Strategy 2009-2020	<p>This strategy in summary includes the following objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encouraging enterprise, creating more new businesses and helping small, young business to grow Working with companies to help them take up new opportunities, strengthen their long term competitiveness and develop their knowledge assets Developing economic and business infrastructure to encourage innovation, re-investment and new investment Promoting skills development at all levels – targeting those without level 2 qualifications; supporting those with intermediate qualifications in developing higher level skills; encourage the recruitment and retention of graduate level workers Tackling urban deprivation across Pennine Lancashire and promoting the high quality neighbourhood environments needed to attract and retain skilled labour Tackling worklessness (through skills development and more targeted engagement as support activities) to ensure that all parts of Pennine Lancashire benefit from its economic growth Addressing image and quality of place to make Pennine Lancashire a natural place for new investment and a desirable place to live Promoting links with neighbouring economies (particularly 	<p>The SA Framework should include economic objectives, indicators and targets that complement this Strategy. The Local Plan should provide a suitable spatial framework for promoting and enhancing economic growth in the borough.</p>

Local Plans		
Policy/Plan/ Programme/ Strategy	Key Objectives or Requirements relevant to SA	Implications for Local Plan and SA
	<p>Manchester and Preston) which can act as an additional employment destination for Pennine Lancashire residents, increasing their access to higher paid employment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing the influence Pennine Lancashire wields with government and within the region • Reorganising delivery to enable key projects to be implemented within a tight management regime and to give funding bodies increased <p>The strategy contains targets that were to be achieved by 2020 to improve skills and employment in Ribble Valley:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 95% of adults to have basic skills in both functional literacy and numeracy • 90% of adults to hold at least level 2 qualifications or equivalent • 500,000 apprenticeships delivered each year • 40% of adults to hold at least level 4 qualifications or equivalent • The Government has set an ambitious target of getting 80% of the working age population into employment In Pennine Lancashire this would require supporting an additional 28,000 people into work • From 2007-2011 the LEGI programme aims to create an additional 1500 businesses across Pennine Lancashire 	
Strategic Housing Market Assessment Report 2013	<p>This study provides an update of the original 2008 SHMA. This SHMA will be focused on the areas of interest to the Council and the consequences of the planning and housing reforms. This report is therefore limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examination of the latest data on the labour market and the resident population • A profile of the housing stock in Ribble Valley and the changes that have occurred to it, including the notable growth of the private rented sector which is examined in more detail • Analysis of the price of property in Ribble Valley and the affordability of housing for residents • Production of outputs for the housing needs assessment model in accordance with the Practice Guidance approach, including an analysis of the suitability of Affordable Rent within Ribble Valley • Production of an analysis of the entire housing market within the balancing housing markets model, which will identify the amount and nature of housing required in Ribble Valley over the Core Strategy period • A summary of the policy implications these findings within the requirements of NPPF and how they relate to the current Core Strategy objectives 	The SA should include objectives in the SA Framework that addresses housing availability and meeting housing needs. The document should be used to inform housing policy in the Local Plan.
Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment Report 2013 Update	<p>This is an update of Ribble Valley Borough Council’s strategic housing land availability assessment (SHLAA) which was first adopted in 2009. The SHLAA identifies the amount and the general locations of land for possible future development in the district. This will help the Council to ensure that attempts to meet the Government’s priority of delivering more homes are not constrained by the lack of availability of housing land.</p>	The SA should include objectives in the SA Framework that addresses housing availability and meeting housing needs. The document should be used to inform housing policy in the Local Plan.
Employment Land Study Refresh (2013)	<p>This report assesses the supply, need and demand for employment land and premises (use class B) in Ribble Valley. It has been carried out for Ribble Valley Borough Council to provide robust evidence to underpin and inform its Local Plan for the period to 2028. This report comprehensively reviews and</p>	Objectives in the SA Framework should be included that address economic development and economic

Local Plans		
Policy/Plan/ Programme/ Strategy	Key Objectives or Requirements relevant to SA	Implications for Local Plan and SA
	<p>updates the employment land and premises research of the existing Employment Land and Retail Study, which dates from October 2008. There are five main elements to this study:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An assessment of the borough’s economy that informs the amount, location and type of employment land and premises required to facilitate its development and growth • A review of the current portfolio of employment land and premise • Identification and appraisal of additional potential employment land which could be used to meet the borough’s future land needs • An assessment of the potential impact of major public and private sector development proposals, notably the Enterprise Zone at Samlesbury • Recommendations on the future allocation of employment land and premises to maintain the borough’s economic growth 	<p>inclusion. The Local Plan should recognise the importance of employment land in Ribble Valley and it’s contribution towards the development of the economy.</p>
The Corporate Strategy 2019 - 2023	<p>This document sets out the strategic direction of the council over the 2019-2023 period, providing a focus to ensure the needs of the community are met. While the strategy has a 4 year scope, it is reviewed annually to ensure that it continues to reflect any priority changes that may take place over time. The strategy consists of five ambitions to address the prominent issues in the borough:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To ensure a well-managed council providing efficient services based on identified customer needs • To sustain a strong and prosperous Ribble Valley • To help make people’s lives safer and healthier • To protect and enhance the existing environmental quality of our area • To match the supply of homes in our area with the identified housing needs <p>Each consists of objectives, underlying priority actions, and key measures of success which will enable success and monitoring of the achievement</p>	<p>The SA Framework should include the objectives covering a wide range of social, economic and environmental issues. The assessment should consider opportunities for delivering enhancements as well as seeking to protect and maintain existing conditions.</p>
Retail Study Update (2013)	<p>This study updates the 2008 Retail Study and is written to inform policy development across the borough but focusses specifically upon the three main settlements of Clitheroe, Longridge and Whalley. The Study:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assesses retail patterns and expenditure ‘leakage’ and quantifies the performance of centres/destinations • Assesses the future need and capacity for retail floorspace in the borough over the period to 2028 • Considers whether current retail provision is meeting the demands of borough residents and whether there is a need to increase competition and/or influence the retail mix • Advises on how to meet any identified quantitative and qualitative need for new convenience and comparison retail floorspace up to 2028 • Advises on potential threats to the future retail health of the borough town centres 	<p>The SA should include objectives, targets and indicators with a focus on retail needs within the borough and the Local Plan should consider retail patterns and future need and capacity for retail.</p>
Leisure Study Update (2013)	<p>The Leisure Study:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Audits existing commercial leisure provision and assesses potential future requirements • Considers whether current leisure provision is meeting the demands of borough residents and whether there is a need to increase competition and/or influence the retail and leisure mix • Compares commercial leisure provision in Ribble Valley borough with provision in other administrative areas of a similar demographic charac 	<p>The SA should include objectives, targets and indicators relevant to leisure provision. The Local Plan should consider existing leisure facilities and future provision.</p>

Appendix B Sites of special scientific interest in Ribble Valley District – additional detail

Site	Location within Ribble Valley	Interest features	SSSI Area Condition
SSSIs designated for nature conservation			
Barn Gill Meadow	North	Hay meadow community, a nationally scarce and highly vulnerable habitat.	Favourable (1)
Bell Sykes Meadows	North	Herb-rich grassland habitat, nationally scarce and vulnerable.	Favourable (4) Unfavourable – recovering (2)
Bowland Fells	North	Presence of upland breeding bird species including hen harrier and merlin; presence of nationally scarce blanket bog species.	Favourable (8) Unfavourable – Recovering (2)
Field Head Meadow	North	Herb-rich grassland, vulnerable and nationally scarce habitat.	Favourable (1)
Langcliff Cross Meadow	North	Species-rich meadow grassland, vulnerable and nationally scarce habitat.	Favourable (1)
Myttons Meadows	North	Species-rich meadow grassland, vulnerable and nationally scarce habitat.	Favourable (4)
New Ing Meadow	North	Herb-rich lay meadow, vulnerable and nationally scarce habitat.	Unfavourable – Recovering (1)
Standridge Farm Pasture	North	Unimproved herb-rich pasture, vulnerable and nationally scarce habitat.	Favourable (1)
White Moss	North	Watershed mire	Unfavourable – Recovering (1)
SSSIs designated for geological conservation			
Clitherhoe Knoll Reefs	Southeast	Carboniferous 'knoll-reefs'.	Favourable (7)
Cock Wood Gorge	South	Carboniferous rock layers of the Namurian Series.	Favourable (1)
Coplow Quarry	Southeast	Exposure of Lower Coplow Knoll Series.	Unfavourable – Recovering (1)
Hodder River	Southeast	Exposure of Lower Carboniferous rocks.	Favourable (1)
Light Clough	South	Carboniferous rock layers of the Namurian Series.	Favourable (1)
Little Mearley Clough	Southeast	Carboniferous rock layers of the Namurian Series.	Favourable (1)
Salthill and	Southeast	Carboniferous limestone	Favourable (2)

Site	Location within Ribble Valley	Interest features	SSSI Area Condition
Bellmanpark Quarries		with sections through the Chadian Reefs and the Knoll Reefs of the Craven Basin	

Appendix C SEA statutory body consultee responses

Consultee	Topic/ Report Section	Comment	JBA Response
Environment Agency	General	We have a particular interest in the effects on the aquatic environment and how the requirements of biodiversity net gain and the enhancement of watercourses and associated features and habitats could have cross-cutting benefits. This could include climate change adaptation and mitigation, water quality improvements and public health and community benefits associated with the enhancement and expansion of Green and Blue Infrastructure resources.	Agree in general with these aims, though noting the SA is limited to what is achievable via implementing a local plan. We will aim to provide an effective summary of any cross-cutting recommendations that emerge from the SA. We appreciate that multiple potential benefits of biodiversity net gain, and will seek to maximise these across SA topic areas, where possible.
	Table 2-1, page 8.	Good to see the prevent, reduce mitigate hierarchy here. We would expect this hierarchy to be the cornerstone of avoiding environmental impact and as such be prominent in the Environmental Report.	Comment welcomed, and noted regarding the future assessment stage.
	Section 3.1	Environment Act 2021 - as this is a forward planning document it needs to take account of the new areas of focus within the new act.	Comment welcomed, and noted regarding the future assessment stage. In addressing this comment, we have made 'climate change' more prominent by moving it upfront in the report and SA Framework, and also clarified how climate change will be considered throughout the SA (cross-cutting SA topics, etc.).
	Section 3.3 (former), now Section 3.4	Consideration of climate change and its impact on both the agricultural economy and the tourist economy of the area could be included here.	Noted and added to this section.
	Section 3.7 (former), now Section 3.8	A review of the borough's Strategic Flood Risk Assessment should be undertaken and reference to the sequential and exception tests made to ensure that development within the flood zone is discouraged/prohibited and directed to areas of FZ1. Greater consideration of climate change and the likelihood of future flood extents will be required.	The SFRA is an assessment (rather than a policy document). As requested, its outcomes will be taken into account by the SA, when assessing the Local Plan including proposed allocations or alternatives.
		We would like to see a policy that compels all new development to use SuDS unless it can be demonstrated that there is an evidence-based reason for not using a nature-based drainage scheme.	The section commented upon is just a review of existing policy. Such considerations will be taken into account during the SA assessment stage. We have amended the SA Framework to incorporate this comment.
		Promotion of SuDS is helpful but given the rural nature of the borough, plans to incorporate areas of natural flood management within the catchment should also be promoted.	The section commented upon is just a review of existing policy. Such considerations will be taken into account during the SA assessment stage. We have amended the SA Framework to incorporate this comment.
	Section 3.9 (former), now Section 3.2	Climate - Some consideration of mitigating the effects of climate change here would be useful rather than just focusing on the causes of climate change. Tree planting and carbon sequestration for example. Also, consideration of reducing energy consumption could be incorporated along with ambitious targets beyond those	The section commented upon is just a review of existing policy. Such considerations will be taken into account during the SA assessment stage. We have amended the SA Framework to incorporate this comment.

Consultee	Topic/ Report Section	Comment	JBA Response
		contained in building regs to improve the impact of future housing	
	Section 4.14.1	Transportation Infrastructure - Given the government aim to end the sale of petrol and diesel cars within the life of the plan, consideration should be given to the charging infrastructure for electric vehicles within the borough	We have added this into the baseline and amended the SA Framework to incorporate this comment, for consideration during the future SA assessment stage.
	Section 4.3.5 (former), now Section 4.4.5	Flood Risk - A revised SFRA would be of use to identify areas of functional flood plain and areas that should be avoided when bringing forward site allocations for either commercial or residential development. It would also be useful in setting out expectations to developers if sites do not meet the sequential and/or exception test. It could also be of use in identifying areas that could benefit from natural flood management schemes.	The SFRA for the Local Plan will be revised in support of the new local plan. The SA is not a sequential test process in itself, but will either incorporate sequential test outputs, or apply a parallel process that is similar (but may be more basic). The SA will as far as possible recommend development outside of flood risk areas, and that avoids or decreases vulnerability to flood risk.
		We encourage clear commitment and clarity in relation to the sequential approach, sequential test and exception test, in order to assist in managing the risk of flooding from all sources. Any development planned or allocated in a flood risk area in the replacement plan will need to be supported by evidence that the sequential approach has been complied with.	
	Section 4.7.2 (former), now 4.8.2	Local Designated Nature Conservation sites - Local Nature Recovery Strategies as proposed in the Environment Bill will provide a possible mechanism for the future management and maintenance of Local Nature Conservation sites.	We will consider this for potential mitigation or monitoring in the SA Report.
	Table 5.2 & 5.3	Additional suggestions made in these tables within the attached consultation draft for matters that fall within our remit.	We accept most of these suggestions, however some are too specific / not appropriate at scoping stage, before we know what mitigation is appropriate to the proposals of the Local Plan, e.g: <i>'possible reference to weir removal on watercourses to improve water quality and connect more areas to those upstream for fish spawning and biodiversity gains taking on new initiatives in partnership with the local rivers trusts and EA to improve water quality in rivers'.</i> Such measures could be considered in proportion to impacts / effects identified.
Historic England	Section 1.7	Key challenges for Ribble valley should include the conservation and enhancement of the historic environment, particular as this list is in relation to new development. In addition, good design should also be included within this section of the report.	Thank you for the comment. This is provided in the list of sustainability issues in Section 5.2.
	Section 4	Baseline information should describe the current and future state of the historic environment, providing the basis for identifying sustainability issues, predicting and monitoring effects and alternative ways of dealing with them. It can use both	Thank you for the comment. JBA has reviewed this and made changes to the section.

Consultee	Topic/ Report Section	Comment	JBA Response
		quantitative and qualitative information and should be kept up to date. It is important that meaningful conclusions can be drawn from the baseline information; what it means for the Plan and how the historic environment is to be dealt with.	
		The background section should be expanded to provide a summary of the main characteristics of Ribble Valley which should also include the historic environment and local character and distinctiveness.	Thank you for the comment. JBA has reviewed this and made changes to the section.
		The baseline information in the scoping report on the historic environment should include all aspects of the environment resulting from the interaction between people and places through time, including all surviving physical remains of past human activity, whether visible, buried or submerged. This not only involves undesignated (or local heritage assets) but the potential for unrecorded archaeology, and historic landscape character areas for example.	Thank you for the comment. JBA has reviewed this and made changes to the section.
		The NPPF recognises the importance of undesignated heritage assets and therefore this should be included within the baseline data. The source of this information should be included within the scoping report; references made to them and recognise the opportunities for their enhancement and contribution to other aspects of the Plan area.	<p>There is a limit to how much SA can achieve as a high-level desk-based study. We have incorporated additional information as a result of this comment, but the SA will inevitably be limited in how it can address undesignated features, particularly buried archaeology.</p> <p>We recommend on-going technical consultation with Historic England in order to better inform the SA as it is conducted.</p>
		The importance of local character and identity including the landscape and townscape of an area is an important consideration. The scoping report should recognise the importance of this, and the source of this information should also be included within the scoping report, with reference made to them in key issues and opportunities.	Landscape / townscape is a separate section in the SA.
		There is very little information within Para 4.9.1 on the historic environment and the report should be expanded in relation to the above.	Thank you for the comment. JBA has reviewed this and made changes to the section.
	General	In terms of the plans and policies identified, this needs to cover all those relevant at an international, national and local level that would have a direct bearing for the historic environment. In addition, it might be worth including some Historic England advice notes (see link at the beginning of this letter). The importance of good design is included in the NPPF and therefore, reference to this and local character and distinctiveness should also be referenced, as well as within Para 3.6.	<p>Guidance is clear that the review of plans, policies and programmes need not go into any more detail than is useful for this exercise. It is not intended to be a "compendium" of all topic-related documents, but rather focused on what can influence the Local Plan and SA significantly. We therefore do not include guidance on how to conduct assessment, and likewise more detailed guidance on project design or impacts (for example).</p> <p>The importance of good design is</p>

Consultee	Topic/ Report Section	Comment	JBA Response
			indeed referenced in the scoping report.
		Key issues and objectives should stem from the baseline information. In relation to the table on page 37 (cultural heritage), we have the following comments to make: When allocating land for development, it is not just about considering the setting of heritage assets but the significance of a heritage asset in line with the requirement of the NPPF.	We have changed the order of the text to clarify that setting is additional to conservation of the assets themselves.
		It is unclear what a cultural heritage feature is and how this is defined? Heritage assets are not normally defined as 'features' (as used in bullet 3). This should be amended to better reflect the wording in national policy.	Amendment made.
		We have recently updated our Heritage at Risk Register for 2021 and the report should be updated to reflect this According to our Heritage Counts Data. The importance of local character and distinctiveness (including historic landscape character) should be mentioned here in relation to high quality design.	We have added additional information from the Heritage at Risk Register. We will consider further recommendations as part of the assessment stage of the SA.
		Whilst we broadly welcome the content of Objective 7, which will cover the historic environment we have suggested some further corrections and amendments. It is unclear what is cultural heritage resource and why there is no reference to conservation; only protection and enhancement within the Objective. It should be about the historic environment and heritage assets as well as their conservation and enhancement, and we would welcome reference to this being included. It is also important to note that heritage is not just 'buildings and sites' (sub-objective) and this can include scheduled monuments as well as landscapes and conservation areas, so this needs to be replaced with historic environment and heritage assets which would ensure that all is covered (as well as reference to conservation).	Noted and amendments made.
		Within the indicators/targets for SA Objective 7, we have the following comments to make: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The report incorrectly refers to English Heritage and not Historic England. • We would expect a target of a reduction in the number of assets on the Heritage at Risk Register (if there is a baseline included within the report). • Conservation areas have been incorrectly placed within Objective 6 when it is a heritage designation. The targets of no net loss of conservation areas – it is unclear how this is monitored and defined? • What is the distribution of the listed heritage assets? How is this defined to be able to be monitored? 	Reference changed. Regarding targets, Conservation Areas under townscape is intentional and correct. Also, the Heritage at Risk Register isn't a good indicator for a Local Plan - most of the factors influencing the outcome are outwith Local Plan influence.
		Historic England strongly advises that you engage conservation, archaeology and urban design colleagues at the local and	Comment noted regarding the future assessment stage.

Consultee	Topic/ Report Section	Comment	JBA Response
		<p>county level to ensure you are aware of all the relevant features of the historic environment and that the historic environment is effectively and efficiently considered as part of the Local Plan, and in the preparation of the SA/SEA. They are also best placed to advise on local historic environment issues and priorities, including access to data held in the HER (formerly SMR). They will be able to provide you with the Historic Environment Records for the area including any relevant studies and ensure a joined-up and robust approach is undertaken.</p>	
Natural England	General	<p>Natural England has not reviewed the plans listed. However, we advise that the following types of plans relating to the natural environment should be considered where applicable to your plan area;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Green infrastructure strategies • Biodiversity plans • Rights of Way Improvement Plans • River basin management plans • Forest of Bowland AONB management plan. • Relevant landscape plans and strategies. 	<p>We have reviewed these documents, and would seek to ensure they are considered as relevant within the further SA assessment stages.</p>
		<p>We agree with the baseline topics and key sustainability issues/opportunities included.</p>	<p>Comment welcomed.</p>
	Sustainability Objectives, appraisal criteria, indicators and targets	<p>1. To improve human health and well-being There are no objectives relating to retaining or enhancing recreational assets (quality and or extent). We suggest including this as a sub-objective and also including "Avoiding impacts on the quality and extent of existing recreational assets, such as formal or informal footpaths"</p>	<p>Noted and amendments made.</p>
		<p>5. To protect and enhance biodiversity This objective should include 'restore'. We welcome the sub-objective 'To protect and enhance habitats and wildlife corridors' however another sub-objective could be added to say "Ensure current ecological networks are not compromised, and future improvements in habitat connectivity are not prejudiced" which could also be linked to the creation of Nature Recovery Networks and Local Nature Recovery Strategies</p>	<p>Noted and amendments made.</p>
		<p>9. To conserve and enhance soil resources and guard against land contamination We suggest that an additional sub-objective is included such as "Avoidance of the loss of best and most versatile agricultural land"</p>	<p>Noted and amendments made.</p>
		<p>As set out in Planning Practice Guidance, you should be monitoring the significant environmental effects of implementing the current local plan. This should include indicators for monitoring the effects of the plan on biodiversity.</p>	<p>This is the scoping stage - once the assessment is complete and we know what the predicted effects of the Local Plan are, we will consider appropriate indicators for monitoring for these effects and any potential unforeseen effects.</p>
		<p>The natural environment metrics in the</p>	<p>Agreed - as above, appropriate</p>

Consultee	Topic/ Report Section	Comment	JBA Response
		<p>baseline information are largely driven by factors other than the plan’s performance. They are thus likely to be of little value in monitoring the performance of the Plan. It is important that any monitoring indicators relate to the effects of the plan itself, not wider changes. Bespoke indicators should be chosen relating to the outcomes of development management decisions.</p>	<p>monitoring will be recommended at a later stage.</p>
		<p>Whilst it is not Natural England’s role to prescribe what indicators should be adopted, the following indicators may be appropriate.</p> <p>Biodiversity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of planning approvals that generated any significant biodiversity impacts on sites of acknowledged biodiversity importance. • Percentage of the planning approvals likely to have an impact on wildlife, which the Council negotiated provisions for a net gain in biodiversity. • Number of planning applications refused or withdrawn in part due to their lack of consideration of biodiversity impacts. • Number of planning applications which achieve a biodiversity net gain. <p>Green infrastructure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To work towards ensuring that the city's population have access to a natural greenspace within 400 metres of their home. • Length of greenways constructed <p>Hectares of accessible open space per 1000 population.</p>	<p>Agreed - as above, appropriate monitoring will be recommended at a later stage.</p>
		<p>Please see the attached Annex A for our advice on sources of local plan evidence on the natural environment.</p>	<p>Noted and advice appreciated.</p>

References

Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government , 2015. Sustainability Appraisal process and Local Plan preparation [online]. Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/580027/sea1_013.pdf

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