



HYNDBURN – LOCAL PLAN SCOPING CONSULTATION JULY 2026

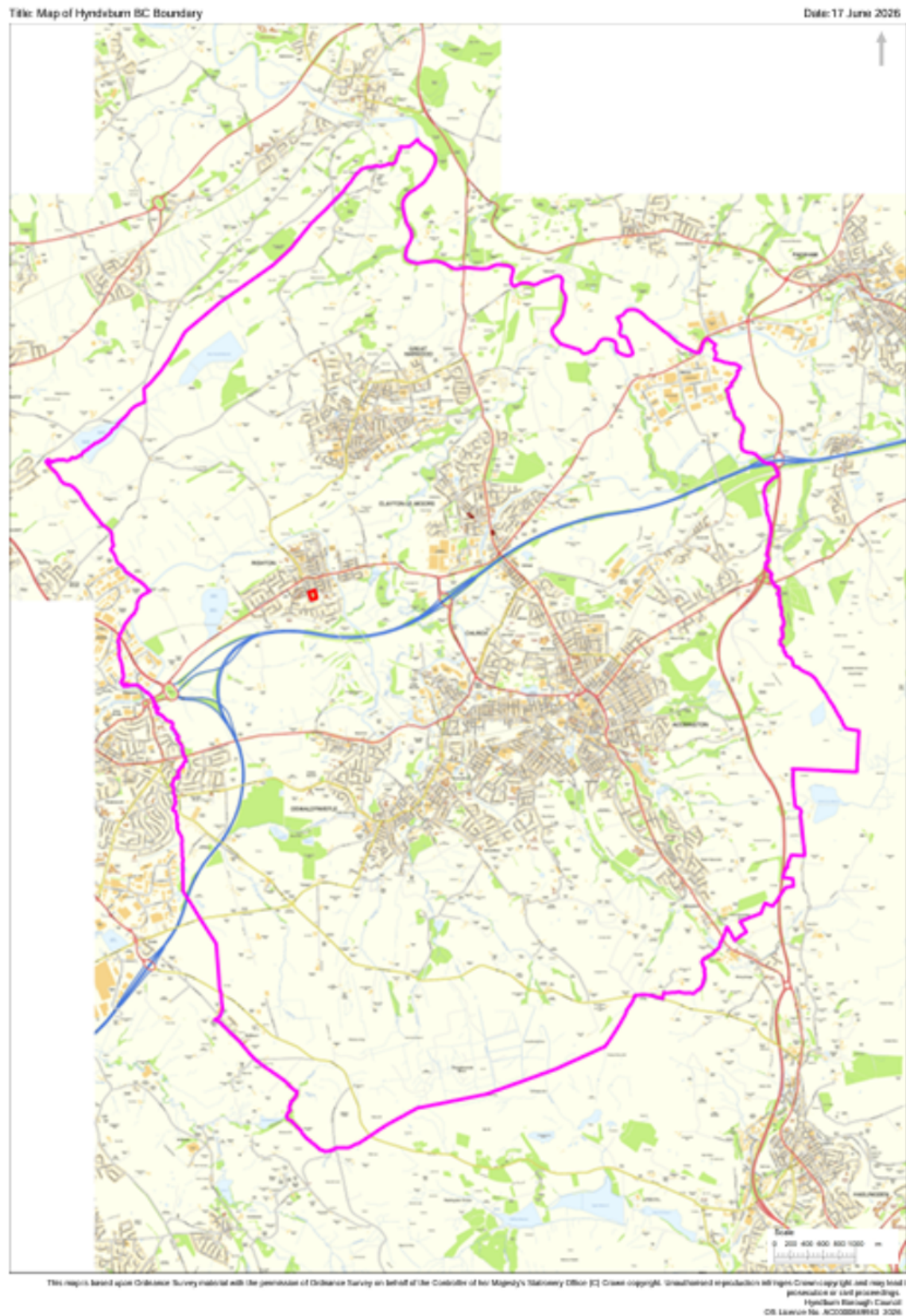
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1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 On 25 March 2026, the Government introduced regulations establishing a new plan-making system for local plans. Under the new system, local planning authorities are required to prepare and adopt local plans within 30 months, approximately half the time that the current system typically requires.
- 1.2 The revised process includes an initial stage of early engagement, followed by two formal rounds of public consultation and three gateway assessments. The first gateway assessment is undertaken by the local planning authority, while the second and third gateway assessments are led by the Planning Inspectorate. These gateway assessments are intended to identify and address key issues at an early stage and determine whether the plan is sufficiently progressed to proceed to independent examination.
- 1.3 The independent examination is expected to commence within the 30-month plan-making period and, where possible, be completed within six months.
- 1.4 Hyndburn Borough Council submitted its Local Plan 2040 for independent examination on 10 March 2025 under the previous ("legacy") plan-making system. The Plan was examined against the December 2023 National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and was subsequently adopted by the Council on 16 July 2026.
- 1.5 The Government has required all local planning authorities that submitted a local plan for examination under the legacy system before 12 March 2025 to formally confirm their intention to transition to the new plan-making system by 30 June 2026. Hyndburn Borough Council met this requirement by submitting its Notice of Intention to Commence Plan-Making on 30 June 2026.
- 1.6 The Council will now prepare a new Local Plan under the revised plan-making system. This document, to be known as the **Hyndburn Local Plan**, will provide the planning framework for the whole of the Borough and will cover the administrative area of Hyndburn, as illustrated on the map below.

Figure 1: Hyndburn BC Boundary



Scoping Consultation

- 1.7 The first stage of consultation under the new plan-making system is the Scoping Consultation. This provides an opportunity for early engagement with residents, businesses, landowners, developers, infrastructure providers and other stakeholders to help shape the new Local Plan. We want to understand what issues the Plan should address, what opportunities should be explored and how people would like to be involved throughout the plan-making process.
- 1.8 To assist you in responding, this document sets out the matters that the Council considers relevant to the preparation of the Local Plan in accordance with Regulation 20 of the *Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2026*.
- 1.9 The consultation will run from **[insert dates]**. Details of how to submit your comments are provided at the end of this document and on the Council's website: **[insert link]**.

Why are we preparing a new Local Plan?

- 1.10 Hyndburn Borough Council adopted the Local Plan 2040 in July 2026. However, the Government has introduced a new plan-making system which requires all local planning authorities to prepare a new style Local Plan under the *Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2026*.
- 1.11 The Government's planning reforms are intended to increase the delivery of new homes, support economic growth and simplify the planning system. They also require councils to plan for revised housing requirements and prepare Local Plans using a new process and format.
- 1.12 Preparing an updated Local Plan will enable the Council to plan positively for future growth, identify the most suitable locations for new development and ensure that the necessary infrastructure is provided alongside it. Without an up-to-date Local Plan, there is an increased risk of speculative development coming forward in locations that are not identified as appropriate for growth, making it more difficult for the Council to manage development in the interests of local communities.
- 1.13 The new Local Plan must be prepared within a statutory 30-month timetable and will be produced primarily in a digital format, in line with Government requirements.
- 1.14 The Plan will establish a long-term vision and spatial strategy for Hyndburn, identify land for future development and include place-specific planning policies where these are needed. Many of the detailed development management

policies previously contained within Local Plans will instead be set nationally through the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

- 1.15 The latest version of the National Planning Policy Framework can be viewed here: [insert link].

Call for Sites

- 1.16 Alongside this Scoping Consultation, the Council is undertaking a Call for Sites exercise. This invites landowners, developers and other interested parties to submit sites that they consider suitable for development or other land uses.
- 1.17 The information received will help the Council understand what land may be available for future development and assess whether sites are suitable, available, achievable and viable. Submitting a site does not mean that it will be allocated in the Local Plan.
- 1.18 Further information on the Call for Sites exercise is available here: [insert link].

Future Consultation Stages

- 1.19 Following the Scoping Consultation, there will be two further statutory consultation stages before the Local Plan is submitted for examination:
1. **Draft Local Plan** – consultation on the draft vision, objectives, spatial strategy, evidence base and emerging planning policies.
 2. **Proposed Local Plan** – consultation on the full proposed Local Plan before it is submitted to the Secretary of State for independent examination.

Local Development Scheme

- 1.20 The timetable for preparing the Hyndburn Local Plan is set out in the Council's Local Development Scheme, which can be viewed here:

[New Plan-Making System – Hyndburn Borough Council](#)

2.0 National Changes to the Planning System

- 2.1 Over the last two years the Government has introduced significant changes to the planning system. These changes will have a direct influence on the preparation of the Hyndburn Local Plan and the decisions the Council must make. The key changes are outlined below.

Housing Requirement

- 2.2 The Government has introduced a new mandatory method for calculating the minimum number of homes that each local planning authority must plan for. This is known as the Standard Method and effectively sets the Borough's housing requirement.
- 2.3 The Standard Method is based on the existing housing stock within an area, with an additional uplift applied in locations where housing is less affordable. As housing in Hyndburn is generally more affordable than in many other parts of the country, no affordability uplift is applied. However, the new methodology still results in a significantly higher housing requirement than that contained in the adopted Local Plan.

Housing Requirement	Dwellings per year
Adopted Local Plan 2040	194
Government Standard Method	303

- 2.4 This represents an increase of 109 dwellings per year, or approximately 56%. As a result, the Council will need to identify additional land for housing within the new Local Plan. The housing requirement is set nationally and is not a matter over which the Council has discretion.

Green Belt

- 2.5 National planning policy has also changed in relation to the Green Belt. The Government now makes clear that, where there is an identified need for additional housing or employment land that cannot be accommodated elsewhere, this may justify changes to Green Belt boundaries through the Local Plan process.
- 2.6 As part of preparing the new Local Plan, the Council will therefore undertake a comprehensive review of the Borough's Green Belt.
- 2.7 The Government has also introduced the concept of Grey Belt land. This generally refers to land within the Green Belt that has previously been developed or makes only a limited contribution to the purposes of the Green

Belt, such as preventing urban sprawl or safeguarding the setting of historic towns.

- 2.8 National policy requires councils to consider Grey Belt land before releasing other Green Belt land for development. The Council will therefore update its Green Belt Assessment to identify whether any areas of Grey Belt exist and whether they may be suitable for development.

Brownfield Land

- 2.9 The Government has strengthened national policy in favour of developing brownfield land (previously developed land) before greenfield sites wherever possible. Hyndburn contains a significant amount of brownfield land and the Council will seek to maximise opportunities to regenerate these sites.
- 2.10 The accompanying Call for Sites exercise will initially focus on identifying suitable brownfield opportunities. Only where there is insufficient suitable, available and deliverable brownfield land to meet the Borough's development needs will additional greenfield sites be considered.

Housing Land Supply

- 2.11 Although the Council adopted the Local Plan 2040 in July 2026, it was prepared under the previous planning system and examined against the December 2023 National Planning Policy Framework.
- 2.12 The Government has introduced transitional arrangements for authorities in this position. These require councils with recently adopted "legacy" Local Plans to apply a 20% buffer when calculating their five-year housing land supply. For Hyndburn, this increases the housing requirement used for monitoring purposes from 194 dwellings per year to 233 dwellings per year.
- 2.13 If the Council cannot demonstrate a sufficient five-year supply of deliverable housing sites, national planning policy will apply a presumption in favour of sustainable development. This could make it more difficult for the Council to resist planning applications for housing that conflict with Local Plan policies.

Employment and Economic Growth

- 2.14 The Local Plan must also provide sufficient land to support future economic growth. An increase in the Borough's housing requirement is likely to result in population growth over the lifetime of the Plan. This will increase demand for employment opportunities and supporting infrastructure.
- 2.15 The Council will therefore consider whether additional land should be allocated for employment uses to support existing businesses, encourage inward investment and provide jobs for future residents.

Environmental Assessment

- 2.16 The preparation of the Local Plan must continue to be supported by environmental assessment.
- 2.17 The Council is required to undertake a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) to assess the likely environmental effects of the Plan. Where necessary, a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) will also be undertaken to consider potential impacts on internationally protected habitats and species.
- 2.18 Under the new plan-making system, the previous requirement to prepare a combined Sustainability Appraisal (SA) has been removed. However, the Council intends to broaden the Strategic Environmental Assessment by considering potential impacts on health and wellbeing, where appropriate.
- 2.19 The Council will also prepare an Equality Impact Assessment throughout the plan-making process to ensure that the Local Plan has appropriate regard to the needs of all sections of the community.
- 2.20 The Strategic Environmental Assessment will be published alongside each stage of consultation so that interested parties can comment on its findings.

3.0 Matters to be Considered in the Local Plan

- 3.1 The Local Plan will provide the framework for guiding development across Hyndburn over the plan period. It will consist of the following key elements:
- Vision – a description of what the Borough should look like by the end of the plan period.
 - Objectives – the key aims the Local Plan will seek to achieve.
 - Spatial Strategy and Spatial Policies – setting out where growth should take place and the overall approach to future development.
 - Local Policies – place-specific planning policies that address issues unique to Hyndburn where these are not covered by national policy.
 - Site Allocations – identifying land for future housing, employment and other development.
 - Monitoring Framework – setting out how the Council will monitor the implementation and effectiveness of the Local Plan.
 - Policies Map – illustrating geographically where the Local Plan policies and site allocations apply.
- 3.2 The Spatial Strategy forms the foundation of the Local Plan. It establishes the overall pattern of growth across the Borough, identifies the amount of development that is required and explains where that development should be located over the plan period.
- 3.3 The Spatial Strategy provides the framework for the more detailed policies and site allocations contained within the Local Plan. It seeks to direct development to the most sustainable locations, taking account of existing communities, infrastructure, environmental constraints and opportunities for regeneration.
- 3.4 The adopted Hyndburn Local Plan 2040 (Strategic Policies and Site Allocations) established a settlement pattern and hierarchy that focused growth within the Borough's urban areas and directed development to centres according to their role, function and accessibility.
- 3.5 As part of preparing the new Local Plan, the Council is seeking views on whether this overall approach remains appropriate or whether changes should be considered in response to the Government's planning reforms, the increased housing requirement and any changes to local circumstances.

Settlement Type	Growth Strategy
<u>Principal Town</u> Accrington (includes the townships of Baxenden, Church, Clayton-le-Moors, Huncoat and Oswaldtwistle)	The Principal Town will accommodate the majority of new development. Accrington will be the principal centre and will provide for the Borough's key services, retail and town centre needs. Huncoat will grow at a significantly faster rate than the other Accrington townships to support Huncoat Garden Village.
<u>Key Towns</u> Great Harwood, Rishton, Knuzden	The Key Towns will develop in a manner broadly consistent with their existing size and function. Rishton will see higher relative growth than Great Harwood owing to its proximity to employment sites, superior transport links and schools.
<u>Main Villages</u> Altham	Within the settlement of Altham, new development will be limited to infilling or that required to meet identified community needs for affordable housing. Consolidation and growth of the existing business park will be supported.
<u>Villages within the Rural Area</u> Belthorn Green Haworth	New development will be limited to: • that needed to meet identified community needs for affordable housing; or • other forms of development which satisfy the requirements of Green Belt and countryside/rural area policies. Proposals should be appropriate to the scale and form of the settlement.

Table 1: Hyndburn Local Plan 2040 Spatial Development Strategy (Policy SP1)

QUESTION 4: Is the settlement pattern established by the Hyndburn Local Plan 2040 still the most appropriate strategy for delivering sustainable growth across the Borough?

QUESTION 5: Are there any alternative growth strategies or spatial approaches that the Council should consider as part of the new Local Plan?

3.6 The new Local Plan is expected to contain significantly fewer Local Policies than the current adopted Plan. This reflects the fact that many matters previously addressed through local policy are now covered by the national decision-making policies set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), reducing the need for duplication.

3.7 However, there remain a number of issues that are specific to Hyndburn and which are likely to require locally distinctive planning policies. At this stage, the Council considers these to include:

- Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) and specialist housing to meet the needs of groups who cannot readily access the open housing market, including older people, looked after children and people with disabilities.
- The Leeds and Liverpool Canal corridor.
- The regeneration of key brownfield sites, including former mills and industrial land.
- The Accrington Town Centre Action Area.

QUESTION 6: Are there any other local issues or topics that you think the Local Plan should address through locally specific planning policies?

3.8 The Local Plan will identify and allocate additional sites to meet Hyndburn's future development needs over the Plan period. To inform this process, the Council has launched a Call for Sites, inviting landowners, developers and other interested parties to submit sites for consideration. The Council is particularly keen to identify suitable brownfield sites that can support regeneration and make effective use of previously developed land.

3.9 Further information on the Call for Sites, including how to submit a site, can be found here: **ADD LINK**.

3.10 The Monitoring Framework is a standard component of the Local Plan. It sets out how the implementation and effectiveness of the Plan's policies will be monitored throughout the Plan period. This will enable the Council to assess whether the Plan is achieving its objectives and identify when policy reviews or other interventions may be required.

3.11 The Policies Map illustrates the geographical extent of the Local Plan's policies and site allocations. For the new Local Plan, the Council intends to produce an interactive digital Policies Map that will allow users to easily explore planning designations and site allocations. Each designation will include a direct link to the relevant Local Plan policy, making the document easier to navigate and use.

QUESTION 7: Are there any other local issues or matters that you think should be addressed in the new Local Plan?

Vision and Objectives

- 3.12 Every Local Plan must include a Vision and a set of Objectives. Together, these establish the long-term direction of the Plan and provide the overarching framework that guides its policies, site allocations and decision-making throughout the Plan period.
- 3.13 As the Council only recently adopted the Hyndburn Local Plan 2040 (Strategic Policies and Site Allocations) on 16 July 2026, it is appropriate to begin by considering whether the existing Vision and Objectives remain relevant and fit for purpose, or whether they should be updated to reflect changing circumstances and future aspirations for the Borough.
- 3.14 The Vision contained within the adopted Hyndburn Local Plan 2040 states:

“In 2040 Hyndburn will be a vibrant, distinctive, and prosperous area of Pennine Lancashire. It will be recognised for the collective quality and attractiveness of its market towns, its diverse communities, its landscape setting, environmental credentials, including a high quality built and historic environment, a healthy natural environment and its response to climate change, and the special qualities of Huncoat Garden Village.

A good choice of homes, skilled local jobs, and efficient infrastructure and service provision has ensured that Hyndburn has grown in a sustainable way, with healthier residents, safer communities, a natural environment that is protected and enhanced and is seen as a great place to settle.”

QUESTION 8: Is the Vision still appropriate for Hyndburn and does it provide the right long-term direction for delivering sustainable growth while protecting the qualities that people value and maintaining a high quality of life?

- 3.15 The adopted Local Plan is underpinned by five Strategic Objectives, which translate the Vision into a series of priorities for the Borough.

Strategic Objective 1

“To create greater opportunities for all to access improved economic opportunities and to provide support for the local economy and higher wage employment”

- 3.16 A strong and resilient economy is fundamental to improving the quality of life of Hyndburn's residents. The Local Plan plays an important role in supporting economic growth by ensuring that sufficient land is available for businesses to invest, expand and create jobs, whilst protecting established employment areas from inappropriate development.

- 3.17 Hyndburn has significant economic strengths, particularly in advanced manufacturing, logistics and distribution, supported by strategic employment locations such as Altham Business Park and Whitebirk, together with excellent connections to the M65 and wider regional transport network. The Local Plan should continue to build on these strengths while supporting the growth of emerging sectors such as digital technologies, professional services, health and low-carbon industries.
- 3.18 Despite recent investment and business growth, Hyndburn continues to experience relatively low productivity, lower average resident earnings and higher levels of economic inactivity than national averages. Many of the Borough's higher-paid jobs are filled by people who commute into the area, meaning that the benefits of economic growth are not always retained within the local economy. The Local Plan should therefore seek to ensure that the opportunities created through new development are accessible to local communities and contribute towards reducing deprivation and improving social mobility.
- 3.19 The Borough's town and local centres also play an important role in supporting businesses, employment and community life. Like many centres across the country, they continue to face challenges arising from changing shopping habits, online retailing and changing patterns of working and leisure. The Local Plan should support the continued regeneration, adaptation and diversification of these centres, ensuring that they remain attractive, vibrant and economically resilient places.
- 3.20 This Strategic Objective reflects national planning policy and supports the ambitions of the Council and its strategic partners to deliver sustainable economic growth, improve productivity, attract investment and create better employment opportunities across Hyndburn.

QUESTION 9: Does Strategic Objective 1 continue to reflect the economic priorities of Hyndburn, or are there any additional issues that the new Local Plan should address?

Strategic Objective 2

“To provide for a greater choice and quality of housing, designed and built to incorporate ‘active design’ principles to enable people to lead active lives, including through transformational change at Huncoat Garden Village”

- 3.21 Providing a wide choice of high-quality homes is fundamental to creating sustainable communities and supporting the Borough's future growth. The Local Plan should ensure that sufficient land is available to meet identified

housing needs while delivering homes that meet the needs of existing and future residents.

- 3.22 Hyndburn's housing stock is characterised by a high proportion of older terraced housing, with more than half of all homes built before 1919. Whilst these properties form an important part of the Borough's character, they do not always provide the range of housing required to meet modern needs. There remains a need to deliver a more balanced housing market by increasing the supply of larger family homes, accessible housing for older people and people with disabilities, affordable housing, specialist accommodation and other housing types that meet the needs of different groups within the community.
- 3.23 Although house prices in Hyndburn remain relatively affordable compared with many parts of the country, there is still a significant need for affordable housing. The Local Plan should therefore support the delivery of homes across a range of sizes, types and tenures to meet identified local needs and help residents access suitable housing throughout all stages of life.
- 3.24 Providing high-quality housing also plays an important role in supporting economic growth. A diverse housing offer can help retain existing residents, attract new households and provide homes close to employment opportunities, reducing the need to travel and supporting sustainable communities.
- 3.25 The Local Plan will support the Government's objective of significantly increasing the supply of homes by ensuring that sufficient deliverable and developable sites are allocated to meet housing requirements throughout the Plan period. It will also seek to ensure that the housing delivered reflects the needs of different groups within the community, including those requiring affordable housing, older persons' accommodation, accessible homes, self-build opportunities and accommodation for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople where a need is identified.
- 3.26 A key component of this objective will be the delivery of Huncoat Garden Village, alongside other sustainable housing developments across the Borough, helping to create a more balanced, diverse and resilient housing market.

QUESTION 10: Does Strategic Objective 2 continue to reflect Hyndburn's housing priorities, or are there any changes or additional issues that the Council should consider?

Strategic Objective 3

"To improve and sustain quality of health and wellbeing and enable the residents of Hyndburn to lead active lifestyles"

- 3.27 Improving the health and wellbeing of residents remains a key priority for the Local Plan. Although health outcomes have improved over time, there continue to be significant inequalities across the Borough, with life expectancy, levels of long-term ill health and participation in physical activity remaining below regional and national averages in some communities.
- 3.28 The planning system has an important role to play in creating healthy places. Well-designed development can encourage walking, cycling and other forms of physical activity, provide access to high-quality green spaces and recreation facilities, improve air quality and create safe, inclusive environments that promote physical and mental wellbeing.
- 3.29 Development proposals should embrace the contribution they can make to healthier lifestyles by incorporating, where appropriate, the principles of Active Design and creating places that encourage everyday physical activity. The Local Plan should also support access to healthcare facilities, community infrastructure and open spaces, helping to ensure that all residents have opportunities to live healthy and active lives.

QUESTION 11: Does Strategic Objective 3 continue to reflect the health and wellbeing priorities for Hyndburn, or are there any changes or additional issues that the Council should consider?

Strategic Objective 4

“To conserve and, where appropriate, enhance a valued urban, and rural and historic environment that is ready to address the causes and effects of climate change”

- 3.30 Protecting and enhancing the environment is fundamental to achieving sustainable development. The Local Plan should ensure that growth is delivered in a way that conserves the Borough's valued landscapes, biodiversity, heritage assets and green spaces, while supporting measures to mitigate and adapt to climate change.
- 3.31 Addressing climate change remains one of the Council's highest priorities. The Local Plan should promote development that is resilient to the impacts of climate change and supports the transition to a low-carbon future. This includes encouraging sustainable design and construction, improving energy efficiency, supporting renewable and low-carbon energy, reducing flood risk, promoting sustainable transport, protecting and enhancing green infrastructure and delivering biodiversity net gain.

- 3.32 Hyndburn benefits from a rich and diverse natural environment, including attractive countryside, woodland, waterways, parks, Local Nature Reserves and nationally important wildlife sites.
- 3.33 These environmental assets make an important contribution to biodiversity, climate resilience, health and wellbeing, recreation and the Borough's distinct identity. The Local Plan should seek to protect and enhance these assets for the benefit of current and future generations.
- 3.34 The Borough also has a distinctive built and historic environment, with listed buildings, conservation areas, historic parks and gardens and a legacy of industrial heritage that contributes significantly to local character and sense of place. The Local Plan should ensure that these heritage assets are conserved and, where appropriate, enhanced in accordance with national planning policy.
- 3.35 The Green Belt continues to play an important role in preventing urban sprawl, safeguarding the countryside and directing development towards sustainable locations. The Local Plan should continue to ensure that development within rural areas respects their character and setting while protecting the openness and purposes of the Green Belt.

QUESTION 12: Does Strategic Objective 4 continue to reflect Hyndburn's environmental, heritage and climate change priorities, or are there any changes or additional issues that the Council should consider?

Strategic Objective 5

"To provide easy access for all to good quality services and facilities"

- 3.36 Sustainable communities depend upon having access to a wide range of services, facilities and infrastructure that support people's daily lives. This includes healthcare, education, community facilities, open spaces, leisure and cultural facilities, digital connectivity, utilities and transport infrastructure.
- 3.37 The Local Plan should ensure that new development is supported by the infrastructure needed to make it sustainable. Where appropriate, developers will be expected to contribute towards the provision or improvement of infrastructure that is necessary to support new development and mitigate its impacts, in accordance with national planning policy and relevant legislation.
- 3.38 Protecting and enhancing community facilities, public open spaces and green infrastructure will remain an important priority. These assets contribute significantly to health and wellbeing, community cohesion, biodiversity and the overall quality of life enjoyed by residents.

- 3.39 The Local Plan should also promote development in locations that are well connected by walking, cycling and public transport, enabling people to access employment, education, healthcare, shops and other services without unnecessary reliance on the private car. Supporting sustainable transport, improving accessibility and maintaining an efficient strategic transport network will be important in helping to deliver economic growth, reduce carbon emissions and improve health outcomes.
- 3.40 Although Hyndburn benefits from relatively good accessibility within its urban areas, there remain opportunities to improve connections within the Borough and to neighbouring areas. The Local Plan should continue to support improvements to transport infrastructure and digital connectivity where they contribute to sustainable development and improve access to jobs, services and opportunities.

QUESTION 13: Does Strategic Objective 5 continue to reflect Hyndburn's priorities for infrastructure, community facilities and accessibility, or are there any changes or additional issues that the Council should consider?

Evidence Base

- 3.41 The Local Plan must be supported by a robust and proportionate evidence base. This evidence will ensure that the Plan is based on up-to-date information and that its policies and site allocations are justified by appropriate technical evidence.
- 3.42 As evidence is completed, it will be published on the Council's website in a digital, accessible and searchable format so that residents, businesses and stakeholders can view the information used to inform the preparation of the Local Plan.
- 3.43 The Council recognises that local government in Lancashire is expected to be reorganised, with new unitary authorities anticipated from 1 April 2028. As work on the Local Plan progresses, the Council will work closely with neighbouring authorities and other partners to ensure that evidence is commissioned efficiently and, where appropriate, jointly across authority boundaries. This will help achieve consistency, reduce duplication and make the best use of public resources.
- 3.44 Much of the existing evidence prepared to support the adopted Hyndburn Local Plan 2040 remains relevant. However, a number of studies will need to be updated to reflect changes in national planning policy, legislation, local circumstances and the extended Plan period.

Key Evidence	Area Covered (e.g. just LPA or broader) and justification for requiring the evidence
Strategic Environmental Assessment / Environmental Outcomes Report	A statutory requirement that assesses the likely environmental, social and economic effects of the Local Plan and informs sustainable decision-making throughout the plan-making process.
Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)	A statutory assessment of the potential effects of the Local Plan on internationally important nature conservation sites, including cumulative impacts where appropriate.
Equality Impact Assessment	A statutory assessment to ensure the Local Plan has appropriate regard to equality legislation and its potential impacts on protected groups.
Housing Needs Assessment	To identify future housing needs, including affordable housing, specialist accommodation and housing for different groups within the community. The previous assessment will require updating.
Housing Land Supply and Green Belt Assessment	To identify suitable land for housing development and review Green Belt matters where necessary, taking account of current national planning policy, including Grey Belt.
Call for Sites and Site Assessment	To identify and assess potential development sites and ensure sufficient land is available to meet future development needs.
Employment Needs Assessment	To identify future employment land requirements and support sustainable economic growth.
Strategic Flood Risk Assessment	To assess flood risk and inform site allocations and planning policies. A Level 2 assessment may also be required for specific sites.
Transport Assessment	To assess the transport implications of future growth and identify any mitigation or infrastructure improvements required.
Infrastructure Delivery Plan	To identify the infrastructure required to support development, including transport, education, healthcare, utilities, green infrastructure and digital connectivity.
Whole Plan Viability Assessment	To assess whether Local Plan policies and development requirements remain financially viable in light of current development costs and market conditions.

Key Evidence	Area Covered (e.g. just LPA or broader) and justification for requiring the evidence
Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Accommodation Assessment	To identify future accommodation needs over the Plan period.
Ecological Surveys and Local Wildlife Site Reviews	To ensure environmental information is up to date where changes have occurred or new development sites are proposed.
Open Space Audit	To review the quantity, quality and accessibility of open spaces across the Borough.
Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy	To assess future sports pitch requirements and identify any deficiencies.
Built Sports Facilities Assessment	To review the provision of indoor sports and leisure facilities.
Retail and Town Centre Study	To assess the health of the Borough's centres and review retail evidence, town centre boundaries and changing shopping patterns.
Heritage Impact Assessments	To assess the impact of proposed allocations on heritage assets where necessary.

QUESTION 14: Are there any other evidence studies or technical assessments that the Council should prepare to help inform the new Local Plan?

QUESTION 15: Are there any strategic cross-boundary issues that Hyndburn Borough Council should work with neighbouring authorities and other organisations to address through the preparation of the new Local Plan? If so, please tell us what these issues are.

4.0 Getting Involved in the Local Plan Process?

- 4.1 The Council wants everyone who lives, works or has an interest in Hyndburn to have the opportunity to participate in the preparation of the new Local Plan.
- 4.2 The Government's new plan-making system places a much greater emphasis on digital engagement, making it easier for people to access information, view proposals and submit comments online. The Council supports this approach as it has the potential to reach a wider audience and make consultation more accessible and efficient.
- 4.3 However, the Council also recognises that not everyone has access to digital services or feels confident using them. It is therefore important that opportunities remain available for everyone to participate in the Local Plan process, regardless of how they choose to engage.
- 4.4 To achieve this, the Council is considering a range of engagement methods, including:
- Making hard copies of consultation documents available at the Council's main offices and local libraries, as required by the Regulations.
 - Providing a telephone helpline to assist people who are unable to complete consultation responses online.
 - Providing access to public computers at the Council's offices to enable residents to view documents and submit responses electronically.
 - Making greater use of social media and other digital communication channels to raise awareness of consultations and encourage participation.
 - Working with community organisations and representative groups to engage with people who may otherwise be less likely to participate.
 - Holding briefings for Ward Councillors so they are well informed and able to support engagement within their communities.
 - Hosting online presentations, webinars and virtual engagement events to explain proposals and answer questions.
 - Ensuring that consultation documents, maps and response forms are accessible and easy to use on smartphones, tablets and other mobile devices.
- 4.5 The Council is committed to ensuring that the Local Plan process is open, inclusive and accessible, and welcomes suggestions for other ways in which people can be involved.

QUESTION 16: Do you have any suggestions for how the Council could improve public engagement and ensure that everyone has the opportunity to participate in the preparation of the new Local Plan?

How to respond to the consultation

- 4.6 In line with the Government's ambition to create a faster, more efficient and digital plan-making system, the Council has prepared an online consultation questionnaire to enable comments to be submitted electronically.

Complete the consultation online: [ADD LINK](#)

- 4.7 Your views are important and will help shape the scope of the new Local Plan. The feedback received during this consultation will assist the Council in developing a Plan that reflects the priorities and aspirations of local communities while planning positively for the Borough's future.
- 4.8 The consultation will run for six weeks, from **XXXXX to XXXXX**. The online questionnaire is the quickest and most efficient way to submit comments. Responses submitted online are recorded automatically, helping the Council to process and analyse consultation responses more efficiently.
- 4.9 To ensure that all responses can be considered consistently, the Council will only accept comments submitted through the online consultation questionnaire. Separate documents, including PDFs and other attachments, will not be accepted as consultation responses.
- 4.10 In accordance with the Plan-Making Regulations, copies of the Scoping Consultation document will be available to view at:
- Scaitcliffe House, Ormerod Street, Accrington, Lancashire, BB5 0PF.
 - All public libraries within the Borough
- 4.11 If you are unable to access the online questionnaire because you do not have access to the internet or require assistance in submitting your response, please contact the Planning Policy Team:

Email: planningpolicy@hyndburnbc.gov.uk

Telephone: 07748 453552

Next Steps

- 4.12 The Council will publish a summary of the consultation responses and explain how they have informed the next stage of plan preparation.

- 4.13 There will be two further opportunities for public consultation before the Local Plan is submitted for independent examination. These future consultations will provide opportunities to comment on the draft policies, development strategy and proposed site allocations before the Plan is finalised.
- 4.14 Further information on the Local Plan timetable can be found here: [New Plan-Making System – Hyndburn Borough Council](#)

