



HYNDBURN

The place to be
an excellent council

HYNDBURN BOROUGH COUNCIL

SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL ADOPTION STATEMENT

Hyndburn Local Plan 2021–2040 (Strategic Policies and Site Allocations)

16 July 2026

Prepared in accordance with Regulation 16 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 and Regulation 26 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012.

Contents

1. Introduction
2. How Sustainability and Environmental Considerations Have Been Integrated into the Local Plan and How the Sustainability Appraisal Report Has Been Taken into Account
3. How Consultation Responses Have Been Taken into Account
4. Reasons for Choosing the Adopted Local Plan in Light of Reasonable Alternatives Considered
5. Monitoring the Significant Sustainability and Environmental Effects of the Local Plan

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Hyndburn 2040:Local Plan (Strategic Policies and Site Allocations) has been prepared to provide the strategic planning framework for the Borough

and to guide future development, infrastructure provision and environmental protection throughout the plan period.

- 1.2 It is a requirement that a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) is undertaken for the Borough in-line with the procedures prescribed by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 and Regulation 26 of the Town & Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2012.
- 1.3 The Sustainability Appraisal has been an iterative process undertaken alongside plan preparation to ensure that economic, social and environmental considerations have informed decision-making at all stages.
- 1.4 This Adoption Statement has been prepared and explains:
 - How sustainability and environmental considerations have been integrated into the Plan;
 - How the Sustainability Appraisal and Environmental Report have been taken into account;
 - How consultation responses have been taken into account;
 - The reasons for selecting the adopted strategy in light of reasonable alternatives considered; and
 - The measures that will be used to monitor the significant environmental effects arising from implementation of the Plan.

2. How Sustainability and Environmental Considerations Have Been Integrated into the Local Plan and How the Sustainability Appraisal Has Been Taken into Account

Sustainability Appraisal Process

- 2.1 Sustainability Appraisal has informed each stage of Local Plan preparation.
- 2.2 The process commenced with the preparation of a Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report which established:
 - The baseline environmental, social and economic characteristics of the Borough;
 - Key sustainability issues and challenges;
 - Review of relevant plans, programmes and policies; and
 - The Sustainability Appraisal Framework used to assess plan options and policies.

Sustainability Objectives

- 2.3 The Sustainability Appraisal Framework included the following objectives.

1. Support, maintain or enhance the provision of skilled, local or easily accessible employment opportunities, suited to the changing needs of the local workforce.
2. Maintain or enhance conditions that enable a sustainable economy and continued investment.
3. Raise educational achievements throughout the borough.
4. Improve the health of the people of Hyndburn, reduce disparities in health geographically and demographically, and encourage healthy living for all.
5. Reduce and prevent crime/fear of crime and anti-social behaviour in the borough
6. Reduce poverty and, promote equality and social inclusion by closing the gap between the most deprived areas in the borough and the rest of the borough.
7. Improve equality of access to and engagement in quality cultural, educational, leisure, sporting, recreational and community activities for all.
8. Reduce road traffic and congestion, pollution and accidents and improve health through physical activity by increasing the proportion of journeys made by public transport, cycling and walking.
9. Provide everyone with the opportunity to live in good quality, affordable housing of the right type and tenure, in clear, safe and pleasant local environments.
10. Maintain and enhance the vitality and viability of town and retail centres.
11. Protect and enhance the character and built quality of settlements and neighbourhoods and the borough's historic environment and cultural heritage.
12. Move treatment of waste up the Waste Hierarchy.
13. Use natural resources and energy more efficiently.
14. Reduce Hyndburn's contribution to climate change through appropriate mitigation measures.
15. Reduce the vulnerability of Hyndburn to the effects of climate change including risk of flooding.
16. Restore, enhance, maintain and expand biodiversity and geodiversity.
17. Protect, enhance and restore the landscape quality of Hyndburn, including its rural areas and open spaces.
18. Protect and enhance the quality and quantity of watercourses and waterbodies, and maximise the efficient use of water
19. Minimise noise, light and air pollution. 19.1 Minimise air, noise and light pollution and the potential for such pollution.
20. Value, protect and enhance soil quality and resources.

Assessment of Local Plan Policies and Allocations

- 2.4 Successive Sustainability Appraisal reports assessed emerging policies, spatial strategies and site allocation options.

2.5 The findings of the Sustainability Appraisal influenced the development of the Local Plan by:

- Refining strategic objectives and policy wording;
- Strengthening environmental protection measures;
- Supporting climate change mitigation and adaptation requirements;
- Informing the selection of housing and employment allocations;
- Identifying mitigation measures for potential adverse impacts including green infrastructure, enhancement and expansion of natural resources such as trees, direct development away from areas at high risk of flooding;
- Promoting sustainable transport and active travel opportunities; and linkages between centres and development
- Supporting biodiversity net gain and green infrastructure provision.

2.6 The Sustainability Appraisal found that the adopted Local Plan would deliver significant positive effects through:

- Provision of new homes, including affordable housing;
- Economic growth and job creation;
- Regeneration of previously developed land;
- Investment in infrastructure;
- Enhancement of sustainable travel opportunities; and
- Improvements to health and wellbeing.

2.7 Potential adverse effects identified in relation to matters such as landscape, loss of greenfield land, biodiversity, traffic generation and climate change were addressed through policy safeguards, mitigation measures and development management requirements incorporated within the adopted Plan.

2.8 The Council is satisfied that sustainability considerations have been fully integrated throughout preparation of the Local Plan and that the findings of the Sustainability Appraisal have been taken into account in the adopted strategy.

3. How Consultation Responses Have Been Taken into Account

3.1 Consultation on the Sustainability Appraisal was undertaken alongside consultation on the Local Plan at each statutory stage.

3.2 Consultation was undertaken during the following periods.

- SA Scoping Report Consultation: 20th November 2017 – 25th December 2017

- SA Report of the Core Strategy Review and Site Allocations DPD: Regulation 18(1) Consultation Consultation: 28th February 2018 – 11th April 2018
- SA Report of the Core Strategy Review and Site Allocations DPD34 Consultation: 26th February 2019 – 8th April 2019
- SA Addendum Report of the Gypsy and Traveller Policy and Site Options Consultation Paper36 Consultation: 16th December 2019 – 27th January 2020
- IIA Report of the Pre-Submission Hyndburn 2037: The Local Plan (this report) Non-Technical Summary of the IIA Report of the Pre Submission Hyndburn 2037: The Local Plan (November 2023)
- Main Modifications consultation SA Addendum - the 6th March 2026 to the 1st May 2026

3.3 Consultees included:

- Natural England;
- Historic England;
- Environment Agency;
- Lancashire County Council;
- Adjacent local authorities;
- Infrastructure providers;
- Community organisations;
- Landowners and developers; and
- Members of the public.

3.4 Representations received on the Sustainability Appraisal and Local Plan were considered as part of the plan-making process. Consultation feedback contributed to:

- Amendments to strategic and development management policies;
- Revisions to site allocation boundaries;
- Additional policy requirements relating to biodiversity, heritage, landscape and infrastructure;
- Improved wording and clarity of policy provisions; and
- Further supporting evidence and assessment work where necessary.

3.5 The Council prepared consultation reports detailing the issues raised and the actions taken in response.

3.6 During the Examination in Public, matters raised by participants, statutory consultees and the appointed Planning Inspector were considered and, where necessary, addressed through Main Modifications and other changes to the Plan.

- 3.7 The Sustainability Appraisal was updated as required to assess relevant modifications and to ensure that likely significant environmental effects remained fully considered. This Addendum is available on the Council's website alongside this Adoption Statement.

4. Reasons for Choosing the Adopted Local Plan in Light of Reasonable Alternatives Considered

- 4.1 The Sustainability Appraisal considered a range of reasonable alternatives throughout preparation of the Local Plan. Alternatives assessed are set out in the table below.
- 4.2 Each alternative was assessed against the Sustainability Appraisal Framework to identify likely social, economic and environmental effects.
- 4.3 Principally the SA assessed five spatial options:

Spatial Option	Evidence for Selecting this Option for Appraisal
Spatial Option 1 – Core Strategy -led growth	Continue the growth strategy set in the adopted Core Strategy via Policy H1 and strategic allocations.
Spatial Option 2 – Garden Village -led growth	Concentration of more significant growth in the Huncoat area, taking full advantage of the recent designation of the area as a Housing Zone by the Government.
Spatial Option 3 – Transport Corridor -led growth	Focus the distribution of growth around key strategic transport routes such as the East Lancashire railway line, the M65, A56 and Pennine Reach (Quality Bus Route) transport corridors.
Spatial Option 4 – Market Focus -led growth	Focus development in the areas most desirable to developers and landowners (higher value market areas).
Spatial Option 5 – Land Availability -led growth	Focus development in areas where land is already known to be available for housing and employment development.

- 4.4 Taking into account the SA findings and the strategy and policy ambitions of the area, the Council considered that the preferred Spatial Option to take forward should be one that combines all the principles of SO1, SO2, SO3 and SO5 to form a new Spatial Development Strategy for the Borough.
- 4.5 The Spatial Development Strategy supports the development of Accrington as the principal town, with a higher proportion of growth proposed at Huncoat as a Garden Village than the other Accrington townships (utilising the Housing Zone status). Strategic employment allocations will be allocated along the M65 corridor. Development will also be directed to the key towns of Great Harwood, Rishton, Knuzden and Whitebirk, as well as main villages such as Belthorn and Altham and Green Haworth (small village).
- 4.6 The Council concluded that the adopted Local Plan provided the most appropriate strategy when assessed against the reasonable alternatives available and the evidence base supporting the Plan.

- 4.7 While other alternatives may have generated benefits in particular sustainability objectives, they were not considered to provide the same overall balance between economic, social and environmental outcomes.

5. Measures to Monitor the Significant Sustainability and Environmental Effects of the Local Plan

- 5.1 Regulation 17 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 requires monitoring of the significant environmental effects of implementing the Plan.
- 5.2 Monitoring will help identify any unforeseen adverse effects at an early stage and enable appropriate remedial action to be taken.
- 5.3 The Council will monitor implementation of the Local Plan through its Authority Monitoring Report (AMR). The monitoring regime is set out in Chapter 6 - Integrated Impact Assessment of Hyndburn 2037: The Local Plan Regulation 19 Consultation (Pre-Submission).
- 5.4 Where monitoring identifies significant adverse effects or policy underperformance, the Council will consider appropriate responses through policy review, supplementary guidance, partnership working or future plan review.

Conclusion

The Council considers that:

- Sustainability and environmental considerations have been fully integrated into the preparation of the Hyndburn 2040: Local Plan (Strategic Policies and Site Allocations).
- The Sustainability Appraisal and Environmental Report have informed decision-making throughout the process.
- Consultation responses have been appropriately taken into account;
- Reasonable alternatives have been assessed and considered; and
- Appropriate monitoring measures are in place to identify and address significant environmental effects arising from implementation of the adopted Local Plan.

Further Information

For further information please contact:

Planning Policy Team

Hyndburn Borough Council

✉ planningpolicy@hyndburnbc.gov.uk