



Lancashire

Minerals & Waste

Local Plan

Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report

October 2014

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1. Introduction

The minerals and waste planning authorities of Lancashire County Council, Blackpool Council and Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council (the Joint Authorities) intend to review the Joint Lancashire Minerals and Waste Local Plan.

The Local Plan consists of:

- an adopted Core Strategy (2009), containing strategic policies and identifying need; and
- an adopted Site Allocation and Development Management Policies Local Plan (2013) which seeks to implement core Strategy policy through land allocations and development management policies.

The Local Plan has a plan period to 2021. The Authorities are undertaking a review of the Local Plan to extend the plan period from 2021 to 2032, and ensure it is up to date. As part of the review the two documents will be combined into one document.

Section 39 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires the Authorities to carry out this function with the objective of contributing to the achievement of sustainable development. Section 19 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires the Authorities to carry out a sustainability appraisal of the proposals in the Local Plan.

1.1 Sustainability Development and Sustainability Appraisal

Sustainability appraisal is carried out to promote sustainable development¹ by assessing the extent to which the emerging plan, when judged against reasonable alternatives, will help to achieve relevant environmental, social, and economic objectives. It is an opportunity to consider ways by which the plan can contribute to improvements in the environmental, social and economic conditions, as well as a means of identifying and mitigating any potential adverse effects the plan might otherwise have. By doing so it can help to ensure that the proposals in the plan are the most appropriate given the reasonable alternatives.

1.2 Structure of the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report

This Scoping Report outlines the Authorities' proposed approach to sustainability appraisal during the review of the Local Plan.

¹ Sustainability, or sustainable development, is defined in the United Nations General Assembly resolution 42/187 as "*meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs*". The UK Sustainable Development Strategy *Securing the Future* sets out five guiding principles of sustainable development: living within the planets environmental limits; ensuring a strong, healthy and just society; achieving a sustainable economy; promoting good governance; and using sound science responsibly.

- Chapter 2 describe the timetable for the review, and what can be expected regarding sustainability appraisal at each stage, together with describing the main sections of any sustainability appraisal report prepared.
- Chapter 3 considers the baseline environment in the Plan area relevant to the Local Plan review.
- Chapter 4 describes the relevant policy objectives that will inform the sustainability appraisal
- Chapter 5 describes the main relevant sustainability issues that are likely to affect or be effected by the Local Plan
- Chapter 6, informed by the previous three chapters, describes the sustainability objectives that it is proposed will be used to carry out the sustainability appraisal of the Local Plan review.

Taken as a whole this sustainability appraisal scoping report describes the framework that will be applied in assessing the sustainability of the Local Plan review against social, environmental and economic aims.

2. The Local Plan Review and Sustainability Appraisal

Sustainability appraisal is to be applied as an iterative process informing the development of the Local Plan, at each stage in its preparation. The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 specify certain requirements that the sustainability appraisal must address and that the sustainability appraisal report must include; these are incorporated into the sustainability appraisal where appropriate.

2.1 Contents of the Sustainability Appraisal Report

The level of detail contained in the sustainability appraisal report will depend on the options considered, and the stage in the Local Plan review process. The scope of a minerals and waste Local Plan is relatively narrow, when compared to a Local Planning Authority's Local Plan. The scope will therefore be restricted to impacts and outcomes that the Local Plan review will realistically be able to influence; this is reflected in the baseline information described below.

The sustainability appraisal report will contain the following:

- A non-technical summary
- An outline of the main objectives of the Local Plan
- An assessment of the sustainability of the Local Plan objectives, using the framework identified in the Scoping Report
- An outline of the Local Plan options and reasonable alternatives, informed by the framework identified in the Scoping Report
- A forecast and assessment of the likely effects of the Local Plan and reasonable alternatives, using the framework identified in the Scoping Report
- An outline of the characteristics of the area, and the relevant aspects of the current state of the environment
- Proposals to mitigate adverse effects or maximising beneficial effects
- Proposals to monitor the significant effects of the implementation of the Local Plan
- An outline of the findings of any habitats regulations assessment that is necessary, and their implications for the sustainability of the Local Plan

The sustainability appraisal is an iterative process, and each stage in the Local Plan review process will be accompanied by a revised sustainability appraisal report. As the Local Plan develops, the sustainability appraisal report that accompanies it will present information on how the findings of the sustainability appraisal have been reflected in the Local Plan.

2.2 The Timetable for Review

The timetable for carrying out the Local Plan review is set out in the Joint Lancashire Minerals and Waste Development Scheme 2014-2017, and described below for reference.

- **Winter 2014** - Scoping consultation to invite comments on what the review of the local plan should contain, and to identify the issues from the evidence, under section 18 of the Town and Country (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012
- **Summer 2015** - Preferred options consultation to invite comments on proposed changes (vision, objectives policies and allocations) to address the issues identified in the scoping consultation, under section 18 of the Town and Country (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012
- **Spring 2016** - Publication consultation to invite comments on the revised Local Plan prior to submission to the Secretary of State, under section 19 and 20 of the Town and Country (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012
- **Summer 2016** - Submission to the Secretary of State, under section 20 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004
- **Summer 2016** - Examination in Public
- **Summer 2017** - Adoption

An interim sustainability report will be published alongside the consultation document in summer 2015 to help inform consultation responses. A draft sustainability appraisal report will be published alongside the draft submission Local Plan in spring 2016, and a final sustainability appraisal report will be submitted alongside the Local Plan to the Secretary of State in summer 2016. This is described in the flowchart below.

2.3 Making comments on the scoping report

Consultation at this stage is intended to inform the scope and general content of the review and is targeted at key stakeholders, though anybody may respond to the consultation. This consultation seeks to ensure any issues which may influence the content of the review are identified at the beginning of the process.

If you have any suggestions to make on the review please send them, with your name and address, to the address below before the end of the 19 December 2014:

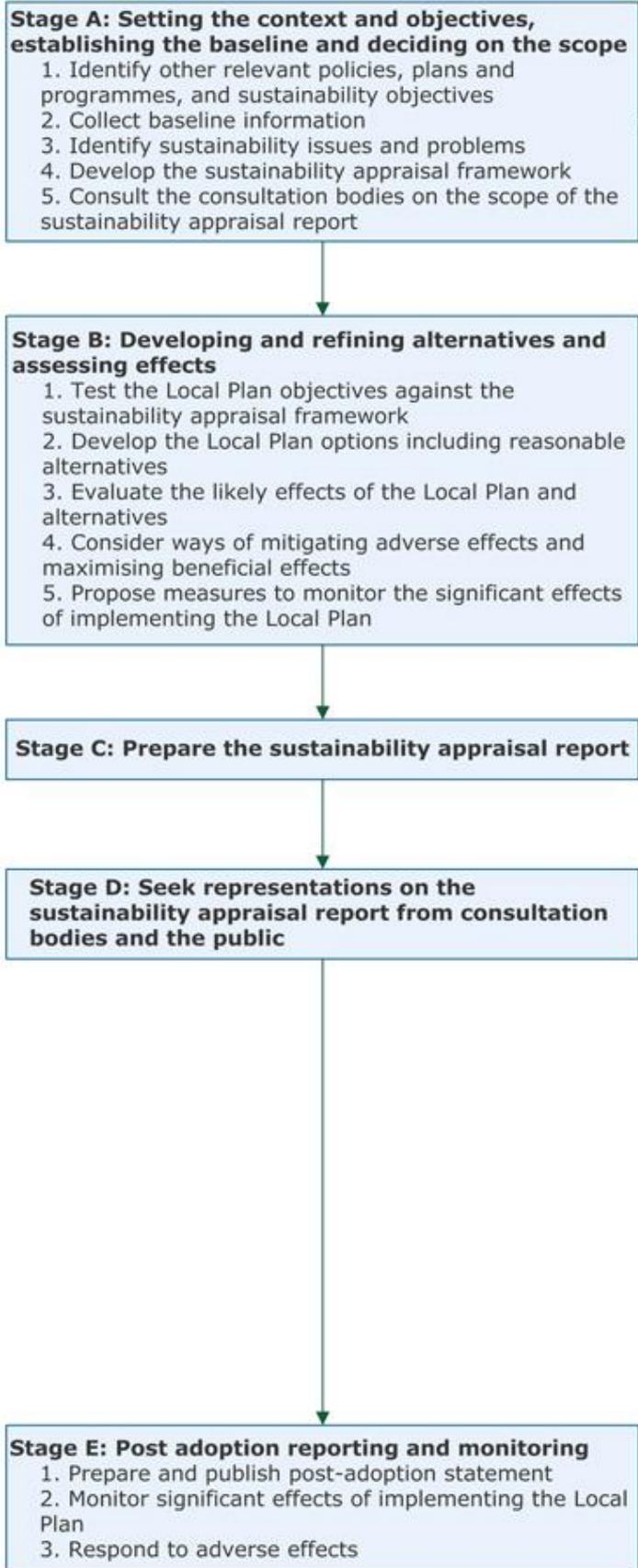
Planning Team
Lancashire County Council Environment Directorate
Room C4
PO Box 100
County Hall
PRESTON
PR1 0LD

- Or by email at: lmwf@lancashire.gov.uk

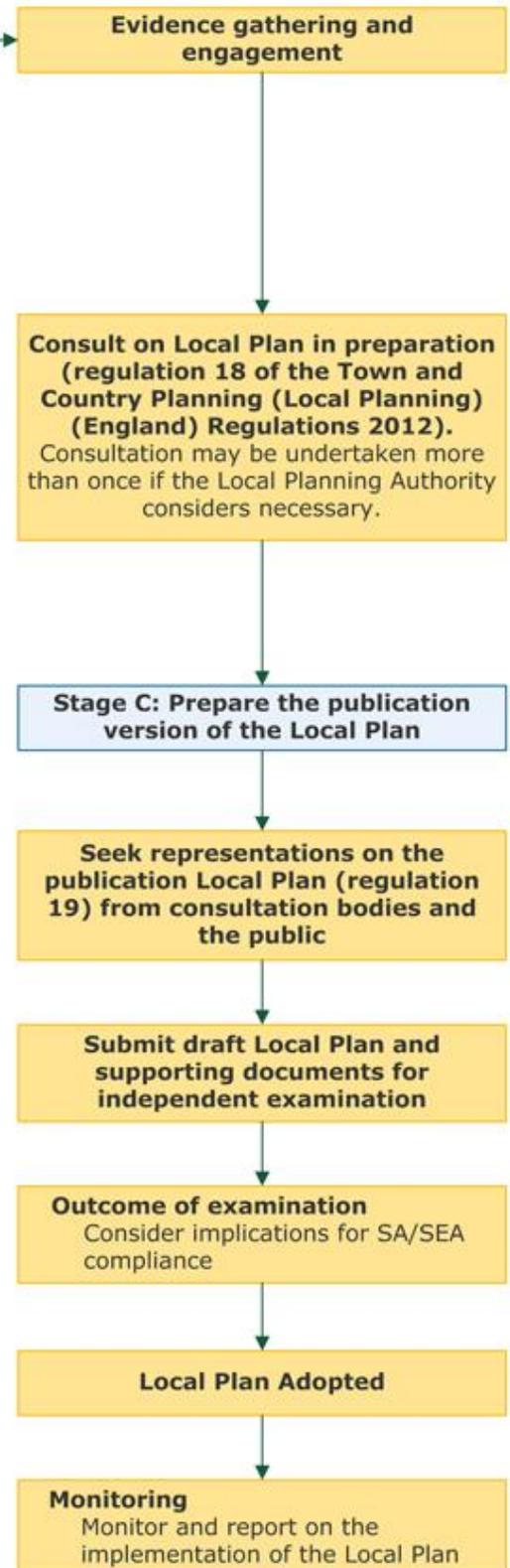
- or use our *'Have your say'* website at:
<http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/haveyoursay>

All comments received will be made public, together with your surname and the name of the organisation you represent (addresses and signatures will be removed or censored).

Sustainability appraisal process



Local Plan preparation



3. Relevant Aspects of the Current Environment

Baseline data provides the information necessary to assist in predicting and monitoring the effects of a Local Plan review and helps in identifying sustainability issues and alternative ways of dealing with them. Baseline information can provide a standard against which performance can be measured and compared with future performance to help identify emerging issues and trends within the Plan area.

3.1 The Plan area

Comprising the administrative County of Lancashire together with the two Unitary Districts of Blackburn with Darwen and Blackpool, the Plan area is a large and varied geographical area. With a strong sense of identity, the area retains a strong and diverse economic base under-pinned by a longstanding urban and industrial tradition.

Covering 3,075 km² and with a population of more than 1.4 million residents, modern Lancashire is one of the most populous and urbanised counties in Britain.

The Plan area is an area of contrasts with densely populated urban centres and large expanses of sparsely populated rural countryside (81% of its total area is rural). Many areas exhibit social disparities and spatial inequalities and have experienced very different economic fortunes. The Plan area is bordered by Cumbria and North Yorkshire to the north, three major metropolitan areas to the south and east (Merseyside, Manchester, and West Yorkshire), and extends to the Irish Sea in the west.

The total resident population in March 2011 was 1,460,893 which reside in around 618,019 households, concentrated in the principal urban areas of the Fylde Coast, Blackburn with Darwen, Burnley, Lancaster and Morecambe, and Preston.

3.2 Lancashire's Economic Environment

The Plan area represents 2.3% of the national population and contributes 1.76% Gross Value Added (GVA) (£23.85 billion in 2012). The area has a workforce of 793,420, employed in 49,345 enterprises.

Over 17.4% of the area's communities are ranked in the most deprived 10% in England (Index of Multiple Deprivation 2010).

Preston acts as Lancashire's strategic transport gateway and hub. As well as having a major station on the West Coast Main Line, the city is served by two junctions on the M6 motorway and one on the M55.

South Ribble is also well connected, with the intersection of three motorways in the district and easy rail connections to Preston, Manchester and to Liverpool from Leyland.

Chorley occupies a prime strategic location. The proximity of the M61 and M6 and easy rail connections to Preston and Manchester have together helped to facilitate economic growth in Chorley for a number of years.

West Lancashire's strategic location boasts some strong road and rail links with both Central Lancashire and Merseyside. The borough is also well connected to Manchester (via Wigan) and therefore to the comprehensive network of motorways and railways that link with much of the UK.

To the east of West Lancashire, the M6 links the borough to the rest of the country. The highway network within West Lancashire includes the M58, A59, A570, and A565, enabling easy access to the Central Lancashire, Merseyside and Manchester conurbations.

Blackburn and Burnley are the major transport hubs for the East Lancashire area. Both have good connections to the strategic road network and Blackburn provides a gateway to rail services from Preston (West Coast Mainline) and Manchester. Hyndburn also has good road and rail connectivity.

The M65 and A59 provide the principal east-west road links across the area. The M65 has junctions with the M6/M61 in the west, but at its eastern end finishes just outside Colne, leaving long distance traffic to travel through Colne on its way to and from the motorway. Links to Manchester are provided by the A56(T) which runs from the M65 to join the M66 at Edenfield.

The M55 links Blackpool and the Fylde Coast to the M6 at Junction 32 north of Preston. The A585(T) stretches from the M55 to Fleetwood and is an important route linking the urban areas of the Fleetwood peninsula with the motorway network.

To the south of the Fylde coast, the A583 and A584 connect the towns of Kirkham, Wesham and Lytham St Annes to Preston and Blackpool. In the east of the area the A6 provides connectivity between Garstang and the rural areas with the M6 and Preston.

Lancaster lies within the nationally significant north-south transport corridor comprising the West Coast Main Line and M6, which provides excellent connectivity with other parts of the UK.

3.3 Lancashire's Natural Environment

The Plan area has exceptionally diverse natural and historic characteristics from maritime and estuarine situations across coastal plain and wetlands, to the central arable zones and the contrasting valley landscapes of north and east Lancashire. There are areas of woodlands, a range of grasslands from acid through neutral to calcareous and extensive upland moor and peatlands.

Approximately 95% of Lancashire's coastline is designated as 'internationally important' for its nature conservation value due to its estuarine environment (Rivers

Ribble, Lune and Wyre) which supports more than a million waders and wildfowl (RAMSAR convention on wetlands). The area also boasts 2 National Nature Reserves (Gait Barrows in Arnside/Silverdale and Ribble Marshes), 69 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), some of which are also designated Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), 29 statutory Local Nature Reserves, including Preston Junction, Warton Crag and Withnell Fold, at least 1,200 Biological Heritage Sites and 97 Geological Heritage Sites.

There are also two Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs), the Forest of Bowland and Arnside/Silverdale. The Forest of Bowland is the most well-known of these and covers 730 sq. km of upland hills, moors and woodland. Other areas of landscape importance include the West Pennines Moors, a number of ancient woodlands, and the Beacon Fell Country Park which offers spectacular views over the Forest of Bowland AONB and Morecambe Bay.

Agriculture across the Plan area continues to decline in rural areas already suffering from population decline and restricted provision of services. The best quality agricultural land remains in West Lancashire, Wyre and the Fylde.

The natural and manmade heritage assets of Lancashire comprise an important resource of individual sites of ecological, geological, historical and cultural importance and the links between them. The historic environment allows awareness of the past giving people and places an identity and significance. The imprint of human history gives localities their distinctive character and marks their individuality as neighbourhoods and as part of the wider countryside.

The historic environment is a non-renewable resource that is often very susceptible to damage, destruction or the erosion of character. Mineral extraction is a recognised threat to this environment.

Lancashire's built heritage includes historic buildings of many sizes, periods and types, ranging from the humblest barn to the grandest mansion. Many historic buildings are protected by Listing because of their special architectural or historic interest. Regionally and locally important historic structures which are not Listed may still make a significant contribution to the character of the Plan area and the local scene, therefore warrant due consideration through the planning process.

Historic parks and gardens' contribution to the quality of our surroundings has generally been appreciated in recent years. A number of Conservation Areas have already been designated in historic parks and gardens in the Plan area. The National Heritage Act 1983 enabled English Heritage to compile the Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in England. These range from medieval deer parks to 20th Century suburban gardens. A list of locally important parks and gardens has been prepared for the area of Lancashire.

3.4 Lancashire's Waste Industry

3.8 million tonnes of waste passed through waste management facilities in the Plan area in 2012. These throughputs have remained relatively stable over the past 5 years, though there have been changes within this figure, in particular a reduction in landfill inputs and an increase in physiochemical treatment and material recovery as more waste is diverted away from landfill.

Municipal Solid Waste has shown a consistent reduction in arisings, year on year, since 2006. In 2012/13 724,000 tonnes of MSW were collected, significantly below the 825,000 tonnes collected in 2006.

By 2032 however it is anticipated that there will be 1.07 million tonnes of municipal waste produced annually. Using the 2020 Municipal Waste Management Strategy targets for recycling and composting (60%) and recovery (an additional 22%) this will require capacity to recycle or compost 650,000 tonnes per annum, and to recover value from a further 300,000 tonnes per annum.

For commercial and industrial waste there was 7.9 million tonnes of active permitted capacity in the Plan area in 2012 (excluding landfill); approximately 2.9 million tonnes of waste was managed at these facilities in 2012, representing an utilisation rate of 37%. This figure includes all manner of waste permit types including waste transfer, recycling, end of life vehicle dismantlers, incineration and physio-chemical treatment.

3.5 Lancashire's Minerals Industry

The surface geology of the Plan area is dominated by Triassic sandstones in the west and Carboniferous sandstones in the east, with small areas of limestone in the north and east, and significant areas of glacial till.

In the Plan area, sand and gravel for aggregate use has usually been obtained from two distinct types of deposit: glacial sands and fluvial/fluvio-glacial sand and gravel. In addition to these sources, beach sand is extracted on a small scale for aggregate use at St Anne's Foreshore.

Carboniferous limestone outcrops suitable for extraction are limited in the area, with quarrying operations confined to two locations in the north.

The gritstone worked in the Plan area occurs in carboniferous rocks of either the Millstone Grit Series, or the Lower Coal Measures, comprising alternate beds of mudstone, shales and gritstones. They occur over a wide area mainly in the east.

Shales are extracted in the area in conjunction with landfill operations for engineering works, as waste products from other quarrying activities, or in dedicated quarries, and are used as low-grade constructional fill.

In 2012 there were 8.76 million tonnes of sand and gravel reserves with planning permission. Based on the 10 year average of sales, these permitted reserves are

expected to last 15 years, and the 7 year landbank is expected to begin to be eroded in 2027.

In 2012 there were 60.6 million tonnes of limestone reserves with planning permission. Based on the 10 year average of sales these permitted reserves are expected to last 27 years, and the 10 year landbank is expected to begin to be eroded in 2028.

In 2012 there were 71.4 million tonnes of gritstone reserves with planning permission. Based on the 10 year average of sales these permitted are expected to last 52 years, and the 10 year landbank is expected to begin to be eroded in 2064.

4. Relevant Policy Objectives

The review of other plans and programmes requires a comprehensive survey of the objectives, requirements and targets contained in statutory policy and other relevant strategy documents which may influence the scope of, and options for, the Local Plan.

In order to establish a clear scope for the SA it is necessary to review and develop an understanding of the wider range of policies, plans and strategies that are of relevance to the Local Plan.

The review has covered all relevant national planning guidance. Policy at national and local level is already influenced by the requirements of various EU Directives, which have been formally adopted into UK law, or are being adopted. An extensive range of local plans and programmes were reviewed. It will be important to consider the guidance and priorities set by such documents. Where site proposals fall within the area of such plans and programmes, it will be critical that the objectives set by those schemes are fully understood. Details of existing plans and programmes and those that are currently being prepared are set out in Appendix 1.

The table below lists the plans and programmes relevant to minerals and waste matters that have been analysed as part of this scoping process.

International Policy
Aalborg Charter
Aarhus Convention
European Union Spatial Development Perspective
The Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive
EC Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control Directive
EC Mining Waste Directive
EC Directive on Packaging and Packaging Waste
EC Directive on End of Life Vehicles
EC Directive on Waste Incineration
EC Directive on Batteries
EC Noise Directive
European Landscape Convention
Kyoto Climate Change Protocol & UK Climate Change Programme
EC White Paper: Adapting to Climate Change
EU Seventh Environmental Action Plan
EU Habitats Directive, EC Directive 92/43/EEC
The Water Framework Directive (WFD) 2000/60/ED
Bathing Water Quality Directive
EU Air Quality Framework Directive
EU Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds
EU Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Flora and Fauna
EU Landfill Directive
The Waste Framework Directive

EU Nitrates Directive
EU Packaging and Packaging of Waste Directive
EU WEEE Directive
World Summit on Sustainable Development 2002
National Policy
UK Renewable Energy Strategy
Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland
National and Regional Guidelines for Aggregates Provision in England 2005 – 2020
Waste Strategy for England 2007
Strategy for the management of solid low level radioactive waste from the non-nuclear industry in the United Kingdom
Review of Environmental Health Effects of Waste Management DEFRA 2004
Working with the Grain of Nature – A Biodiversity Strategy for England
Water for People and the Environment – Water Resources Strategy for England and Wales
Safeguarding our Soils – A Strategy for England
Sustainable Communities: Building for the Future
National Planning Policy Framework
PPS10 – Planning for Sustainable Waste Management
MMG1 Extraction by Dredging from the English Seabed
English Nature Policy Position Statement: Aggregate Extraction and Nature Conservation
UK Sustainable Development Strategy
A Biodiversity Strategy for England
Waste Not Want Not
Household Waste Recycling Act
Innovation Strategy
Tourism Strategy
Local Policy
Sub-Regional Strategies
A Landscape Strategy for Lancashire
Lancashire Local Transport Plan
Blackpool Local Transport Plan
Blackburn with Darwen Local Transport Plan
Ambition Lancashire: Community Strategy for Lancashire 2025
Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council Local Plan
Blackpool Borough Council Local Plan
Blackburn with Darwen Community Plan 2020

5. Relevant Social, Environmental and Economic Issues and Objectives likely to be affected by the Plan

Following the review in section 4, it is considered that the Local Plan is likely to contribute to the following economic, environmental and social issues:

- Meeting demand to support growth - The Local Plan will need to provide for the region's growing population with respect to housing, infrastructure, facilities and services by ensuring a steady and adequate supply of minerals to meet society's needs, and by supporting the circular economy by ensuring sufficient facilities can come forwards to manage the waste generated.
- Uncertainty around demand – The global economic recession has affected demand for materials, and waste arisings, but there are indications from the economic and construction sectors, that the economy is improving. Both are linked to the economic climate, both directly (as development proposals and continued operations are linked to the availability of finance) and indirectly (as demand for their product or service is directly related to the operation of other industries).
- Uncertainty around supply – Some of the waste management facilities in the plan area are co-located on landfill sites and are time limited to the life of the landfill; with the closure of the landfill the waste management facility will also close. Also permitted reserves of minerals may be constrained physically, economically, or environmentally, affecting their output and thus their ability to meet demand.
- Environmental capacity – Natural resources extraction and waste management development is required to support current and anticipated growth patterns, however it is essential to minimise potential adverse impacts on the environment and community. Appropriate mitigation, prompt restoration, and directing development to suitable locations are all relevant to ensuring the protection of local environmental quality and the character and distinctiveness of townscapes and landscapes. In particular issues might arise as minerals can only be worked where they are found. This may adversely affect the condition of an area as a result of development.
- Protecting finite resources – Safeguarding minerals, ensuring their prudent use and promoting sustainable waste management principles, may influence the way in which the Local Plan supports growth.
- Location of markets and supply – Movement of waste and minerals is an intrinsic part of the industry; the catchment areas and markets do not match administrative boundaries.

6. Objectives of the Sustainability Appraisal

The National Planning Policy Framework, read as a whole, describes how the land use planning system can contribute towards delivering sustainable development. It identifies three dimensions at paragraph 7:

- *an economic role* –contributing to building a strong, responsive and competitive economy, by ensuring that sufficient land of the right type is available in the right places and at the right time to support growth and innovation; and by identifying and coordinating development requirements, including the provision of infrastructure.
- *a social role* – supporting strong, vibrant and healthy communities, by providing the supply of housing required to meet the needs of present and future generations; and by creating a high quality built environment, with accessible local services that reflect the communities' needs and support its health, social and cultural wellbeing.
- *an environmental role* – contributing to protecting and enhancing our natural, built and historic environment; and, as part of this, helping to improve biodiversity, use natural resources prudently, minimise waste and pollution, and mitigate and adapt to climate change including moving to a low carbon economy.

At paragraph 14 the NPPF describes 'the presumption in favour of sustainable development', as it applies to plan making, and states that:

- Local planning authorities should positively seek opportunities to meet the development needs of their area
- Local plans should meet objectively assessed needs, with sufficient flexibility to adapt to climate change, unless any adverse impacts of doing so would significantly and demonstrably outweigh the benefits, or specific policies in the NPPF indicate development should be restricted.

6.1 Sustainability appraisal objectives and decision making criteria

The sustainability appraisal objectives are based on these three dimensions of sustainable development, informed by the presumption in favour of sustainable development, and other relevant objectives of the plans and programmes discussed earlier.

6.1.1 Economic Objectives

- To build a strong, responsive and competitive economy, by ensuring that sufficient land of the right type is available in the right places at the right time, to support growth and innovation.

- Will it assist in meeting the identified needs for minerals and waste development during the plan period (and by extension assist in meeting the identified needs for housing and businesses in other Local Plans)?
- Will it support economic growth and diversity in the minerals or waste sector?

6.1.2 Social Objectives

- To create a high quality built environment.
 - Will it protect resident's amenity?
 - Will it help to develop strong and positive relationships between local communities and minerals/waste operators?
 - Will it preserve or enhance the character and appearance of archaeological sites, historic buildings, townscape, landscape, parks and gardens and their settings?
 - Will it contribute to maintaining and strengthening local distinctiveness and sense of place?

6.1.3 Environmental Objectives

- To protecting and enhancing our natural and built environment
 - Can it be accommodated within the environmental capacity of the area?
 - Will it protect and enhance the local environment?
 - Will it contribute to the ability to adapt to the impacts of climate change?
 - Will it reduce car and lorry traffic?
 - Will it reduce or manage flooding?
- To ensure the prudent use of resources
 - Will it assist Lancashire in achieving a sustainable supply of minerals?
 - Will it contribute towards moving waste up the waste hierarchy?
 - Will it encourage the development of brownfield land in preference to green field land?
 - Will it address the causal factors of poor air quality in Air Quality Management Areas?
 - Will it maintain and enhance soil quality?
 - Will it reduce or minimise greenhouse gas emissions?

6.2 Sustainability appraisal indicators

Following analysis of the baseline data, and informed by the objectives of relevant plans or programmes, a set of indicators has been identified to measure the environmental, social and economic impacts of the Local Plan review. These can be seen below:

- Planning permissions granted/implemented for minerals/waste developments
- GVA for minerals/waste industry
- Housing planning permissions granted/completions

- GVA for industry
- Aggregate sales
- Landbanks for aggregates
- Landbank for industrial minerals
- Recycled and Secondary Aggregate produced
- Waste arisings
- Waste landfilled
- Waste recycled/treated
- Number of jobs created
- Establishment of liaison committees
- Indices of multiple deprivation
- Employment/industrial land allocations
- Transport corridors
- Wildlife networks/corridors
- Landscape character areas
- Air Quality Management Areas
- Agricultural land value
- Brownfield/derelict land
- Flood risk zones

Due to the nature of the Local Plan review, some objectives may be more or less relevant for certain topics.

APPENDIX 1 – REVIEW OF LOCAL PLANS & PROGRAMMES

These local documents will be particularly useful where they set aspirations for the development of an area or provide information on the characteristics of an area. The table below details the range of plans and programmes reviewed. This list is not exhaustive and the consultation process should identify other relevant plans.

District Authority	Local Plan	Supplementary Planning Documents	Neighbourhood Plans
Blackpool	Adopted Local Plan (2006)	Talbot and Brunswick Neighbourhood Planning Guidance SPD Leisure Quarter Development Brief SPD Talbot Gateway Planning Brief SPD	
Blackburn with Darwen	Adopted Core Strategy	Infirmary Waterside HMR Masterplan SPD Darwen Town Centre conservation area SPD Blackburn Cathedral Quarter SPD Queen Street/Hindle Street SPD Queen's Park Flats Development Brief SPD Griffin SPD Freckleton Street Masterplan SPD	
Chorley	Adopted Central Lancashire Core Strategy		

Hyndburn	Adopted Core Strategy	Accrington Area Action Plan Former Peel Fold Mill, Stanhill Platts Lodge Project Phoenix 1 and 2 Church and Oswaldtwistle East Accrington SPD/Masterplan	
Lancaster	Adopted Core Strategy	Various Development Briefs	
Pendle	Adopted Replacement Pendle Local Plan (2001-2016)	Bradley Area Action Plan Railway Street Neighbourhood Brierfield Canal Corridor	
Preston	Adopted Central Lancashire Core Strategy	Tithebarn SPD City Centre Central Business District SPD	
Ribble Valley	Adopted Local Plan (1998)	Clitheroe Town Centre Masterplan	
Rossendale	Adopted Core Strategy	Rawtenstall Town Centre SPD	
South Ribble	Adopted Central Lancashire Core Strategy Local Plan (Site Allocations Partial Version 2013)		
West Lancashire	Adopted Local Plan	Skelmersdale Town Centre SPD Atkinson Kirby/52 Derby Street Development Brief	
Wyre	Adopted Local Plan (1999)	Fleetwood & Thornton Area Action Plan	

APPENDIX 2 –SITE ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

A critical part of the sustainability appraisal will be the site assessment criteria by which sites will be judged. This requires consensus about the features and characteristics which should be taken into account when considering the merits of particular sites. In many cases, Government policy indicates the range of factors to be considered, and the weight that should be applied to these in decision-making. However, local conditions are also important and may indicate a different range of considerations. It is the role of the local authorities to determine an appropriate balance in these matters.

Topic	Criteria	Indicator	Opportunities for substitute information
Natural Resources	Groundwater Source Protection Zones	SPZ1 (for all landfill and waste management activities) SPZ2 (unless for non-hazardous) SPZ3	
	Mineral Safeguarding & Consultation Areas	Located within a Mineral Consultation or Safeguarding Area or located near to either of the above (typically within 250m)	
Natural Heritage	Internationally protected areas	SACs, SPAs and Ramsar sites (see Appendix 3)	

Topic	Criteria	Indicator	Opportunities for substitute information
	<p>Nationally/statutory protected areas</p>	<p>Limestone Pavement Order areas SSSIs Ancient Woodland</p>	
	<p>Locally significant wildlife sites</p>	<p>Biological or Geological Heritage Sites Located within area of known wildlife significance (e.g. BAP habitats, wildlife corridors)</p>	<p>A broad indication of areas where the presence of important, priority habitats are likely to be found is provided by Natural England's 'Nature on the Map' programme. In some parts of the plan area, Phase 1 Survey data or collections of species records may indicate the potential presence of priority habitats in greater detail. Local Ecological Networks need to be recorded on Local Authorities Policies Maps</p>
<p>Landscape</p>	<p>Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty</p>	<p>Located within an AONB or located near to its (typically within the immediate landscape setting of the AONB)</p>	

Topic	Criteria	Indicator	Opportunities for substitute information
	Landscape Character	Would result in loss of features important to landscape character (e.g. hedgerow density, vistas, etc.)	Although there is no single dataset representing features important to landscape character, surrogate sources of information exist, including: tree preservation orders and the Sites and Monuments Record. Other features, such as hedgerows, will be readily identifiable from aerial photographs and sites visits.
		Would lead to loss of visual amenity (e.g. affecting local view point)	On this basis, the presence of any of the following features will be recorded and assessed as a substitute for more definitive information on visual amenity. These include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Viewpoints • Conservation areas or Green Belt land • Public footpaths • Open access land Such information is generally available for most locations.
	Green Belt	Green Belt	

Topic	Criteria	Indicator	Opportunities for substitute information
	Conservation Area	Conservation Area (or within the setting of a conservation area)	
Cultural Heritage	Listed buildings and Parks and Gardens	Grade 1 & 2* and Grade 2 listed buildings and structures. Located within or close to park or other formal space of local historic importance or locally significant buildings	
	Archaeological or Historic Monuments	Scheduled Ancient Monument Structures or remains listed on the Sites and Monuments Record	
Health and Well-being	Public Rights of Way	PRoW Would necessitate temporary diversion of rights of way	
	Flood Risk	Flood Zones 2 & 3 (see Appendix 4)	

Topic	Criteria	Indicator	Opportunities for substitute information
	Non-Complementary Land-uses	Near to non-complementary land-use such as residential areas and public spaces (e.g. places of worship, schools, hospitals , and other premises attracted significant numbers of people)	Options include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Area-based descriptions (e.g. predominantly residential, mixed use, non-residential) • Focus on urban context (e.g. urban centre, industrial parks, sub-urban, rural) • Identifying sensitive developments (e.g. schools, care homes, retail areas, etc.)
Infrastructure	Airfield Exclusion Zones	Within 3km of Airfield Exclusion Zones Within 13km of AEZ	
	Infrastructure and Accessibility	Ability to connect to railway network Located within 5km of primary road network Suitability of access roads to carry HGVs Rate of Road Traffic Accidents on local routes	Information on the suitability of local road access may be indicated by using existing road classifications, supplemented by records relating to road traffic accidents and other factors, such as congestion problems.

Topic	Criteria	Indicator	Opportunities for substitute information
	Planning Status	Resulting in re-use of buildings within B2 Industrial Allocation Resulting in re-use of Brownfield Sites (with or without B2 Industrial Allocations status) Greenfield (with existing plan allocation status)	
	Market Location	Sited within 15km of principle sources of waste arisings.	

APPENDIX 3 – HABITATS REGULATIONS ASSESSMENT

The process undertaken so far for the purposes of this Scoping Report are as follows:

- European wildlife sites falling within or near to the plan area have been identified and details of potential threats have been compiled based on information presented in earlier assessments.
- An audit of information which will be available to describe the environmental conditions around those wildlife sites has been undertaken.

Proposed Assessment Stages

1. The environmental conditions around each European wildlife site will be mapped, according to data on the distribution of SSSIs, BHSs, and Priority Habitats. Additional information (such as reports prepared for river basin management plans) will be used as appropriate.
2. Sites and policies will be assessed to see whether they would impact on a European wildlife site, or an area revealed by the mapping as having significance to a European wildlife site.
3. Consultations with other local planning authorities will determine whether there are other development proposals in the area around a submitted site. This information will be used to determine the cumulative effect of any potential impacts.
4. Recommendations will be made on the suitability of the locations submitted, and any restrictions that might need to be placed on the sites going forward, before the requirements of the Habitats Regulations can be met.

European Wildlife Sites within the Plan Area

Site Name	SAC	SPA	Potential Threats
Calf Hill & Cragg Woods	✓		Low – Small site in rural location on the north slope of the Bowland Fells, within the AONB. The site lies approx. 5km SW of the Claughton Brickworks.

Site Name	SAC	SPA	Potential Threats
Ribble & Alt Estuaries		✓	High – Extensive estuarine site bordering built up areas of Lytham St Anne's and Warton, and lying downstream from Preston and the Central Lancashire towns of Chorley and Leyland. The site is vulnerable to physical disturbance and contamination from pollutants (including organic materials). Areas of grazing marsh around the site are important to bird populations and may be sensitive to noise and visual disturbance. Many of these areas are designated as Biological Heritage Sites.
Morecambe Bay *	✓	✓	High –The extent of the site brings it in contact with all the major coastal settlements, and its vulnerability is exaggerated by lying downstream of most of the major river catchments in the Plan area and its surrounds. Issues affecting the site are similar to those affecting the Ribble & Alt Estuaries.
Bowland Fells		✓	Low – Extensive site occupying high ground within the Forest of Bowland. The site is principally vulnerable to land management issues (e.g. animal stocking, moorland burning and water catchment management) and to the effects of rural tourism. The site is isolated from any major areas of development and its upland topography makes it invulnerable to water pollution from activities downstream.
South Pennine Moors	✓		Moderate/High – The site comprises extensive upland areas in two discrete units, part of which falls within Lancashire, and lies SE of Burnley. The site, which extends into East Yorkshire towards Halifax and Bradford, is surrounded by major cross-country roads and suffers from a general atmospheric pollution due to its setting within a highly industrialised part of the country. Although historically subject to intensive quarrying activities, there relatively few remaining operations in this part of the plan area.
Leighton Moss *		✓	Low – Although water quality and levels are critical factors in the environmental condition of the site, the catchment area is small and it is extremely unlikely that there would be any need for development to be brought forward which would affect the site.

Site Name	SAC	SPA	Potential Threats
North Pennine Dales Meadows	✓		Low – The principle management concerns at these sites (6% of which fall within the plan area) relate to agricultural practices. The sites within Lancashire are clustered around the village of Slaidburn, and there is little pressure for development in the vicinity of these sites.
Martin Mere *		✓	Moderate – This small site forms part of a once larger extent of wetland habitats in the area. The site is located north-west of Burscough and Ormskirk. The site is particularly sensitive to pollution and nutrient enrichment, although current problems are not substantially related to urban development.
Morecambe Bay Pavements	✓		Low/Moderate – The Lancashire sites fall within the Arnside & Silverdale AONB, affording some degree of protection from development. Significant mineral extraction currently takes place at Over Kellet, Carnforth, in an area of limestone situated SE of the Morecambe Bay Pavements. Although, there are no SACs designated in this area, there are several Limestone Pavement Orders and a number of local Biological Heritage Sites.

European Wildlife Sites outside the Plan Area

Site Name	SAC	SPA	Potential Threats
<u>Cumbria</u>			
River Kent	✓		Low
Roudsea Wood & Mosses	✓		Low
Witherslack Mosses	✓		Low
<u>Yorkshire</u>			
North Pennine Moors	✓	✓	Low
Malham Tarn *			Low
<u>Merseyside & Greater Manchester</u>			
Rochdale Canal	✓		Low
Manchester Mosses	✓		Low
Sefton Coast	✓		Moderate – Physically connected to the Ribble & Alt Estuaries SPA.

Mersey Estuary		✓	Low
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* Denotes site designated as Ramsar site.

Information Audit

The following information will be available to describe the environmental conditions within and around European wildlife sites

Data Source	Details	Ownership
Upper Tier Environmental Designations	Citations relating SAC, SPA and Ramsar sites provide details of the species and habitats for which the site is designated and any notable pressures they face.	JNCC/Natural England
Lower Tier Environmental Designations	<p>Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) do exist outside of European wildlife sites, and indicate environments of exceptional importance. In some cases, these environments are also important to nearby European sites.</p> <p>Biological Heritage Sites have been designated covering the most important habitats outside of the statutorily designated wildlife sites. These currently cover 8% of the plan area.</p>	Natural England & Joint Authorities
BAP Priority Habitats	<p>Information available on the distribution and extent of selected Priority Habitats based on nationally available datasets. Priority Habitats mapped include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coastal, floodplain grazing marsh • Coastal sand dunes • Purple moor grass and rush pasture • Lowland meadows, calcareous grassland and heathland • Woodlands (incl. beech and yew, mixed deciduous, upland oak and upland ashwoods) • Upland heath and blanket bog • Fen & Reedbeds <p>Mapped extents are provisional</p>	Natural England (via 'Nature on the Map')

Data Source	Details	Ownership
Other habitat inventories	Grassland Inventory sites Ancient Woodland Forestry Commission woodland National Inventory of Woodland and Trees.	MAGIC.gov.uk
	Phase One Habitat Survey.	Lancashire CC
Physical features (e.g. Rivers, Groundwater bodies, etc.)	Information on the extent and condition of physical features acting as potential pathways for polluting activities. Data is being assembled as part of the River Basin Management Plans and provides. Information includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rivers • Catchment Areas • Coastal and Estuarine areas • Groundwater • Flood risk 	Environment Agency

APPENDIX 4 – STRATEGIC FLOOD RISK ASSESSMENT

Details of the main river catchments, along with the towns they affect and the predicted effects of climate change are detailed in the table below.

River Catchment	Principle Towns	Climate Change [#]
River Irwell	Rawtenstall	+0.4m
River Lune	Lancaster, Morecambe	+0.3m
River Wyre	Grastang, Thornton, Fleetwood	+0.3m
River Ribble	Preston, Blackburn, Burnley, Colne, Nelson, Accrington	+0.2 to 0.3m
River Douglas	Chorley, Leyland	+0.7m
Alt & Crossens	Ormskirk	As River Douglas
Coastal Areas	Blackpool, Fleetwood, Morecambe, Lancaster	+0.275m

Predicted effects on river flow levels and sea-level rise (in coast areas) by 2050s.

Along with other planning considerations, national policy requires the authorities to first seek to locate development within areas with the lowest probability of flooding (Flood Zone 1) using a concept known as the Sequential Test.

If (having applied the Sequential Test) it is necessary to apply the Exception Test, then additional information will be sought about the type(s) of development proposed (e.g. the waste management technologies to be deployed). Such information will need to be sufficient to enable alternative locations to be considered, or any overriding reason for the development at the location proposed. Where it seems the exception test is required, discussions will be sought with the Environment Agency.