



# **FYLDE LOCAL PLAN TO 2032**

## Sustainability Appraisal – Post Adoption Statement

OCTOBER 2018



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## VERSION CONTROL

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2	23/10/18	Edward Hargreaves	David Hourd	David Hourd	Comments on previous draft addressed

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## Appendix A – Outline Monitoring Framework

# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Background

Fylde Borough Council (the Council) submitted the Fylde Local Plan to 2032 (hereafter ‘the Local Plan’) to the Secretary of State for independent Examination on 9 December 2016 in accordance with Regulation 22 of the Town and Country Planning (T&CP) Regulations 2012<sup>1</sup>. Following the examination hearings which were held between 28 March and 13 December 2017 and consultation on the Main Modifications to the Local Plan (held 8 February – 22 March 2018), the Local Plan was found sound by the Inspector in her report dated 18 September 2018. The Local Plan was subsequently adopted by the Council on 22 October 2018.

Arcadis UK Limited (‘Arcadis’) was commissioned by the Council to undertake a Sustainability Appraisal (SA), incorporating Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA), of the Local Plan. This Post Adoption Statement is the final output of the SA/SEA process. It describes the way in which the Council has taken environmental and sustainability considerations and the views of consultees into account in the adopted Local Plan and fulfils the plan and programme adoption requirements of Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment (the SEA Directive<sup>2</sup>) and the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (the SEA Regulations<sup>3</sup>).

## 1.2 The Local Plan

The Local Plan sets out the long-term vision for the whole of the Fylde area. It will form the main consideration when deciding planning applications. It is a key part of planning for Fylde and all other local development documents should be in line with it. As a strategic document, the Local Plan will identify the broad areas and strategic sites where new development and growth will be concentrated within Fylde, together with the overarching principles of development and the rationale for these with respect to best meeting the Borough’s economic, social and environmental priorities.

The Local Plan contains a Spatial Portrait of how the Borough looks and functions now, together with a Vision for Fylde and a Development Strategy that set out how the Council envisages the area will develop over the course of the plan period. It seeks to ensure that new homes, jobs and services required by communities are located in the most sustainable locations and that the framework for delivering the necessary infrastructure, facilities and other development will be provided to make this achievable.

The Local Plan has the following Vision:

By 2032, Fylde will be a welcoming place with highly skilled and healthy communities. There will be a diverse and prosperous culture and an economy that encourages everyone to contribute. Employment opportunities will have been diversified and young people retained in the job market in Fylde. Access to healthy lifestyle choices, local health care facilities, good education and lifelong learning facilities will have been improved. Significant further educational opportunities and leisure facilities for young people will have been provided. Communities will have the opportunity to access public services, good jobs and decent and affordable homes, close to where they live, through the delivery of mixed-use development.

Fylde will have continued to develop as a dynamic, prosperous place to live and work through boosting the delivery of sustainable homes and economic growth within the four Strategic Locations for Development, supported by the necessary facilities, services, infrastructure and access to modern telecommunications. New homes of an appropriate type and mix to address affordability, an ageing population and family needs will be located within sustainable locations. High quality design and sustainable building methods will be the key principles of all types of new development, including urban extensions in the form of garden suburbs, together with the delivery of Whyndyke Garden Village, which has been identified as a demonstrator site for the NHS healthy new town initiative.

<sup>1</sup> SI 2012 No. 767 The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012.

<sup>2</sup> Available from <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:32001L0042&from=EN> [Accessed October 2018].

<sup>3</sup> SI 2004 No. 1633 The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.

Fylde will have remained flexible in its approach to changing economic and employment patterns, particularly with regard to major local employers. It will have developed closer working relationships through the duty to co-operate with the adjoining Fylde Coast Authorities and with the Central Lancashire Authorities and other organisations and strengthened its position within the Lancashire sub-region and its linkages and connectivity to Blackpool and to the city of Preston.

Opportunities for sub-regionally important employment at the Lancashire Advanced Engineering and Manufacturing (AEM) Enterprise Zone at BAE Systems, Warton and Whitehills Business Park will have been realised and employment will have been provided close to where people live, thereby reducing the need to travel long distances. Fylde will have an energy hub, generating a cluster of energy based companies and amenities; together with an energy logistics park, close to Blackpool Airport Enterprise Zone, to support energy businesses on the Fylde Coast.

Fylde will have enhanced its unique qualities including its historic and built environment, the classic seaside resort towns of Lytham and St Annes, the historic market town of Kirkham, tranquil coastline, high quality golf courses, tourism offer, picturesque rural settlements and attractive landscapes. The visitor economy will have been strengthened by the area's resort appeal, its reputation as a centre for world famous golf championships and its attractive rural areas. High quality attractions and organised events such as the Lytham 1940s Wartime Weekend and the Lytham Festival, staged activities at Lytham hall (Grade 1 Listed) and the retention of serviced tourism accommodation in the Holiday Areas, will generate an increase in the number of visitors. The Island Sea Front Area and the Promenade Gardens at St Annes and Fairhaven Lake will have been regenerated to provide a high quality visitor experience.

Lytham and St Annes will be thriving resorts with quality specialist shops, with Kirkham a vibrant historic market town. Lytham, St Annes and Kirkham will have retained and enhanced their positions at the top of the retail hierarchy. Warton will be a Local Service Centre with a local retail centre serving the needs of the local community and employment opportunities will have increased and diversified through the development of the Lancashire Advanced Engineering and Manufacturing Enterprise Zone, at BAE Systems. The Fylde-Blackpool Periphery will have been developed as a Local Service Centre by the end of the plan period in 2032, with a local retail centre serving the new community that will have been developed at Whitehills. Wesham and Freckleton will retain their functions as Local Service Centres.

Rural settlements in Fylde will have retained their individual identities and heritage assets and their distinctive features will have been protected, enhanced and promoted; and all development will have respected and conserved the character of these settlements.

Sufficient levels of housing of an appropriate type, tenure, design, density and mix to address local issues of affordability will have been provided in the smaller rural settlements. There will have been proportionate levels of economic growth to strengthen and diversify the local economies and reduce the need to travel.

To overcome existing traffic congestion and to accommodate all of the development proposed in Fylde to the year 2032, the M55 (Junction 4) to Heyhouses Link Road between Whitehills and St Annes will have been completed; as would improvements on M55 Junction 4; and congestion on the A585 trunk road will have been resolved through the delivery of the M55 to Fleetwood Corridor Improvements (formerly known as the Blue Route). The Preston Western Distributor Road, to a new Junction 2 on the M55, will have been delivered and opened. The construction of the Preston Western Distributor Road will improve road access to the Lancashire Advanced Engineering and Manufacturing (AEM) Enterprise Zone at BAE Systems, Warton, and to the wider Fylde Coast sub-region.

The viable continuation of Blackpool Airport for general aviation and the expansion of services provided by the airport will have been secured, along with enhanced public transport access. There will have been an increase in the use of public transport. Public transport services across the rural parts of the Borough and onto Blackpool, Preston and beyond will have been improved. Railway station facilities at Kirkham and Wesham will have been enhanced, making the market town more accessible to other parts of the North West and increasing its sustainability as a residential and employment centre.

Sufficient open space and indoor and outdoor sports pitches and recreational facilities will have been provided, woodland cover increased and Fylde's unique offer of Green and Blue Infrastructure will be accessible and contribute to a high quality of life.

Sea defences in the Coastal Change Management Areas, along the Ribble and Wyre Estuaries, will have been improved, whilst bathing water quality will have been protected and enhanced, and associated tourism, recreational and environmental benefits realized, through the delivery of the Coastal Strategy, providing an essential tract of Green Infrastructure network along the coast, running from Starr Gate in the west to Savick Brook in the east.

The public rights of way network will have been protected and enhanced. Additional footpaths, cycleways, bridleways and canal towpaths will have been provided to facilitate increased walking, cycling and horse riding, taking advantage of Fylde's assets: its flat landscape and open coastline.

The rural character and attractiveness of the countryside areas of the Fylde will have been retained and enhanced and the rural economy will thrive, in particular small and medium sized enterprises. The release of land within the countryside for development will have been minimised and the highest quality agricultural land will have been protected from inappropriate development.

Biodiversity, including Fylde's Ecological Network, will have been enhanced and protected from inappropriate development.

The five Local Plan Strategic Objectives are:

- 1) To create sustainable communities
- 2) To maintain, improve and enhance the environment
- 3) To make services accessible
- 4) To diversify and grow the local economy
- 5) To develop socially cohesive, safe, diverse and healthy communities

### 1.3 Sustainability Appraisal

Under Section 19(5) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, local planning authorities are required to carry out a SA of their local plans in order to help guide the selection and development of policies and proposals in terms of their potential social, environmental and economic effects. In undertaking this requirement, local planning authorities must also incorporate the requirements of the SEA Directive, and its transposing regulations the SEA Regulations. The term "SA" encompasses SEA and is therefore used to refer to the combined SA/SEA for the remainder of this report.

The SEA Directive and transposing regulations seek to provide a high level of protection of the environment by integrating environmental considerations into the process of preparing certain plans and programmes. The aim of the Directive is *"to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development, by ensuring that, in accordance with this Directive, an environmental assessment is carried out of certain plans and programmes which are likely to have significant effects on the environment"*.

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)<sup>4</sup> states that *"Local plans and spatial development strategies should be informed throughout their preparation by a sustainability appraisal that meets the relevant legal requirements. This should demonstrate how the plan has addressed relevant economic, social and environmental objectives."*

The National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG)<sup>5</sup> also makes clear that SA plays an important role in demonstrating that a local plan reflects sustainability objectives and has considered reasonable alternatives.

<sup>4</sup> Department for Communities and Local Government (2012) National Planning Policy Framework. Available from [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/6077/2116950.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/6077/2116950.pdf) [Accessed October 2018].

<sup>5</sup> Department for Communities and Local Government (2015) Planning Practice Guidance. Available from <http://planningguidance.planningportal.gov.uk/> [Accessed October 2018].

In this context, SA has played an integral role in the development of the Local Plan with each main stage of the Plan's preparation having been integrated with the SA process (see Section 3 for further information).

The SA work undertaken in support of the Local Plan can be viewed on the Council's website:

<http://www.fylde.gov.uk/council/planning-policy--local-plan-/local-development-framework/www-fylde-gov-uk-submission/>

## 1.4 Purpose of this Post Adoption Statement

This Post Adoption Statement represents the conclusion of the SA process and fulfils the plan and programme adoption requirements of the SEA Directive and SEA Regulations. In accordance with Regulation 16 (4) of the SEA Regulations, this statement sets out the following:

- how environmental and sustainability considerations have been integrated into the Local Plan (Section 2 of this document);
- how the results of the SA Reports have been taken into account (Section 3);
- how opinions expressed in response to the consultation on the SA Reports have been taken into account (Section 4);
- the reasons for choosing the Local Plan, as adopted, in the light of the other reasonable alternatives dealt with (Section 5); and
- the measures that are to be taken to monitor the significant environmental and sustainability effects of the implementation of the Local Plan (Section 6).

## 2 How Environmental and Sustainability Considerations Have Been Integrated into the Local Plan

### 2.1 Environmental and Sustainability Considerations in the Local Plan

The Local Plan is built upon the key principle of sustainable development and its three dimensions: social, economic and environmental. These dimensions give rise to the need for the planning system to perform a number of roles:

- 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 community's needs and supports its health, social and cultural well-being; and
- 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.

These principles of sustainable development have been integral to the key decisions made in respect of the policies and proposals of the Local Plan. The integration of these considerations into the plan making process has principally been achieved through:

- the development of a comprehensive evidence base on topics including housing, employment, retail, transport, landscape, biodiversity, flood risk, climate change and health;
- continuous engagement with key stakeholders and the public on the emerging Local Plan and related environmental and sustainability matters;



- the consideration of national planning policy and the objectives of other plans and programmes;
- fulfilment of the Council’s Duty to Cooperate; and
- ongoing assessment including SA as well as Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)<sup>6</sup>.

## 2.2 Environmental and Sustainability Considerations in the SA

The SA considers environmental and sustainability issues in Local Plan through an appraisal framework. The SA Framework is made up of objectives and guide questions that are used to appraise the Local Plan (see Table 2.1). The objectives and guide questions are informed by the review of other plans and programmes that may affect, or be affected by, the Local Plan and the current state of the environment and its evolution without the Local Plan.

The SA process considered the performance of the Local Plan against each of the appraisal objectives, drawing on the baseline information to predict the likely significant effects. Based on the appraisal results the SA made recommendations on the spatial strategy, policy wording and site allocations in order to mitigate for adverse effects or further increase potential beneficial effects. These recommendations were considered by the Council and taken into consideration in the refining of the Local Plan (see Section 3.2 for details). The recommendations on the strategic spatial options was particularly important in the selection of the preferred spatial strategy (see section 5.2).

The following key components of the Local Plan were appraised against the SA Objectives:

- The Local Plan’s Vision;
- The Local Plan’s Strategic Objectives;
- The Local Plan’s Strategic Spatial Options; and
- The Local Plan’s Policies and Strategic Locations for Development.

Table 2-1 SA Objectives and Guide Questions

SA Objectives	Guide Questions
1) Reduce crime, disorder and fear of crime	Reduce levels of crime Reduce the fear of crime Reduce levels of anti-social behaviour Reduce alcohol and drug misuse Encourage security by design
2) Improve levels of educational attainment and encourage lifelong learning	Increase levels of participation and attainment in education for all members of society. Improve the provision of education and training facilities. Improve access to and involvement in lifelong learning opportunities.
3) Improve physical and mental health for all and reduce health inequalities	Reduce health inequalities amongst different groups in the community Improve access to health and social care services Promote healthy lifestyles Encourage the development of strong and cohesive communities
4) Ensure that housing provision meets all needs	Ensure that there is sufficient housing to meet identified needs in all areas Ensure that housing meets acceptable standards Increase the availability of affordable housing
5) Protect and enhance community spirit and cohesion	Develop opportunities for community involvement Improve relations between all social groups

<sup>6</sup> Regulation 102 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended) (the ‘Habitats Regulations’) requires that competent authorities assess the potential impacts of land use plans on the Natura 2000 network of European protected sites to determine whether there will be any ‘likely significant effects’ on any European site as a result of the plan’s implementation (either alone or ‘in combination’ with other plans or projects); and, if so, whether these effects will result in any adverse effects on that site’s integrity with reference to the site’s conservation objectives. The process by which the effects of a plan or programme on European sites are assessed is known as ‘Habitats Regulations Assessment’.

SA Objectives	Guide Questions
6) Improve sustainable access to basic goods, services and amenities for all groups	<p>Ensure that public transport services meet people’s needs</p> <p>Ensure that highways infrastructure meets people’s needs (including walking and cycling routes)</p> <p>Promote the use of sustainable travel modes and reduce dependence on the private car</p> <p>Improve access to cultural and recreational facilities</p> <p>Maintain and improve access to essential services and facilities, including in rural areas</p> <p>Improve access to open space</p> <p>Improve public access to good quality rights of way network</p> <p>Promote the development of multi-functional green infrastructure in urban areas</p>
7) Encourage sustainable economic growth and business development	<p>Diversify the employment opportunities Increase employment opportunities Encourage economic growth Encourage new business formation Improve access to employment land Encourage sustainable tourism</p> <p>Encourage sustainable farm diversification</p>
8) Promote economic inclusion	<p>Reduce levels of unemployment in areas most at need</p> <p>Improve accessibility to employment opportunities for those most at need</p>
9) Deliver urban renaissance	<p>Improve the vitality and vibrancy of town centres</p> <p>Improve access within urban areas by sustainable means</p> <p>Promote adjacency of employment, recreation and residential areas in urban areas</p> <p>Support the preservation and / or development of a high-quality built environment</p> <p>Promote the development of multi-functional green infrastructure in urban areas</p> <p>Enhance the reputation of urban areas as places to live, work and visit</p>
10) Protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity	<p>Protect and enhance designated sites of nature conservation importance and geodiversity</p> <p>Recognise the role of biodiversity as part of the wider range of ecosystem services</p> <p>Protect and enhance wildlife especially rare and protected species</p> <p>Protect and enhance habitats and wildlife corridors</p> <p>Provide opportunities for people to access wildlife and open green spaces</p>
11) Protect and enhance landscape character and quality, and protect tranquillity	<p>Protect and enhance character and quality Minimise noise pollution</p> <p>Minimise light pollution</p> <p>Promote sensitive design in development</p>
12) Conserve and enhance the historic environment, heritage assets and their setting	<p>Protect and enhance historic buildings and archaeological sites and their setting</p> <p>Protect and enhance historic landscape value and its setting</p> <p>Protect and enhance undesignated heritage assets and their setting</p> <p>Protect and enhance townscape character and quality</p>
13) Protect and enhance the quality of the water environment and reduce the risk of flooding	<p>Encourage sustainable use of water resources. Protect and enhance ground and surface water quality Protect and improve the quality of bathing waters Maintain and improve the quality of groundwater</p> <p>Protect and enhance coastal water quality</p> <p>Reduce and manage flooding</p>

SA Objectives	Guide Questions
	Encourage the inclusion of flood mitigation measures
14) Limit and adapt to the impacts of climate change	Reduce greenhouse gas emissions Reduce the demand for energy and increase energy efficiency Increase the use of renewable energy Reduce CO <sub>2</sub> emissions from the transport sector
15) Protect and improve air quality	Protect and improve local air quality
16) Ensure the sustainable use of natural resources	Reduce the demand for raw materials Promote the use of recycled and secondary materials in construction Reduce the amount of derelict and vacant land Ensure that contaminated land will be guarded against Encourage development of brownfield land where appropriate Maintain and enhance soil quality Increase the proportion of waste recycling and re-use Reduce the production of waste Reduce the proportion of waste landfilled

### 3 How the SA Has Been Taken into Account

#### 3.1 Overview

The development of the Local Plan has been an iterative process that comprised the following key stages:

- Collecting Evidence (2005 – 2015)
- Vision, Issues and Objectives (February – March 2011)
- Issues and Options (June – July 2012)
- Preferred Option (June – August 2013)
- Revised Referred Option (October – December 2015)
- Submission and Examination (August – September 2016)
- Main Modifications (February 2017 – February 2018)
- Adoption (October 2018)

SA has played an integral role in this process with many of the Local Plan stages having been accompanied by an SA Report, or variant of, in order to inform the development of the Plan, fully integrating environmental and sustainability considerations into decision making. Table 3-1 sets out the key stages in the development of the Local Plan alongside the associated SA work that was undertaken in parallel.

Table 3-1 Integration between Key Stages of Local Plan Development and SA Process

Local Plan Stage	Summary of the Accompanying SA Report
Collecting Evidence	Over the course of this stage of the plan development, three SA Scoping Reports were issued which served as a means of collecting evidence on the environmental and sustainability baseline and informing the scope of the SA in line with the Local Plan.
Issues and Options (2012)	The SA Interim Report appraised the Vision, five alternative Spatial Strategy options and a series of Strategic Policy options.

Local Plan Stage	Summary of the Accompanying SA Report
Preferred Option (2013)	The SA Report at this stage built on the previous report through the appraisal of the five Strategic Objectives and the Spatial Development Framework and Strategic Locations for Development. Additionally, the report appraised the General Development Policies and the Topic Specific Policies.
Revised Preferred Option (2015)	This SA Report revisited many of the components of the Local Plan that were appraised previously with the addition of appraising Non-Strategic Sites.
Submission (2016)	The SA Report that that supported the submission of the Local Plan to the Secretary of State provided a comprehensive review of all the SA work undertaken previously taking account of any updates made to the Local Plan in response to previous recommendations.
Main Modifications (2018)	The SA Addendum provided an update to the SA of the Submission Local Plan taking into account the Main Modifications made in response to the Examination hearings.
Adoption (2018)	This SA Post Adoption Statement brings the process to a close by reflecting how sustainability has been integrated into the Local Plan development through the SA process.

### 3.2 How the SA Influenced the Adopted Plan

The SA Reports have influenced the development Local Plan at key stages through the provision of recommendations and guidance. Table 3-2 summarises the key recommendations for the Local Plan and the associated Council responses or amendments. The complete list of recommendations can be found in the relevant SA Reports at each stage of the Plan development.

Table 3-2 Examples of recommendations Arising from the SA and Council Response/Amendments

Local Plan Component	SA Recommendations	Council Response or Amendment
Vision	<p>Although crime levels are low, issues relating to crime and safety were recommended for inclusion within the Vision.</p> <p>The Vision should include a statement relating to the protection/enhancement of protected areas, including those for nature conservation, landscape and heritage.</p> <p>The Vision does not explicitly address the need to diversify the employment and retain its students.</p>	<p>The following text was included within the Vision to acknowledge crime and safety: <i>Fylde will be a welcoming, safe place with highly skilled, healthy communities.</i></p> <p>The Vision was strengthened to include a statement relating to the protection and enhancement of sites identified for nature conservation, landscape and heritage.</p> <p>The Vision now seeks to strengthen the Borough’s local economy and explicitly addresses the need to diversify employment and retain its young people.</p>
Strategic Objectives	<p>Reference to sustainable construction and sustainable resource use could be included within Strategic Objective 1.</p> <p>Strategic Objective 2 should consider townscape together with ‘Protecting, enhancing and restoring the quality, character and distinctiveness of the biodiversity, landscape and countryside’.</p>	<p>Strategic Objective 1 was amended to include reference to sustainable design principles and building practices.</p> <p>Strategic Objective 2 was strengthened by adding consideration of further townscape / built environment issues.</p>

Local Plan Component	SA Recommendations	Council Response or Amendment
Strategic Spatial Options	<p>It was recommended that some degree of rural development does occur (more than is proposed in Options 1, 2, 3 and 5 but not as much as 4) where less sensitive sites exist, on a small scale and to a design that reflects the local character.</p> <p>It was also recommended that the options which promote slightly less development at Lytham and Saint Annes (Options 2, 3 and 4) may be more beneficial in terms of seeking to avoid adverse impacts upon the international wildlife designations in the Ribble Estuary.</p>	<p>The recommendations on the Strategic Spatial Options were used by the Council to inform their Preferred Spatial Strategy that formed the basis for identifying Strategic Locations for Development.</p> <p>Taking into account the recommendations of the SA, the Preferred Spatial Strategy that was selected had a focus on the following four strategic locations: Lytham and St Annes; Fylde-Blackpool periphery; Kirkham and Wesham; and Warton.</p>
Policies and Strategic Locations for Development	<p>Policy should require all new developments to adhere to ‘Secured by Design’ principles.</p> <p>A number of recommendations for Policy GD7 were made relating to the protection of landscape features and habitats, green infrastructure, open space, sustainable transport and waste reduction/recycling.</p> <p>Policy GD6 should be changed to encourage new businesses to locate within the settlements and in the redeveloped sites.</p> <p>Policy GD9 should include wording to specifically state that remediation should be undertaken before any development commences.</p> <p>Policy EC7 should encourage the provision of training in leisure, culture or tourism development.</p> <p>Leisure and cultural facilities that are available to all should be promoted for town centre developments via Policy EC6.</p> <p>Mitigation outlined in Policies ENV1-ENV5 should be cross referenced to strengthen factors in Policy EC2 that refer to avoiding adverse environmental impacts.</p> <p>Opportunities for enhancement should be considered in the design of developments where appropriate.</p> <p>The use of public transport to employment and tourism developments should be promoted.</p> <p>Policies EC6 and EC7 should be strengthened to include a caveat that prevents potentially damaging proposals from occurring.</p>	<p>The ‘Secured by Design’ principles have been incorporated into both Policy M1 and GD7.</p> <p>Policy GD7 was expanded to incorporate the proposed wording relating to the protection of landscape features and habitats, green infrastructure, open space, sustainable transport and waste reduction/recycling.</p> <p>Policy GD6 was amended to include a statement encouraging new business to locate within existing settlements and on redeveloped sites.</p> <p>Policy GD9 was reworded to include the recommended statement on remediation prior to new commencement of new development.</p> <p>Additional text was added to Policy EC7 that states that training in the leisure, culture or tourism development will be encouraged.</p> <p>The Council added reference to encouraging such development within town centres in Policy EC6.</p> <p>The recommendation to cross reference Policies ENV1-ENV5 was not taken up, as it was viewed as unnecessary repetition in the Local Plan.</p> <p>Opportunities for enhancement considered (e.g. Policy ENV5 was modified to encourage opportunities for heritage assets to better reveal their significance).</p> <p>Policy EC5 has been updated to include for promoting public transport accessibility at Warton, Whitehills and Whydyke.</p> <p>A caveat that prevents damaging proposals has been included in Policy EC7, which equally applies to proposals where Policy EC6 applies</p>

Local Plan Component	SA Recommendations	Council Response or Amendment
	<p>The provisions of Policy H6 regarding quality, enhancement and character should include protection of water quality.</p> <p>The pedestrian and cycling network should link key settlements and service centres to improve community health via the use of more sustainable modes of transport.</p> <p>Policy INF1 should refer to the consideration of environmental impacts of infrastructure in applications and the use of sustainable natural resources.</p> <p>Policy ENV4 could include reference to 'safe' green spaces.</p>	<p>The Council has not felt it appropriate to repeat the provisions of other policies, in particular CL1 and CL2.</p> <p>Policy HW1 now refers to the provision of <i>"more sustainable modes of transport – integrated into a wider multi-functional green infrastructure network"</i>.</p> <p>The recommended changes to Policy INF1 regarding the consideration of environmental impacts and natural resources were incorporated as suggested.</p> <p>Policy ENV4 was amended to include reference to 'safe' green spaces.</p>

## 4 How Opinions Expressed During Consultation Have Been Taken into Account

### 4.1 Consultation on the Emerging Local Plan

The development of the Local Plan has been informed by ongoing public engagement and consultation, in accordance with the T&CP Regulations. The Issues, Vision and Objectives consultation was the first consultation on the development of the Local Plan. The purpose of the consultation was to seek views on the main planning policy issues facing the Borough over the next 20 years, the objectives to address the issues identified and the future spatial vision of Fylde.

The second round of consultation was on the Issues and Options which took place over six weeks in accordance with Regulation 18 of the T&CP regulations. The Issues and Options consultation document set out five alternative spatial options and 29 policy options for the future development of the Borough. The options have been designed to address the key policy issues of the Borough and were informed by the results of the Issues, Vision and Objectives public consultation undertaken previously.

Consultation on the Preferred Options took place between July and August 2013. The Preferred Options document contained a vision and development strategy that set out how the Council would like the Borough to look in 2030. The development strategy included spatial distribution of housing development and employment land, strategic sites at the strategic locations for housing and employment, and policies for making decisions on planning applications.

Consultation on the Revised Preferred Option took place between 15 October and 3 December 2015. This stage considered strategic and non-strategic allocations for new homes and employment land, leisure, retail, tourism and community use, or a mixture of such uses. In addition to development management policies, the document also included policies to define areas of open space and town centre boundaries and to protect the natural and built environment and heritage assets.

Representations received on all the consultations outlined above were taken into account in producing the Publication Version of the Local Plan. Consultation took place on The Publication Version for a period of 6 weeks commencing 11 August 2016.

A summary of the consultation responses at each stage of the plan development and how they were taken into account is available on the Council's website via the following link:

<http://www.fylde.gov.uk/council/planning-policy--local-plan-/local-development-framework/www-fylde-gov-uk-submission/>

## 4.2 Consultation on the SA Reports

The Plan has also been shaped and influenced by statutory consultation on the SA Reports throughout the Local Plan development process in line with the SEA regulations. The following SA Reports were prepared and published for consultation at each of the key Local Plan development stages:

- Scoping Report (2006)
- Scoping Report (2011)
- Plan Options – Interim Report (2012)
- Preferred Options (2013)
- Scoping Report (2015)
- Revised Preferred Options (2015)
- Publication Version (2016)
- Main Modifications Addendum (2018)

The SA process commenced with pre-scoping consultation undertaken in November 2005. An SA Scoping Report was then prepared in 2006, which underwent statutory consultation. Following this, all work was delayed on the Local Plan (formerly the Local Development Framework – LDF), as there was a need to produce additional evidence-based studies. An updated SA Scoping Report was prepared and issued for statutory consultation in May 2011 and again in July 2015. Consultation responses to these reports helped to shape the scope of the SA.

The Interim SA Report published alongside the Council's Issues and Options document underwent consultation over a six-week period in 2012. Following on from this, there were two rounds of consultation on the Preferred Options and the Revised Preferred Options SA Reports in 2013 and 2015 respectively. After the Local Plan had been refined by these critical rounds of consultation, an SA Report was issued for consultation alongside the Publication Version of the Local Plan to all key stakeholders (including statutory consultees and the public) for comment. Following the close of this consultation period, Fylde Council reviewed the feedback and submitted the Local Plan to the Secretary of State.

The opinions expressed throughout the consultation outlined above have informed the scope of the SA, helping to in turn to shape the development of the Local Plan.

## 5 The Reasons for Choosing the Adopted Local Plan in Light of Reasonable Alternatives Considered

### 5.1 Overview

Article 5 (1) of the SEA Directive and SEA Regulation 12 (2) require that *“an environmental report shall be prepared in which the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme, and reasonable alternatives taking into account the objectives and the geographical scope of the plan or programme, are identified, described and evaluated”*.

Information to be provided includes *“an outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with”* (SEA Directive Annex I (h) and SEA Regulations Schedule 2 (8)) and an overview of types of alternatives considered (development scenarios, site allocations etc.)

The European Commission guidance<sup>7</sup> on the SEA Directive discusses possible interpretations of handling 'reasonable alternatives' as required by Article 5 (1). It states that *“The alternatives chosen should be realistic. Part of the reason for studying alternatives is to find ways of reducing or avoiding the significant adverse effects of the proposed plan or programme”*.

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<sup>7</sup> EC (2001) Implementation of Directive 2001/42 on the Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment. Available from [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/archives/eia/pdf/030923\\_sea\\_guidance.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/archives/eia/pdf/030923_sea_guidance.pdf) [Accessed October 2018].

As set out in Section 3, the SA has been an iterative process undertaken alongside and integrated with the development of the Local Plan. The reasonable alternatives considered in the preparation of the Local Plan and appraised through the SA process include:

- development scenarios (the level of growth);
- spatial strategy options (where growth should be located);
- policy options and strategic locations for development.

## 5.2 The Alternatives Considered and Selected for Inclusion in the Local Plan

Five alternative strategic spatial options proposed in the Council's Issues and Options Document were considered in the Interim SA Report published in 2012:

- 1) Focus on Lytham St Annes
- 2) Equal focus on Lytham St Annes and Kirkham
- 3) Lytham St Annes and Key and Local Service Centres
- 4) Lytham St Annes and rural dispersal
- 5) Equal focus on Lytham St Annes and land on the SE edge of Blackpool

Recommendations on the alternative strategic spatial options were a key component in the selection and refinement of the preferred spatial strategy. Although some of the options were quite similar, with all including a significant amount of development in and around Lytham St Annes, the SA Report was able to provide recommendations on the best option or hybrid thereof to take forward. The SA found that the options which promote slightly less development in Lytham St Annes (Option 2 and possibly 3 and 4) may be more beneficial in terms of seeking to avoid adverse impacts upon the international wildlife designations in the Ribble Estuary.

The options which promote development in the local service centres of Kirkham, Wesham and Warton were identified as having potential sustainability benefits. Similarly, development at the edge of Blackpool has a number of sustainability advantages so long as it is carefully masterplanned, phased and serviced by adequate public transport and essential services.

Rural isolation is a key issue in the Borough and only one option was identified that has the potential to notably address this (Option 4). However, this option also has potential to lead to a number of environmental impacts due to the greater environmental sensitivities in those areas. Nevertheless, it was recommended that some degree of rural development should occur where less sensitive sites exist, on a small scale and to a design that reflects the local character.

After taking into account the recommendations of the SA, the Council decided to select a spatial strategy that had a focus on the following four strategic locations: Lytham and St Annes; Fylde-Blackpool periphery; Kirkham and Wesham; and Warton.

The Issues and Options Document presented a number of key policy alternatives for consideration. They were listed under the following broad headings:

- Provision of Homes in Fylde
- The Fylde Economy
- Economy and Employment
- Climate Change, Renewable Energy and Flood Risk
- The Natural Environment and Heritage
- Infrastructure and Transport



The alternative options under each of these headings were appraised and recommendations proposed to improve their performance against the SA Objectives. This fed into the development of a full suite of detailed policies which were then appraised in the Preferred Options SA Report in 2013. This appraisal and the subsequent appraisal of the Revised Preferred Options informed the final selection of policies that made up the Publication Version of the Local Plan.

## **6 Measures to Monitor Significant Environmental Effects**

### **6.1 Introduction**

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

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

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

### **6.2 Approach**

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

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

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

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

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

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

A fundamental aspect of developing the monitoring strategy is to link with existing monitoring programmes and to prevent duplication of other monitoring work that is already being undertaken. Consideration has, therefore, been given to the Performance Monitoring Framework that will be used to monitor delivery of the plan policies.

The Monitoring Framework is presented in full in the SA Report that was submitted in support of the Local Plan. Monitoring will be undertaken in accordance with the framework now that the Local Plan has been adopted.

### **6.3 Monitoring Framework**

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

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

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

## Appendix A – Outline Monitoring Framework

SA Objective	Effect to be Monitored	Indicators	Targets	Potential Data Sources
Reduce crime, disorder and fear of crime	<p>Effect of plan on contributing to a reduction in crime levels.</p> <p>Number of new developments incorporating Secure by Design Principles</p>	<p>Number and distribution of wards with LSOAs in the bottom 30% most deprived for crime deprivation.</p> <p>Crime rates per 1,000 of the population for key offences.</p> <p>Percentage of males/females feeling 'fairly' or 'very' unsafe after dark</p> <p>Potential future monitoring indicators:</p> <p>Number of new developments actively incorporating Secured by Design principles.</p> <p>Number of new initiatives implemented to tackle anti-social behaviour.</p>	<p>Reduce the number of crimes per 1000 population</p> <p>Reduce the number of wards with LSOAs in the bottom 30% most deprived.</p> <p>Reduce incidences of violent crime</p> <p>No specific target for reducing fear of crime although overall target should be to reduce fear of crime.</p>	<p>Index of Multiple Deprivation</p> <p>Community Safety Plan</p> <p>The Corporate Plan</p>
Improve levels of educational attainment and encourage lifelong learning	<p>Effect of plan on ensuring access to educational opportunities</p> <p>Ensuring that sufficient primary and secondary school capacity is available to accommodate new residents</p>	<p>Number and distribution of wards with LSOAs in the bottom 30% nationally for education, skills and training deprivation</p> <p>Location and number of school places available</p>	<p>Ensure sufficient school places are available to meet the needs of new development</p>	<p>Index of Multiple Deprivation</p> <p>Lancashire County Council</p>

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SA Objective	Effect to be Monitored	Indicators	Targets	Potential Data Sources
<p>Improve physical and mental health for all and reduce health inequalities</p>	<p>Monitor levels of health and well-being across the borough. The implementation of the plan policies has the potential to improve the green infrastructure network, improve accessibility and provide opportunities for residents to pursue healthy lifestyles.</p> <p>Conversely there may also be risk of loss of areas of open space as a result of new development and increased pressure on health services.</p>	<p>Percentage of resident population who consider themselves to be in good health</p> <p>Number of wards with LSOAs in the bottom 30% most deprived for health deprivation</p> <p>Amount of new residential development within 1km of 5 basic services (GP, Food Store, Primary School, Bus Stop and Post Office)</p> <p>GPs per 1,000 population</p> <p>Public open space per 1,000 population</p> <p>New public space delivered annually</p> <p>Children's playspace delivered annually</p> <p>Distribution of sports facilities</p> <p>Cycle route length and integration/connectivity across settlements</p> <p>Number of Health Impact Assessments for major planning applications on strategic sites and locations, with outcomes implemented.</p>	<p>Reduce the number of wards with LSOAs in the bottom 30% most deprived for health deprivation</p> <p>Ensure that there is at least one 20-hectare natural green space site within 2km of people's homes</p>	<p>Index of Multiple Deprivation</p> <p>Office of National Statistics</p> <p>Planning Team Performance Monitoring Framework</p>

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SA Objective	Effect to be Monitored	Indicators	Targets	Potential Data Sources
<p>Ensure that housing provision meets all needs</p>	<p>Monitor the type, tenure, density and affordability of the housing that is delivered across the borough as a result of the application of the policies. Environmental and sustainable construction standards achieved in new housing development should also be monitored.</p>	<p>Net additional dwellings completed Dwelling stock by type and tenure Number of affordable homes built Number and location of wards with LSOAs in the bottom 30% nationally for Living Environment deprivation Percentage of unfit and vacant dwellings Provision for all ages</p>	<p>Annual dwelling completions against requirement target of 415 per annum. Number of market housing schemes of 10 or more homes that provide 30% affordable homes Decrease number of unfit and vacant dwellings Reduce number of wards with LSOAs in bottom 30% for living environment deprivation Number of homes within developments of 20 or more designed to specifically accommodate the elderly</p>	<p>Planning Team Performance Monitoring Framework</p>
<p>Protect and enhance community spirit and cohesion</p>	<p>New development, particularly larger sites may have impacts on community spirit and cohesion</p>	<p>Percentage of residents who think that for their local area, over the past three years, that community activities have got better or stayed the same</p>	<p>May be appropriate to set a target for the satisfaction of local people to influence decision-making.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Improve sustainable access to basic goods, services and amenities for all groups</p>	<p>Effects of the plan on service provision and accessibility of key services for the population across the borough.</p>	<p>Number of LSOAs in the bottom 30% most deprived for barriers to housing and services provision. Percentage of new dwellings built within 400m of a bus stop or 800m of a railway station. Amount of new residential development within 1km of 5 basic services Length of Public Rights of Way</p>	<p>Reduce number of wards with LSOAs in bottom 30% for barriers to housing and services provision Increase the percentage of areas in Fylde that are within 15 to 30 minutes by public transport of at least four key services.</p>	<p>Planning Team Performance Monitoring Framework Index of Multiple Deprivation</p>

Fylde Local Plan Sustainability Appraisal – Post Adoption Statement

SA Objective	Effect to be Monitored	Indicators	Targets	Potential Data Sources
<p>Encourage sustainable economic growth and business development</p> <p>Promote economic inclusion</p>	<p>Amount of new employment development that occurs across the borough, the type of jobs created and the accessibility of the jobs to key population centres.</p> <p>Amount of development of the rural economy of the district.</p>	<p>Location of key industries and major employers.</p> <p>Economic activity rate</p> <p>Employment by sector and occupation Availability of employment land</p> <p>Number of wards with LSOAs in bottom 30% most deprived for employment deprivation and income deprivation</p> <p>Percentage of working age population claiming jobseekers allowance</p> <p>Employment land take-up</p>	<p>Cumulative take-up of land for employment development to adjusted requirement of 62.</p> <p>To reduce number of wards with LSOAs in the bottom 30% for employment and income deprivation.</p> <p>Recommend that targets are developed once the plan is adopted.</p>	<p>Planning Team Performance Monitoring Framework</p> <p>Index of Multiple Deprivation</p>
<p>Deliver urban renaissance</p>	<p>Impact that the plan has upon creating sustainable communities' across the borough where people want to live and work.</p>	<p>Indicators proposed for other objectives should be monitored as they all make a contribution to the achievement of this SA Objective.</p>	<p>NA</p>	<p>NA</p>
<p>Protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity</p>	<p>Monitor effects of new development on biodiversity assets across the borough. Opportunity for new features to be provide as part of new development e.g. wetlands, landscaping etc.</p>	<p>Number and distribution of designated sites including SAC, SPA, Ramsar sites, SSSI, NNR, LNR) and BHS – monitor change in area of the sites</p> <p>Condition of SSSIs (percentage in favourable condition)</p> <p>Number of BHSs under Active Management.</p> <p>Area of habitat created</p> <p>Areas of woodland, including ancient woodland</p> <p>Woodland/farmland bird populations Access to greenspace</p>	<p>Maintain and improve condition of designated sites</p> <p>Increase area of habitat provided across the district</p> <p>No net loss of biodiversity</p> <p>No loss of ancient woodland as a result of new development</p> <p>Box and Harrison Nature Conservation Area standard (1ha per 1,000 population)</p> <p>Ensure that there is at least one 20 hectare natural green space site within 2km of people's homes</p>	<p>Lancashire BAP</p> <p>Planning Team Performance Monitoring Framework</p> <p>Natural England</p> <p>Lancashire County Council</p>

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SA Objective	Effect to be Monitored	Indicators	Targets	Potential Data Sources
<p>Protect and enhance landscape and townscape character and quality and protect tranquillity</p>	<p>Effect of new development on the borough’s landscapes and townscapes. Integration of new development into the townscape/landscape Positive contribution of new development to the green infrastructure network across the borough</p>	<p>Contextual information based upon landscape and townscape character assessments Amount of sport, recreation and informal open space lost to other uses (without appropriate mitigation) Landscape/townscape characterisation Development on greenfield land Some biodiversity indicators are also relevant in relation to greenspace access.</p>	<p>No net loss of sport, recreation and informal open space to other uses (without appropriate mitigation).</p>	<p>Planning Team Performance Monitoring Framework</p>
<p>Protect and enhance the cultural heritage resource</p>	<p>Protection afforded to the borough’s heritage assets through application of the plan’s policies.</p>	<p>Number and distribution of Listed Buildings, Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAMs), Conservation Areas and Registered Parks and Gardens. Number of heritage assets at risk Development of a Built Heritage Strategy and Action Plan for Fylde, Conservation Area Character Appraisals and a Local List of Heritage Assets Consider developing an indicator to monitor the extent to which new development has an adverse effect on the setting of heritage assets.</p>	<p>Reduce number of heritage assets at risk Produce all documentation outlined in the plan by 2020.</p>	<p>Planning Team Performance Monitoring Framework Historic England Fylde Council Conservation Team</p>

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SA Objective	Effect to be Monitored	Indicators	Targets	Potential Data Sources
Protect and enhance the quality of water features and resources and reduce the risk of flooding	Monitor the effect of new development on flood risk, the number of new developments that include SuDS and the effects of new development on water quality across the borough.	<p>Percentage of rivers with good/fair chemical and biological water quality</p> <p>Number of planning applications granted permission contrary to Environment Agency advice regarding flooding.</p> <p>Bathing water quality</p> <p>Number of water meters and water recycling measures installed within new developments.</p>	<p>Prevent deterioration of the status of all surface water and groundwater bodies</p> <p>Protect, enhance and restore all bodies of surface water and groundwater with the aim of achieving Good Status for surface water and groundwater by 2015</p> <p>To meet EU bathing water standards</p> <p>No planning permissions to be granted contrary to EA advice on flooding</p>	<p>Water Framework Directive</p> <p>Bathing Waters Directive</p> <p>Environment Agency</p> <p>Planning Team Performance Monitoring Framework</p>
Limit and adapt to the impacts of climate change	Effects of the development plan on ensuring energy efficiency in new developments and achievement of sustainable construction standards in new developments.	<p>Local rail and bus patronage</p> <p>Cycle route length</p> <p>Population within 400m of a bus stop on a quality bus route</p>	Targets to be developed	<p>Planning Team Performance Monitoring Framework</p> <p>Lancashire County Council</p>
	Effects on reducing travel and promoting use of public transport	<p>New dwellings within 0.5km of the district cycle path network</p> <p>Indicators used to monitor the implementation of the Local Transport Plan may also be relevant</p> <p>Number of Sustainability Statements accompanying major planning applications, with objectives implemented.</p> <p>Improvements to South Fylde Line and provision of Park and Ride at Kirkham and Wesham station</p>		



Fylde Local Plan Sustainability Appraisal – Post Adoption Statement

SA Objective	Effect to be Monitored	Indicators	Targets	Potential Data Sources
Protect and improve air quality	Effect of the plan and new development on air quality across the borough.	Number and distribution of Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs). Local air quality monitoring results for nitrogen and particulates	No new AQMAs to be designated in the District. Achievement of UK Air Quality Strategy objectives for specific pollutants	UK Air Quality Strategy Fylde Council Environmental Protection team.
Ensure the sustainable use of natural resources	Effects of the plan on waste management are likely to be limited but number of recycling schemes implemented as part of new development and use of recycled and secondary materials in construction projects could be monitored. Potential loss of mineral resources as a result of development.	Implementation of kerbside recycling schemes Percentage use of secondary and recycled materials in construction of new developments Impact of new development on Mineral Safeguarding Areas and number of appropriate surveys taken prior to development.	Increase use of secondary and recycled materials in construction for new developments.	Lancashire County Council

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