ROCHDALE
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Rochdale Borough Draft Local Plan

Interim Integrated Assessment Report

December 2025

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1. Introduction

Purpose of this Report

1.1 This report outlines the methodology, process and results of the first Integrated Assessment (IA) of the draft Rochdale Local Plan, including the Sustainability Appraisal, the Health Impact Assessment and the Equalities Impact Assessment. It includes conclusions and recommendations resulting from these assessments.

1.2 The Integrated Assessment of Rochdale's Regulation 18 draft Local Plan will ensure that the Local Plan contributes to sustainable development. It will combine several statutory assessments together into a single document in order to assess the socio-economic and environmental effects of the Local Plan in a coherent and integrated way.

1.3 The Integrated Assessment will incorporate:

- Sustainability Appraisal (SA), which incorporates the statutory requirements of Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)
- Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA)
- Health Impact Assessment (HIA)

1.4 The Council is currently consulting on a Regulation 18 draft plan. While there is no strict requirement for IA work at this stage of the plan-making process, this interim IA report is produced to help inform plan-making and present stakeholders with sustainability implications of the draft plan. Therefore, an updated IA will be published alongside the publication version (Regulation 19) of the plan.

Rochdale's Local Plan

1.5 Rochdale Council is preparing a new Local Plan, which will be the main land use planning document for the Borough, following the adoption of the Places for Everyone joint planning document (PfE) of nine Greater Manchester districts. The Rochdale Local Plan will propose detailed planning policies and designations to guide and manage the Borough's future growth and development needs. While the Regulation 18 version of the plan does not include site allocations in addition to those allocated through PfE, it will set out designations and zones relating to particular land uses such as open space, flood risk management and employment.

1.6 The new Rochdale Local Plan, along with the adopted Places for Everyone Plan, will replace the Rochdale Unitary Development Plan (UDP) and the Core Strategy, as well as the Allocations Development Plan Document (DPD) which was at draft stage.

1.7 There are several key stages in the production of the Rochdale Local Plan, as follows:

- Evidence gathering

- ‘Call for Sites’
- Draft document
- Publication and submission
- Examination in public
- Adoption

Why do we need an Integrated Assessment?

1.8 The Integrated Assessment will enable the Local Plan to meet the need for Sustainability Appraisal (SA), Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) and Health Impact Assessment (HIA).

1.9 The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004) requires the Council to carry out a Sustainability Appraisal of each of the proposals in a Local Plan and to prepare a Local Plan with the objective of contributing to the achievement of sustainable development.

1.10 The purpose of the SA is to promote sustainable development through assessing the emerging Local Plan against economic, environmental and social objectives (including opportunities for net gain). Significant adverse effects should be avoided and wherever possible, alternative options which reduce or eliminate such impacts should be pursued. Where significant adverse impacts are unavoidable, suitable mitigation measures should be proposed (or, where this is not possible, compensatory measures should be considered).

1.11 The EU Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive and associated Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004, require the Council to carry out a Strategic Environmental Assessment of the Plan. The SEA is incorporated into the Sustainability Appraisal (SA).

1.12 The public sector Equality Duty (section 149 of the Equality Act) requires the Council to consider how different people will be affected by its activities, to help deliver policies and services which are efficient and effective; accessible to all; and which meet different people’s needs.

1.13 The role of a Health Impact Assessment (HIA) is to assess the potential effects of the Local Plan review on the health of the Borough’s population. It aims to minimise negative health impacts and maximise positive health impacts. There is no statutory requirement for HIA, however, it adds value and depth to the overall assessment process.

1.14 In Rochdale, as is the case with Places for Everyone, we will be meeting the requirements for SA and SEA through an Integrated Assessment, which also includes a Health Impact Assessment and an Equality Impact Assessment. This will ensure that the potential social, economic and environmental effects are given full consideration in an integrated way. There are helpful synergies by taking a similar approach to PfE as our Local Plan will be in conformity with the strategic policies set out at a Greater Manchester level.

2. Components of the Integrated Assessment

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Sustainability Appraisal (SA)

2.1 The European SEA Directive 2001/42/EC is a European Union Directive in the field of environmental protection, requiring the evaluation of all those plans and programmes which can produce environmental effects. An environmental report is required, in which the likely significant effects of implementing the plan, and reasonable alternatives taking into account the objectives and geographical scope of the plan, are identified, described and evaluated. The Directive outlines what information is to be given.

2.2 In the UK, the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires Sustainability Appraisal (SA) for Development Plan Documents (DPDs), and Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD). SA is an appraisal of the environmental, economic and social impacts of a plan, and it has to be in conformity with the SEA Directive; in effect, in incorporates the requirements of the SEA Directive.

Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA)

2.3 EqIA is designed to ensure that discrimination does not occur in the drawing up of plans and policies, and that such plans or policies meet the requirements of equality legislation in the UK, most notably the Equality Act 2010. It is being used as part of the IA to add value and depth to the assessment process. The Equality Act imposes a duty on public bodies that shape policy, deliver services and/or employ people. The duty requires public bodies to:

- have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination;
- advance equality of opportunity; and,
- foster good relations between different people when carrying out their activities.

2.4 This IA therefore needs to consider in its scope, the likely negative and positive effects on discriminatory practices; the potential to alter the opportunities of certain groups of people; and/or effect on relationships between different groups of people.

2.5 In order to understand which groups of people (or individuals), may suffer discrimination, the Equality Act sets out a series of “protected characteristics”:

- age
- disability
- gender reassignment
- marriage and civil partnership
- pregnancy and maternity
- race
- religion or belief
- sex

- sexual orientation.

2.6 EqIA is two-stage process:

- Stage 1: Screening - this involves the assessment of impacts of the strategy/plan against the protected characteristics outlined above. If no negative effects are identified during screening no further assessment is required. If there are effects that cannot easily be mitigated, a full EqIA should be undertaken.

- Stage 2: Full EqIA - this involves more in-depth assessment of the impacts of the strategy/plan, the recommendation of mitigation measures, definition of monitoring and evaluation measures and public consultation.

2.7 To ensure the IA meets the requirements of EqIA, this Scoping Report includes an objective in relation to the equality duty. The EqIA Screening Report will be presented as an appendix to the IA report and will be fed into the IA as part of the iterative process. The EqIA screening framework is shown in Chapter 7.

Health Impact Assessment (HIA)

2.8 There is no statutory requirement for HIA, however, it adds value and depth to the assessment process. The role of HIA is to assess the potential effects of the Local Plan review on the health of the Borough's population. It aims to minimise negative health impacts and maximise positive health impacts.

2.9 Consideration of the determinants of health and the broad requirements of the Department of Health HIA screening questions have been integrated into the IA Framework to assess how the Local Plan may affect health (i.e. by affecting the determinants of health). Subsequent HIA stages align with those of the IA. As such, by including consideration of health, alongside the other environmental, sustainability and equality considerations, the Local Plan IA will cover the scope of a HIA. The Department of Health (DOH) guidance states that "the determinants of health are the focus of HIA. They are the social, economic, environmental and cultural factors that indirectly influence health and wellbeing. They include what we eat and drink; where we live and work; and the social relationships and connections we have with other people and organisations".

2.10 The Integrated Assessment Matrix includes a sustainability objective on health and well-being and the 'Links across the Integrated Assessment' sections recognise that health overlaps with many of the SA and EqIA issues. In addition there will be a HIA screening report presented in Chapter 8 of the IA report.

3. Stages of the Integrated Assessment process

3.1 The following stages are based on the ODPM best practice guidance in respect of SEA and Planning Practice Guidance on SEA and SA, updated in 2015.

Figure 1: Stages of the Integrated Assessment

Stage A: Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope (The Scoping Report)
Task A1: Identifying and reviewing other relevant plans, policies and programmes
Task A2: Collecting baseline information
Task A3: Identifying key sustainability issues for the Plan and IA
Task A4: Developing the IA framework including set of objectives
Task A5: Consulting on the scope of the IA
Stage B: Developing and refining options and assessing effects
Task B1: Testing the Plan objectives against the IA framework
Task B2: Developing the Plan options including reasonable alternatives
Task B3: Evaluating the effects of the Plan
Task B4: Considering ways of mitigating adverse effects and maximising beneficial effects
Task B5: Proposing measures to monitor the significant effects of implementing the Plan
Stage C: Preparing the Integrated Assessment Report
Task C1: Preparing the IA report
Stage D: Consulting on the IA report
Task D1: Seek representations on the SA report from consultation bodies and the public
Stage E: Post adoption reporting and monitoring
Task E1: Prepare and publish post-adoption statement
Task E2: Monitor significant effects of implementing the Local Plan
Task E3: Respond to adverse effects

3.2 The relationship between the stages of preparing a Local Plan and the Integrated Assessment stages is shown in Figure 2 below.

Figure 2: Relationship between the Integrated Assessment and the Local Plan stages

LOCAL PLAN STAGE: EVIDENCE GATHERING AND ENGAGEMENT

IA STAGE A: SETTING THE CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES, ESTABLISHING THE BASELINE AND DECIDING ON THE SCOPE

- Identify other relevant policies, plans and programmes, and sustainability objectives
- Collect baseline information
- Identify sustainability issues and problems
- Develop the IA appraisal framework
- Consult the consultation bodies on the scope of the IA report

LOCAL PLAN STAGE: CONSULT ON LOCAL PLAN IN PREPARATION

IA STAGE B: DEVELOPING AND REFINING OPTIONS AND ASSESSING EFFECTS

- Test the DPD objectives against the IA framework
- Develop the DPD options including reasonable alternatives
- Evaluate the likely effects of the DPD and alternatives
- Consider ways of mitigating adverse effects and maximising beneficial effects
- Propose measures to monitor the significant effects of implementing the DPD

IA STAGE C: PREPARING THE IA REPORT AND THE PUBLICATION VERSION OF THE DPD

IA STAGE D: SEEK REPRESENTATIONS ON THE IA REPORT AND THE PUBLICATION DPD FROM CONSULTATION BODIES AND THE PUBLIC

LOCAL PLAN STAGE: SUBMIT DRAFT DPD AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS FOR INDEPENDENT EXAMINATION

LOCAL PLAN STAGE: OUTCOME OF EXAMINATION

- Consider implications for SA/SEA compliance

LOCAL PLAN STAGE: LOCAL PLAN ADOPTED

IA STAGE E: POST ADOPTION REPORTING AND MONITORING

- Prepare and publish post adoption statement
- Monitor significant effects of implementing the Local Plan
- Respond to adverse effect

Stage A – Scoping Report

3.3 The Scoping stage of the IA process involves understanding the social, economic and environmental baseline for the plan, through gathering baseline information and reviewing relevant plans, policies and programmes. This also identifies key sustainability issues which are used to inform the appraisal framework. The Scoping report was carried out and consulted on in June 2024.

3.4 The review of other polices, plans and programmes is included in Appendix 1 of this report, as well as the baseline information and indicators which are included in Appendix 2. Both of these sections have had minor updates since 2024 and will be updated prior to the final IA version to support the submission version of the plan. The updated table of sustainability issues from the Scoping Report is shown in Table 1 below.

3.5 Following comments received during the consultation on the IA Scoping Report, the table of key sustainability issues has been updated which is shown in the table below.

Table 1: Key Sustainability Issues

Topic	Issues	Implications for the Local Plan
Housing	• Population expected to increase by 12% in next two decades, with an increase in proportion of over 65s. • Borough does not have enough housing of right size, type, tenure and quality to meet demand.	• Provide an adequate supply of land for housing to meet with the requirements set out in PfE. • Deliver a range of housing types and tenures to meet local housing needs.
Economy and Employment	• High concentration of manufacturing industries. • Lower wages than GM by both workplace and residency. • Employment rate below GM and national averages. • While there has been investment in recent years in town centres, the retail offer of the borough does not compare well with competing towns.	• Supporting delivery of Atom Valley for more high quality jobs in the borough. • Be flexible in land designations to encourage a greater diversity of businesses and identify suitable modern business uses in sustainable locations. • Locate new retail development in town centres. • Promote the regeneration of town centres and flexible uses where appropriate.
Health	• Life expectancy lower than national average. • Lower % of adults who take part in regular physical activity • The general health of the population is worse than the national average	• Ensure spatial distribution of land use supports accessible jobs, health facilities and open spaces. • Encourage active travel and provide access to green infrastructure for active travel routes.

Education and Skills	• Borough has a low skills base compared with regional and national comparators.	• Ensure sufficient access to education infrastructure with new developments.
Transport	• There is a need to widen travel choice and enhance sustainable accessibility to employment opportunities, shopping, education and local services. • Higher proportion of people who drive to work compared to GM average.	• Locate new development in sustainable locations with access to public transport. • Encourage the use of active travel including walking and cycling.
Water Resources	• Significant parts of the borough's urban areas are designated flood zones 2 or 3. • Some communities are at greater risk from the effects of flooding. • Physical modifications to river courses and pollution have led to water quality issues in the rivers that run through the borough.	• Locate new development away from areas of flood risk. • Encourage the use of Sustainable Drainage Systems and nature-based solutions. • New development should be resilient to the effects of climate change. • Maximise opportunities from new development to deliver measures which improve water quality.
Climate and Energy	• Greater Manchester target to be carbon neutral by 2038. • There is a need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, particularly from transport, domestic and industrial uses. • Some parts of the borough are at greater risk from the effects of climate change (e.g. extreme heat, storm events, flooding)	• Promote greater building efficiency and good design to reduce carbon generated from new developments, as well as infrastructure for sustainable transport. • Support renewable energy generation where appropriate. • Ensure the design and construction of new development is resilient to impacts of climate change.
Air Quality	• Significant parts of the Borough are covered by Air Quality Management Areas.	• Avoid approving new development in Air Quality Management Areas.
Biodiversity & Geodiversity	• The borough has a number of designated sites, including the South Pennine Moors SAC Rochdale Canal SAC. • There are a range of important habitats in the borough, including peatland. There has been historic depletion and fragmentation of habitats in the region.	• Ensure designated sites and significance are protected and enhanced. • Support Local Nature Recovery strategies. • Ensure policies require no net loss of biodiversity and deliver a general biodiversity net gain of at least 10%.

Green Infrastructure	• Only 5.5% of the Borough is woodland, below the regional and national figures. • Access to the countryside and quality greenspace is poor in many parts of the Borough. • The functional integrity of the Green Infrastructure network is of variable quality and is under pressure from the impacts of urban communities and the need to support economic and housing growth.	• Ensure development does not adversely affect tree cover and promote opportunities for tree planting. • Improve quality and quantity of green infrastructure, and access for residents across the borough.
Landscape	• Rochdale's geography and topology mean the borough has outstanding landscapes, with landscape character types. identified in the PfE plan. • A challenge is to conserve and enhance these whilst supporting appropriate development opportunities.	• Ensure new development is sensitive to the characteristics of landscape character types.
Historic Environment	• 3 Grade II, 6 Grade II* listed buildings and 3 Conservation Areas in the Borough are in the Historic England Heritage at Risk register.	• Ensure new development protects and enhances listed buildings and Conservation Areas, especially those at risk. • Supporting opportunities to bring historic buildings back into viable uses if not currently.
Land Resources	• Parts of the borough have an inappropriate mix of land uses • Some brownfield sites in need of regeneration. • Agricultural land is under pressure for development.	• Support the regeneration of brownfield land. • Be flexible to allow redevelopment of land to alternative uses where appropriate. • Protect high quality agricultural land and prioritise brownfield development in town centres and close to transport hubs.

Stage B – Developing Options and Assessing Effects

3.6 Stage B of the IA process involves the consideration of the proposed policy options, and the assessment of their effects. This is done using the framework developed during the scoping and consultation process in Stage A.

Table 2: Assessment stage tasks

Task	Description
Assess Rochdale Local Plan objectives	The aim of this task is to identify whether any Local Plan objectives could potentially conflict with the IA objectives. The output will be an appraisal of where the objectives are complementary, may conflict or where there might be uncertainty. By undertaking this task first, the IA process can highlight early on, where objectives are misaligned. If potential areas of conflict are identified, potential mitigation measures can be implemented so that the potential area of conflict can be avoided during the development of alternatives.
Assess reasonable alternatives	The SEA Directive requires that '…the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme, and reasonable alternatives taking into account the objectives and geographic scope of the plan or programme, are identified, described and evaluated' (Article 5.1). Planning Practice Guidance defines reasonable alternatives *as the different realistic options considered by the plan-maker in developing the policies in its plan. They must be sufficiently distinct to highlight the different sustainability implications of each so that meaningful comparisons can be made. The alternatives must be realistic and deliverable.*
Identify mitigation measures	Where the assessment identifies significant adverse effects, a series of measures will be identified that could be implemented to avoid or reduce their magnitude. The proposed mitigation will be integrated into the plan, where appropriate, so that this information can be taken into account during selection of preferred options. Note that in HIA, if potential adverse effects are identified, these are termed 'recommendations'. These are equivalent to 'mitigation measures' highlighted in SA/SEA.
Describe reasons for selecting the preferred options and not taking forward the alternatives	Once the preferred options have been selected, the reasons provided for taking forward the preferred options and the reasons for rejecting the alternatives will be detailed and documented in the IA Report.
Propose monitoring measures	Measures will be proposed to enable the monitoring of the effects of the implementation the Local Plan against the IA Objectives.

3.7 During the assessment, a number of factors have been taken into account to determine whether a predicted effect has the potential to be significant. These factors are listed in the table below.

Table 3: Considerations to be used during the Integrated Assessment

Issues for consideration	Details
Type of Effect	Positive or negative
	Direct or indirect
	Cumulative
	Temporary or permanent

Magnitude and Spatial Extent	Where will it impact? Will it be within Local Plan boundary or outside it?
	Will it cause trans-boundary issues and impact on adjacent areas or regionally, nationally or internationally?
	What is the geographical area and size of population likely to be affected?
Who it will affect, key groups or communities to be considered include:	Older and younger people
	Socio-economic groups (variable)
	Women and men
	Asylum seekers and refugees
	Black and ethnic minority people (including Gypsy and Traveller communities)
	Disabled people
	Faith communities
	Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people
Vulnerability of Receptor	Sensitivity of receptors
	Special natural characteristics/areas or cultural heritage
	Protected areas
	Relative importance of the site, whether it is a nationally or internationally important feature or of local significance.

The IA Framework

3.8 The IA framework is made up of a series of IA objectives and assessment criteria which have been developed for the Places for Everyone plan (Part 1) and the Rochdale Local Plan (Part 2). The IA Framework is used to identify the likely social, economic and environmental effects and guide mitigation and policy development.

3.9 Under the SEA guidance an objective is defined as 'a statement of what is intended, specifying a desired direction of change' For the present IA, objectives are specific aims that the Rochdale Local Plan should strive to achieve. The IA objectives may differ from any Local Plan objectives, although there may be synergies.

3.10 The assessment criteria comprise a series of considerations which are based on the specific issues, defined at scoping. Using assessment criteria to appraise policy and sites helps the assessor to arrive at a conclusion about potential impacts in a methodical and consistent manner and helps stakeholders to understand the reasoning behind the assessment. The IA framework is the starting point in the assessment matrices.

3.11 Following comments on the Scoping Report consultation, there have been some minor amendments to the IA framework. The main change has been to split heritage and landscape, to create a new objective under the heading of Historic Environment and cultural heritage. Due to education being included under two objectives, education has now been grouped with social infrastructure to make the framework more concise

Table 4: IA framework

Number	IA Objective	Assessment criteria – Will the Rochdale Local Plan…
1	Provide a sustainable supply of housing land including for an	• Ensure an appropriate quantity and quality of housing land to meet the identified local need for market and affordable housing?

	appropriate mix of sizes, types, and tenures in locations to meet housing need, and to support economic growth.	• Ensure an appropriate mix of types, tenures and sizes of properties in relation to local need and community requirements, and ensure adequate infrastructure planned for? • Ensure housing land is well-connected with employment land, centres and green space or co-located where appropriate? • Support improvements in the energy efficiency and resilience of the housing stock?
2	Provide a sustainable supply of employment land to ensure sustainable economic growth and job creation.	• Meet current and future need for employment land across the Rochdale Borough Council area? • Support education and training to provide a suitable labour force for future growth, ensuring opportunities are available for all sectors of society? • Provide sufficient employment land in locations that are well connected and well-served by adequate infrastructure? • Support the diversification of Rochdale's local economy? • Support the enhancement of the vitality and viability of Rochdale's town centres?
3	Ensure that there is sufficient coverage and capacity of transport and utilities to support growth and development.	• Ensure that the transport network can support and enable the projected scale and spatial distribution of development? • Improve transport connectivity? • Ensure that utilities / digital infrastructure can support and enable the anticipated scale and spatial distribution of development?
4	Reduce levels of deprivation and disparity.	• Support a reduction in the proportion of those living in deprivation? • Support reductions in poverty (including child and fuel poverty), deprivation and disparity across the domains of the Indices of Multiple Deprivation?
5	Promote equality of opportunity and the elimination of discrimination.	• Foster good relations between different people? • Ensure equality of opportunity and equal access to facilities/infrastructure for all? • Ensure no discrimination based on 'protected characteristics', as defined in the Equality Act 2010?(Note that this assessment will be supported by an EqIA screening assessment, accompanying the IA Report) • Ensure that the needs of different areas, (namely urban, suburban, urban fringe and rural) are equally addressed?
6	Support improved health and well-being of the population and reduce health inequalities.	• Support healthier lifestyles and support improvements in determinants of health? • Reduce health inequalities within Rochdale and with the rest of England? • Promote access to the natural environment and green space, and leisure and recreational facilities?

		• Promote good quality design that discourages crime?
7	Support improved educational attainment and skills levels for all, and access to social infrastructure.	• Ensure people are adequately served by key healthcare facilities, regardless of socio-economic status? • Ensure sufficient access to educational facilities for all children? • Promote access to and provision of appropriate community social infrastructure including playgrounds and sports facilities? • Improve education levels of children in the area, regardless of their background? • Improve educational and skill levels of the population of working age?
8	Conserve and enhance the Borough's historic environment and cultural heritage	• Protect and/or enhance the historic environment, including the significance of heritage assets (designated assets and locally listed assets) and their setting? • Protect and/or enhance the borough's cultural heritage, including archaeological heritage?
9	Promote sustainable modes of transport.	• Reduce the need to travel and promote efficient and integrated patterns of movement? • Promote an accessible, safe, sustainable and connected public transport network that reduces reliance on private motor vehicles? • Support the use of sustainable and active modes of transport?
10	Improve air quality.	• Improve air quality within Rochdale, particularly within the Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs)? • Minimise emissions associated with new development? • Locate development away from areas of poor air quality?
11	Conserve and enhance biodiversity, green infrastructure and geodiversity assets.	• Protect, conserve and enhance new and existing European, nationally and locally designated wildlife and geological sites? • Encourage restoration of designated wildlife sites, habitats and species and protected and unique geological features? • Promote green links and natural corridors to reduce isolation of designated sites and support local nature recovery? • Deliver a 'biodiversity net gain' in new developments? • Support and enhance existing multifunctional green infrastructure and / or contribute towards the creation of new multifunctional green infrastructure? • Ensure access to green infrastructure providing opportunities for recreation, amenity and tranquillity?
12	Ensure communities, developments and infrastructure are	• Ensure that communities, existing and new developments and infrastructure systems are resilient

	resilient to the effects of climate change.	to the predicted effects of climate change across Rochdale? • Promote climate resilience measures through high quality design and master planning? • Support the delivery of nature-based solutions for climate resilience?
13	Reduce the risk of flooding to people and property.	• Restrict development in areas of high flood risk or a greater risk of flooding? • Ensure adequate measures are in place to manage existing flood risk to ensure communities in those areas are resilient to flood risk? • Ensure that development does not increase flood risk due to increased run-off rates? • Ensure development is appropriately future proofed, including the design and placement of buildings, to accommodate future levels of flood risk including from climate change? • Deliver sustainable urban drainage systems?
14	Protect and improve the quality and availability of water resources.	• Encourage compliance with the Water Framework Directive? • Promote management practices that will protect surface and groundwater from pollution? • Avoid consuming greater volumes of water resources than are available to maintain a healthy environment and encourage water efficiency? • Maximise opportunities from new development to deliver improvements to watercourses?
15	Increase energy efficiency, encourage low carbon generation and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.	• Encourage energy demand reductions and energy efficiency in new development? • Encourage the development of low carbon and renewable energy facilities, including as part of conventional developments? • Promote a proactive reduction in direct and indirect greenhouse gas emissions emitted within Rochdale?
16	Conserve and/or enhance landscape, townscape, local character and distinctiveness	• Improve landscape quality and the character of open spaces and the public realm? • Improve the quality of the built environment and townscapes through high quality urban design? • Respect, maintain and strengthen local character and distinctiveness?
17	Ensure that land resources are allocated and used in an efficient and sustainable manner to meet the housing and employment needs of Rochdale, whilst reducing land contamination.	• Support the development of previously developed land and other sustainable locations? • Protect the best and most versatile agricultural land / soil resources from inappropriate development? • Encourage the redevelopment of brownfield/previously developed land, properties, buildings and infrastructure, returning them to appropriate uses? • Support reductions in land contamination through the remediation and reuse of previously developed land?

18	Promote sustainable consumption of resources and support the implementation of the waste hierarchy.	• Support the sustainable use of physical resources? • Promote movement up the waste hierarchy? • Promote reduced waste generation?

3.12 Table 5 below shows the scoring system used to assess the expected effect of draft policies at this stage. In many instances where the draft policy was not considered to affect an IA objective then neutral / no effect was selected. There are several instances where the effect was considered to be a combination of two levels (e.g. uncertain / negative).

Table 5: Levels of effect

++	Very positive effect
+	Positive effect
?	Uncertain
-	Negative effect
--	Very negative effect
o	Neutral / no effect

4. IA of Rochdale Local Plan Objectives

4.1 Stage B of the IA process involves the consideration of the proposed policy and objective options, and the assessment of their effects, using the framework set out in the Scoping Report. Whilst these objectives are high level aims that will be expressed in more detail through the Local Plan's policies, it is beneficial to assess them at this stage to understand any potential significant adverse effects if they were implemented.

4.2 The 2025 draft Rochdale Local Plan objectives are shown below.

Objective 1 – A Sustainable and Resilient Place

- Contributing to the Greater Manchester target of net zero by 2038
- Requiring all development to be highly energy efficient with a target of zero carbon by 2028
- Supporting the production of renewable energy where appropriate
- Increasing the borough's resilience to the effects of climate change, with a focus on nature-based solutions
- Reducing the likelihood of flooding though appropriate flood risk management.
- Minimising waste and adverse impacts to the environment from pollution

Objective 2 – A Prosperous Place

- Deliver the Atom Valley Mayoral Development Zone to transform the local economy
- Maximise the opportunities presented by the Sustainable Materials and Manufacturing Centre (SMMC) to meet the ambitions to build a world class cluster of advanced materials and manufacturing in Atom Valley
- Support improvements to skills through training and education to maximise the benefits of this economic growth for local people
- Establishing strong, thriving and attractive town centres which provide a range of services and meet the needs of the community
- Delivering more homes in our town centres to create sustainable communities and increase vibrancy
- Building on the borough's tourism assets to create a strong visitor economy.
- Support economic growth through the provision of high-quality green, social and transport infrastructure

Objective 3 – A Place for Homes

- Delivering the number of homes required to meet housing need and support economic growth
- Improving the range of housing to meet needs and aspirations, including affordable housing and more high value housing
- Creating well-designed, desirable housing areas to retain and attract residents;
- Focusing housing growth in sustainable locations where it helps to deliver regeneration and economic growth (e.g. Town Centres and close to railway stations)
- Deliver homes for specific groups that addresses local needs whilst creating strong and successful communities
- Ensuring that new housing is supported by community facilities, service infrastructure and high-quality green and blue infrastructure

Objective 4 – A Greener Place

- Ensure that all development achieves nature positive outcomes which deliver wider social, economic and environmental benefits
- Protect, maintain, enhance and expand a resilient, well-connected and high-quality network of green and blue infrastructure to deliver multiple benefits
- Recognise the value of watercourses and their settings, and promote their positive management to create attractive, healthy, resilient places
- Protect and enhance biodiversity and support nature recovery
- Value landscapes to help achieve well-designed places, plan for climate change, and conserve and enhance the natural environment

Objective 5 – A Place for People

- Prioritises health and wellbeing in all aspects of managing the built and natural environment and therefore supporting healthier lifestyles
- Social value is embedded into new development, thereby delivering positive outcomes for all residents
- Communities have easier access to social infrastructure enhancing opportunities for improving health and wellbeing and reducing health inequalities.
- Ensuring the design of buildings, places and spaces delivers equity for all
- Expecting good quality education and skills-based learning opportunities are available for all members of the community from early-years onwards.
- Create, protect and enhance distinctive places and buildings by understanding their contribution to the wider setting
- Across the borough, the preservation and restoration of heritage and conservation buildings and important sites are prioritised and enhanced
- Ensure access to a network of high-quality open spaces for formal and informal sport and recreation which also delivers wider benefits for nature and supports efforts to address climate change

Objective 6 – Connected Place

- Direct development to the most accessible locations (town / local centres and public transport corridors) or those that can be made more accessible by sustainable transport
- Deliver strategic transport connections to drive economic growth in the Atom Valley Mayoral Development Zone and new and existing developments, including to the regional centre and key destinations both in and outside the Borough
- Extend the Bee Network to offer more travel choice, maximising walking, wheeling, cycling and public transport opportunities and reduce the number and length of single occupancy car journeys
- Ensure new development contributes to transport improvements and the use of public and other sustainable transport
- Support measures to enhance safety and access to vulnerable road users including people with impaired mobility, protect traffic sensitive town centres and residential communities and provide street environments that are more appealing to travel along and spend time; and
- Reduce emissions from traffic to support delivery of the Greater Manchester Clean Air Plan, 2050 Transport Strategy and GM “Right Mix” targets for modal shift through healthier travel behaviour and technical innovations to improve network operation.

Compatibility Analysis

4.3 This section presents the findings of a compatibility analysis of IA of the 2025 draft Local Plan objectives. This compatibility analysis relates to Stage B1 of the SEA process which requires the objectives of the plan or programme to be tested with the SEA objectives to identify synergies and potential inconsistencies.

4.4 As strategic objectives are high level in nature, it would not be necessary or appropriate to subject them to a full IA assessment. They have therefore been assessed to highlight compatibility with the Local Plan IA objectives using the colour scoring system below.

Table 6. Rochdale Local Plan IA Objectives key

Very compatible	Objectives are aligned to the same or a very similar topic and aspiration.	++
Compatible	Objectives are related and compatible (i.e. not in conflict) and can be achieved in parallel.	+
Uncertain	There is insufficient information to determine compatibility at this stage.	?
Incompatible	Conflict between objectives (i.e. they work against each other)	-
Very incompatible	Major conflict between objectives.	--
Neutral / no direct relationship	Objectives are unrelated and do not affect each other.	o

4.5 Table 7 below shows the compatibility analysis of the Local Plan objectives in comparison to the IA objectives. As the Local Plan objectives are grouped into 6 topics with several sub-objectives, the table has used the 6 broader objectives for this assessment.

Table 7: IA Compatibility Analysis of 2025 draft Rochdale Local Plan Objectives

IA objective	**Local Plan Objective**					
	1	2	3	4	5	6
1. Housing	+	o	++	o	+	+
2. Employment	+	++	o	o	+	+
3. Transport and Utilities	+	+	+	o	o	++
4. Deprivation	+	++	+	+	+	+
5. Equalities	+	+	+	+	+	+
6. Health	+	o	+	+	++	+
7. Education and Social Infrastructure	o	+	o	o	++	+
8. Historic Environment	o	++	o	o	++	+
9. Sustainable Transport	+	+	+	o	+	++
10. Air Quality	++	?	?	+	+	+
11. Biodiversity/ Geodiversity	+	?	?	++	+	o
12. Climate Resilience	++	o	o	++	+	+
13. Flood Risk	++	o	o	++	o	o

14. Water Resources	++	o	o	++	o	+
15. Greenhouse Gases	++	?	?	+	+	+
16. Landscape and Character	+	+	?	+	++	+
17. Land Resources	+	+	?	+	o	+
18. Resource Consumption	+	o	?	o	o	o

4.6 In summary, the majority of the IA objectives were very compatible with at least one of the Local Plan objectives, with a majority of objectives that were 'compatible'. Some of the IA objectives had weaker synergies such as objective 18: Resource Consumption. This is largely due to the topic areas of minerals and waste being covered in a separate document.

4.7 The assessment did not identify any potential conflict between IA objectives and strategic objectives but did identify several 'uncertain' impacts. This is generally due to potential conflicts between those related to housing and economic growth and environmental objectives such as for biodiversity, air quality and greenhouse gases. Therefore, this provides an indication of where the Local Plan policies may need to mitigate any potential adverse effects or enhance positive effects.

5. Local Plan Strategy and Policies

Considering Options

5.1 There is a need for plan-makers to determine what elements of the plan present strategic choices and where there may be different options to address key issues. The onus is also on the plan-makers to determine what constitutes a reasonable alternative and such matters should be explored through the Integrated Appraisal.

5.2 The extent of this policy document has been heavily led by the policy context, with the plan coming after the adoption of the Places for Everyone (PfE) joint development plan document adopted in 2024. The PfE plan set the strategic policies for city-region which Rochdale belongs, as well as setting requirements for housing and employment provision over the plan period. These issues are considered further below. Therefore, no reasonable alternatives have been identified in relation to the overall strategy and approach of the plan, which has been set by PfE.

5.3 While the PfE plan included several strategic site allocations which were assessed in the previous IA, as the draft plan does not propose any specific allocations, then this section is solely in relation to the thematic policies contained in the individual chapters of the plan.

5.4 For the thematic local plan policies, the main alternative considered is the 'without policy' scenario. As most policies seek to contribute to some level of environmental and/or socio-economic consideration which aligns with some aims of the IA, then this is generally not considered to be a desirable option.

Strategic Issues

Overall Housing Provision

5.5 Rochdale's housing need is established in the Places for Everyone (PfE) plan, which acts as a 'Local Plan Part 1' for the draft Rochdale Local Plan. This need was based on the standard methodology of the NPPF and NPPG at the time of the plan's production.

5.6 This set a total requirement of 10,472 across the plan period of 2022-2039, or an annual average of 616 additional dwellings per year. The Places for Everyone Plan identified a number of large, strategic housing allocations totalling over 4,000 new homes, which included the allocation of Green Belt land for new development. The borough has exceeded the requirement in the housing delivery test in recent years, and is continuing to pursue opportunities for housing delivery, particularly in town centre regeneration.

5.7 As the PfE plan was only adopted in 2024, the Rochdale Local Plan is therefore focused on delivering the identified growth and strategic objectives as set out in the plan. As such the delivery of this housing target over the plan period is considered to

be appropriate, and no reasonable alternatives are identified in relation to housing provision.

Overall Employment Provision

5.8 The Places for Everyone plan also sets out the requirements for offices and industry and warehousing over the plan period of 2022-2039. This also included the release of Green Belt land in the borough, with a significant allocation at Northern Gateway between Rochdale and Bury. The allocation of land in the northern part of Greater Manchester was with the intention of boosting northern competitiveness, to address economic disparities in the city-region, which is central to the plan's spatial strategy. The strategic allocation of Northern Gateway alone represents around a fifth of the supply in Greater Manchester.

5.9 Again, the strategy for the Rochdale Local Plan is predominantly to support the wider objectives of the PfE plan in boosting the economic competitiveness of the region and delivering the growth opportunities as identified in the plan. As such the PfE set an ambitious plan for growth in the borough, and it is not necessary to go above the levels that were adopted in 2024.

5.10 Overall, no reasonable alternatives have been identified in relation to employment provision, with a focus on protecting existing opportunities and delivering economic growth through the strategic allocations identified in PfE that are still in early stages of development.

IA of Local Plan Policies

5.11 This section contains a summary of the IA of the Rochdale Local Plan policies at this stage of the process. Full details of each policy assessment using the criteria in Table 3 will be included as an appendix to the final IA report but are referred to in the commentary where relevant. The Local Plan is separated into several chapters which each contain multiple policies. This section deals with each policy separately to provide a summary of each assessment.

5.12 There are several instances where strategic aims of the IA are not applicable to the topic-based nature of policies. While all the IA aims are important, it is not possible or appropriate for each policy to cover every topic.

Key/Recurring Themes

5.13 The draft Rochdale Local Plan will be read in conjunction of the Places for Everyone (PfE) DPD, which as well as allocating sites for development, and setting the strategic direction for the city-region, also included various thematic policies across a range of themes. In some instances, the PfE policies also set the overarching policy context that the draft Rochdale Local Plan policies will support. The draft thematic policies in general seek to improve the economic, social and environmental outcomes from development in the borough.

5.14 As shown in Table 8, the draft policies all directly correspond to multiple IA objectives. Given the nature of the local plan, the initial IA has not identified any draft policies which are likely to have significant negative effects against IA objectives. There are some instances where there may be unknown factors from potential development uses included in the plan, such as for employment premises or renewable energy. However, it is considered that in these instances there was already sufficient mitigation either as part of the thematic policy or in other chapters in the plan, in order to appropriately deal with planning applications. Therefore overall, the recommendations do not propose significant mitigation.

5.15 Several suggestions for proposed enhancement to the thematic policies are shown in table 16. Again, due to the breadth of topics covered both by PfE and the draft Rochdale Local Plan, then policies contribute positively to a range of IA objectives. Themes of suggested enhancements have been to strengthen themes around climate mitigation, resilience, access to open space and the sustainable location of various types of development.

5.16 While the plan has several policies that require new development to make a stronger contribution to environmental objectives, it was important to consider these in the context of IA objectives 1 and 2 for delivery of new Housing and Employment development, to support the objectives around economic growth in the borough. As such there are some instances where minor amendments have been made to ensure requirements are clear and proportionate. The plan making process is ongoing, and further evidence will be produced to support the draft plan prior to the Regulation 19 version, at which point the IA will be revisited.

Mapping Policies to the IA Framework

5.17 Table 8 shows which IA objectives the Local plan policies directly link to i.e. where the over-arching themes are broadly similar. The table shows that each policy has a corresponding IA objective, showing a strong correlation between the two. It may not be necessary for every policy to discuss every topic it is directly or indirectly linked to.

Table 8: Mapping Policies to the IA Framework

Local Plan Policy Reference	Name of Policy	Directly corresponds to IA objective (No.)
A Sustainable and Resilient Place		
S1	Sustainable and Energy Efficient Development	1, 6, 12, 15, 18
S2	Climate Resilience	1, 6, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15
S3	Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Developments	2, 3, 10, 11, 12, 15, 16, 17
S4	Managing water resources and flood risk	11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17
S5	Reducing the impact of pollution, contamination and land instability	6, 10, 14, 17
A Prosperous Place		
PR1	Hierarchy of centres	2, 9
PR2	Creating vibrant main town centres	1, 2, 6, 9, 16, 17

PR3	Primary shopping areas in town centres	1, 2, 9, 17
PR4	Local and District centres and local shops	2, 7, 9, 17
PR5	Out of centre retail and leisure uses	2, 9, 10, 16, 17
PR6	Delivering employment floorspace	2, 3, 4
PR7	Business, industry and warehousing development	2, 3, 4, 16
PR8	Office development	2, 3, 4, 9, 17
PR9	Employment zones and existing employment sites	1, 2
PR10	Promoting the visitor and rural economy	2, 5, 6, 9, 11, 17
A Place for Homes		
H1	Delivering the right amount of housing in the right places	1, 9, 10, 11, 15, 17
H2	Delivering the right type of housing	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 9, 12, 15
H3	Providing affordable homes	1, 3, 4, 9, 12, 15
H4	Meeting the needs of gypsies, travellers and travelling showpeople	1, 5, 9
H5	Housing for older people and people with disabilities	1, 2, 4, 5, 9, 12
H6	Homes for looked after children and care leavers	1, 4, 5, 9
H7	Houses in multiple occupation (HMO's)	1, 4, 5, 9, 17
H8	Householder applications	1, 5, 11, 16, 17
A Greener Place		
GP1	Nature positive development	6, 11, 12, 13, 14
GP2	Rochdale's green network	6, 10, 11, 12
GP3	Green infrastructure and new development	6, 10, 11, 12, 13, 16
GP4	Watercourses and their setting	6, 11, 12, 13, 14
GP5	Urban Greening	6, 10, 11, 12, 13, 16
GP6	Trees, hedgerows and woodland	6, 10, 11, 12, 15, 16
GP7	Biodiversity and geodiversity	6, 10, 11, 14
GP8	Conserving and enhancing the landscape	6, 11, 16
A Place for People		
PE1	A Well-designed borough	5, 6, 8, 12, 16
PE2	Achieving a healthy place	1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 11
PE3	Health and wellbeing	4, 11, 15, 17
PE4	Enhancing local distinctiveness and improving local character	8, 16
PE5	Preserving heritage in the borough	2, 6, 8, 15, 16, 17
PE6	Delivering services and facilities in communities	5, 6, 7
PE7	Delivering social value across the borough	2, 4, 5, 7
PE8	Improving facilities for education and skills in the borough	4, 7, 9

PE9	Residential development and school places	7
PE10	Open Space, Sport and Recreation Facilities	4, 5, 6, 10, 11, 12, 16
A Connected Place		
T1	Delivering our transport priorities	3, 6, 9, 10
T2	Creating sustainable streets	5, 6, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 16
T3	Parking provision and drop-off facilities	2, 3, 5, 9
T4	Transport statements, assessments and travel plans for new development	3, 9
T5	Accessibility criteria	3, 5, 7, 9, 10, 17
T6	Bee Active Travel – walking, wheeling and cycling	2, 3, 5, 6, 9, 10, 16
T7	Bee Network – public transport	1, 2, 3, 5, 9, 10, 15
T8	Strategic Road Network	3, 9, 10, 15
T9	Local highways	3, 9, 10, 15
T10	Maximising local transport network operation	3, 9, 15
Development Management Policies		
DM1	Transport requirements for new developments	3, 6, 7, 11, 13, 14, 16, 17
DM2	Parking standards	1, 3, 6, 7, 11

IA of Local Plan Chapters

5.18 This section shows a summary of the IA results for each individual policy of the draft Local Plan at this stage. It also includes a written summary of the synergies of each policy with the IA framework, as well as any suggested mitigation or enhancements to the policies. A summary table of recommended mitigations/enhancements is included at the end of the chapter in Table 16.

A Sustainable and Resilient Place

The likely effects of the policies in the ‘Sustainable and Resilient Place’ chapter are shown in Table 9 below

Table 9: IA Summary for Sustainable and Resilient Place Chapter

IA Objectives	S1: Sustainable and Energy Efficient Development	S2: Climate Resilience	S3: Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Infrastructure	S4: Managing Water Resources and Flood Risk	S5: Reducing the Impact of Pollution, Contamination and Land Instability
1. Housing	+	+	o	o	o
2. Economy	o	o	?/+	o	o
3. Transport and Utilities	o	o	+	o	o
4. Deprivation	o	o	o	o	o
5. Equalities	o	o	o	o	o
6. Health	+	+	o	o	+
7. Education and Social Infrastructure	o	o	o	o	o
8. Historic Environment	o	o	o	o	o
9.Sustainable Transport	o	o	o	o	o
10. Air Quality	o	+	+	o	++
11. Biodiversity and GI	o	++	?	+	o
12. Climate Resilience	+	++	+	++	o
13. Flood Risk	o	++	o	++	o
14. Water Resources	o	++	o	++	++
15. Greenhouse Gases	++	+	++	+	o
16. Landscape and Character	o	o	?	o	o
17. Land Resources	o	o	?	+	+
18. Resource Consumption	+	o	o	o	o

Policy S1: Sustainable and Energy Efficient Development

Synergies with the IA Framework

5.19 Policy S1 is focused on energy efficient and sustainable new development and so has strong positive effects on IA objectives 12: Climate Resilience, 15: Greenhouse gases and 18: Resource Consumption due to the section on embodied carbon which seeks to reduce resources used in construction of new developments.

5.20 The policy would also have a positive effect against IA objective 1: Housing in terms of the assessment criteria around supporting improvements in the energy efficiency and resilience of the housing stock. The policy refers both to new buildings and retrofitting of existing and so would support improvements to the wider housing stock rather than just for new developments which only make up a proportion of total housing stock.

2025 IA – recommended enhancement and mitigation

5.21 The carbon requirements for new development are set in PfE Policy JP-S2, and so this policy does not deviate from that, but sets more detailed policies to achieve this. The IA assessment considered if the policy could include further points on sustainable transport, air quality and renewable energy. However, it was considered that these points are sufficiently covered by other policies in the plan.

5.22 The policy has been modified from an earlier draft to refer to specifically to Solar PV, as this is expected to be the main source of onsite renewable energy generation to meet carbon reduction targets.

Policy S2: Climate Resilience

Synergies with the IA Framework

5.23 Policy S2 is directly related to IA objective 12: Climate Resilience and so will have a clear positive effect against this. The policy's purpose is to increase the resilience of new developments and the environment to the effects of climate change. The policy would also have minor positive impacts on IA objectives 13: Flood Risk, 14: Water Resources and 12: Biodiversity, and clearly cuts across themes of flood resilience, water quality and green infrastructure. The policy addresses one of the key climate risks of overheating, which would have positive impacts for the health of the population.

5.24 The policy would have a minor positive effect against IA objective 1: Housing in relation to the assessment criterion on supporting improvements in the energy efficiency and resilience of the housing stock. It would also have a minor positive effect against IA objective 10: Air Quality, with an emphasis on nature-based solutions and tree planting.

2025 IA – recommended enhancement and mitigation

5.25 None identified through the IA process at this stage. The policy has been amended from an earlier draft to encourage the delivery of street trees in new development, recognising their benefits for design and quality of place as well as for shading and air quality.

Policy S3: Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Infrastructure

Synergies with the IA Framework

5.26 Supporting the delivery of clean energy would contribute to carbon reduction targets, whether this is at a householder level or through large scale renewable developments. It would therefore be seen to have a significant positive effect against IA objective 15: Greenhouse gases, in relation to meeting wider targets around net zero.

5.27 It is considered that the delivery of renewable energy in the borough could have some economic benefits in terms of diversifying the local economy and supporting training opportunities and so could have a minor positive effect against IA objective 2: Employment. However, the extent of this and the potential benefits would be unknown at this stage.

5.28 The delivery of large-scale renewable energy projects could have the potential to conflict with objectives around biodiversity, landscape and land resources in terms of agricultural land. However, the impacts for individual schemes would be unknown at this stage and dependent on a range of factors.

2025 IA – recommended enhancement and mitigation

5.29 The policy includes several criteria that renewable and low carbon energy developments should have regard to. The policy has been amended to add more submission requirements in relation to Landscape impacts, recognising the potential conflicts between some renewable energy developments and the landscape.

5.30 The policy proposes mitigation for potential impacts on agricultural land and includes wording on considering this in the design of schemes. A suggested alternative would be setting a threshold that would be higher than the 10% BNG, for example 20%. However, it was not considered that this threshold was feasible and that 10% is sufficient.

Policy S4: Managing water resources and flood risk

Synergies with the IA Framework

5.31 The policy is concerned with several elements of managing water covering flood risk, drainage, water supply and water quality. The policy does not cover all these elements in detail, as there is current policy in PfE Policy JP-S4, as well as in the NPPF and NPPG. The policy also signposts to other relevant flood risk policy documents that may be refreshed through the course of the plan, and guidance such as that on sustainable drainage which provides more detail.

5.32 The policy is expected to have a significant positive effect against IA objectives 13 and 14, in relation to flood risk and water resources. The policy would also score positively against IA objective 12: Climate Resilience, due to the criteria around sustainable drainage and greater water efficiency.

5.33 The policy is also expected to have a minor positive effect against IA objectives 11: Biodiversity and Green Infrastructure, and 15: Greenhouse Gases due to the criteria

around multifunctional SuDS, water quality, and water efficiency targets that would have some impact on reducing carbon emissions.

2025 IA – recommended enhancement and mitigation

5.34 The policy has been amended from an earlier draft to strengthen the requirements for sustainable drainage to deliver multifunctional benefits, and to take into account the National SuDS standards published in 2025.

5.35 While not affecting the policy wording itself, it was considered splitting the policy into separate policies for each individual element. Including policies related to flood risk and water resources in one policy follows the structure of the PfE plan and reflects the need to manage water in an integrated way. In addition, the policy signposts to other guidance which contains more detailed requirements, e.g. in relation to sustainable drainage. Therefore no further enhancements or mitigations are suggested at this stage.

Policy S5: Reducing the impact of pollution, contamination and land instability

Synergies with the IA Framework

5.36 The policy seeks to reduce the impact of pollution, contamination and land instability. The policy encompasses pollution from all sources, including in relation to amenity such as noise and light. The policy also recognises contamination and land instability issues that are pertinent to Rochdale borough due to its industrial and mining history.

5.37 The policy is therefore expected to have a significant positive effect against IA objectives 10: Air Quality and 14: Water Quality due to the specific criteria related to these objectives. It would also be expected to have a minor positive effect against IA objective 6 related to health, and IA objective 17: Land Resources due to the criteria on contaminated land.

2025 IA – recommended enhancement and mitigation

5.38 None identified. The thematic area is covered by National Planning Policy, as well as other regulatory systems outside of planning, and as such the policy is considered to be sufficient to provide the policy context for the borough.

A Prosperous Place

The likely effects of the policies in the ‘A Prosperous Place’ chapter are shown in table 10 below.

Table 10: IA summary for A Prosperous Place Chapter

IA Objectives	PR1: Hierarchy of Centres	PR2: Creating Vibrant Main Town Centres	PR3: Primary Shopping Areas in Town Centres	PR4: Local and District Centres and Local Shops	PR5: Out of Centre Retail and Leisure Uses	PR6: Delivering Employment Floorspace	PR7: Business, Industry and Warehousing Development	PR8: Office Development	PR9: Employment Zones and Existing Employment Sites	PR10: Promoting the Visitor and Rural Economy
1. Housing	o	+	+	o	o	o	o	o	+	o
2. Economy	++	++	++	+	++	++	++	++	++	++
3. Transport and Utilities	o	o	o	o	o	+	+	+	o	o
4.Deprivation	o	o	o	o	o	?/+	?/+	?/+	o	o
5. Equalities	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	+
6. Health	o	+	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	+
7. Education and Social Infrastructure	o	o	o	+	o	o	o	o	o	o
8. Historic Environment	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o
9.Sustainable Transport	+	+	+	+	+	o	o	+	o	+
10. Air Quality	o	o	o	o	?	o	o	o	o	o
11. Biodiversity and GI	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	+
12. Climate Resilience	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o
13. Flood Risk	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o
14. Water Resources	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o
15. Greenhouse Gases	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o

16. Landscape and Character	o	+	o	o	+	o	?/-	o	o	o
17. Land Resources	o	+	+	+	+	o	o	+	o	?
18. Resource Consumption	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o

Policy PR1: Hierarchy of Centres

Synergies with the IA Framework

5.39 The policy is expected to have a significant positive effect on IA objective 2: Employment as it seeks to support the enhancement of the vitality and viability of the borough's town centres.

5.40 The policy seeks to ensure that Rochdale town centre will continue to be the focus for future retail growth and development as the principal town centre in the borough. This is followed by other regional town centres in Middleton and Heywood, followed by Littleborough. This would have a minor positive impact on a variety of indicators, including IA objective 7: Social Infrastructure and 9: Sustainable Transport, by locating development in the most sustainable locations.

2025 IA – recommended enhancement and mitigation

5.41 None identified. The policy supports the objectives of sustainable development and is in accordance with the NPPF which requires planning polices to define a hierarchy of centres.

Policy PR2: Creating vibrant main town centres

Synergies with the IA Framework

5.42 The policy aims to maintain and enhance the boroughs main town centres as centres for economic activity. The policy would therefore have a significant positive impact on IA objective 2: Employment in terms of supporting the vitality and viability of the borough's town centres.

5.43 The policy would have a minor positive impact on a variety of indicators, including IA objective 7: Social Infrastructure and 9: Sustainable Transport, by locating development in the most sustainable locations. The policy would also have a minor positive impact on IA objectives 8: Historic Environment and 16: Landscape and Character, with the criteria around design and character. The policy also has provisions for allowing residential development in town centres where appropriate, which would support IA objective 1: Housing, in terms of housing delivery and mix.

2025 IA – recommended enhancement and mitigation

5.44 The policy has been modified since an earlier draft to include priorities relating to town centres in the borough. These link to regeneration priorities for the town centres, and include active travel and public realm interventions, and design and character. As such the policy would have greater positive impacts against IA objectives 2: Employment, 9: Sustainable Transport and 16: Landscape and Character.

Policy PR3: Primary shopping areas in town centres

Synergies with the IA Framework

5.45 The policy designates several key primary shopping areas in the borough which are shown on the policies map, which should be the centres of retail development. The policy would have a significant impact on IA objective 2: Employment in terms of supporting the vitality and viability of the borough's town centres. The policy allows

residential development on upper floors where appropriate and so would have a minor positive impact on IA objective 1: Housing to support housing delivery.

2025 IA – recommended enhancement and mitigation

5.46 None identified. The NPPF states that policies should define the extent of town centres and primary shopping areas and make clear the range of uses permitted in such locations.

Policy PR4: Local and District centres and local shops

Synergies with the IA Framework

5.47 The policy seeks to preserve the role of local and district centres, to reinforce their role as focal points within the community. The policy would have a significant positive impact on IA objective 2: Employment in terms of supporting the vitality of the borough's centres.

5.48 Maintaining hubs of services would represent sustainable development and so have minor positive effects on IA objectives 7: Social Infrastructure, 9: Sustainable Transport, and 17: Land Resources in terms of supporting development in sustainable locations on previously developed land.

2025 IA – recommended enhancement and mitigation

5.49 None identified.

Policy PR5: Out of centre retail and leisure uses

Synergies with the IA Framework

5.50 The policy seeks to preserve the vitality of town centres, as centres for retail and leisure, before resorting to out of centre locations. This would require applications to carry out a sequential test for these uses. As such the policy would have a significant positive impact on IA objective 2: Employment in terms of enhancing the vitality and viability of the borough's centres.

5.51 Focusing retail and leisure in town centres accessed via public transport, would represent sustainable development and so have minor positive effects on IA objectives 9: Sustainable Transport, and 17: Land Resources in terms of supporting development in sustainable locations on previously developed land.

2025 IA – recommended enhancement and mitigation

5.52 None identified.

Policy PR6: Delivering employment floorspace

Synergies with the IA Framework

5.53 The policy sets out how the employment floorspace requirements that were set in the PfE plan will be delivered. The policy is therefore expected to have a significant positive impact against IA objective 2: Employment in terms of meeting the need for

employment land in the borough, which is well connected to infrastructure, and supporting the diversification of the economy.

2025 IA – recommended enhancement and mitigation

5.54 None identified. The employment requirement itself was set through the Places for Everyone plan.

Policy PR7: Business, industry and warehousing development

Synergies with the IA Framework

5.55 The policy sets the requirements for business, industry and warehousing development, setting a positive approach to supporting these developments in appropriate locations, particularly around Atom Valley and within existing Employment Zones. The policy would have a significant positive effect on IA objective 2: Employment in terms of meeting employment development needs and supporting diversification of the local economy.

5.56 The effects of new employment development on landscape and amenity, IA objectives 6: Health and 16: Landscape are unknown at this stage, as a general policy rather than allocation. However the policy does include mitigations for any potential negative effects.

2025 IA – recommended enhancement and mitigation

5.57 The policy includes already includes criteria to mitigate possible impacts of new industrial development on amenity, landscape and transport. It is suggested that the policy could include more environmental criteria, such as improving the environmental performance of buildings and requiring consideration of onsite solar panels on rooftops, recognising the potential carbon impacts of significant new employment development allocated through PfE. However it was considered that this was sufficiently covered by PfE Policy JP-S2 and draft local plan policy S1.

Policy PR8: Office development

Synergies with the IA Framework

5.58 The policy seeks to encourage the delivery of office development in appropriate locations, focusing on the boroughs main town centres (as defined in Policy PR1) before resorting to outside of town centres. The policy would have a significant positive impact on IA objective 2: Employment, in terms of supporting employment development in sustainable locations, the vitality of the borough's town centres, and the diversification of the economy.

5.59 The policy would also have a minor positive impact on IA objective 9: Sustainable Transport and 17: Land Resources by focusing development on brownfield land which is accessible by public transport.

2025 IA – recommended enhancement and mitigation

5.60 None identified.

Policy PR9: Employment zones and existing employment sites

Synergies with the IA Framework

5.61 The policy seeks to protect existing employment zones and sites in the borough, to provide a range of job opportunities and support the local economy. As such the policy is expected to have a positive effect against IA objective 2, in terms of meeting current and future need for employment land across the Council area.

5.62 The policy includes a degree of flexibility to allow for alternative uses in employment zones if there is lack of demand, or its redevelopment would support the Council's regeneration priorities. The policy is also supportive of high-quality mixed-use employment development close to town centres or transport interchanges. As such the policy is considered to have a minor positive effect against IA objective 1 by considering alternative uses such as residential, and IA objective 2 in terms of supporting the vitality of town centres.

2025 IA – recommended enhancement and mitigation

5.63 None identified. It is considered that the policy is sufficient to protect employment zones to support employment objectives, while having a degree of flexibility to support others such as housing and regeneration.

Policy PR10: Promoting the visitor and rural economy

Synergies with the IA Framework

5.64 The policy seeks to support the visitor and rural economy. It is broadly supportive of applications that will support the visitor economy in built up areas such as town centres. The policy is mostly concerned with the rural economy, and covers outdoor recreation, agricultural buildings and seeks to preserve higher quality agricultural land.

5.65 The policy would have broadly positive effects against several IA objectives. The policy would contribute positively to IA objective 2 in terms of supporting the diversification of the local economy and supporting the vitality of town centres. It would also have a significant positive effect against IA objective 17: Land Resources in terms of protecting the best grade agricultural land.

5.66 The policy would also have a minor positive effect against IA objective 5 in terms of ensuring the needs of different areas (i.e. rural) are addressed, objective 6: Health in terms of supporting active lifestyles and access the natural environment and leisure and recreational facilities, and objective 11: Biodiversity and Green Infrastructure in terms of access green infrastructure for recreation.

2025 IA – recommended enhancement and mitigation

5.67 The policy covers a broad range of issues including cultural facilities and agricultural land. A suggested enhancement is if the policy could consider adding more in relation to the visitor economy in relation to tourism and cultural facilities.

A Place for Homes

The likely effects of the policies in the ‘A Place for Homes’ chapter are shown in Table 11 below.

Table 11: IA summary for A Place for Homes Chapter

IA Objectives	H1: Delivering the Right Amount of Housing in the Right Places	H2: Delivering the Right Types of Homes	H3: Providing Affordable Homes	H4: Meeting the Needs of Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople	H5: Housing for Older People and People with Disabilities	H6: Homes for Looked After Children and Care Leavers	H7: Houses in Multiple Occupations (HMOs)	H8: Householder Applications
1. Housing	++	++	++	+	++	++	++	+
2. Economy	o	+/?	o	o	+/?	o	o	o
3. Transport and Utilities	o	?	?	o	o	o	o	o
4.Deprivation	o	+	+	o	++	++	?/+	o
5. Equalities	o	++	o	+	++	++	+	+
6. Health	o	o	o	o	+	o	o	o
7. Education and Social Infrastructure	o	o	o	o	+	o	o	o
8. Historic Environment	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o
9.Sustainable Transport	+	?	+	-/?	+	+	?	o
10. Air Quality	?	o	o	o	o	o	o	o
11. Biodiversity and GI	?	o	o	o	o	o	o	+
12. Climate Resilience	o	+	+	o	+	o	o	o
13. Flood Risk	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o
14. Water Resources	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o
15. Greenhouse Gases	?	+	+	o	o	o	o	o
16. Landscape and Character	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	+
17. Land Resources	?/+	o	o	o	o	o	+	+

18. Resource Consumption	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o

Policy H1: Delivering the right amount of housing in the right places

Synergies with the IA Framework

5.68 The policy will have significant positive effects on IA objective 1: Housing with the purpose of delivering the housing requirement as set in PfE. The policy also links to objectives around brownfield and previously developed land, sustainable travel and town centres, and so would be expected to have a minor positive effect against IA objectives 9 and 17.

5.69 The policy is shown as having an unknow impact on air quality, biodiversity and greenhouse gases, due to potential conflicts between these objectives and new residential development. However the quantum of housing has already been set in PfE, and these issues would be mitigated by other policies in the plan.

Recommended enhancement / mitigation

5.70 None identified, the housing requirement itself has been set through PfE and this policy sets out to meet this requirement.

Policy H2: Delivering the right type of housing

Synergies with the IA Framework

5.71 Policy H2 will have a significant positive effect on IA objective 1: Housing as it aims to ensure an appropriate mix of housing types, including affordable homes, as well as improving the quality of residential development. There are also minor positive effects on deprivation and equalities impacts, by providing housing for a range of groups and that's adaptable and accessible.

Recommended enhancement / mitigation

5.72 An alternative approach would be to set defined requirements for the desired housing mix for residential developments. However, this was considered overly prescriptive and lacking the flexibility needed for each application, and that it would risk reducing overall housing delivery. As such the alternative approach would not score as positively against the IA objective for Housing. As such no enhancement/mitigation is identified.

Policy H3: Providing affordable homes

Synergies with the IA Framework

5.73 The policy will have a significant positive effect on IA objective 1: housing, with the purpose of ensuring housing is affordable to residents of the borough. The policy would also have some positive effects on objective 4: deprivation and 5: equality in terms of the housing index of deprivation, and providing that homes are affordable and accessible for a range of groups in the borough. Particularly with a focus on homes for social rent which is addressing issues in the borough.

Recommended enhancement / mitigation

5.74 The policy is around affordable housing, and it is appropriate to set a percentage requirement for this, as well as for social rent. An alternative considered would be for a higher or lower percentage affordable housing requirement, however the chosen

percentage is considered to represent an appropriate balance between delivering affordable housing to meet local needs, and viability of housing delivery. No enhancements/mitigations are identified at this stage.

Policy H4: Meeting the needs of gypsies, travellers and travelling showpeople

Synergies with the IA Framework

5.75 The policy is expected to have a positive effect on IA objective 1: housing in seeking to provide for the housing needs of a specific group, as well as a minor positive effect on IA objective 5: equalities. The policy includes several criteria which have a minor positive contribution to objective 3: transport and utilities, as well as in relation to landscaping and local amenity impacts.

Recommended enhancement / mitigation

5.76 The policy includes several criteria that sites must meet in order to be acceptable against Policy H4. One of these referred to the site being 'suitably' located, which it was suggested was less clear in what this would mean in practice. This has therefore been amended to 'sustainably' located which is more understood and so would contribute more positively to IA objectives.

Policy H5: Housing for older people and people with disabilities

Synergies with the IA Framework

5.77 The policy is expected to have significant positive effects on IA objectives 1: Housing and 5: Equality, as it sets out measures to ensure that housing meets the needs of older people and those with disabilities. There are also likely to be some minor positive effects on IA objectives 4: Deprivation and 6: Health, by providing suitable housing for people with specific housing requirements.

5.78 The policy is also expected to have a minor positive effect on IA objectives 7: Social Infrastructure and 9: Sustainable transport, due to the policy requiring these developments to be accessible to community facilities and public transport.

Recommended enhancement / mitigation

5.79 The policy has been amended to include reference to scale, design and layout, and having regard to local character and land use. This is recognising the impact that these types of developments can have, and to ensure they are appropriate to the area. As such the policy would score more strongly against IA objective 16: Landscape and Character.

5.80 The policy includes several criteria that are required for this type of accommodation. It is recommended that access to open space should also be included in the list of criteria, recognising its benefits for health and wellbeing.

Policy H6: Homes for looked after children and care leavers

Synergies with the IA Framework

5.81 The policy would have a significant positive effect on IA objective 1: Housing with the purpose of ensuring appropriate accommodation for a specific group. It would also likely have minor positive impacts on IA objectives 4: Deprivation and 5: Equality, being related to housing for a specific group.

Recommended enhancement / mitigation

5.82 None identified. The policy has been modified following an earlier draft to reference amenity of occupiers and existing residents.

Policy H7: Houses in multiple occupation (HMO's)

Synergies with the IA Framework

5.83 This policy seeks to avoid HMOs having an adverse impact on the character of existing areas, and to preserve the amenity of local residents, recognising the impact that HMOs can have. The policy does still recognise that HMOs can meet a housing need and deliver accommodation, and so the policy does have a positive impact on IA objective 1: Housing. It would also have a minor positive effect on IA objectives 3: Transport, 4: Deprivation, and 16: Landscape and Character.

Recommended enhancement / mitigation

5.84 An alternative to the policy as drafted would be to adjust the proportion of the concentration of HMOs either higher or lower than 10%. However, the chosen figure is considered to be appropriate to allow for some provision of HMOs to meet housing needs, while preserving the general character of an area.

5.85 It was suggested that a criteria relating to energy efficiency could be added to enhance the policy, recognising that conversions to HMOs may not always be to the highest standards in terms of building fabric, which could also have negative health impacts. However, it is considered that this issue is sufficiently addressed in Policy S1 as part of Sustainable and Energy efficient development.

Policy H8: Householder applications

Synergies with the IA Framework

5.86 This policy seeks to ensure that householder applications to extend / alter residential properties are appropriate to the local area and preserve local amenity. While the policy is not to provide new residential units, the policy would have a minor positive impact on IA objective 1: Housing to enable residents to modify their existing properties to meet their needs, to avoid needing to move house in some instances.

5.87 The policy could also have minor positive effects on IA objectives 3: Transport and Utilities, 6: Health and 16: Landscape and Heritage in respect of the requirements for highways and parking, design and character and residential amenity.

Recommended enhancement / mitigation

5.88 The policy covers requirements across a broad area to provide a clear policy basis for Development Management officers to make decisions on applications which make up a large part of total applications.

5.89 A suggested enhancement would be to include criteria to be more supportive of measures for energy efficiency or climate resilience, such as micro-renewables, or air source heat pumps. However it was concluded that as this policy is more about householder amenity then this is better covered in more detail in policies S1 and S3.

A Greener Place

The likely effects of the policies in the 'A Greener Place' chapter are shown in Table 12 below.

Table 12: IA Summary for A Greener Place Chapter

IA Objectives	G1: Nature Positive Development	G2: A Green and Blue Network	GP3: Green Infrastructure and New Development	GP4: Watercourses and their Settings	GP5: Urban Greening	GP6: Trees, Hedgerows and Woodland	GP7: Biodiversity and Geodiversity	GP8: Conserving and Enhancing the Landscape
1. Housing	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o
2. Economy	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o
3. Transport and Utilities	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o
4.Deprivation	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o
5. Equalities	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o
6. Health	+	+	+	+	++	+	+	+
7. Education and Social Infrastructure	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o
8. Historic Environment	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o
9.Sustainable Transport	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o
10. Air Quality	o	+	+	o	+	++	+	o
11. Biodiversity and GI	++	++	++	++	+	++	++	+
12. Climate Resilience	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	o
13. Flood Risk	+	o	+	+	+	o	o	o
14. Water Resources	+	o	o	++	o	o	+	o
15. Greenhouse Gases	o	o	o	o	o	+	o	o
16. Landscape and Character	o	o	+	+	+	+	o	++
17. Land Resources	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o
18. Resource Consumption	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o

Policy GP1: Nature positive development

Synergies with the IA Framework

5.90 The policy sets a broad requirement for development proposals to prioritise green infrastructure, biodiversity, open space and landscape. As such it would have significant positive links to IA objectives 11: Biodiversity, 16: Landscape and Character.

5.91 It would also have positive impacts on IA objective 6: Health and 12: Climate Resilience due to the multiple benefits that green infrastructure and nature can have for health and wellbeing, and for climate resilience through nature-based solutions.

Recommended enhancement / mitigation

5.92 None identified. While the policy does not have detailed guidance on these individual elements such as green infrastructure, these are covered by other policies in the chapter.

Policy GP2: Rochdale's green network

Synergies with the IA Framework

5.93 The policy has the aim of protecting and enhancing the network of green spaces in the borough. As such it has significant positive effects against IA objective 11: Biodiversity which includes green infrastructure in the objective.

5.94 The benefits of green infrastructure are such that there will be some positive effects against a range of IA objectives, including 6: Health, 10: Air Quality, 12: Climate Resilience. These benefits can be increased providing green infrastructure is of a sufficiently high quality to maximise these multifunctional benefits.

Recommended enhancement / mitigation

5.95 None identified.

Policy GP3: Green infrastructure and new development

Synergies with the IA Framework

5.96 The policy has the aim of protecting and enhancing the network of green spaces in the borough. As such it has significant positive effects against IA objective 11: Biodiversity which includes green infrastructure in the objective.

5.97 The benefits of green infrastructure are such that there will be some positive effects against a range of IA objectives, including 6: Health, 10: Air Quality, 12: Climate Resilience. These benefits can be increased providing green infrastructure is of a sufficiently high quality to maximise these multifunctional benefits.

Recommended enhancement / mitigation

5.98 None identified.

Policy GP4: Watercourses and their setting

Synergies with the IA Framework

5.99 The policy has the aim of ensuring that new development does not have an adverse impact on watercourses, including their setting, and measures such as water quality. The policy there scores strongly against IA objective 14: Water Resources in particular. The policy also has positive effects on IA objective 11: Biodiversity and Green Infrastructure.

5.100 The policy also refers to watercourses as important locations for sustainable placemaking, active travel routes and areas for leisure and recreation. As such the policy would also have a minor positive impact on IA objectives 6: Health, 9: Sustainable Transport and 16: Landscape.

Recommended enhancement / mitigation

5.101 The policy has been added since the initial draft to provide more detailed guidance in relation to watercourses. There is additional policy related to watercourses in PfE and in Policy S4 of this draft plan. Therefore, no enhancements / mitigations are identified at this stage.

Policy GP5: Urban Greening

Synergies with the IA Framework

5.102 The policy aims to ensure that new developments contribute to local green infrastructure, through the implementation of an Urban Greening Factor (UGF) to quantify this. There are different requirements depending on the existing site conditions (e.g. previously developed land).

5.103 The policy is expected to have a significant positive effect on IA objective 11: Biodiversity and Green Infrastructure. It would also have minor positive effects on IA objectives 10: Air Quality and 12: Climate Resilience, by providing greater tree coverage and green infrastructure in urban areas, that would benefit from the policy.

Recommended enhancement / mitigation

5.104 The policy has been amended to include a clause that allows some flexibility of the policy regarding other potential benefits from the site such as social infrastructure, or if there are technical constraints to mean the UGF can't be achieved. This would ensure that the policy does not overly inhibit development in some instances and so would be less likely to have negative effects against IA objectives 1: Housing and 2: Employment.

Policy GP6: Trees, hedgerows and woodland

Synergies with the IA Framework

5.105 The policy aims to ensure that trees, hedgerows and woodland are protected and sets standards for their replacement if any trees are lost through development, recognising their multiple benefits.

5.106 As such the policy is expected to have a significant positive effect on IA objective 11: Biodiversity and Green Infrastructure. Due to their multiple benefits, a policy to

increase tree coverage would also have minor positive effects on IA objectives 10: Air Quality and 12: Climate Resilience. This would also likely have a minor positive effect on IA objectives 4: Deprivation and 6: Health, particularly if tree coverage is increased in more built-up urban areas.

Recommended enhancement / mitigation

5.107 In refining the policy, it has been considered whether the requirements are appropriate particularly in reference to delivering smaller sites on previously developed land, and if there was a risk in delivering IA objective 1: Housing. The policy has been amended to remove reference to % cover of tree canopy at this stage, however the policy will be reviewed as part of the Green Infrastructure study before the publication version of the plan.

Policy GP7: Biodiversity and geodiversity

Synergies with the IA Framework

5.108 The aim of the policy is to protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity, and references the GM Local Nature Recovery Strategy, and following the Biodiversity Gain Hierarchy of delivering biodiversity improvements as close to the site as possible. As such is expected to have a significant positive impact on IA objective 11: Biodiversity.

5.109 Due to the multiple benefits of increased biodiversity, the policy would also have minor positive effects on IA objectives 6: Health, 10: Air Quality, 12: Climate Resilience and 14: Water Resources.

Recommended enhancement / mitigation

5.110 None identified at this stage. It was noted that comments were received during the previous consultation in relation to the importance of peat. While peat is currently included in the policy the specific requirements will be reviewed before the next version of the plan.

Policy GP8: Conserving and enhancing the landscape

Synergies with the IA Framework

5.111 The policy is to ensure that development conserves and/or enhances landscape character, and local features. The policy refers to evidence such as the Greater Manchester Landscape Character and Sensitivity Assessment. The policy also refers to the historic environment, as well as green and blue infrastructure and open space.

5.112 The policy would therefore have a significant positive effect against IA objective 16: Landscape and Character, with its focus on preserving local landscape character and distinctiveness. The policy would also to a lesser extent contribute to IA objectives 11: Biodiversity and GI, and 8: Historic Environment.

Recommended enhancement / mitigation

5.113 None identified.

A Place for People

The likely effects of the policies in the ‘A Place for People’ chapter are shown in table 13 below.

Table 13: IA Summary for A Place for People Chapter

IA Objectives	PE1: A Well-Designed Borough	PE2: Achieving a Healthy Place	PE3: Health and Wellbeing	PE4: Enhancing Local Distinctiveness and Improving Local Character	PE5: Preserving Heritage in the Borough	PE6: Delivering Services and Facilities in the Community	PE7: Providing Social Value Across the Borough	PE8: Improving Facilities for Education and Skills in the Borough	PE9: Residential Development and School Places	PE10: Open Space, Sport and Recreation Facilities
1. Housing	o	+	+	o	o	o	o	o	o	o
2. Economy	o	o	o	o	+	o	+	o	o	o
3. Transport and Utilities	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o
4.Deprivation	o	++	+	o	o	+	+	+	o	+
5. Equalities	?	+	o	o	o	++	+	o	o	+
6. Health	+	++	o	o	+	+	o	o	o	++
7. Education and Social Infrastructure	o	+	o	o	o	++	+	++	++	o
8. Historic Environment	+	o	o	+	++	o	o	o	o	o
9.Sustainable Transport	o	+	o	o	o	o	o	+	o	o
10. Air Quality	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	+
11. Biodiversity and GI	o	+	+	o	o	o	o	o	o	+
12. Climate Resilience	?	o	+	o	o	o	o	o	o	+
13. Flood Risk	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o
14. Water Resources	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o

15. Greenhouse Gases	o	o	+	o	-/?	o	o	o	o	o
16. Landscape and Character	++	o	o	++	++	o	o	o	o	+
17. Land Resources	o	o	+	o	+	o	o	o	o	o
18. Resource Consumption	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o

Policy PE1: A well-designed borough

Synergies with the IA Framework

5.114 The policy aims to ensure that new development is well-designed and delivers a high quality of place. The policy refers to local and national design guidance and the use of masterplanning and design codes for large scale housing and mixed-use developments.

5.115 The policy would have a significant positive impact on IA objectives 8: Historic Environment and 16: Landscape and Character which includes design quality of the built environment and public realm. High quality design can have positive impacts across a range of IA objectives. In particular the impacts on IA objectives on IA 5: Equality and 6: Health by creating inclusive developments for different groups in society.

Recommended enhancement / mitigation

5.116 The policy is relatively high level and links to broad design principles and linking to relevant contemporary design principles and guidance. It was suggested to add in reference to the need for design to consider climate mitigation and adaptation, as there can be conflicts between design principles and those for low carbon homes. However, it is considered that this is both covered in policies S1 and S2, and in contemporary design guidance. In addition, that the nature of policy PE1 does not include overly prescriptive and detailed design guidance.

Policy PE2: Achieving a healthy place

Synergies with the IA Framework

5.117 The policy aims to ensure that new development contributes to achieving places that improve health and wellbeing, and quality of life. As such the policy would relate directly to IA objective 6: Health and so have a significant positive effect, and to a lesser extent against IA objective 5: Equality.

5.118 The criteria in the policy clearly cut across a number of other thematic areas, such as public realm, active travel, social infrastructure and green infrastructure and nature. As such it would have minor positive effects on a number of IA objectives including 7: Social Infrastructure, 9: Sustainable Transport, 10: Air Quality and 11: Biodiversity and Green Infrastructure.

Recommended enhancement / mitigation

5.119 Point f) of the policy refers to having ‘a good range of accessible open space and green space and recreation facilities nearby, prioritising a beneficial greener, biodiverse and resilient environment’. It is suggested that the policy refer to climate resilience, to link into this IA objective recognising the links in relation to health. However it was considered that resilient in this context could have a broader scope than just in relation to climate resilience, but this would not be excluded from the definition.

Policy PE3: Health and wellbeing

Synergies with the IA Framework

5.120 The policy is aimed at reducing inequalities in health and wellbeing. The policy is more focused than the previous health policy which was broader in scope, and this also sets requirements for development management in the submission of applications.

5.121 The policy would have a significant positive effect on IA objective 6: Health, as well as a minor positive effect on IA objective 5: Equality due to the criteria on accessibility, independent living and social isolation.

Recommended enhancement / mitigation

5.122 None identified.

Policy PE4: Enhancing local distinctiveness and improving local character

Synergies with the IA Framework

5.123 The policy is to ensure that development proposals enhance local character and distinctiveness. The policy would have a significant positive effect on IA objective 16: Landscape and Character, which directly refers to local character and distinctiveness. It would also be expected to have a positive effect against IA objective 8: Historic Environment.

Recommended enhancement / mitigation

5.124 The policy includes a number of design principles to consider so that new developments reflect the character of the area. This includes the layout of new development, as well as considerations like scale and massing of buildings. While this is important in terms of the contribution to IA objective 16, it is suggested that the policy should also reference considering energy efficiency and climate resilience in the design and layout of new development. This is due to layout and massing of new buildings being important for e.g. maximising solar gains and minimising heat loss. This is also referred to in the NPPF. While this is covered in more detail in Policy S1, it is considered appropriate to refer to this in the reasoned justification.

Policy PE5: Preserving heritage in the borough

Synergies with the IA Framework

5.125 The policy is aimed at preserving heritage in the borough, and as such it would have a significant positive effect on IA objective 8: Historic Environment. It is also expected that the policy would have some minor positive effects on IA objective 2: Employment, due to the positive impacts on the economy and town centres through visitors and tourism, because of strong heritage assets.

5.126 It was noted that the effect on energy efficiency was unknown due to some possible tensions between retrofitting / renewable energy generation and listed buildings.

Recommended enhancement / mitigation

5.127 None identified.

Policy PE6: Delivering services and facilities in communities

Synergies with the IA Framework

5.128 The policy aims to ensure that new community facilities are suitable for the needs of the local population, and to protect existing community facilities from being lost. While it is acknowledged that community facilities are often influenced by factors outside of the planning system, the policy seeks to positively contribute to them. As such it would have a positive significant positive effect against IA objective 7: Education and Social Infrastructure.

5.129 It would also have a minor positive effect on IA objectives 4: Deprivation and 5: Equalities, due to the wide-ranging social benefits of well-designed and accessible community facilities. The policy includes facilities that would be used by a range of groups, in particular places of worship that is mentioned in the policies reasoned justification.

Recommended enhancement / mitigation

5.130 None identified.

Policy PE7: Delivering social value across the borough

Synergies with the IA Framework

5.131 The policy has the aim of maximising the social value from major development proposals, by requiring the submission of a Social Value Strategy. The policy would have positive impacts on several IA objectives. These include IA objective 2: Employment by supporting local training and employment opportunities, 4: Deprivation and 8: Education again by supporting skills in the borough.

Recommended enhancement / mitigation

5.132 None identified.

Policy PE8: Improving facilities for education and skills in the borough

Synergies with the IA Framework

5.133 The policy aims to support improvements to education and skills levels in the borough, with a focus on high-quality built facilities and accessibility. The policy would have a significant positive effect on IA objectives 7: Social Infrastructure in terms of access to educational facilities for children, as well as IA objective 8: Education.

5.134 The policy refers to educational facilities in relation to active and sustainable travel and so would have a minor positive effect on IA objective 9: Sustainable Transport.

Recommended enhancement / mitigation

5.135 None identified.

Policy PE9: Residential development and school places

Synergies with the IA Framework

5.136 The policy is a brief development management policy that states that the Council will require contributions for school places where appropriate, calculated in accordance

with the requirements of the pupil yield methodology. The policy would have a significant positive effect on IA objective 8: Education and Skills.

Recommended enhancement / mitigation

5.137 None identified.

Policy PE10: Open space, sport and recreation facilities

Synergies with the IA Framework

5.138 The policy is about protecting and enhancing existing open space in the borough and ensuring that new development is sufficiently served by open space. Access to good quality open space, as well as for sports facilities has a range of benefits, and so the policy would score positively against a range of IA objectives.

5.139 The policy would have a significant positive effect on IA objective 6: Health, due to the positive impacts on health and wellbeing through access to greenspace, as well as sports facilities for physical exercise.

5.140 The policy is also thought to have a minor positive effect against several other IA objectives including IA objective 4: Deprivation, 5: Equality, 10: Air Quality, 11: Biodiversity and GI, 12: Climate Resilience and 16: Landscape.

Recommended enhancement / mitigation

5.141 None identified. The policy sets clear standards and requirements for developments above of different types and sizes. The threshold of 100 bedrooms for onsite open space is considered to be an appropriate level.

A Connected Place

The likely effects of the policies in the ‘A Connected Place’ chapter are shown in Table 14 below.

Table 14: IA Summary for A Connected Place Chapter

IA Objectives	T1: Delivering Transport Priorities	T2: Creating Sustainable Streets	T3: Parking Provision and Drop-off Facilities	T4: Transport Statements, Assessments and Travel Plans for New Development	T5: Accessibility Criteria	T6: Bee Active Travel – Walking Wheeling and Cycling	T7: Bee Network – Public Transport	T8: Strategic Road Network	T9: Local Highway Network	T10: Maximising Local Transport Network Operation
1. Housing	o	o	o	o	o	o	+	o	o	o
2. Economy	o	o	+	o	o	+	+	o	o	o
3. Transport and Utilities	++	o	+	++	+	++	++	++	++	++
4.Deprivation	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o
5. Equalities	o	++	+	o	+	+	+	o	o	o
6. Health	?/+	+	o	o	o	+	o	o	o	o
7. Education and Social Infrastructure	o	o	o	o	+	o	o	o	o	o
8. Historic Environment	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o
9.Sustainable Transport	++	++	?	+	++	++	++	?	?	+
10. Air Quality	+	+	o	o	+	+	++	?	?	o
11. Biodiversity and GI	o	+	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o
12. Climate Resilience	o	+	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o
13. Flood Risk	o	+	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o
14. Water Resources	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o

15. Greenhouse Gases	o	o	o	o	o	o	+	?	?	+
16. Landscape and Character	o	+	o	o	o	+	o	o	o	o
17. Land Resources	o	o	o	o	+	o	o	o	o	o
18. Resource Consumption	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o

Policy T1: Delivering our transport priorities

Synergies with the IA Framework

5.142 The policy sets a broad set of transport priorities in the borough, covering location of new development, active travel, public transport and vehicular traffic. These are all positive priorities seeking to support local growth ambitions and improve transport in the borough, and as such would be expected to positively affect IA objectives 3: Transport and Utilities and 9: Sustainable Transport.

Recommended enhancement / mitigation

5.143 None identified. The policy covers a broad set of priorities which relate to wider transport priorities such as those in the GM 2050 Transport Strategy. Detail for specific areas is contained elsewhere in the chapter.

Policy T2: Creating sustainable streets

Synergies with the IA Framework

5.144 The policy aims to ensure that new developments contribute to creating sustainable streets and active neighbourhoods. As such it is expected to have a significant positive effect on IA objective 9: Sustainable Transport.

5.145 The policy refers to the multiple benefits that sustainable streets can have, cutting across a number of themes. As such the policy would have a minor positive effect on IA objectives 6: Health due to greater walking and cycling, 10: Air Quality due to greater planting. It would also have a minor positive effect on IA objectives 12: Climate Resilience and 13: Flood Risk due to encouraging nature-based solutions such as for flood resilience and shading.

5.146 The policy also includes priority for people with disabilities in the design of streets, efforts to reduce crime and encouraging spaces for social interaction, which would have minor positive effects on the criteria under IA objective 5: Equality.

Recommended enhancement / mitigation

5.147 None identified. The policy links to a range of objectives and links to contemporary guidance in the TfGM Streets for All Design Guide.

Policy T3: Parking provision and drop-off facilities

Synergies with the IA Framework

5.148 The policy aims to provide adequate parking and servicing provision for new development, and links to more detailed parking standards as outlined in the appendices. The policy would have a positive effect on IA objective 3: Transport and Utilities, as well as a minor positive effect on IA objective 5: Equality by ensuring that development is inclusive and accessible to all users.

5.149 The policy is said to have an unknown impact on sustainable transport as it is concerned with vehicular parking. However, the policy does include a criterion that the proposals must not obstruct the pavements or discourage sustainable travel modes.

Recommended enhancement / mitigation

5.150 It is important to provide sufficient vehicular parking for developments, particularly for residents with disabilities and to support the vitality of town centres. It is considered that the reference to sustainable travel modes in the policy is sufficient and no further mitigation is required.

Policy T4: Transport statements, assessments and travel plans for new development

Synergies with the IA Framework

5.151 The policy relates to development management and the requirement for planning applications to be accompanied by a Transport Assessment (TA) where appropriate. Thresholds for these are shown in the appendices. It is expected the policy would have a positive effect against IA objective 3: Transport and Utilities, to address any transport impacts from new development.

Recommended enhancement / mitigation

5.152 None identified.

Policy T5: Accessibility criteria

Synergies with the IA Framework

5.153 The aim of the policy is for development allocations and other applications to be accessible for all, applying the Accessibility criteria that are set out in the plans appendices. While the plan does not propose to allocate additional sites for development above PfE, the policy can be applied to other planning applications.

5.154 The policy is expected to have significant positive impacts on IA objectives 3: Transport and 9: Sustainable Transport, by reducing the need for new developments to rely on motor vehicles. It would also have a minor positive impact on IA objective 10: Air Quality by reducing vehicular traffic on new developments. The policy also refers to ensuring access to social infrastructure and community facilities, so would have a minor positive impact on IA objective 7: Social Infrastructure.

Recommended enhancement / mitigation

5.155 None identified. The policy is consistent with the principles of sustainable development and cuts across a number of objectives.

Policy T6: Bee Active Travel – walking, wheeling and cycling

Synergies with the IA Framework

5.156 The policy aims to enhance the borough's active travel network for walking, wheeling and cycling, linking to the GM Bee Active Travel programme. The policy is expected to have significant positive effects on IA objective 9: Sustainable Transport. It would also have positive effects on IA objectives 6: Health, due to improving options for healthy lifestyles and for residents to use active travel routes.

5.157 The policy refers to integrating strategic allocations including the major employment site at Atom Valley and so scores positively against IA objective 2: Employment, by ensuring that these developments are supported by appropriate infrastructure.

Recommended enhancement / mitigation

5.158 None identified.

Policy T7: Bee Network – public transport

Synergies with the IA Framework

5.159 The policy aims to support improvements to the borough's public transport system and promote sustainable transport that reduce reliance on private motor vehicles. The policy is therefore expected to have a significant positive impact on IA objective 9: Sustainable Transport. Improving public transport has wide ranging benefits to has a minor positive impact on a number of IA objectives including 3: Transport, 10: Air Quality and 15: Greenhouse Gases, due to public transport generating less greenhouse gases than private motor vehicles, particularly through the rollout of low emission vehicles (e.g. buses).

5.160 The policy refers to improving access to people with impaired mobility, so would have a minor positive effect on IA objectives 5: Equality and 6: Health. The policy would also have a minor positive effect on IA objectives 1: Housing and 2: Employment by supporting connectivity between residential and employment developments, and other amenities.

Recommended enhancement / mitigation

5.161 None identified.

Policy T8: Strategic Road Network

Synergies with the IA Framework

5.162 The policy seeks to ensure that necessary improvements to the Strategic Road Network (SRN) are delivered by working with relevant stakeholders, and that impacts of increased traffic are mitigated. The policy would therefore have a significant positive effect against IA objective 3: Transport and Utilities in terms of improving transport connectivity and ensuring that the transport network can support the scale of development.

5.163 As the policy is concerned with the SRN and facilitating motor vehicles, the impact on IA objectives 8: Sustainable Transport, 10: Air Quality and 15: Greenhouse Gases would be negative or unclear, with investment in the SRN potentially seen to conflict with these. However, the priority for sustainable modes of transport is emphasised in several other policies, and the need to improve the SRN will need to be alongside improvements to public transport and active travel.

5.164 The policy does not refer to new and additional roads, but rather interventions in particular junctions around the strategic road network. Reducing congestion at these points could be seen to have minor positive impacts on air quality when compared with the current situation.

Recommended enhancement / mitigation

5.165 Given that sustainable travel is clearly prioritised in other policies in the chapter and the policy relates to junction improvements in the SRN to reduce congestion, then no enhancements/mitigation is proposed at this stage.

Policy T9: Local highways

Synergies with the IA Framework

5.166 This policy is similar to Policy T8 in that it seeks to deliver improvements to the road network, in this case the Local Highway Network, with the broad aim of mitigating the impacts of new development. The policy is therefore considered to have a significant positive effect against IA objective 3: Transport and Utilities in terms of improving transport connectivity and ensuring that the transport network can support the scale of development.

5.167 Again, as the policy is principally concerned with facilitating additional motor vehicles the impact on IA objectives 8: Sustainable Transport, 10: Air Quality and 15: Greenhouse Gases would be negative or unclear, with investment in the SRN potentially seen to conflict with these. However, the policy does include mitigation, by ensuring that development proposals also provide access for active travel and public transport, and that highways are built in accordance with Bee Network and Streets for All design guidance.

Recommended enhancement / mitigation

5.168 None identified. It is considered that the policy has been drafted to mitigate some of the impacts of additional road infrastructure with the reference to providing access for active travel and public transport, and making sure highways follow the Streets for All design guidance which would have a range of benefits.

Policy T10: Maximising local transport network operation

Synergies with the IA Framework

5.169 The policy is supportive of a range of measures, many of which are technological, to advance sustainable travel options and improve operation of the transport network. The policy aims to improve the operation of the transport network as a whole and so would have a positive effect against IA objective 3: Transport and Utilities. While covering a range of transport methods the policy does have a focus on sustainable methods and so would also have a minor positive effect against IA objective 9: Sustainable Transport and 15: Greenhouse gases.

Recommended enhancement / mitigation

5.170 None identified.

Development Management Policies

The likely effects of the policies in the 'Development Management Policies' chapter are shown in Table 15 below.

Table 15: IA summary for Development Management Policies

IA Objectives	DM1: General Development Requirements	DM2: Delivering Planning Contributions and Infrastructure
1. Housing	o	+/?
2. Economy	o	o
3. Transport and Utilities	+	++
4. Deprivation	o	o
5. Equalities	o	o
6. Health	+	+
7. Education and Social Infrastructure	+	++
8. Historic Environment	o	o
9.Sustainable Transport	o	?
10. Air Quality	o	
11. Biodiversity and GI	+	++
12. Climate Resilience	o	o
13. Flood Risk	+	o
14. Water Resources	+	o
15. Greenhouse Gases	o	o
16. Landscape and Character	++	o
17. Land Resources	++	o
18. Resource Consumption	o	o

Policy DM1: General Development Requirements

Synergies with the IA Framework

5.171 This policy covers a broad range of planning considerations that must be taken into account when determining planning applications. Therefore, the policy is a purely development management policy that would be used to determine the majority of applications, including minor and householder developments. The policy does cover several topic areas which are covered in more detail in other thematic policies of the plan.

5.172 It is expected that the policy would have a positive effect against several IA objectives, including IA objectives 3: Transport and 6: Health by ensuring appropriate access to developments, and protection against adverse amenity affects, including pollution. The policy also refers to drainage and water resources and so would have a positive effect against IA objectives 13 and 14.

Recommended enhancement / mitigation

5.173 A possible enhancement would be to add additional criteria in relation to other IA objectives such as heritage and climate mitigation. However, the policy includes the most general considerations that would be considered in determining planning applications, and thematic areas are covered in more detail in other parts of the plan.

Policy DM2: Delivering Planning Contributions and Infrastructure

Synergies with the IA Framework

5.174 The policy is to ensure that where necessary new developments contribute to infrastructure, services and facilities that are required to make the development accessible in planning terms, which could by physical infrastructure or financial contributions to the Local Authority.

5.175 The policy lists several types of infrastructure, services and facilities that will be the subject of planning obligations. Therefore, these contributions would directly align to several IA objectives, and requiring developer contributions would be a clear way to contribute to these.

5.176 The policy is expected to have a significant positive effect against IA objective 3: Transport by requiring contributions for new and improved transport infrastructure, 7: Education and Social Infrastructure by requiring contributions for education and community facilities, and 11: Biodiversity and GI, by requiring contributions for biodiversity and open space. The policy is also expected to have a positive effect against IA objective 6: Health due to the potential to collect contributions for this purpose, and to deliver open space and sports facilities which are beneficial for physical and mental wellbeing.

5.177 It is noted that the use of developer contributions may be to mitigate potential harm resulting from new developments and so should be seen in this context rather than only additional benefits. However, the assessment is when compared to a scenario without including a policy in the plan.

5.178 In terms of the effects against IA objective 1: Housing, the policy was considered to be positive with some unknown effects. This is due to potential conflicts between developer contributions and overall housing delivery, however there is provision in the policy for viability considerations. The policy would have a positive effect on delivery of a mix of house types in terms of affordable housing.

Recommended enhancement / mitigation

5.179 None identified.

Summary of Recommendations

5.180 As shown earlier in this section, a number of recommendations were presented to Council Officers during the drafting of this interim IA report. These have been considered for this version of the plan. The table below summarises the recommendations and responses.

Table 16: Summary of Recommendations and Responses

Recommendation	RBC Response
Policy PR7 – suggested that the policy include more environmental criteria such as improving the environmental performance of buildings and requiring onsite renewable energy generation such as solar panels, recognising the potential carbon impacts of a significant quantum of new employment development identified in PfE.	It is considered this issue is sufficiently covered by PfE Policy JP-S2 and draft policy S1.
Policy PR10 – consideration of adding more detail on cultural facilities and splitting the policy in two if necessary.	No change at this stage, however there will be further consultation/evidence on the requirements for policy relating to culture.
Policy H4 – the criteria for suitable sites for gypsies, travellers and travelling showpeople includes wording for sites to be 'suitably' located. Suggested that this wording be amended to 'sustainably' for clarity.	Agreed – wording amended to 'sustainably located'
Policy H5 – the policy includes criteria for locating housing for older people and people with disabilities. It is suggested to add access to open space to this criteria list recognising its benefits for health and wellbeing.	Agreed – criterion related to open space added to the policy.
Policy H7 – on the requirements for HMOs, it was suggested adding criteria for improving building fabric of conversions to improve energy efficiency.	It is considered this is sufficiently covered in Policy S1 and does not need repeating in this chapter.
Policy H8 – it was suggested including criteria to be more supportive of householders to make adaptations for climate mitigation or resilience such as micro-renewables or heat pumps.	It is considered that these issues are sufficiently included in draft policies S1 and S3, with the policy being more concerned with character and amenity.
Policy GP5 – in relation to urban greening, amended to include some flexibility on sites that are more constrained.	Amended to give greater flexibility in this regard if there are other potential benefits or there are technical constraints to mean UGF can't be achieved.
Policy GP6 – consideration if the requirements for some parts of the policy appropriate for smaller sites and previously developed land.	Policy amended to remove reference to % tree canopy cover at this stage but will be reviewed as part of the GI study before the publication version of the plan.
Policy PE1 – suggested to add reference to designing for climate mitigation and resilience, recognising potential conflicts	It is considered this is covered in Policies S1 and S2, with policy PE1 covering broad

between design considerations for aesthetic reasons and for energy efficiency.	design principles and links to other guidance.
Policy PE2 – on point f) where it refers to a 'resilient environment', it was suggested if this should specifically refer to climate resilience.	It is considered that the definition of 'resilient' in this context is broader than for the effects of climate change, and so enhancement is not necessary in this context.
Policy PE4 – the policy refers to layout of new development and scale and massing, in the context of local character. It may be useful to recognise that these factors are also important to consider for sustainability and energy efficiency of new developments.	Additional text has been added into the reasoned justification to consider this issue.

6. Monitoring

6.1 The SEA Regulations require that 'the responsible authority shall monitor the significant environmental effects of the implementation of each plan or programme with the purpose of identifying unforeseen adverse effects at an early stage and being able to undertake appropriate remedial action' and that the environmental report should provide information on 'a description of the measures envisaged concerning monitoring'. Monitoring proposals should be designed to provide information that can be used to highlight specific issues and significant effects.

6.2 Monitoring should be focused on the significant sustainability effects that may give rise to irreversible damage (with a view to identifying trends before such damage is caused) and the significant effects where there is uncertainty in the IA and where monitoring would enable preventative or mitigation measures to be taken. As this is a relatively early stage of the plan making process, indicators have been suggested against all IA objectives, which will be refined at the next stage (Regulation 19) of the IA.

Table 17: IA Objectives and Suggested Indicators for Monitoring

Number	IA Objective	Suggested Indicators
1.	Provide a sustainable supply of housing land including for an appropriate mix of sizes, types, and tenures in locations to meet housing need, and to support economic growth.	• Housing Land Supply (5 Year) • Annual net additional dwellings. • Affordable homes (by tenure) • Homes meeting national space standards. • Homes meeting Accessible and Adaptable standard.
2.	Provide a sustainable supply of employment land to ensure sustainable economic growth and job creation.	• Number of jobs in the borough. • Employment rate. • Unemployment rate. • Town centre footfall. • Town centre vacancies. • New employment floorspace.
3.	Ensure that there is sufficient coverage and capacity of transport and utilities to support growth and development.	• Transport infrastructure secured through S106 agreements.
4.	Reduce levels of deprivation and disparity.	• Change in IMD ranking.
5.	Promote equality of opportunity and the elimination of discrimination.	• Homes delivered to Accessible and Adaptable standard
6.	Support improved health and well-being of the population and reduce health inequalities.	• Life expectancy. • Healthy life expectancy. • Active travel routes delivered.
7.	Support improved educational attainment and skills levels for all,	• Resident qualifications. • School places.

	and access to social infrastructure.	
8.	Conserve and enhance the Borough's historic environment and cultural heritage.	• Buildings on 'at risk register' • Conservation areas with up-to-date character assessment.
9.	Promote sustainable modes of transport.	• Bus patronage. • Metrolink patronage. • Railway station passenger numbers. • Active travel routes delivered.
10.	Improve air quality.	• Number of Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) • Exceedance of legal level of NO2
11.	Conserve and enhance biodiversity, green infrastructure and geodiversity assets.	• Number, area and condition of sites of biological importance (SBI's) • Hectares of publicly accessible GI / within 400m of house. • % increase in BNG.
12.	Ensure communities, developments and infrastructure are resilient to the effects of climate change.	• Recorded flood events. • Tree canopy cover. • Access to green infrastructure/open space. • Number of developments with NbS or SuDS delivered.
13.	Reduce the risk of flooding to people and property.	• Recorded flood events. • SuDS schemes delivered.
14.	Protect and improve the quality and availability of water resources.	• Water efficiency of new developments.
15.	Increase energy efficiency, encourage low carbon generation and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.	• Carbon emissions in the borough. • Large scale consented renewable schemes. • EPC rating of new residential development • 'BREEAM' rating for new commercial development.
16.	Conserve and/or enhance landscape, townscape, local character and distinctiveness.	• Change in areas designated for their landscape value.
17.	Ensure that land resources are allocated and used in an efficient and sustainable manner to meet the housing and employment needs of Rochdale, whilst reducing land contamination.	• Proportion of new development on brownfield land.
18.	Promote sustainable consumption of resources and support the implementation of the waste hierarchy.	*Monitoring indicators to be included in joint Minerals and Waste plans.

7. Equalities Impact Assessment

8.8 The Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA) part of the IA is addressed through the Council's EIA assessment template. This includes an additional 2 categories adopted by the Council above the 9 characteristics identified in the Equality Act.

8.9 As outlined in Chapter 2, the IA assessment matrix included an objective on Equalities, to ensure that all policies were screened and assessed. No potential negative effects were identified as a result of this.

8.10 Some policies of the plan were considered to be likely to have a positive effect against IA objectives, in particular in relation to policies on Housing and Sustainable Transport. This is summarised in table 18 below.

8.11 Several policies in the draft plan refer to creating safe and inclusive environments, including public space, transport, and recreation facilities. While these do not refer to specific groups it is expected that this would have a greater positive effect against certain groups with protected characteristics.

Table 18: EIA summary of the draft Rochdale Local Plan

What is the impact of this proposal for different groups? Consider these elements: 1. Discrimination 2. Advancing equality of opportunity 3. Fostering good relations	**Impact Rating**	**RAG Result**	**Comments**
Age	9	Low Priority	Policy H5 of the Place for Homes chapter includes a policy that supports delivery of housing that meets the needs for older people.
Disability	9	Low Priority	Policy H5 of the Place for Homes chapter includes a policy that supports delivery of housing that meets the needs of people with disabilities. There are also several policies in the 'Connected Place' chapter that would have a positive effect for people with disabilities, such as Policy T2 – Creating Sustainable Streets.
Gender reassignment or Transgender people	4	Low Priority	Several policies in relation to the creation of safe and inclusive spaces would have a minor positive effect for this group.
Marriage & civil partnership	Neutral	Neutral	No specific impacts identified for this group.

Pregnancy & maternity	4	Low Priority	Several policies in relation to the creation of safe and inclusive spaces would have a minor positive effect for this group.
Race	2	Low Priority	Several policies in relation to the creation of safe and inclusive spaces would have a minor positive effect for this group.
Religion or belief	6	Low Priority	Policy PE6 of the Place for People chapter supports communities for a range of community groups and includes places of worship.
Sex	4	Low Priority	Several policies of the plan relating to design, open space and sustainable transport refer to the design of spaces that are safe for users. This would be of particular relevance for the safety of women and girls.
Sexual orientation	4	Low Priority	Several policies in relation to the creation of safe and inclusive spaces would have a minor positive effect for this group.
Carers	6	Low Priority	Policy H6 of the Place for Homes chapter sets criteria for applications for specialist residential accommodation for looked after children.
Serving or ex serving armed forces	2	Low Priority	May be minor benefits in terms of provision of a mix of housing including affordable housing.

8.12 The ‘Impact Rating’ is scored out of 25, and measures likelihood and severity. For example, a lower score would range from a negligible impact and remote likelihood, up to a high score which would be a highly probable likelihood and major impact. However as shown in the table impacts can be positive as well as negative.

8.13 Table 18 also shows a ‘RAG Risk Priority Level’, of which all the risks were identified as ‘low priority’.

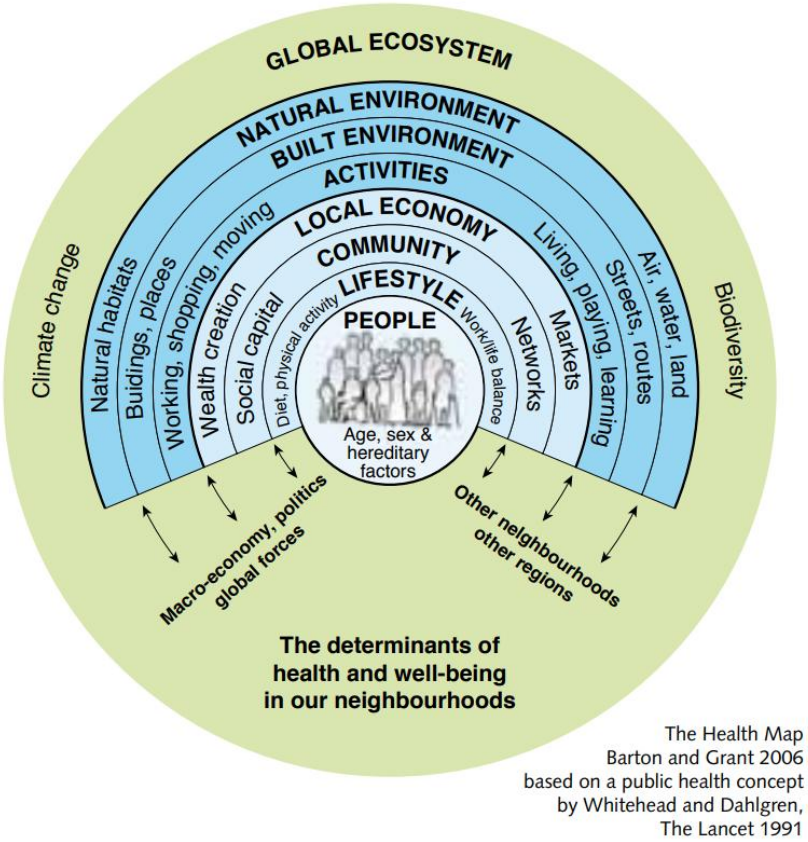
8. Health Impact Assessment

8.1 The reason for the inclusion of a HIA and the process followed is set out in Chapter 2. The overarching aim of a HIA is to ensure that plans and policies minimise the negative impacts and maximise the positive health impacts. Consideration was given to the determinants of health and the broad requirements of the Department for Health HIA screening questions (shown in Table 19 below).

8.2 These screening questions have been integrated into the IA framework and therefore health has been considered alongside other environmental, sustainability and equality considerations, which has covered the scope of the HIA.

8.3 The Department of Health (DOH) guidance states that "the determinants of health are the focus of HIA. They are the social, economic, environmental and cultural factors that indirectly influence health and wellbeing. They include what we eat and drink; where we live and work; and the social relationships and connections we have with other people and organisations." The DoH determinants of health, as set out in Figure 3 below, were used to help guide the compilation of the IA framework.

Figure 3: The Determinants of Health (Source: Department of Health[1])



[1] Health Impact Assessment of Government Policy: A guide to carrying out a Health Impact Assessment of new policy as part of the Impact Assessment process

8.4 The table below shows how the determinants of health are covered throughout the IA objectives.

Table 19: Mapping determinants of health against IA objectives

	Objective in which it is covered																	
Determinant of Health	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Climate change												✓			✓			
Biodiversity											✓							
Natural Environment: Natural habitat; Air; Water; Land										✓	✓			✓			✓	
Built environment: buildings; places; streets; routes	✓	✓	✓					✓	✓							✓		
Activities: working; shopping; moving; living; playing; learning	✓	✓	✓	✓					✓									
Local Economy: Wealth creation; Markets		✓																
Community: Social capital; Networks							✓											
Lifestyle: Diet; Physical activity; work/life balance						✓			✓		✓							
People: Age; Sex; Heredity factors				✓	✓		✓											

8.5 A summary if the response to the HIA screening questions is shown in Table 20 below.

Table 20: HIA Screening Questions and Response Summary

Screening Question	**No** If there will be no health impact, provide a brief explanation for your response	**Yes** If there will be health impact(s) provide a brief explanation.
Will the proposal have a direct impact on health, mental health and wellbeing? For example, would it cause ill health, affecting social inclusion, independence and participation? You should consider whether any socioeconomic or equalities groups* will be particularly affected.	No negative health impacts identified in the assessment – positive health impacts are identified in the IA.	
Will the policy have an impact on social, economic and environmental living	The IA did not identify any negative impacts	

conditions that would indirectly affect health? For example, would it affect housing, transport, child development, education, good employment opportunities, green space or climate change? You should consider whether any socioeconomic or equalities groups* will be particularly affected.	on social, economic and environmental living conditions. Positive effects on health are considered as part of the IA assessment.	
Will the proposal affect individual's ability to improve their own health and wellbeing? For example, will it affect their ability to be physically active, choose healthy food, reduce drinking and smoking? You should consider whether any socioeconomic or equalities groups* will be particularly affected.	The IA did not identify any negative health impacts at this stage. Positive effects on health are considered as part of the IA assessment.	
Will there be a change in demand for or access to health and social care services? For example: Primary Care, Hospital Care, Community Services, Mental Health and Social Services? You should consider whether any socioeconomic or equalities groups* will be particularly affected.	No - The plan does not set requirements for the quantum of housing and so would not impact on demand for health and social care services.	
Will the proposal have an impact on global health?	No.	
*Equalities groups such as race, gender, health, disability, sexual orientation, age, religion or belief.		

Source: Department of Health (2010) Health Impact Assessment Tools

9. Conclusions and Next Steps

9.1 This interim IA of the draft Local Plan has been in accordance with guidance on SA/SEA as set out in the National Planning Practice Guidance. The draft policies in the plan have been assessed against the IA objectives developed at Scoping Stage, with the objectives having been amended slightly following comments on the initial Scoping report. This has also included the EIA, HIA and HRA.

9.2 In general the draft Local Plan was found to have broadly positive effects against IA objectives. The plan covers a breadth of thematic areas which seek to address environmental, social and economic issues in the borough. Several enhancements to policies were recommended as part of the IA process.

9.3 The Draft Rochdale Local Plan is read in conjunction with the PfE plan, which sets the requirements for housing and employment land, strategic direction for the city-region and allocated large strategic sites for development. As the Draft Rochdale Plan does not propose any specific allocations for residential or employment development above those identified in PfE, then any potential negative effects of built development on the IA objectives related to the environment in particular were not identified in this IA. The policies in this version of the plan are largely to improve the quality of new development and protecting and enhancing existing qualities of the borough, and to improve sustainability outcomes. This is in the context of supporting delivery of the quantum of development identified in PfE, thereby supporting economic objectives.

9.4 This IA report will be available for consultation alongside the Draft Local Plan, and comments on both documents will be taken into account in the next stages of the plan preparation process. A further IA will be undertaken to accompany the publication (Regulation 19) version of the plan.

Appendix 1 – Scoping Report Consultation Comments

Summary of Comments	Response
Comment ID: 1801 <u>IA Objectives and key sustainability issues</u> Housing • Comment disagrees with housing projections • No evidence that housing mix and type is appropriate • Aims are too vague and should be specific and deliverable Economy and Employment • No evidence for assertions • Why does it matter if financial and business services are under-represented. • Retail offer in the borough is poor due to Council mismanagement – need targets for % of independent retailers etc. Health • Insufficient healthcare facilities Education and Skills • No accurate data. Deprivation • No evidence for this. • Promote regeneration is vague. Transport • Agree with locating new developments near good public transport. • Active travel may be helpful to younger people but not for increasing older population. Water • Agree with locating development away from flood risk areas, but many planned developments at risk of flooding. Climate and Energy • Need a stronger brownfield priority. • New development is incompatible with reducing CO2. Air Quality	In response to the comments around data sources, the scoping report included a summary of issues, but the statistics and sources behind this data was included in the appendices. Many sources of data are from the last census which was in 2021. Some sources have been updated for this interim IA and will be reviewed for the submission version. A number of comments around policy to include have been covered in the thematic policy chapters.

• Avoid development near to AQMAs. Biodiversity and geodiversity • Protect all agricultural land and public green space. Green Infrastructure • Ensure development is on existing green space. • No definition of how quality will be improved. Landscape & built heritage • Rochdale canal is an opportunity that should be enhanced. • Shocking that so many heritage assets on at-risk register. Minerals & Waste • Targets for mineral management should be set. Land Resources and Soils • Protect all agricultural land and recognise value of local food production.	
Comment ID: 1801 • The baseline data should be accurate, consistent and up to date. • All forecasts should be accurate and referenced. • There is no supporting data regarding house types. • Supporting data for rural economy and distribution businesses should be available. • Context for stats around GP's and schools should be available. • How do laudable aims around Nature Recovery fit in with allocation of Green Belt sites in PfE? • Whilst high temperatures do occasionally occur in Rochdale would be interesting to compare with how many people die from cold.	The data used in the scoping report is referenced in full in the statistics table. This uses the data that was available at the time. This will be updated throughout the process as more data becomes available. Further evidence will be produced during the plan process e.g. to support policy in relation to housing through a housing needs assessment. In response to heat deaths vs cold, the draft Local Plan includes policy around both energy efficiency for cold temperatures and overheating.
Comment ID: 1803 Context and baseline information • Landscape and built heritage should be treated separately and the latter changed to 'historic environment' • Insufficient information in the scoping report in relation to the historic environment Relevant plans, programmes and policies	The scoping report and IA objectives have been amended to include a separate criterion for 'Historic Environment', and this is considered separately throughout the report. Additional baseline context and issues have also been included in the updated scoping report. The IA report necessarily considers a range of issues and so the information included is proportionate.

• Needs to cover all those relevant at international, national and local level that would have a direct bearing for the historic environment. • No inclusion of things like Conservation Area Appraisals which are available online. Sustainability Objectives • The issues do not have evidence to support them and considered they are an assumption. • Landscape should be dealt with separately to historic environment. • Aims listed do not seek to conserve and enhance historic environment and its setting. • No consideration of archaeology.	
Comment ID: 1805 Suggested including the following plans: • Climate Change and energy: The Road to Zero Strategy • The emerging Greater Manchester Local Nature Recovery Strategy, • State of Nature Partnership – State of Nature 2023 • Natural England & Forestry Commission - Ancient Woodland, Ancient trees and veteran trees: Advice for making planning decisions (2022), • Framework for peatland protection and the establishment of new woodlands (July 2023) NE/FC Environment Agency Green Infrastructure Framework (2023) • Lowland Agricultural Peat Task Force Report, England's Peat Action Plan. • Lowland Agricultural Peat Task Force Report, England's Peat Action Plan. • Natural Capital: GMCA Biodiversity Net Gain – Guidance for Planners and Applicants	The suggested additional plans have been added to the updated list of relevant policies, plans and programmes where considered appropriate.
Comment ID: 1805 • Water – agree with aims but should include policy on naturalisation of watercourses and removal of culverts. • Climate and Energy – agree with assessments. Within development, should include green infrastructure, trees, protection and restoration of peat.	These policy areas are covered in the current draft of the Local Plan. This IA version has also included several potential indicators.

• Air Quality – should refer to need to provide HRA's within risk zones of South Pennine Moors SSI/SAC/SPA. • Biodiversity and Geodiversity – do not feel that legal requirement to deliver BNG should be an issue. A major issue is condition and quality of peat soils. • Green Infrastructure – recommend tree planting is undertaken with care so as not to adversely affect other habitats and species. GI should be designed to deliver multiple benefits and link with GM LNRS. • Landscape & Built Heritage – South Pennine Moors should be highlighted. • Land Resources and Soils – important to highlight importance of peat soils. IA objectives and Indicators • Air Quality – reference to West Pennine Moors SSSI should be made here and any development within the Impact Risk Zone (IRZ) should be providing a HRA. • Agree with objectives and indicators but propose to add: o Contribute to the delivery of the 30 by 30 target by protecting at least 30% of land by 2030. o Protect peat soils from development and rewet where possible. • Climate resilience – welcome the indicator to support delivery of nature based solutions – highlight importance of peat. • Flood risk – support objective and indicators, recommend use of porous surfaces and rain gardens. • Water resources – supportive of objective, would add two new indicators – 1) reduction in culverted watercourses, 2 increase in natural flow of watercourses. • Landscape and Heritage – refer to Wildlife Trust's Building with Nature (BwN) project as a GI benchmark. • Land resources – the indicator around protecting agricultural land should specifically refer to peat soils also.	

Comment ID: CFS15 Comment refers to paragraph 1.4 of the scoping report referring to allocations. The IA will need to refer to PfE allocations as well as draft allocations within discontinued draft Allocations Plan.	The sentence referred to in paragraph 1.4 was a general one outlining the local plan process and does not confirm the intention of the local plan, the scope of which has evolved since the Scoping Report. The PfE allocations were assessed as part of the PfE IA so will not form part of this IA.
Comment ID: 1808 The IA highlights key issues in relation to housing including the increase in population, and lack of housing in right size, type, tenure and quality to meet identified needs. Agree these are issues that need to be addressed. IA scoping report highlights need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Considers it important that Council does not set its own standards for development that may differ from National Government.	Comment regarding housing issues is noted. Carbon standards for development are set in Policy JP-S2 of the PfE plan.
Comment ID: 1811 - Welcome the inclusion of a HIA - Asked to add update to Planning for Sport guidance. - The Rochdale PPS (2020) is now out of date for the purpose of the evidence base as it's over 3 years old. - Sport England do not support the use of a 'standards' approach to determine requirements for indoor and outdoor sport. - Page 41 – housing should also identify need to deliver additional indoor and outdoor sports facilities. - Page 42 – health – should also include reference to policies in NPPF to protect playing fields - Page 42 – deprivation – should also identify need to deliver additional sports facilities based on demand resulting from increase in population. - Page 43 – Green Infrastructure – should also include reference to policies in the NPPF to 'protect' playing fields - Overarching – there is a need to deliver additional indoor and outdoor sports facilities. - Comments on updating evidence related to sport. - Ask to include Active Lives data in baseline data.	The section in policies, plans and programmes has been updated in response to the comments on this. The IA objectives include several in relation to access to open space and sports facilities, and facilitating healthy lifestyles.
Comment ID: 1815	Comment noted regarding issues in relation to housing.

The Rochdale Integrated Assessment Scoping Report (RIASR) highlights key issues in relation to housing including the increase in population; the increase in the proportion of people aged over 65; the lack of housing of the right size, type, tenure and quality to meet identified needs; and issues of overcrowding - agrees that these are all issues that will need to be addressed. Evidence supporting PfE now several years old.	Additional evidence will be produced to support the housing policies in the plan.
Comment ID: 1816 Other policies, plans or programmes (where relevant) • Green and Blue Infrastructure (GBI) Strategies • Biodiversity Plans • Greater Manchester Local Nature Recovery Strategy • Rights of Way Improvement Plans • River Basin Management Plans • Relevant Landscape Plans and Strategies Key issues • Designated sites – no reference to designated sites within key issues – advise that they're highlighted as key issue/opportunity • Peat – no reference in key sustainability issues • Health – welcome recognition – should strengthen by referencing improved Green Social Prescribing (GSP) provision within Rochdale • Climate – strengthen by referencing nature-based solutions and GBI in building resilience • Air Quality – strengthen by considering proposals likely to generate additional nitrogen emissions • Green Infrastructure – refer to multifunctionality and urban greening IA objectives The IA should monitor significant environmental effects of implementing the plan. It is important that these reflect key issues in Rochdale and that appropriate monitoring indicators are chosen that relate to the effects of the plan itself, not wider changes. Designated sites - any objectives and indicators relating to designated sites consider a quantifiable measurement to be effective.	Comment regarding other relevant polices, plans and programmes are noted and this list has been updated. The key issues have been updated and reference designated sites and peat. Issues around health, climate, air quality and green infrastructure are covered in thematic policies. Several of the suggested monitoring indicators are included in the monitoring section, as indicators that may be used.

Peat - any objectives and indicators relating to peat consider a quantifiable measurement in order to be effective. For example: area (ha2) of peatland restored by 2030; area of peatland protected by designations. Health - percentage of people utilising GSP; percentage increase of local green spaces; percentage of the population having access to a natural greenspace within 400 metres of their home; length of greenways constructed; percentage increase of active travel routes; hectares of accessible open space per 1000 population. Water - percentage of relevant development incorporating NbS or SuDS; percentage decreases in flood risk; water quality/ecological status of rivers. Climate and Energy - e.g. percentage of relevant development incorporating NbS or SuDS; number of street trees planted in urban areas; percentage increases in urban greening. Air Quality – e.g. increase in tree canopy cover in areas most susceptible to poor air quality; percentage reduction in nitrogen pollutants; hectares of peat engaged in restoration efforts; tonnage of emissions generated annually from roads. Biodiversity and Geodiversity - percentage net gain in biodiversity resulting from development and unit supply using the Statutory Biodiversity Metric; increased condition scores of sites of biodiversity significance. Green Infrastructure – e.g. number of new or retrofitted urban green infrastructure; percentage increase of local green spaces; percentage of the population having access to a natural greenspace within 400 metres of their home; number of GI standards and principles met within plan. Landscape & built heritage – should be quantifiable. Minerals & Waste – should be quantifiable. Land Resources and soils – e.g. percentage of new dwellings or employment space on previously developed land, hectares of soil with high environmental value lost to development.	

Appendix 2 – Review of Plans, Policies and Programmes

Table 1: International Programmes, Plans and Strategies

Other plan/ programme/policy	Objectives, targets or requirements relevant to the Local Plan and IA	Implications for the IA / Local Plan
International		
Overarching		
EU Sustainable Development Strategy (2009)	Considers that there are strong links and impacts from urban development and spatial organisation on sustainable development, as well as on environmental quality, energy consumption, mobility, health and quality of life. The SDS put forward three spatial policy guidelines: – Development of a balanced and polycentric urban system and a new urban-rural relationship; – Securing parity of access to infrastructure and knowledge; and – Sustainable development, prudent management and production of nature and cultural heritage	Sets the context for sustainable development within the Local Plan.
Biodiversity		
The United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (1992)	A multi-lateral convention that commits countries to the conservation and sustainable use of their biodiversity	The Local Plan will have policies relating to protecting and enhancing biodiversity.

		IA requires an objective on protecting and enhancing biodiversity
The EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 (2020)	A long-term plan to protect nature and reverse the degradation of ecosystems. The strategy aims to put Europe's biodiversity on a path to recovery by 2030, and contains specific actions and commitments	The Local Plan will have policies relating to protecting and enhancing biodiversity IA requires an objective on protecting and enhancing biodiversity
Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC as amended by 97/62/EC (1992)	– Conserve wild flora, fauna and natural habitats of EU importance – Encourage management of features of the landscape that are essential for migration of wild species – Establish framework of protected areas to maintain – biodiversity and promote conservation	The Local Plan will have policies relating to protecting and enhancing biodiversity IA requires an objective on protecting and enhancing biodiversity
Birds Directive 2009/147/EC as amended (2009)	Aims to protect all naturally occurring wild bird species present in the EU and their most important habitats. To achieve these aims, EU countries are required to take any necessary measures to maintain or restore bird populations.	The Local Plan will have policies relating to protecting and enhancing biodiversity IA requires an objective on protecting and enhancing biodiversity
Ramsar Convention (1971)	An intergovernmental treaty that provides the framework for national action and international cooperation for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources	The Local Plan will have policies relating to protecting and enhancing biodiversity IA requires an objective on protecting and enhancing biodiversity
Water and flood risk		

EU Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC)	The Directive seeks to prevent further deterioration and protect and enhance status of aquatic ecosystems and wetlands; promote sustainable water use, contribute to mitigating effects of floods and droughts; and prevent further deterioration and risk of pollution in ground waters	The Local Plan will have policies relating to the water environment, water resources and flood risk. IA requires objectives related to the water environment, water resources, and flood risk
European Floods Directive 2007 (2007/60/EC)	Requires Local Authorities to feed in to the Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment, as well as the Local Flood Risk Strategy, and ensure that objectives within Local Plans complement the objectives of the Directive	The Local Plan will reflect the requirements of the Directive. IA requires an objective related to flood risk.
EU Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive 91/271/EEC	Requires Member States to ensure that urban areas collect and treat wastewater, which would otherwise pollute rivers, lakes and seas.	The Local Plan will have policies relating to the urban water environment. IA requires an objective related to treatment of urban waste water
Air Quality		
EU Air Quality Framework Directive (1996)	Describes how air quality should be assessed and managed.	There is an IA objective related to air quality
EU Ambient Air Quality Directives (2008/50/EC) & (2004/107/EC)	Sets limits on emissions and responsibilities to monitor, manage and report on air quality.	There is an IA objective related to air quality

EU Directive on the reduction of national emissions of certain atmospheric pollutants (2016/2284)	Sets national reduction commitments for five main air pollutants that have a significant negative impact on human health and the environment.	There is an IA objective related to air quality
EUNECE Gothenburg Protocol on National Emissions Reduction Targets (1999)	Sets national emission ceilings for 2010 up to 2020 for four pollutants: sulphur (SO2), nitrogen oxides (NOx), volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and ammonia (NH3)	There is an IA objective related to air quality
Climate Change and Energy Efficiency		
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change 2015: The Paris Agreement	Legally binding commitments to prevent global temperature rise	IA objective related to GHG emissions
International Carbon Action Partnership (2007)	A forum for public authorities to exchange knowledge and experience of carbon markets	Not directly relevant to the IA but does provide context for greenhouse gas emissions

EU Energy Efficiency Plan (2011)	Strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth and of the transition to a resource efficient economy	IA objective related to energy efficiency
EU Energy Efficiency Directive (EU/2023/1791)	Introduces a series of measures to help accelerate energy efficiency	IA objective related to energy efficiency
EU Directive on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources (2009/28/EC)	The legal framework for the development of clean energy across all sectors of the EU economy	IA objective related to use of renewable energy
Waste and Minerals (incl. pollution)		
EU Waste Framework Directive (2008/98/EC)	Limit waste production through the promotion of clean technology and reusable or recyclable products; Promote prevention, recycling and conservation of waste with the view to re-use; Waste should be managed with minimal environmental impact	IA objective related to waste generation and management issues as well as extractive resources
Directive 2018/850 on the landfill of waste (2018, European Commission)	Aims to prevent, or reduce as much as possible, any negative impact from landfill on surface water, groundwater, soil, air and human health	IA objective related to waste generation and management issues as well as extractive resources

EU Mining Waste Directive (2006/21/EC	The Directive's overall objective is to provide for measures to prevent or reduce as far as possible any adverse effects on the environment as well as any resultant risk to human health from the management of waste from the extractive industries	IA objective related to waste generation and management issues as well as extractive resources
EU Integrated Pollution Prevention Directive (1996/61/EC)	Concerns emissions to air, water and land, generation of waste, use of raw materials, noise etc	Objectives related to water quality and ground contamination
Landscape		
The European Landscape Convention (Florence Convention) 2004	Encourage the adoption of polices relating to the protection, management and planning of landscapes	IA objective related to conservation and enhancement of landscape and townscape character
Historic Environment and Cultural Heritage		
Convention for the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe (Granada Convention), 1987	Promote polices for the conservation and enhancement of Europe's heritage	Not directly relevant but provides wider context for heritage considerations
European Convention on the Protection of	Promote polices for the conservation and enhancement of Europe's heritage	Not directly relevant but provides wider context for heritage considerations

Archaeological Heritage (Valetta Convention), 1995		

Table 2: National Programmes, Plans and Strategies

National		
Overarching		
National Planning Policy Framework (2023, DLUHC)	Sets out that the purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development through balancing social, economic and environmental objectives	The plan should contribute towards the achievement of sustainable growth and development
Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023 (October 2023)	Provides a framework for changes to the planning system through secondary legislation and new planning policy	The Local Plan should respond to relevant measures in the Act including design, infrastructure, housing, and efficient use of land
National Infrastructure Strategy (2020)	Sets out the Government's aim to deliver a step change in infrastructure provision to boost growth and productivity and help deliver net zero	Not directly relevant but important context
Localism Act (as amended) (2011)		
Equality Act (2010)		
Design		

National Model Design Code (MHCLG, 2021)	Provides advice on creating a Design Code, setting out detailed standards for key elements of successful place-making	IA objective on promoting high quality design Local Plan should establish design expectations
National Design Guide (2021)	Sets out 10 criteria for successful place-making	IA objective on promoting high quality design Local Plan should establish design expectations
Economy		
Northern Powerhouse Strategy (2016)	Sets out the Government's priorities for delivering a sustained increase in productivity across the North	Requires objectives to improve connectivity, skills, enterprise and innovation and investment to support the Northern Powerhouse vision
Build Back Better – our plan for growth (2021)	Sets out Government priorities for growth: Infrastructure, Skills and Innovation	The Local Plan will aim to strengthen economic growth in Rochdale and ensure that employment land is provided for key sectors IA objective on economic growth
Climate Change and energy		
Climate Change Act (2008)	Established a framework to develop an economically credible emissions reduction path	IA objectives related to climate change mitigation including emissions, energy efficiency and renewable energy

Planning and Energy Act 2008	The Act enables local planning authorities to set requirements for energy use and energy efficiency in local plans.	IA objectives related to emissions, energy efficiency and renewable energy
The Third National Adaptation Programme (NAP3) and the Fourth Strategy for Climate Adaptation Reporting (2023)	The vision is for a country that effectively plans for and is fully adapted to the changing climate, with resilience against each of the identified climate risks	Requires objective to adapt to climate change
The Road to Zero (2018)	UK Government strategy to transition to zero emission vehicles by 2040.	Requires objective around sustainable transport and reducing carbon emissions.
Net Zero Strategy: Build Back Greener (2022)	Strategy to help deliver the UK's carbon budgets as set out in the Climate Change Act and net zero by 2050	Requires objective to mitigate and be resilient to climate change
British Energy Security Strategy (2022)	Strategy for how Britain will accelerate home-grown power for greater energy independence	Requires objectives on low carbon and renewable energy
Clean Growth Strategy (2017)	Policies and proposals to accelerate the pace of 'clean growth' at the heart of the UK's Industrial Strategy i.e. deliver increased economic growth and decreased emissions	IA objectives related to climate change mitigation including emissions, energy efficiency and renewable energy
The UK Renewable Energy Strategy (2009)	Strategy for meeting legally binding target to ensure 15% of our energy comes from renewable sources by 2020	IA objectives related to emissions, energy efficiency and renewable energy
The Carbon Plan: Delivering our Low Carbon Future (2011)	Sets out how the UK will achieve decarbonisation within the framework of the Government's energy policy including low carbon buildings, transport, industry, and land use	IA objectives related to climate change mitigation including emissions, energy efficiency and renewable energy

Climate Resilient Infrastructure (2011)	Alongside the transition to a low carbon society, increasing infrastructure's resilience to climate change impacts is a high priority for the Government, to help protect the economy and its future growth	IA objective on resilience to climate impacts
Biodiversity and green infrastructure		
The Environment Act (2021)	Legislation covering air, restore natural habitats, increase biodiversity, reduce waste and make better use of our resources	Objectives on enhancing biodiversity, improving water quality and air quality, and the sustainable management of resources
The Environment Improvement Plan (2023)	First revision to the Government's 25-year environment plan	Objectives on protecting and enhancing biodiversity, environmental quality, use of resources and mitigation of climate change
Enabling a Natural Capital Approach (2020)	A framework and guidance to assess and value the natural environment	IA objective relating to biodiversity, green infrastructure and natural capital
Making Space for Nature (2012)	Influential report making recommendations around network connectivity, site/habitat restoration/enhancement, access and maximising ecosystem services	IA objective relating to biodiversity, green infrastructure and natural capital
The Path to Sustainable Farming: An Agricultural Transition Plan 2021 to 2024 (2020)	A plan for profitable and economically sustainable farming and the countryside contributing significantly to environmental goals including addressing climate change	Objective related to sustainable management of land and water
Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981)	Covers: SSSIs, SPAs and RAMSAR sites. Also includes schedules on birds, animals, plants and invasive species	Objective relating to the protection and enhancement of biodiversity

The Hedgerows Regulations (1997)	Allows the identification of important hedgerows and requires permission to remove them from the local planning authority	Objective relating to the protection and enhancement of biodiversity
Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (2006)	Requires all public bodies to have regard to biodiversity conservation when carrying out their functions, commonly referred to as the 'biodiversity duty'	Objective relating to the protection and enhancement of biodiversity
The Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations (2019)	Regulations provide for the designation and protection of 'European sites', the protection of 'European protected species', and the adaptation of planning and other controls for the protection of European Sites	Objective relating to the protection and enhancement of biodiversity
The England Trees Action Plan 2021-2024	Long-term plan for trees, woodlands and forests. It includes a vision for trees in 2050 and the economic, environmental, and social benefits that will be realised through new trees and woodlands.	IA objective and local plan policy on trees.
Air and soil		
The Environmental Protection Act 1990	Establishes a legal framework for dealing with control of emissions to the environment in England	IA objectives related to emissions to land, air and water
Part IV of the Environmental Act (1995)	Requires local authorities in the UK to review air quality in their area and designate air quality management areas if improvements are necessary	IA objective related to air quality
Clean Air Strategy (2019)	Complements the Industrial Strategy, Clean Growth Strategy and 25 Year Environment Plan to show how the Government plans to tackle all sources of air pollution. Includes	IA objective related to air quality

	creation of Clean Air Zones and policy options to improve air quality.	
Air Pollution: Action in a Changing Climate (2010)	Summarises the main issues concerning air pollution and outlines how to utilise interconnections between measures to address air pollution and climate change	IA objective related to air quality
National Air Quality Strategy (2011)	Sets objective values for eight key pollutants, as a tool to help local authorities manage local air quality improvements in accordance with the EU Air Quality Directive and associated Regulations	IA objective related to air quality
Air Quality Plan for Nitrogen Dioxide in the UK (2017)	Plan for tackling roadside nitrogen dioxide concentrations	IA objective related to air quality
Safeguarding our Soils: A Strategy for England (2009)	A strategy for sustainable management and reducing degradation of soils in urban and rural areas	Objective on the protection and enhancement of soils and remediation of contaminated land
Water and flood risk		
The Water Environment Regulations 2017	Regulations address water quality, including groundwater against pollution and deterioration Establishes the need for river basin management plans	Requires IA objective on improvement of water quality
The Flood Risk Regulations (2009)	Places duties on the Environment Agency and local authorities to prepare flood risk assessments, flood risk maps and flood risk management plans	IA objective related to reducing flood risk

Flood & Water Management Act (2010)	Aims to provide better, more sustainable management of flood risk for people, homes and businesses, help safeguard community groups from unaffordable rises in surface water drainage charges and protect water supplies to the consumer	IA objective on reducing and managing and sustainable management of water resources
Water Resources Act (1991)	Act of Parliament that regulates water resources, water quality and pollution, and flood defence	IA objectives related to water quality and consumption
Written Statement on Sustainable Drainage Systems (2014)	Strengthens national planning policy related to sustainable urban drainage and new development	IA objectives related to flood risk management arising from new development
TCPA Policy advice note: inland waterways (2009)	Highlights the areas of opportunity to strengthen existing spatial planning policy for inland waterways	Objective on protecting and improving the quality and availability of inland waterways
National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy for England (2022)	Sets out the Government's long-term ambition to be resilient to flooding and coastal change	Requires objective to avoid and mitigate against flood risk and to be resilient to climate change
Historic Environment		
Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act (1979)	Seek to protect specials sites, buildings and areas of special architectural or historic interest	IA includes an objective which considers the historic environment.
Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act (1990)	Seek to protect specials sites, buildings and areas of special architectural or historic interest	IA includes an objective which considers the historic environment.

The Historic Environment in Local Plans (2015, Historic England)	Advice on implementing national planning policy on the historic environment	Requires objective to protect and enhance the historic environment
Planning (Listed Building and Conservation Areas) Act 1990	Provides specific protection for buildings and areas of special architectural or historic interest	IA includes an objective which considers heritage assets
Housing		
The Housing Act (2004)	Reinforces the role of Councils as strategic enablers with an overview of both public and private sector properties in their area	IA objective related to housing provision
The Charter for Social Housing Residents: Social Housing White Paper (2021)	Sets out what every social housing resident should be able to expect regarding a home and a neighbourhood	The Local Plan needs to ensure that good quality homes including social homes are provided in a good quality neighbourhood. This needs to take account of the Decent Homes Standard and the provision of green spaces Requires IA objective on sustainable housing land supply and an appropriate mix of sizes, types and tenures to meet local housing needs
Housing White Paper "Fixing our Broken Housing Market" (2017)	Set out Government ambition and proposals to boost housing supply and create a more efficient housing market. Many proposals have been taken forward through the Levelling Up Act and planning reforms	Requires IA objective on sustainable housing land supply and an appropriate mix of sizes, types and tenures to meet local housing needs; and to ensure land and

		buildings are used in an effective and efficient manner, maximising the use of brownfield land. The Council should maximise the contribution of sites from brownfield and surplus land in the Strategic Housing and Employment Land Availability Assessment.
Planning Policy for Travellers Sites (2015)	Local authorities should ensure suitable and sustainable sites are identified and infrastructure provided	Local Plan needs to consider latest evidence on travellers needs
Transport and travel		
Transport Investment Strategy (2017)	Sets out the Government's priorities and approach for future transport investment decisions	Included for context
Roads Investment Strategy 2 (2020)	Five year strategy for investment in and management of the strategic road network up to 2025	Included for context
Transport Decarbonisation Plan 2021	Sets out how the Government will deliver emissions reductions as transport's contribution to legally binding carbon budgets and delivering net zero by 2050	Objective related to sustainable travel and transport, and reducing emissions from transport
The Long Term Rail Strategy for the North of England (2015)	Sets out how rail can support the growth of the North of England's economy over the next twenty years	Included for context
The Northern Powerhouse: One	Transport vision to maximise the economic potential of the North	Included for context

Agenda, One Economy, One North (The Northern Transport Strategy)		
The Road to Zero: Next steps towards cleaner road transport and delivering our Industrial Strategy (2018)	Sets out Government ambition for low emission and electric vehicle sales and associated infrastructure	IA objective on sustainable transport and air quality
Gear Change (2020)	National strategy to promote walking and cycling for short journeys	Requires objective around a fully integrated transport network including walking and cycling
Cycling and walking investment strategy (2017)	Outlines the government's ambition to make cycling and walking a natural choice for shorter journeys, or as part of longer journeys by 2040	Requires objective around a fully integrated transport network including walking and cycling
Cycle infrastructure design (2020)	Provides guidance and good practice for the design of cycle infrastructure, in support of the Cycling and Walking Investment Strategy.	Requires objective around a fully integrated transport network including walking and cycling
Health and wellbeing		
Play Strategy for England (2008)	Strategy aims to ensure that play spaces are attractive,	IA objective on social infrastructure includes consideration of play facilities

	welcoming, engaging and accessible for all local children and young people, including disabled children, and children from minority groups in the community	
Healthy Lives, Healthy People: our strategy for public health in England (2010)	The plans set out in this White Paper put local communities at the heart of public health	Inclusion of IA objectives that aim to improve human health and reduce health inequalities
Health and Social Care Act (2012)	Seeks to address the issues facing the NHS and gives a new focus to public health	Inclusion of IA objectives that aim to improve human health and reduce health inequalities
Health and social care integration: joining up care for people, places and populations (2022)	Plans to support the development of a health and care system which is levelled-up in terms of outcomes and reduced disparities	Requires IA objective on improving health and well-being and reducing health inequalities and having appropriate provision of supporting infrastructure to meet development needs
People at the heart of Care Adult Social Care Reform White Paper (2021)	Improving people's access to health and social care	Requires IA objective on improving health and well-being and reducing health inequalities and to promote inclusive sustainable communities
Confident Communities, Brighter Futures (2010)	This report is part of a continuing programme of action to improve the mental health and well-being of the whole population	Inclusion of IA objectives that aim to improve human health and reduce health inequalities
Public Health England strategy 2020-25 (2020)	The strategy focuses on keeping people safe, preventing poor health, narrowing the health gap and supporting a strong economy	Requires IA objective on improving health and well-being and reducing health inequalities.

Get Active: a strategy for the future of sport and physical activity (DCMS, 2023)	The report sets a strategy to help build a healthier nation by tackling high levels of inactivity, and by making sure that the sport and physical activity sector thrives for future generations. This updates and builds on Sporting Future, the previous sport strategy which was published in 2015- Sporting Future: A New Strategy for an Active Nation) (2023).	Requires objective to improve health and wellbeing of the population and ensure access to open space and sports facilities
Planning for Sport Guidance (updated April 2024)	A guide on how the planning system can help provide opportunities for everyone to be physically active	The Local Plan needs to have up to date evidence on assessments of need for sports provision and prepare a policy linked to that. Requires IA objective on improving health and well-being and reducing health inequalities and having appropriate provision of supporting infrastructure to meet development needs including promoting quality and accessible open spaces
Uniting the Movement (Sport England)	Outlines Sport England's vision for the future of sport and physical activity in England for the ten years to 2031.	
Sporting Future: A New Strategy for an Active Nation (2023)	The Strategy aims to ensure that everyone can benefit from sport and increase not only participation but harness the multi-dimensional and far-reaching benefits of sport to change people's lives for the better. Local government's role is to ensure that the multiple benefits of sport can be achieved for communities by investing in green spaces and routes as venues for sport and healthy activity	Requires objective to improve health and wellbeing of the population and ensure access to open space and sports facilities

Sport England Active Design – Creating Active environments Through Planning and Design (2023)	The document was produced by Sport England along with Active Travel England (ATE) and the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID) who produced an updated version of the Active Design guide in 2023. Active Design guidance seeks the development of environments that support physical activity equitably across all ages, ethnicities, genders and abilities, enabling everyone to be active and build long term active habits and behaviours. Includes 10 principles of active design.	Requires IA objectives on improving health and well-being and promoting an integrated and improved transport system that improves connectivity, including the walking and cycling network
Public Health in Planning: Good Practice Guide, (2015, Town and Country Planning Association)	Sets out opportunities for public health to integrate with planning	Requires objective to improve health and reduce health inequalities across the borough
Putting Health into Place: Introducing NHS England's Healthy New Towns programme (2019)	The report outlines 10 Principles for Healthy Places	Requires objective to improve health and reduce health inequalities across the borough
Promoting Healthy Cities, RTPI (2014)	Policy paper setting out how planning is critical to promoting healthy cities, and that health and wellbeing need to be at the core of how we design and develop cities	Requires objective to improve health and reduce health inequalities across the borough
Spatial Planning for Health - An evidence resource for planning and	Provides a comprehensive evidence resource for how action on the built and natural environment contributes to improved health outcomes	Requires objective to improve health and reduce health inequalities across the borough

designing healthier places (2017)		
Build Back Better: Our Plan for Health and Social Care (2021)	Government policy paper outlining new plan for healthcare, adult social care	Inclusion of IA objectives that aim to improve human health and reduce health inequalities
Education		
Opportunity for all - Strong schools with great teachers for your child (March 2022)	White paper outlining how the education system can help to deliver on the government's levelling up mission	Requires IA objective to improve education attainment and skill levels
Delivering schools to support housing growth (2023)	Guidance for local authorities on planning new education infrastructure that is required due to housing growth, through the provision of new or expanded schools and other educational and childcare settings	Requires IA objective on having appropriate provision of supporting infrastructure to meet development needs
Waste and minerals		
National Planning Policy for Waste (2014)	Sets out that waste planning authorities should prepare Local Plans which identify sufficient opportunities to meet the identified needs of their area for the management of waste streams	Waste is dealt with in the joint GM Waste Plan. However, the Local Plan and site allocations will need to have regard to this plan. Requires objective to manage waste in a sustainable manner
Waste Management Plan for England (2021)	The plan provides an overview of waste management in England and the requirements for waste management plans	Waste management is covered by a joint GM plan. However, the Local Plan will need to ensure that it does not conflict.

		Requires IA objective on waste management

Table 3: Regional and Greater Manchester Programmes, Plans and Strategies

Regional / Greater Manchester		
Overarching		
Greater Manchester Digital Strategy (2020)	Sets out GM's digital, creative and tech ambitions	Relates to several areas of the IA including objectives on economic growth, job creation, and utilities
Greater Manchester Culture Strategy (2019)	Sets out GM's cultural aspirations regarding organisations, artists and partners across GM to develop the region's creativity and identify further	IA objectives on health and wellbeing of population, social infrastructure, and job growth
Greater Manchester Local Industrial Strategy (2019)	Seeks to deliver an economy fit for the future	The Local Plan will reflect the priorities in the LIS Relates to several areas of the IA including objectives on economic growth, job creation, utilities and housing
Greater Manchester Growth and Reform Plan (2014)	Sets out priorities across GM aiming to achieve a net contribution from GM to the UK economy by 2020	IA objectives on growth and employment

Greater Manchester Growth Plan (2011)	Includes ten recommendations for steps by public and private sector partners in Manchester and national Government to accelerate economic	Relates to several IA objectives – on economic growth, jobs and utilities in particular
Places For Everyone Plan (2023)		
Greater Manchester Infrastructure Framework 2040 (2019)	Sets out the approach the Infrastructure Strategy will take to enable the future for GM's infrastructure	Relates to several areas of the IA including objectives on energy, sustainable transport, utilities and flood risk
The Greater Manchester Strategy 2021 – 2031 good lives for all (2021)	Seeks to make Greater Manchester one of the best places in the world to grow up, get on and grow old	Strategy relates to several areas of the IA including objectives on economic growth, job creation, utilities, housing and environment
Greater Manchester Police and Crime Plan 2022 – 2025 (2022)	The plan focuses on three key priorities: – Keeping people safe and supporting victims – Reducing harm and offending – Strengthening communities and places	The Local Plan will contain policies related to strengthening communities and places IA requires objective on design, local environmental quality and inclusive communities
Climate Change and Energy		
The Greater Manchester Five Year Environment Plan 2025 – 2030	The plan sets out a long-term environmental vision – to be carbon neutral by 2038 – and the urgent actions we all need to take in the next five years to help achieve this	The Local Plan / IA will include policies/objectives related to emissions reduction, energy efficiency, renewable energy, and climate change adaptation.

Greater Manchester Spatial Energy Plan: Evidence Base Study (2016)	This study reviewed the energy use and energy systems in place across Greater Manchester to inform future energy planning priorities and policies	IA objectives related to energy, resource use and greenhouse gas emissions
Greater Manchester Climate Change and Low Emissions Implementation Plan 2016-2020 (2016)	Builds upon existing work and sets out priorities to 2020 and beyond to address climate change and improve GM's air quality	The Local Plan/IA will include policies/ objectives related to emissions reduction, energy efficiency, renewable energy, and climate change adaptation
Greater Manchester Low-Emission Strategy (2016)	Aims to improve air quality and reduce carbon emissions	The Local Plan / IA will include policies / objectives related to emissions reduction, energy efficiency and renewable energy
Greater Manchester's Climate Change Implementation Plan (2012)	Sets out actions to deliver the transition to a low carbon economy in GM	The Local Plan / IA will include policies/objectives related to emissions reduction, energy efficiency, renewable energy, and climate change adaptation
Natural Capital		
Greater Manchester 5 Year Environment Plan	Sets out 5 challenges for the city region including mitigating climate change, air quality, production and consumption of resources, natural environment, resilience and adaptation to the impacts of climate change	IA objectives related to climate change, renewable energy, the natural environment, consumption of resources and air quality
Greater Manchester Local Nature Recovery Strategy		IA objectives related to biodiversity enhancement, and reference to the aims of the strategy should be included in planning policies.

Greater Manchester Biodiversity Action Plan (2009)	Aims to provide an overarching document for biodiversity across all ten GM districts	IA objective related to biodiversity protection and enhancement
Guidance for Greater Manchester - Embedding Green Infrastructure Principles (2019)	Guidance for the ten GM LPAs to embed this into their local planning approaches	IA objectives related to green infrastructure
Greater Manchester Biodiversity and Geodiversity Action Plan (Quarries) (2011)	Sets objective and targets related to the preservation and enhancement of geodiversity at GM quarry sites	IA objective related to geodiversity assets
North West Green Infrastructure Guide (2008)		IA objectives related to green infrastructure
Greater Manchester Natural Capital Investment Plan (2019)	Plan to identify pipeline of projects and finance models for increasing investment from public and private sectors	Several IA objectives related to resource use, health and the environment
All our Trees - Greater Manchester's tree and woodland strategy (2020)	This strategy emphasises the importance of protecting and enhancing woodland areas. It is designed to protect and enhance the natural capital of Greater Manchester	IA objective related to biodiversity protection and enhancement, including tress and woodland

Towards a Green Infrastructure Framework for Greater Manchester (2008)	Identifies priority areas for GI across GM and identifies relationships with other plans	IA objectives related to green infrastructure
An Ecological Framework for Greater Manchester (2008)	A framework for identifying and targeting resources for biodiversity and nature conservation across GM	IA objective related to biodiversity protection and enhancement
Water and flood risk		
Greater Manchester Strategic Flood Risk Management Framework (2018)	The aim of the framework / strategy is to manage current and future flood risk to enable the sustainable development of Greater Manchester by adopting a catchment-based approach and working with natural processes where possible	Requires objective to avoid, minimise and manage flood risk including through using natural solutions
Greater Manchester Level 1 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment	Strategic Flood Risk Assessments are required to inform Integrated Assessments. The Level 1 was produced in two parts: Part 1 (Main Report) and Part 2 (Framework).	IA objectives on climate change and flood risk
Drainage and Wastewater Management Plan (2023)	A long-term plan, which sets out how United Utilities Water (UUW) proposes to ensure robust and resilient drainage and wastewater services for the North West	Requires objectives and plan policy to efficiently manage drainage and wastewater
Greater Manchester Integrated Water Management Plan (2023)	Sets objectives for reducing flood risk and improving water quality, incorporating SUDS in new developments, reducing agricultural run-off, creating new / enhanced green and blue infrastructure and have resilience to drought	Requires objectives to manage flood risk, improve water quality, enhance green infrastructure and be resilient to climate change

Greater Manchester Surface Water Management Plan (2012)	The strategic flood risk assessment focuses on the identification of potential areas of significant risk and provides the Greater Manchester Strategic Flood Map	IA objectives linked to flood risk and climate change adaptation
Revised Draft Water Resources Management Plan 2024 (2023)	This plan defines United Utilities strategy to ensure there is adequate water supply between 2025 and 2085	IA objective on water and resource use
Final Drought Plan (2022, United Utilities)	This plan outlines United Utilities approach in water management, to ensure supply can be met across the North West even in a drought	IA objective on water and resource use
North West River Basin Management Plan (2022)	This report defines the current state and pressures on the North West river environments	IA objectives on water quality, consumption, and pollution
Irwell Catchment Plan 2019 – 2027 (Irwell Catchment Partnership)	Aims to work collaboratively to make the water environment in the Irwell catchment more adaptive and resilient to climate change, whilst addressing environmental inequalities	Requires objectives to protect and improve water quality, enhance nature and be resilient to climate change
Waste and minerals		
Greater Manchester Waste Development Plan Document (2012)	Sets out a waste planning strategy to 2027	IA objective related to resource use and the waste hierarchy
Greater Manchester Minerals Development Plan Document (2013)	Sets out the plan for mineral development in GM	IA objective on sustainable consumption of resources

Transport and travel		
Strategic Transport Plan for the North (2019)	Outlines how an investment programme in the North can contribute towards economic growth by improving transport across the region	IA objective for a fully integrated transport network The Local Plan needs to ensure that it supports transport infrastructure proposals and seeks to coordinate development close to public transport infrastructure and encourage integrated travel between all modes, including walking and cycling
HM Government (2016) The Northern Powerhouse: One Agenda, One Economy, One North		
Greater Manchester Transport Strategy 2040 (2021)	Sets out the transport vision for Greater Manchester to have 'world class connections that support long-term sustainable economic growth and access to opportunity for all' by 2040	IA objectives on sustainable transport and local air quality
Greater Manchester Rail Policy 2012-2024 (2012)	Aims to achieve a rail network in GM that can meet the needs of business and individuals	IA objectives on sustainable transport and local air quality
GM Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy – part of the GM Transport Strategy 2040	Aim to be an exemplar city region for enabling the electrification of transport in the context of a smart, integrated, sustainable mobility network	The Local Plan should support the implementation of EV charging infrastructure

		Requires IA objective on improving transport infrastructure
Change the region to change a nation: Greater Manchester's walking and cycling investment plan (2020)	Sets out the case for greater investment in the Bee Network to promote cycling and walking, with the aim of delivering the full Bee Network within 10 years	The Local Plan needs to support an integrated transport network Requires IA objective around a fully integrated transport network, including walking and cycling
Our 5 year Transport Delivery Plan 2021 - 2026 (2021)	Delivery plan for the GM Transport Strategy	The Local Plan needs to ensure that it supports transport infrastructure proposals and seeks to coordinate development close to public transport infrastructure and encourage integrated travel between all modes, including walking and cycling Require objective around a fully integrated transport network, including walking and cycling
Greater Manchester Freight and Logistics Strategy (2016)	Strategy to consider current GM freight distribution, delivery, servicing and logistics activities and set out the ambitions of the region, balancing the often conflicting needs of freight and passenger demand for our transport network and systems	The Local Plan should ensure that it considers the needs of the freight and logistics activities Require objective around the transport network

Our Network (2019)	Sets out a ten-year investment plan to improve GM public transport and walking and cycling networks	The Local Plan needs to ensure that it supports transport infrastructure proposals and seeks to coordinate development close to public transport infrastructure Require objective around a fully integrated transport network, including walking and cycling
Our Prospectus for Rail (2019)	Identifies four areas of focus to transform rail travel in the city region	Require objective around a fully integrated transport network, including walking and cycling
Streets for All (2019)	Presents a new approach to planning the streets of Greater Manchester. The initiative looks to create streets that better balance the movement of people and goods with the creation of more people-friendly places	Require objective around a fully integrated transport network, including walking and cycling
Greater Manchester Air Quality Action Plan (2016)	A review of strategies, policies and plans which tackle air quality in order to develop a clear, robust set of actions	IA objective related to air quality and transport
Health and wellbeing		
Greater Manchester Population Health Plan (2017)	This plan explains the challenges to delivering better healthcare across Greater Manchester, both now and in future	IA objectives related to health and wellbeing
Creating Age-Friendly Developments - A practical guide for	Key features to consider include: Celebrating Older People	Requires IA objectives on housing to meet local needs, inclusive neighbourhoods and high-quality development

ensuring homes and communities support ageing in place (2023)	Planning for Age-Friendly Neighbourhoods Designing Age-Friendly Homes	
Greater Manchester Age-Friendly Strategy (2018)	A strategy for age-friendly communities, housing, health and social care across GM	The Local Plan will need to ensure that it provides age friendly housing and environments. Requires objective around providing a mix of types and tenures of housing and mixed, balanced communities
Standing Together - Our plan for a new era of accountable and people centred policing, community safety and criminal justice services for Greater Manchester 2022 – 2025 (2022)	The plan sets out 3 priorities: 1. Keeping People Safe and Supporting Victims 2. Reducing Harm and Offending 3. Strengthening Communities and Places	Requires objective on design, local environmental quality and inclusive communities
GMCA and NHS (2016) Greater Manchester Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy		
Housing		

Greater Manchester Housing Strategy 2019-2024 (2019)	The Strategy builds upon the Greater Manchester Strategy which, sets out priorities to deliver the vision of 'safe, decent and affordable housing'	The Local Plan will ensure that Rochdale has enough quality homes to meet the local need and diversify the housing offer, including providing affordable housing. Requires IA objective on housing supply and meeting needs
Historic Environment		
Greater Manchester Urban Historic Landscape Characterisation	Report summarising the key aspects of the urban historic landscape character of each district	IA includes an objective which considers built and natural heritage assets
Neighbouring authorities (all topics)		
Bury	Tbc	
Rossendale	Tbc	
Oldham	Tbc	
Manchester Local Development Framework Core Strategy Development Plan Document (2012)	Tbc	The Local Plan process needs to ensure that any cross borders strategic matters are cooperated upon

Calderdale Local Plan 2018/19 – 2032/33 (2023)	tbc	The Local Plan process needs to ensure that any cross borders strategic matters are cooperated upon

Table 4: Rochdale Programmes, Plans and Strategies Programmes, Plans and Strategies

Rochdale		
Overarching		
Rochdale Council Place Plan for the Borough 2016-2021 (2016)	Sets out a vision for the borough from 2016-2021 and confirms the strategic priorities, which will help to shape our place and improve the lives and conditions for the people who live, visit and invest here. Three key priorities are: People, Place, and Prosperity	Ensure the Local Plan reflects plans for investment and regeneration for people, place and prosperity IA requires objectives to promote economic growth and vibrant centres
Rochdale Council Corporate Plan: People, Place, and Planet Council Plan 2023 - 2028	Sets out the corporate priorities for Rochdale Borough Council between 2023 and 2028 to contribute to delivery of the Place Plan	The Local Plan and IA objectives should reflect these priorities
Rochdale Council Townships Plan 2020 - 2022	Sets out how the Townships will contribute to corporate objectives. Townships are crucial to developing the 'Place' agenda, facilitating local decision making and have devolved powers in relation to a number of Council Services.	The Local Plan and IA objectives should reflect the role of townships in place-making and the relative priorities.
Rochdale Council Climate Change Strategy and Delivery Plan 2021 - 2025	Provides a framework for action to address the challenges posed by climate change and take action on climate change mitigation and adaptation	The Local Plan should support the Strategy and Delivery Plan through a positive approach to low carbon

		opportunities and climate change mitigation and adaptation. IA requires objectives on low carbon energy and climate change mitigation and adaptation
Rochdale Council Climate Change Action Plan	Sets out the action that is needed in Rochdale to help meet the challenges posed by climate change	The Local Plan should support the Action Plan through a positive approach to low carbon opportunities and climate change mitigation and adaptation. IA requires objectives on low carbon energy and climate change mitigation and adaptation
Rochdale Growth Plan (2022)	Investment programme focused on creating new homes, particularly on former brownfield sites, further developing our town centres, improving our sustainable transport offer, investing in our railway stations and restoring our Borough's extensive heritage offer	The Local Plan and IA objectives should reflect these growth priorities on efficient use of land, town centre regeneration, sustainable transport and heritage
With everyone, for everyone. A 10 year plan for the borough of Rochdale (2023)	This plan is a commitment to creating a more sustainable Borough where everyone can live a good life. Sustainability is about ensuring that there is economic, social, environmental and cultural wellbeing for everyone living in the Borough now, and for those that choose to live here in the future	The Local Plan and IA objectives should reflect the priorities in the Plan to create a more sustainable place
Rochdale's Sustainable Community Strategy March 2011/12- 2021	This strategy brings together our economic, social and physical plans, and our aspirations to achieve long term improvement. The three priorities are People, Place and Prosperity.	The Local Plan and IA objectives should reflect the priorities in the Strategy linked to people, place and prosperity

Rochdale Borough Core Strategy (2016)	The Core Strategy was adopted in 2016. It is the lead document in the Local Plan. It includes plans to help deliver 460 new homes a year between 2012 and 2028, and 210 hectares of employment land. All other documents that make up or support the Local Plan need to meet the vision, strategies and policies outlined in the Core Strategy	The Local Plan will need to refer to the Core Strategy to help determine which policies are appropriate for the new Local Plan, what evidence exists, and what else is needed. The IA will need to refer to the Core Strategy for context.
Annual Monitoring Report	The Annual Monitoring Report for the Local Plan looks at: – The progress and effectiveness of the Local Plan – The extent to which the timetable is being met in the LDS – Whether there are any gaps in the Local Plan – The current Annual Monitoring Report was updated 2019 The information provided in this report is for 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023.	The AMR is an important document to inform the review of the Local Plan. The IA will need to refer to the Core Strategy for context.
Rochdale Digital Strategy 2022 - 2025	Sets out priorities for digital people and places	The Local Plan will need to embrace digital ideas and solutions. The IA requires an objective related to digital people and places.
Natural Environment and Climate Change		
Rochdale Climate Change Strategy and Delivery Plan	The plan follows the borough's declaration of a climate emergency in 2019 and outlines actions needed to decarbonise.	The IA requires an objective related to climate mitigation and resilience.

Township Green Infrastructure Plans: Rochdale, Middleton, Pennines	A Green Infrastructure Action Plan has been developed for each Township. The plans will help ensure our green infrastructure is appropriately protected, managed and enhanced with new areas created where appropriate within each Township. They will also provide a valuable body of evidence to help target and attract resources for delivering green infrastructure where it is needed more effectively	
Landscape Capacity Study for Wind Energy Developments (2014)	Looks at renewable energy sources in Burnley, Bury, Calderdale, Kirklees, Rochdale and Rossendale. The study identifies broad areas which may be suitable for wind energy developments	
Soil, waste and contaminated land		
Waste Management Strategy 2015 - 2020	A framework for improving cost efficiency, reducing residual waste, and increasing recycling and composting rates	
Housing		
Rochdale Housing Strategy 2017 - 2022	Sets out the housing issues and challenges in Rochdale and the objectives and priorities that are most appropriate for the townships. The key objectives and priorities are: – Achieving the right quantity of housing. – Continuing to raise the quality of the housing stock. – Connecting people to an improved housing offer	
Rochdale SHMA (2015)	Looks at future needs for housing land in the borough	
Rochdale SHLAA (2024)	Lists sites in the borough where homes could potentially be built. It shows the position as of 1 April 2023.	

Affordable Housing Requirements (2010)	Looks at how much affordable housing we need in the borough. This includes older people's housing and accommodation for gypsies and travellers	
Economy		
Rochdale Growth Plan 2020-30	Sets out growth ambitions for the borough will focusing on key things like creating new homes, particularly on former brownfield sites. Also, for town centres, improving sustainable transport offer, investing in our railway stations and restoring our borough's extensive heritage offer.	The Local Plan will support the priorities around economic growth and regenerating town centres, and sustainable transport.
Local Economy Report 2018 -2019	Provides the latest economic data relating to Rochdale; focusing on economic development, skills and jobs, and housing	
Rochdale Employment Land Study (2008)	Assesses how much land we'll need to allocate for employment over the next 20 years	
Greater Manchester Employment Land Positions Statement (2009)	Looks at what employment land is needed across all of Greater Manchester	
Rochdale Retail, Leisure and Cultural Facilities Study (2011)	Looks at current and future needs for retail, commercial and leisure space in the borough	
Health, wellbeing, education and communities		
Open Space Survey (due 2023)	The survey considers current and future local open space needs, standards and management. It provides an audit of existing open space and recommends local standards for the quantity, accessibility and quality of open space in the	

	borough. It also identifies areas in deficiency and surplus of different types of open space	
Playing pitch strategy 2016 - 2026	The key aims of the strategy are: – audit and review all outdoor sports assets and facilities including those managed by others – vision for the future improvement and prioritisation of playing pitches, including ancillary facilities – a strategic framework for the improvement, maintenance and development of the playing pitch stock – recommendations that provide a framework for sport led improvements to provision – area-by-area action plan where action is deemed necessary	
Statement of Community Involvement (2021)	Sets out how the Council will engage with local communities, businesses and stakeholders in the preparation of planning policy documents and in the determination of planning applications	
Rochdale Safer Communities Plan 2019-2022	Sets out plans to protect and strengthen communities and places	
Historic Environment		
Conservation Areas, Maps and Appraisals	A list of all the Conservation Areas in the borough, with maps and appraisals.	The IA requires an objective for the historic environment.
Non-designated heritage assets	A list of non-designated heritage assets by township in the borough.	
Transport and travel		

Rochdale Borough Transport Strategy (2014)	A framework to guide the development of transport improvements across the borough for the period up to 2026	
Rochdale Rail Corridor Strategy (2022)	Sets out how sustainable transport links will help spearhead the next major phase of regeneration for the borough. The plan is to create new homes in sustainable locations with existing amenities, so people are close to transport links and businesses. This will not only create new economic opportunities but also help us tackle the climate emergency	
Water		
Rochdale Flood Risk Management Strategy 2014 - 2024	Sets out local flood risks and how Rochdale Council will address them, as the LLFA. Covers three types of flood risk: surface water, ordinary watercourses and groundwater	
Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment (2011)	Aims to identify all the flood risks in Bury, Rochdale and Oldham	
Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (2009)	Assesses the risk to the borough from flooding. It looks at the impact of land use changes and development on flood risk	

Appendix 3 - Baseline Information

1.1 The SEA directive requires information on:

"relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan" and the "environmental characteristics of the areas likely to be significantly affected" (Annex I (b) (c))

'any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to Directives 79/409/EEC and 92/43/EEC' (Annex I (c))

For the SA, EqIA and HIA, this baseline analysis must also consider social and economic aspects in addition to the environmental criteria specified in the SEA Directive.

1.2 The collection and analysis of baseline data will assist with the development of the objectives, provide a basis for predicting and monitoring the effects of the Plan, and identify sustainability issues and ways of dealing with them. To get the best value from baseline data, it needs to be kept up to date and Table 11 (Appendix 3) sets out those indicators, which will help to monitor the changing situation over time.

1.3 The relevant social, economic and environmental baseline evidence are summarised below. At the end of each section, there is an overview of the links with other topic areas of the IA baseline to highlight some of the key interrelationships between them. The implications of the baseline evidence are then considered in relation to the Local Plan in Chapter 6 with the IA objectives and criteria then explored in Chapter 7.

1.4 A practical approach has been taken to gathering baseline data, which is intended to provide a snapshot across a range of issues. Every effort has been made to provide an accurate baseline review. Production of the baseline has been effective at providing an understanding of current issues, and there is generally enough information available to enable an informed and detailed appraisal.

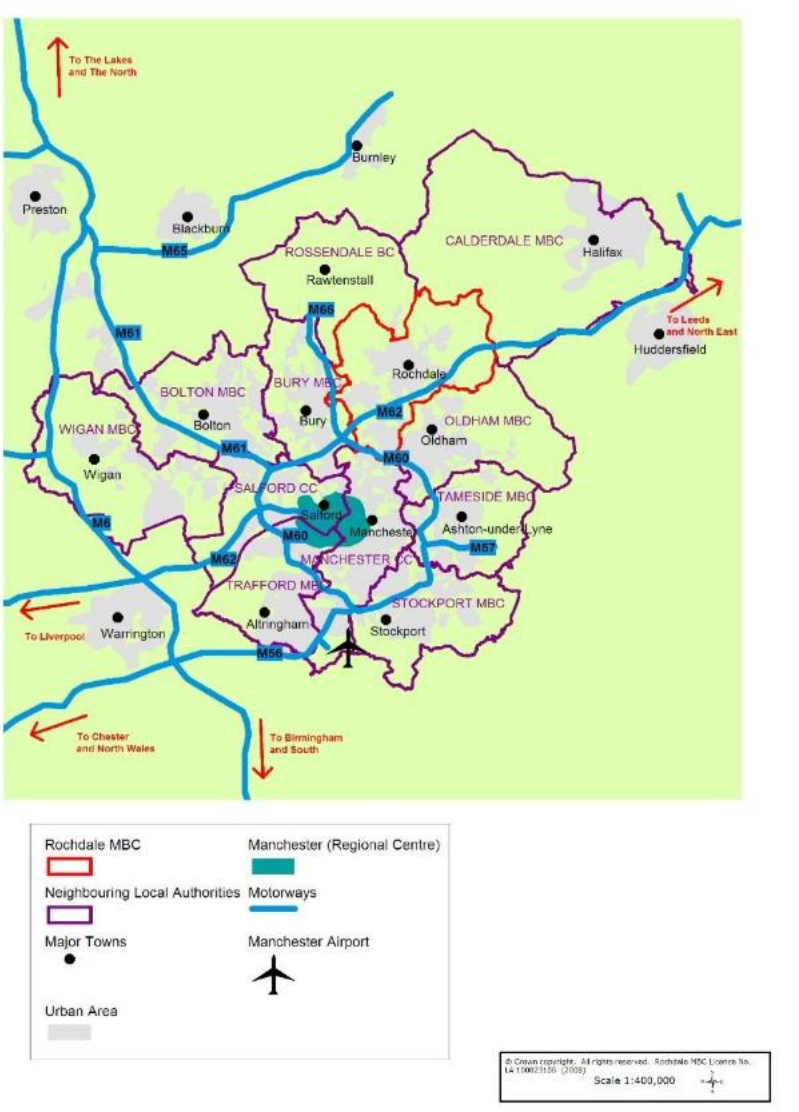
1.5 Since the previous Sustainability Appraisal in 2013 of Rochdale's Core Strategy, there has been significant change at a national, regional and local level, and the baseline analysis reflects this. In particular the Council's climate emergency declaration in 2019 and the need to take action to address the climate crisis at a global scale, Greater Manchester's declaration of a biodiversity emergency in 2022 and the Government's introduction of the Environment Act. In addition, the long-term impacts from the Covid-19 pandemic on communities and the economy.

Rochdale Borough Characterisation

1.6 The Borough, which has an area of 160 square km (62 sq. miles), is around two-thirds countryside, which to the north and east includes the Millstone Grit foothills of the South Pennine Moors shared with East Lancashire and West Yorkshire. This high

moorland provides an extensive backdrop for the industrial towns in the river valleys below. River valleys penetrate the heart of the urban centres and contain the primary transport corridors based on road, rail and the Rochdale Canal; the rivers Roch and Irk connect into the Mersey Basin. The M62, M60 and M66 Motorways connect Rochdale with the rest of Greater Manchester and beyond. The west and southwest includes a more low level (sandstone and clay) landscape leading to the edges of the city of Manchester. The approximately 6000 hectares of agricultural land in the Borough is primarily grassland and rough grazing.

Figure 1: Sub Regional Context



1.7 The main urban centres are the towns of Rochdale, Middleton and Heywood with the smaller settlements of Littleborough and Milnrow in the Pennine eastern fringes of the Borough. Inner urban neighbourhoods in Rochdale district contain large areas of terraced housing much of which dates back to the turn of the twentieth century and, with the manufacturing growth of Rochdale this provides a basic historic character and development pattern for the core urban areas i.e. mixed areas of industry and housing closely aligned with the main river valleys. More diverse smaller settlements are found on the urban-rural fringes. The more affluent areas with higher value houses are mainly in the Pennines, north and west Rochdale and south Middleton.

Population and Demographics

1.8 The 2021 Census had a recorded population of 223,800 in Rochdale, a 5.4% increase on the number of people estimated by the 2011 census. This follows a trend shown both regionally and nationally, however the rate of population growth in Rochdale Borough was lower than that of the Greater Manchester and national rate (12.4% and 7.8% respectively), indicating that population growth has not been as rapid here during the last decade compared to other parts of the country.

1.9 The projected population for Rochdale Borough is expected to increase from 227,976 in 2023 to 250,883 in 2043 (interim 2018-based Sub-national population projections). This equates to a 10.0% increase in the period, which is higher than the projected regional, Greater Manchester, and national increases (6.2%, 7.4% and 7.3% respectively).

Table 1: Population projections for Rochdale (in thousands)

	2021	2023	2028	2033	2038	2043	Change 2023-2043	
All	223,800	227,976	234,191	239,690	245,203	250,883	22,907	10.0%

Links across the Integrated Assessment

1.10 An increase in population is related to most other topic areas of the IA, firstly to housing and economic growth, but also in terms of its impacts on social (health and education), and transport infrastructure. This will also impact on environmental factors such as the borough's carbon emissions. The borough's changing demographics in terms of age and ethnicity also has implications for other topic areas.

Housing

1.11 Different parts of the borough have distinctive housing market characteristics. In the inner urban areas of Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale the housing market is weaker than the outer areas on the rural fringe of the borough. These urban areas have higher levels of deprivation, lower house prices, a dominance of terraced properties, with some poor quality housing and overcrowding.

1.12 The inner urban areas of the borough have distinctive population characteristics. For example, inner Rochdale has a large proportion of Asian/Asian British residents, and inner Heywood and Middleton have a large proportion of elderly people. In socially rented suburban areas (e.g. Langley, Kirkholt and Darnhill) there is a predominance of single tenure accommodation with areas suffering from lower demand and a higher rates of turnover.

1.13 According to the 2021 census, there were 90,223 households in Rochdale borough. The borough does not have enough housing of the right size, type, tenure and quality to meet current demand or the anticipated increased demand, which will come from the forecast 10% increase in population to 2043. There is an oversupply of older terraced housing, a lack of larger

homes to meet the needs of larger families, a shortage of executive or higher value homes to attract residents with higher incomes, and insufficient affordable homes for the single, those on low incomes or new on the housing ladder. A more balanced range of housing is needed in regeneration areas not just to meet demand in those areas but also to create balanced successful communities that retain and attract residents.

1.14 Since the 2016 Core Strategy, there has been significant work to address these issues, particularly with the regeneration of the suburban areas of Langley and Kirkholt, as well as inner urban areas such as Lower Falinge, and the completion of Riverside Phase 2 in Rochdale town centre. The Places for Everyone plan has also sought to allocate suitable sites for development to deliver larger, higher value homes.

1.15 The Department for Communities and Local Government suggests that a housing market is self-contained if upwards of 70% of moves (migration and travel to work) take place within a defined area. An analysis of the latest 2011 census migration data suggests that 71.9 % of households move within the Rochdale Borough area and 52% work within the Rochdale Borough area (10.2% Manchester, 5.3% Bury and 8.8% Oldham).

Links across the Integrated Assessment

1.16 Housing relates to most areas of the IA firstly, with the quantity and quality of housing relating to a range of social, economic and environmental factors, such as deprivation, health and carbon emissions. Housing also links to economic growth in regenerating brownfield sites, and its impacts on green infrastructure and the natural environment.

Economy & Employment

1.17 In comparison with the national average, the borough's local economy has an overconcentration of manufacturing industries whose employees are low skilled and on low wages. Manufacturing has been declining and forecasts indicate this will continue. Business survival rates are lower in comparison with elsewhere and there is an under-representation of financial and business services within the borough.

1.18 The Council has sought to address the decline in manufacturing, by looking to identify 21st century employment sites to attract new businesses. The manufacturing industries have left a legacy of old commercial properties, which are not suitable for modern industrial, needs, have inappropriate facilities and are in poor locations.

1.19 The borough is recognised nationally as a leading location for distribution businesses due to its excellent location and motorway connections. The rural economy is not significant in employment terms but has influenced the character of the rural area. In recent years, farming and rural businesses have declined and this has led to pressures for the re-use of rural buildings, especially mills.

1.20 In the period between 2013 and 2023 the employment increased overall from 64.4% to a current peak at 72.5% (September 2023). The 22/23 employment rate remained below the average GM, regional and England rates of 73.3%, 74.4% and 75.8% respectively.

1.21 Rochdale Borough has a low skills base compared with regional and national averages. The percentage of the working age population with no qualifications was 11% in 2021, compared to the regional and GB averages at 7.5% and 6.6% respectively. However, there has been a general decline in this figure in Rochdale over the past fifteen years following a peak of 20.7% in 2008.

Links across the Integrated Assessment

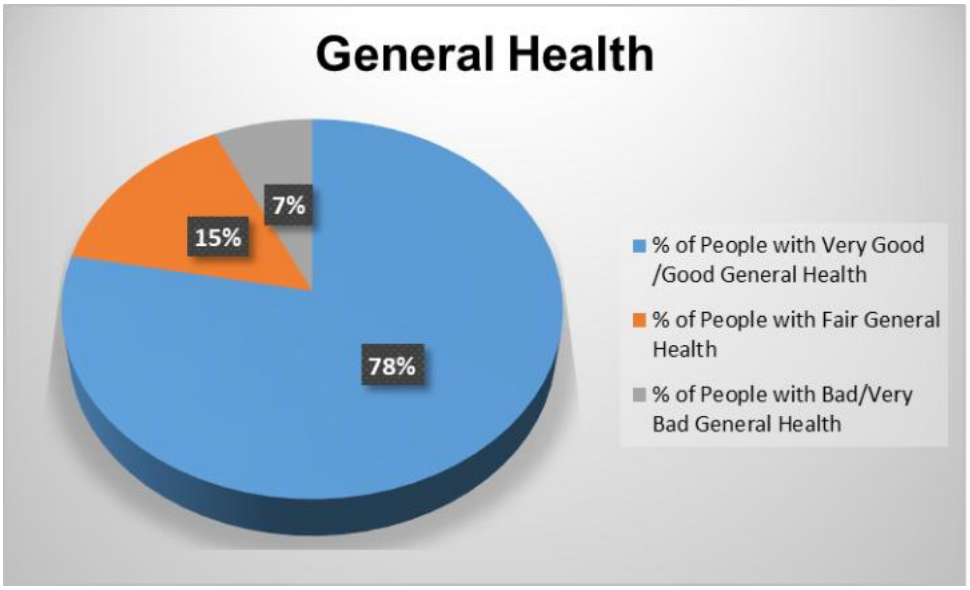
1.22 Economy and employment links across IA topics such as housing, transport infrastructure, with the need to balance economic growth against environmental considerations such as biodiversity and climate resilience.

Health

1.23 The borough no longer has a main hospital but a local hospital, which is located in central Rochdale. It has some outpatient services and an Urgent Care facility but has no accident and emergency. There are also many GPs, Health Centres, clinics and dentists located in and around the borough.

1.24 Figure 2 below shows Rochdale residents and whether their health was considered good, fair or bad. These figures are slightly lower than the national figures.

Figure 2: General Health in Rochdale



1.25 45% of children in our Borough are physically active, which is the same as the national average and slightly higher than the regional average. However, the adult figure of under 61% is significantly lower than the regional and national figures (64%

and 66%). This is a major risk factor for a range of chronic diseases and disorders, and links directly to levels of adult obesity in the Borough.

1.26 Life expectancy at birth is 76.7 years (male), 80.9 (female). This compares to 79.4 and 83.1 nationally. Within Rochdale, Healey ward has the highest life expectancy (80.7) and Smallbridge and Firgrove has the lowest life expectancy (73.2).

Links across the Integrated Assessment

1.27 Health links to a range of IA categories, such as demographics, economy, deprivation, transport and environmental indicators. For example, access to nature and green space can have significant benefits for physical and mental health.

Social Infrastructure

1.28 There are currently 69 state funded Primary Schools, and 13 Secondary Schools in the borough. Hopwood Hall College is a significant education provider in the borough, with campuses in Rochdale and Middleton.

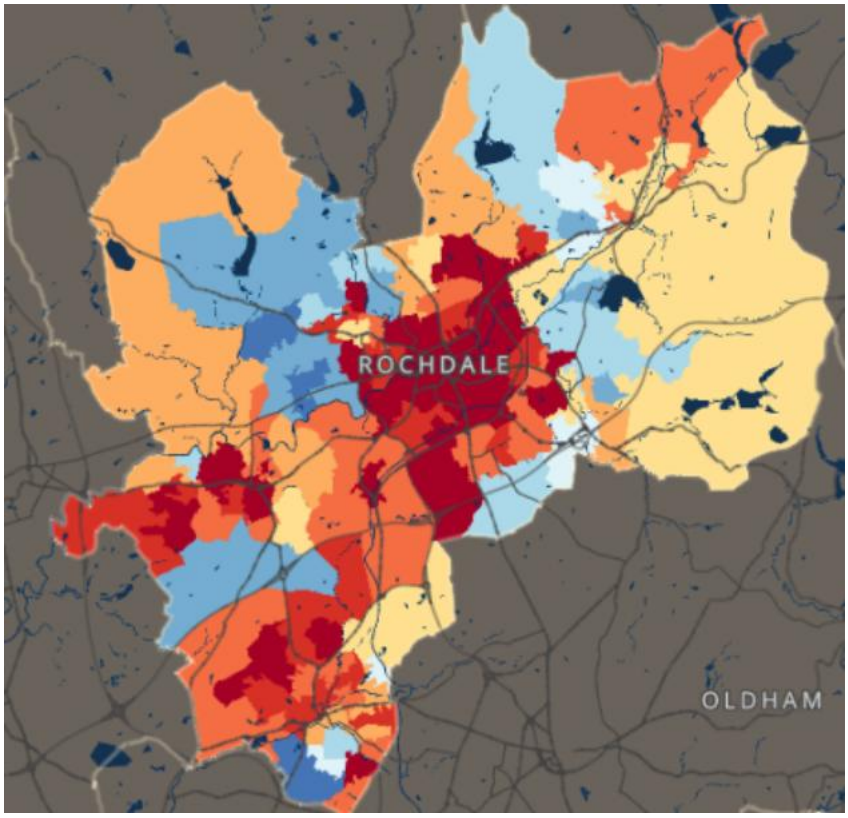
Links across the Integrated Assessment

1.29 Social infrastructure links to a range of categories, particularly demographics and housing and the impacts from new development. In addition, social indicators such as health and education in particular, and the economy more widely.

Deprivation

1.30 The 2019 Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) shows that Rochdale was ranked similarly to the 2015 IMD. The borough is now ranked 15th most deprived in England (based on IMD average score) compared to 16th in 2015. The percentage of the borough population residing in the 10% most deprived nationally has increased from 28% in 2014 to 30% in 2019. Of the seven indices of multiple deprivation (income, employment, education, health, crime, barriers to housing and services, and the living environment), Rochdale was ranked worst for crime (2nd), followed by income (15th), employment (16th) and health (21st).

Figure 3: Indices of Multiple Deprivation 2019



Links across the Integrated Assessment

1.31 Deprivation is a fundamentally linked to a range of indicators across the integrated assessment, such as health, economy the environment and housing.

Transport & Connectivity

1.32 Rochdale borough, particularly the southern part, has excellent access to motorways. The M62 motorway runs through the borough with junctions at Heywood (J19), at Rochdale via the A627(M) (J20), and at Milnrow (J21). The M62 connects, just outside the borough at J18, with the Greater Manchester M60 ring road that runs to the south west of Middleton, and the M66 that runs north between Heywood and Bury (J2 and J3 to Heywood).

1.33 60.6% of employees travel to work by car, 6.7% by public transport and 8% walk or cycle and 21.3% work mainly from home.

1.34 Between 2001 and 2022, numbers of people using the borough's railway stations has increased by 92.6%. These numbers have recovered following a huge drop-off in rail patronage as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, but have not reached the peak of 2019-20 before the pandemic.

1.35 In terms of travel to work, the 2011 census indicates that 52% live and work in Rochdale Borough and 48% worked outside of the Borough, in particular neighbouring Manchester (10.2%), Bury (5.3%) and Oldham (8.8%).

1.36 As one of the 10 Greater Manchester boroughs covered by Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM), Rochdale forms part of the Bee Network, an integrated transport network for Greater Manchester comprised of bus, tram, cycling and walking routes. Through this, Phase 1 of the Castleton to Rochdale Active Travel Route through Castleton centre was completed in 2024, with Phase 2 extending to Rochdale town centre along Manchester Road expected to complete in winter 2025. In 2023, Greater Manchester began to brick back bus services under the control of local government by means of a franchising scheme, which was extended to Rochdale in March 2024, joined by the introduction of new electric buses.

Links across the Integrated Assessment

1.37 Transport and accessibility links to a number of topic areas, with good transport links supporting residential and economic growth. Use of active and sustainable travel modes also links to health, and environmental factors such as air quality and carbon emissions.

Utilities

1.38 Utilities infrastructure relates predominantly to energy, water and wastewater and communications. There is a need to invest in utility infrastructure to maintain capacity for future growth, as well as ensuring Rochdale can contribute to wider objectives such as reducing greenhouse gas emissions and climate mitigation.

1.39 Rochdale generates a significant amount of renewable energy. Scout Moor Wind Farm, opened in 2008, is the second largest onshore wind farm in England. A second, Crook Hill Wind Farm, opened in 2015, in the north-eastern part of the borough. Chamber House Solar farm, a 10-hectare site in Heywood, opened in 2023, and is the largest publicly owned solar farm in Greater Manchester.

Links across the Integrated Assessment

1.40 Utilities links across a range of areas, including housing and economic growth to ensure sufficient utilities provision to accompany this growth, as well as climate change mitigation with renewable energy generation, and flooding and climate resilience.

Air Quality

1.41 Rochdale was declared an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) in 2016, as part of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority AQMA, with Nitrogen Dioxide (NO2) pollutants declared. The associated Greater Manchester Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) set out measures to help reduce air pollution caused by NOx. Government estimates road transport contributes approximately 80% of NOx concentrations at roadside, with diesel vehicles the largest source in these local areas of concern.

Figure 4: Map of AQMA Areas in Rochdale

1.42 The 10 Greater Manchester authorities are currently developing a Clean Air Plan, to accelerate compliance with the legal limit for Nitrogen dioxide and to protect and promote the health of its population and the environment.

Links across the Integrated Assessment

1.43 Air quality links to a range of indicators particularly health, transport, the environment and climate change.

Biodiversity and Geodiversity

1.44 Rochdale is primarily an upland district, with the moorland in the north and east of the borough being between 200 and 400 metres above sea level, reaching a high point of 472m near Blackstone Edge. The borough contains over 80% of GM's blanket bog and over 90% of the wet modified bog. In the west of the borough are areas of semi-nautral broadleaved woodland such as Ashworth Valley. A higher proportion of

grassland is found in Rochdale, with more than a third of GM's unimproved acid grassland and nearly 60% of the marsh/marshy grassland.

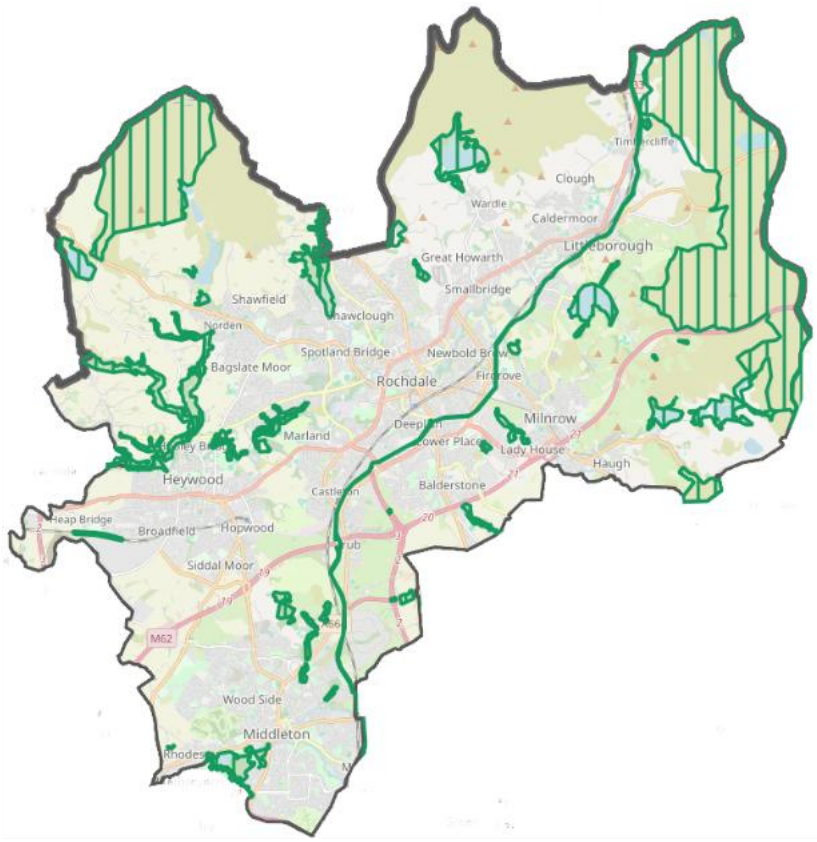
1.45 The high rainfall in the area is channelled into numerous reservoirs, and the River Roch, which flows from the moors south-west through the borough providing an important wildlife corridor through urban areas.

1.46 The Borough has a significant number of sites of biological importance. The Rochdale Canal and a significant part of the South Pennine Moors are designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest, which are also Special Areas of Conservation. Three Local Nature Reserves and one Country Park are located at Healey Dell, Hopwood Woods, Alkrington Woods and Hollingworth Lake respectively.

1.47 The South Pennine Moors SPA supports nationally important upland breeding bird populations including Curlew, Dunlin, Golden Plover, Red Grouse and Twite. The number of species of damselfly and dragonfly has increased along the River Roch, with Water Voles maintaining a healthy population along some brooks. The Rochdale Canal supports the European Protected Species Floating Water Plantain, as well as American Pond Weed and White-clawed crayfish. There are extensive areas of heather, as well as Sphagnum and other bog forming mosses.1

1.48 There are currently 47 designated Sites of Biological Importance (SBI) in the borough. These include a number of publically accessible sites such as Alkrington Woods, Ashworth Valley, Healey Dell, Hollingworth Lake, Hopwood Woods, Naden Valley, Piethorne Reservoirs and Plantations, South Pennine Moors and Watergrove Reservoir. The map below shows the areas designated as SBIs, however some of these such as the South Pennine Moors also fall under other ecological designations.

Figure 5: Sites of Biological Importance in Rochdale



1.49 Greater Manchester was one of five areas selected by the Government to pilot the development of a Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS). The purpose of the LNRS is summarised as making spaces for nature which are more, bigger, better and joined through:

- Improving the quality of current wildlife sites through better management
- Increasing the size of current wildlife sites
- Enhancing connections between wildlife sites, either through physical corridors or 'stepping stones'
- Creating new wildlife sites
- Reducing the pressures on wildlife by improving the wider environment.

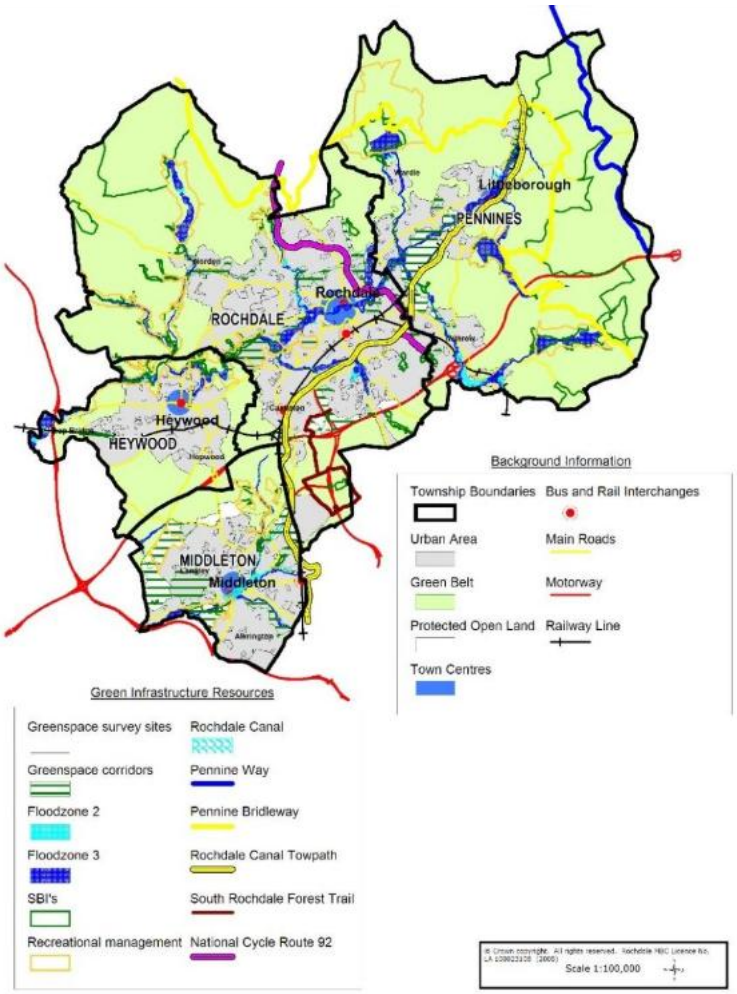
1.50 Around 5.5% of the Borough is woodland, primarily located in the river valleys and reservoir catchments. 16% of the borough consists of rough grassland, and 2% consists of water.

Links across the Integrated Assessment

1.51 Biodiversity links to a variety of topics such as climate resilience, green infrastructure and health and deprivation, with the protection and enhancement of the boroughs natural assets contributing to a range of objectives. Development pressure from housing and employment development can also offer opportunities for enhancement and biodiversity net gain.

1.52 Green Infrastructure describes all green areas that surround and connect the built environment, from grass verges to open moorland. It also includes street trees, footpaths and cycle ways. GI is important for provision of a range of ecosystem services e.g., mitigate flood risk, adapt to climate change, and improve health and wellbeing.

Figure 6: Green Infrastructure Resources



Links across the Integrated Assessment

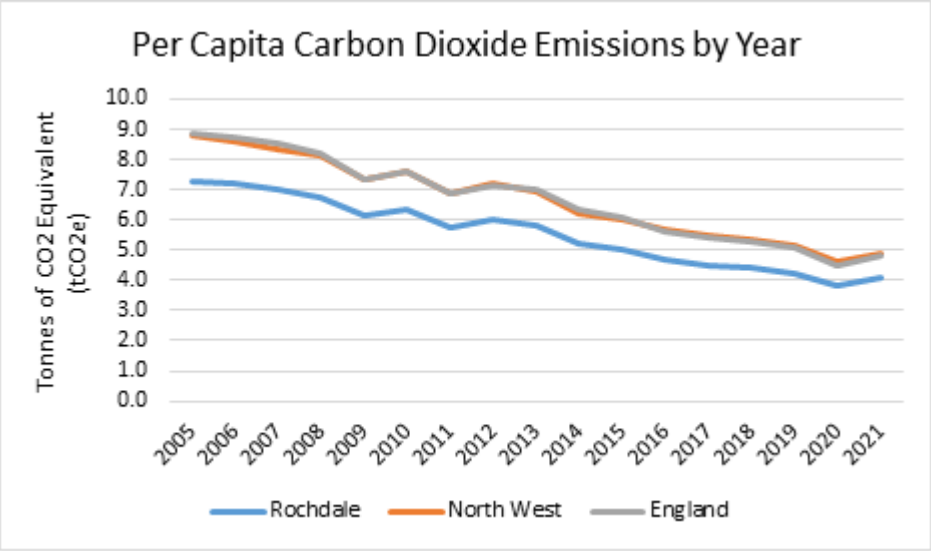
1.53 Green infrastructure links to a range of areas such as health and wellbeing, deprivation, and climate resilience. As with the previous section, while there may be development pressures for housing and employment, these can also offer opportunities to enhance green infrastructure, widen access and increase links for walking and cycling.

Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Emissions

1.54 In 2019, Rochdale Borough Council declared a climate emergency, which means we believe that climate change will affect the lives of everybody who lives and works in the borough of Rochdale unless we take action. Climate change affects weather and can cause severe weather events. For Rochdale borough, climate change means more periods of water shortages and more frequent and intense storms increasing flooding events. As a council, we have a responsibility to take meaningful action to reduce carbon emissions, alongside preparing the borough for the impacts of a changing climate.

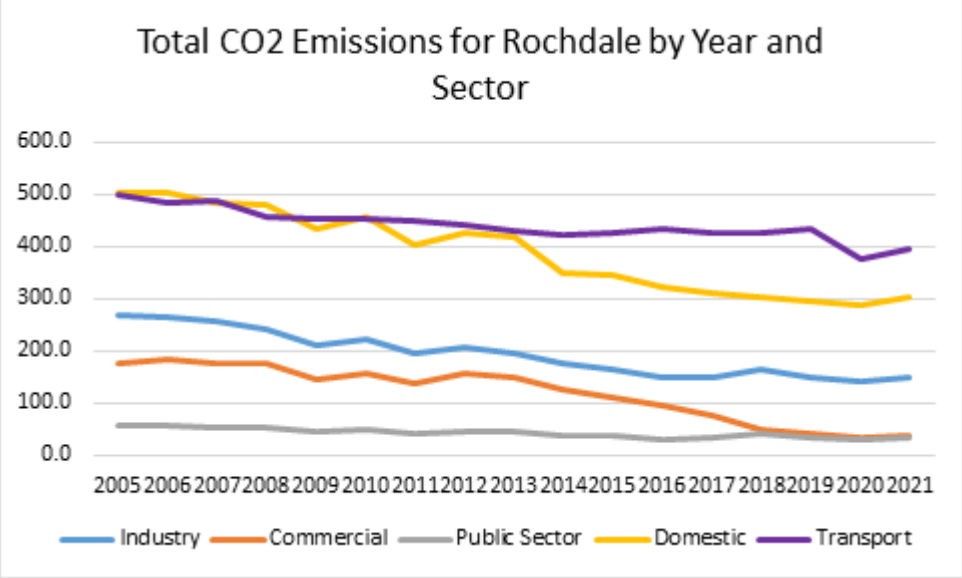
1.55 Figure 7 below shows that in general per capita CO2 emissions have been gradually decreasing in Rochdale in line with regional and national trends.

Figure 7: Per capita Carbon Dioxide Emissions by Year and Area



1.56 The sectors with the largest amount of CO2 emissions in the borough are transport and domestic, followed by industrial emissions.

Figure 8: Carbon Dioxide Emissions in Rochdale by Year and Sector



1.57 The sectors with the largest amount of CO2 emissions in the borough are transport and domestic, followed by industrial emissions.

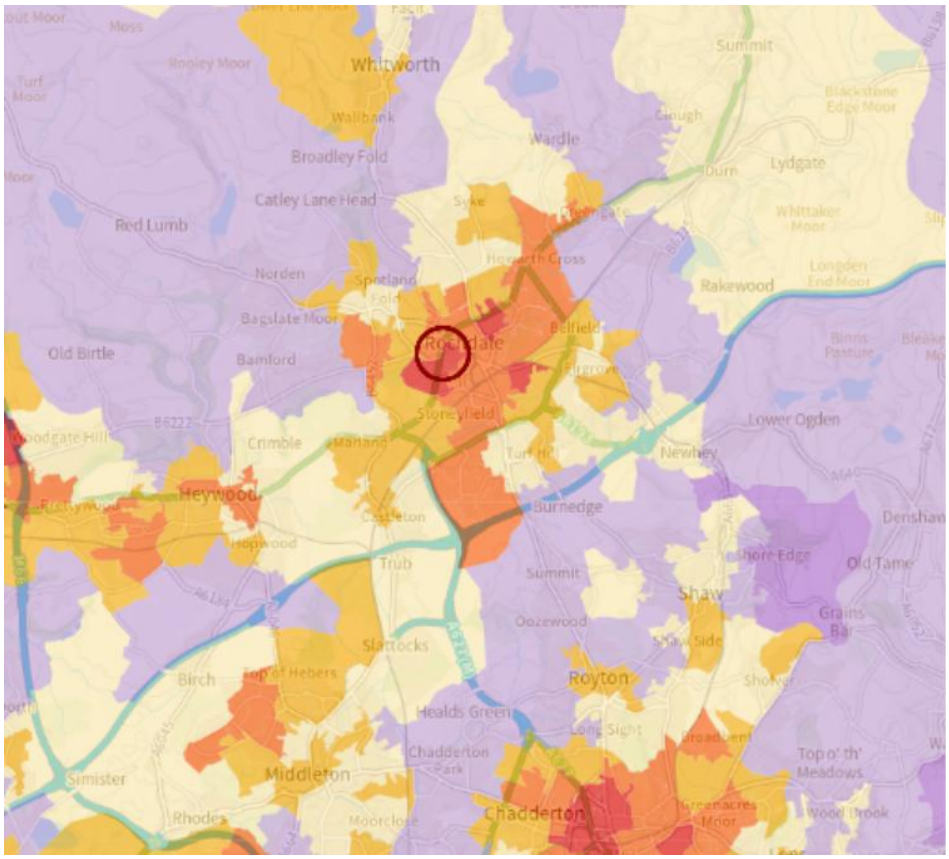
Climate Adaptation and Resilience

1.58 While climate change mitigation refers to action to reduce the impact of human activity on the climate system, primarily through reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, it is also important that the borough adapts and builds resilience to the effects of climate change. Climate change adaptation refers to the adjustments to natural or human systems in response to the actual or anticipated impacts of climate change, to mitigate harm or exploit beneficial opportunities. Resilience refers to the capacity of a community, business or natural environment to prevent, withstand to, and recover from a disruption (such as a flood event).

1.59 While some areas have a higher chance of experiencing events resulting from extreme weather such as flooding, certain communities are more vulnerable to these events should they occur.

1.60 The map below shows the Neighbourhood Flood Vulnerability Index (NFVI), which compiles a range of indicators (e.g. age, income, household tenure) to provide insight into the social vulnerability of an area should a flood occur. Indicators are grouped under five characteristics of vulnerability – susceptibility, ability to prepare, ability to respond, ability to recover and community support.

Figure 9: Neighbourhood Flood Vulnerability Index (Source: Climate Just)



Slight
Very low
Relatively low
UK Average
Relatively high
Very high
Acute

1.61 As well as increased precipitation and flooding events being recognised risks of climate change, there is also a growing risk of extreme heat as global average temperatures increase. These effects are already being experienced, such as in July 2022 when temperatures in Rochdale exceeded 37 °C. Such extreme heat events have been shown to have serious effects on health, particularly to vulnerable groups.

1.62 The map below shows heat socio-spatial vulnerability in Rochdale. The map shows the result of a combination of indicators (such as age, health, housing, environment, language spoken) within each of the following five dimensions of social vulnerability – sensitivity, enhanced exposure, (in)ability to prepare, (in)ability to respond, (in)ability to recover.

Figure 10: Heat Socio-spatial Vulnerability (Source: Climate Just)

Links across the Integrated Assessment

1.63 Climate change impacts are linked to most social, economic and environmental objectives. For example, an increase in extreme weather events resulting from climate change will affect health, air quality, flood risk, biodiversity and economic impacts. Often areas of high deprivation are more vulnerable to the effects of climate change, such as flooding or extreme heat.

Water Resources

1.64 The River Roch, a tributary of the River Irwell is the major river in the borough, which flows from Chelburn Moor south through Littleborough, after which it is joined by the River Beal, through Rochdale after which it is joined by the River Spodden, and through Heywood, before meeting the Irwell in Radcliffe. To the South of the Borough, the River Irk runs through Middleton, before joining the Irwell in Manchester City Centre. The Rochdale Canal, which runs through Rochdale between Manchester and Sowerby Bridge in West Yorkshire is also an important water resource, running 52km in length. There are also various reservoirs in the northern and eastern parts of the borough, including Watergrove, Greenbooth, Ogden, Piethorne and Blackstone Edge reservoirs.

Figure 11: The North West River Basin District

1.65 Rochdale Borough falls within the Irwell River Catchment which is part of the North West River Basin. The North West River Basin Management Plan (2015) identifies the following significant water management issues in the region:

- Physical modifications – affecting 50% of water bodies in the river basin district.
- Pollution from waste water – affecting 24% of water bodies in the river basin district.
- Pollution from towns, cities and transport – affecting 13% of water bodies in the river basin district.
- Changes to the natural flow and level of water – affecting 2% of water bodies in the river basin district.
- Negative effects of invasive non-native species – affecting <1% of water bodies in the river basin district.

Flood Risk

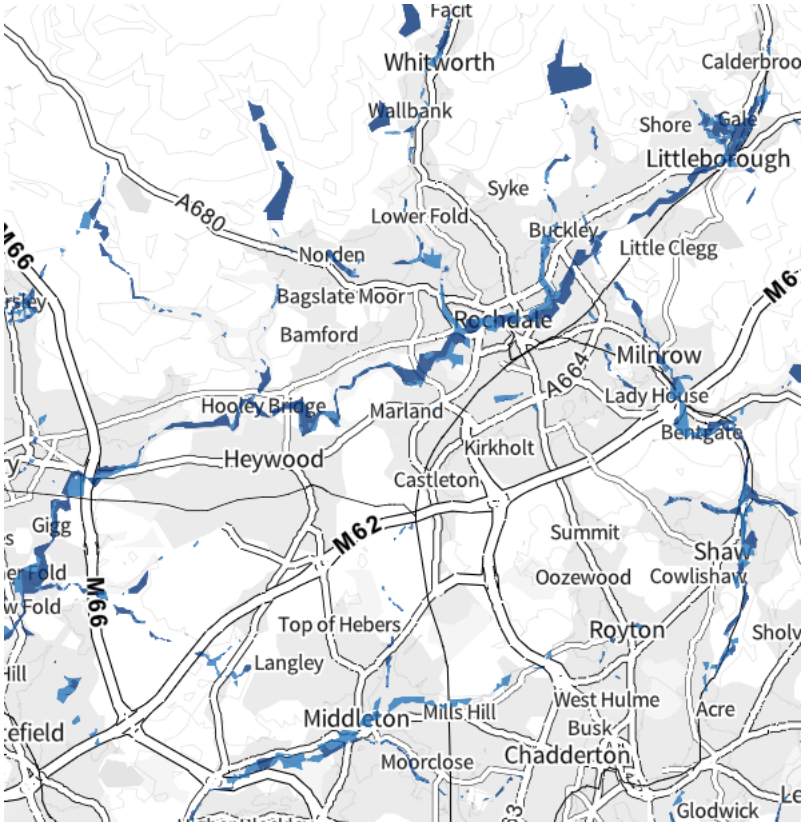
1.66 The borough of Rochdale has experienced incidents of flooding in the past few decades, most notably in December 2015 as a result of Storm Eva where a number of properties and commercial premises were flooded.

1.67 The steep catchment and multiple tributaries cause the River Roch to respond rapidly to rainfall with river levels rising quickly. The urbanised river valley has an industrial heritage with a legacy of modified channels, bridges, culverts and weirs, which further exacerbate the flooding problem.[2]

1.68 The areas shown at being at higher risk of flooding, Flood zones 2 and 3, were updated in 2025, and can be seen on the Flood Map for Planning[2]. An extract for Rochdale is shown below. The flood map also shows the risk of surface water flooding and future risk of flooding when considering the effects of climate change.

Figure 12: Map of Flood zones 2 and 3 in Rochdale (Source: GOV.UK)

[2] Map – Flood map for planning – GOV.UK



Links across the Integrated Assessment

1.69 Water resources and flood risk links across multiple areas of the IA, particularly economy, health, deprivation and the environment. Housing and employment development can put pressure on drainage and water quality but also offer opportunities for improvements to watercourses and biodiversity improvements. Certain areas with a high proportion of multiple indices of depravation can be at greater risk of flooding and the effects of flooding. There is also a strong link with climate change, and the effects of greater seasonal rainfall and storm events.

Historic Environment

1.70 The borough has a rich historic environment, characterised by its industrial heritage and topography, positioned between Manchester and the South Pennine Moors. There are over 300 listed buildings in the borough, which include Victorian municipal and industiral buildings, mills, churches, farm buildings and residential dwellings. There are also 9 buildings in the borough on the heritage at risk register, including Crimble Mill in Heywood who's restoration was included as part of an allocated site in PfE.

1.71 Rochdale Town centre is home to a number of listed buildings, with the most prominent being the Grade-I listed Rochdale Town Hall, a fine example of Victorian Gothic architecture that re-opened in 2024 after an extensive period of refurbishment. The nearby St Chad's Church which is listed at Grade II*, sits

overlooking the town centre from an elevated topography. In Middleton, there are a number of listed buildings designed by renowned local architect Edgar Wood.

1.72 There are also 28 Conservation Areas in the borough. The full list of conservation areas, maps and appraisals is on the Council's website[3], and shown on the draft Local Plan policies map. Three Conservation Areas – Rochdale Town Centre, Middleton Town Centre and Castleton (South). A challenge for the borough is that regeneration opportunities can conserve and enhance these areas.

1.73 The borough also has an extensive number of non-designated heritage assets. These are heritage assets that have been identified as having some significance to local heritage, which make important contributions to the local distinctiveness, settlement formation, traditional character or history of the borough but don't meet the criteria for listed buildings. The full list is shown on the Council website separated by township[4].

Links across the Integrated Assessment

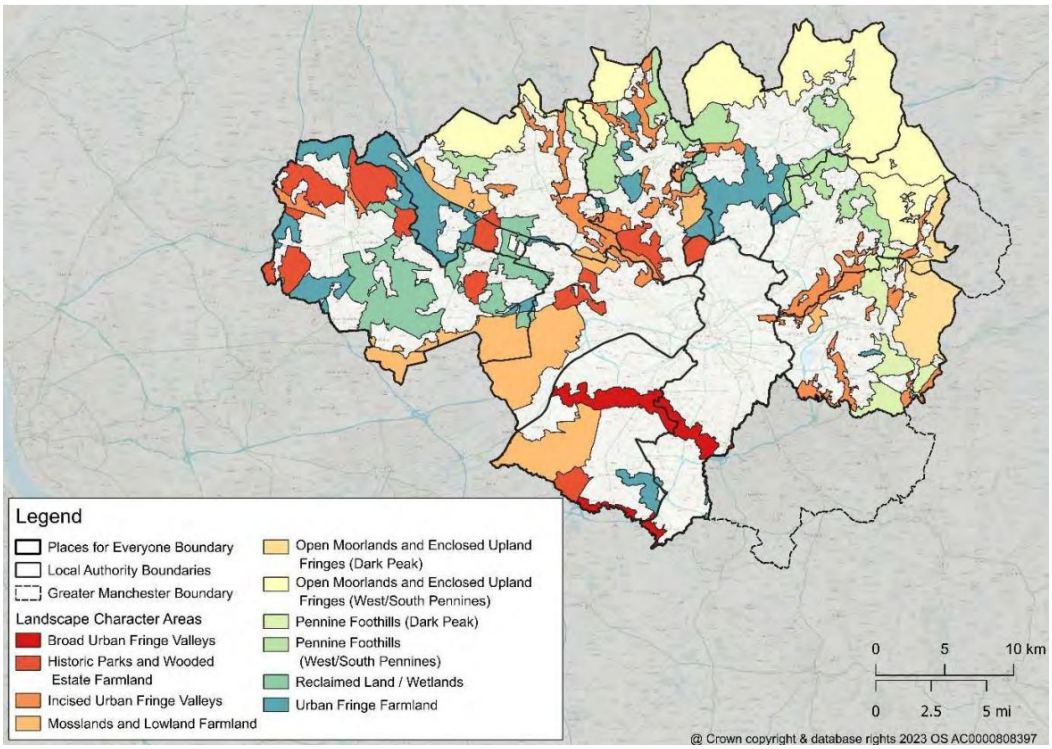
1.74 The historic environment links to a range of other indicators, including design and landscape, as well as the economy and employment, and housing. The historic environment is integral to the borough's economy and tourism offer, as well as making attractive places to live that can support town centre regeneration. It is important that regeneration is enhances the heritage environment, and can support bringing assets at risk back into use.

Landscape

1.75 The importance of views into Rochdale and the Roch valley, and out to the Pennine hills and moors, to the character of the borough cannot be under-estimated. The Roch Valley is the most significant visible feature providing not only an attractive setting but also an environmental and recreational resource. The Rochdale canal also runs through much of the borough and has created an industrial corridor that has problems of poor environment, obsolete buildings and difficult access, but also massive opportunities for regeneration, recreation and conservation.

1.76 The evidence supporting the PfE plan identified a number of distinct landscape character type in the city-region. In Rochdale, the most prominent is Open Moorlands and Enclosed Upland Fringes (West/South Pennines), followed by Pennine Foothills (dark Peak) and Urban Fringe Farmland.

Figure 13: Landscape Character Types



Links across the Integrated Assessment

1.77 Landscape links to housing and employment, and the design and location of new developments and the impact on the natural and built environment. In addition, topics such as biodiversity, and green and blue infrastructure.

Land Use

1.78 As shown in the table below, the biggest land use in Rochdale is forest, open land and water, the majority of which is for open land. This is followed by agriculture; however, the proportion of this is lower than the national average.

Table 2. Land Use in Rochdale by area (Ha)

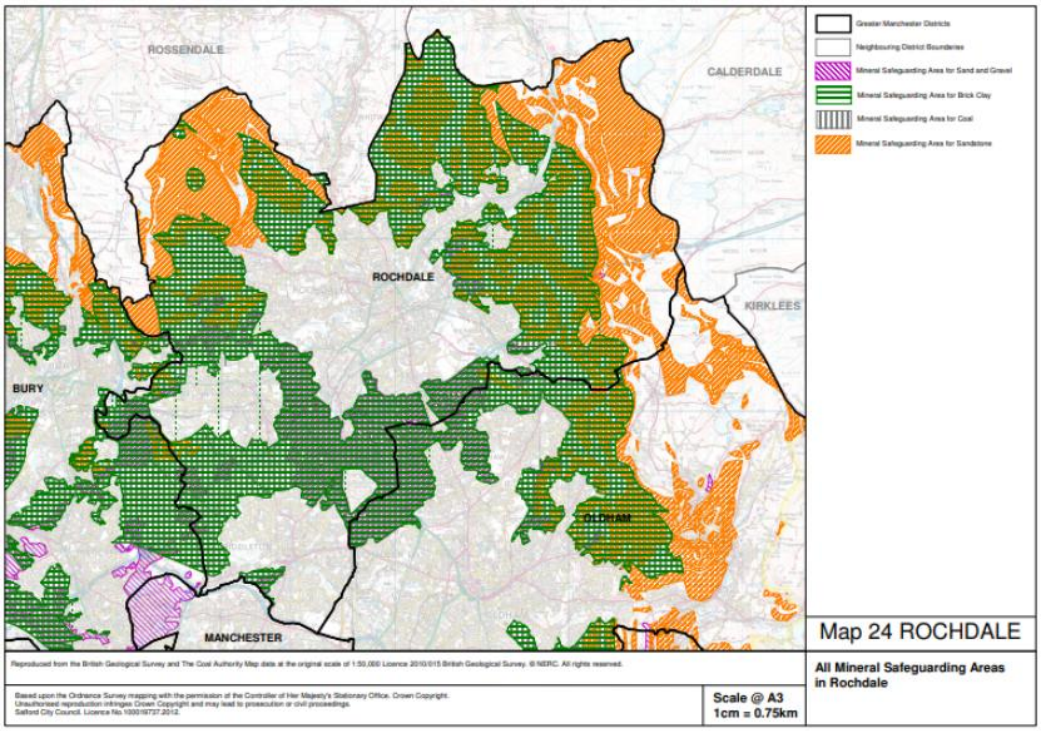
Land Use	Area (Ha)
Community Service	283
Industry & Commerce	252
Minerals & Landfill	0
Residential	564
Transport & Utilities	1256
Agriculture	4729
Forest, Open Land & Water	5119
Outdoor Recreation	800

Residential Gardens	1607
Undeveloped Land	453
Unknown developed use	712

Minerals

1.79 Rochdale adopted the Greater Manchester Joint Minerals Plan in 2013, which, identifies how Greater Manchester will deliver the spatial vision for minerals development to 2028. The plan covers which minerals we are likely to need and how much of them up to 31st December 2027, the locations where mineral extraction may and many not take place, existing mineral extraction sites to protect from closure, and the criteria which planning applications for mineral developments will need to meet.

Figure 14: Map of Minerals Safeguarding Areas in Rochdale



Waste

1.80 Rochdale adopted the Greater Manchester Joint Waste Development Plan Document in 2012, which sets out the waste planning strategy to 2027, to enable the adequate provision of waste management facilities in appropriate locations for municipal, commercial and industrial, construction and demolition and hazardous wastes.

1.81 In 2025, the Greater Manchester districts agreed to prepare an updated Joint Waste and Minerals development plan document. As such more detailed information in relation to the topics of minerals and waste will be included in the process of preparing these plans.

Links across the Integrated Assessment

1.82 Waste generation and management are related to various other agendas, such as land use, climate change and sustainability, and other environmental impacts. They are also clearly related to housing and employment development.

Notes on Baseline Information

1.83 Not all data will be of direct relevance or useable. For example, a data set may be unavailable at the right scale, out of date, unreliable, partial or biased. If incorrect information is chosen, this could lead to a document that is not focussed on the correct areas or that monitoring of the document is not as successful as it could be. It is also important that information collected is kept as up to date as possible, so the source of information also needs to be consistent and reliable. To ensure that these risks are minimised information has been carefully chosen for its particular relevance to the Plan in question.

1.84 Collection of baseline data is ongoing. If information or issues emerge with relevance to the appraisal these will be included at a later stage.

1.85 The table below shows additional baseline indicators under the headings used in the Greater Manchester joint plan to ensure a broad range of topics are covered.

Table 3: List of Baseline Indicators and Comparators

Indicator	Quantified Information	Comparators and Targets	Trend and Target	Comments	Source and date of data
Population and Demographics					
Population Change	2021: 223,800	Change since 2011 census GM - +6.9% North West - +5.2% England - +6.6%	Increase of 5.7% since the 2011 census.	Since the 2011 Census, the population in Rochdale increased by a smaller proportion than the GM and National figures, but more than the North West.	2021 Census
Population Forecast	2043: 250,883 people (+10%)	North West – 6.2% GM – 7.4% England – 7.3%	N/A	The population trend is expected to change in the next 20 years, with Rochdale's population increasing by a significantly higher proportion than regional and national figures.	ONS 2018-based subnational population projections
Age structure	0-15: 20.5% (2021) 16-64: 63.0% 65+: 16.5%	England & Wales: 0-15: 17.4% 16-65: 64.1% 65+: 18.6% Greater Manchester: 0-15: 19.2% 16-64: 65.0% 65+: 15.9%	Projected 2043: 0-15: 19.5% 16-64: 60.5% 65+: 20.0%	Rochdale has a higher proportion of young people (0-15 years) than regional and national comparators, and this is expected to increase. However, the proportion of over 65s is also forecast to increase in the next two decades.	2021 Census ONS 2018-based subnational population projections
Ethnicity	74% White 18.4% Asian/Asian British 2.4% Mixed/Multiple Ethnic Groups	Greater Manchester: 76.4% White 13.6% Asian England: 81.0% White	2011 81.7% White 14.9% Asian/Asian British 1.3% Black/Black British	Rochdale has a higher proportion of Asian/Asian British residents than GM and England.	2021 Census

	3.6% Black/Black British 1.7% Other groups	9.6% Asian	1.7% Mixed/Multiple Ethnic Groups 0.4% Other groups		
Religious Belief	Rochdale: 46.9% Christian 28.8% No Religion 18.8% Muslim 0.3% Hindu 0.2% Buddhist 0.1% Jewish 0.1% Sikh	England: 46% Christian 37% No Religion 6% Muslim 2% Hindu	Since 2011 Census: No religion - 10% increase Muslim - 4.9% increase Christian - 13.7% decrease	Significant increase in proportion of residents specifying no religion, as well as a significant decrease in those specifying as Christian since last Census.	2021 Census
Housing					
Number of households	2021 - 90,223 households in the borough	England - 6.2% increase North West – 4.8% increase Greater Manchester – 4.4% increase	2011 – 87,552 Increase of 2,671 since last census.	Increase of 2,671 (267 per year) which equates to 3.1%.	2021 Census
Overcrowding by Tenue	7.6% of households overcrowded (2021) Owns outright: 2.7% Mortgage: 5.1% Private rent: 8.1% Social rent: 8.6%	Greater Manchester: Owns outright: 1.9% Mortgage: 3.6% Private rent: 7% Social rent: 8.4% England/Wales: Owns outright: 1.1% Mortgage: 2.4% Private rent: 5.7% Social rent: 7.8%	-	Higher proportion of residents who live in overcrowded households than regional and national comparators, notably for those with a mortgage.	2021 Census
Empty homes	2021 - 5.9%	England: 6.1% GM: 5.4%	2011 Census: 2.7%	The proportion of empty homes in the borough has increased between the 2011 and 2021 census.	2021 Census

Household tenure	Owned outright or with mortgage: 60.3% Shared ownership (part owned and part rented): 0.4% Social rented: 20.9% Private rented: 18.3%	England: Owned outright or with mortgage: 61% Shared ownership (part owned and part rented): 0.8% Social rented: 17% Private rented: 20%	2011: Owned outright or with mortgage (inc S hared ownership): 62.2% Social rented: 23.1% Private rented: 14.6%	Overall, there has been an increase in private renting and decrease in social renting, as well as a decrease in home ownership as a percentage.	ONS 2021
Housing Net Completions Compared to Target	2021/22: Housing Requirement: 520 Net Completions: 553	N/A	Target 520 2021/22: 553 Target 460 2020/21: 520 2019/20: 650 2018/19: 833 2017/18: 799	Rochdale has met its housing requirement in recent years.	Rochdale Authority Monitoring Report
Housing Completions on Previously Developed Land (PDL)	2021/22 64.6%	N/A	2020/21: 78.5% 2019/20: 74% 2018/19: 92% 2017/18: 70.2% 2016/17: 67.2%	The majority of housing completions have been on PDL with some annual fluctuations in the proportion of these.	Rochdale Authority Monitoring Report
Affordable Housing Units Delivered	2021/22 151	N/A	2020/21: 106 2019/20: 111 2018/19: 130 2017/18: 54 2016/17: 65	There has been an overall trend of increasing affordable housing units delivered since 2017/18, with 2021/22 being the highest in the past five years.	CLG Live Table 1008C
Development Density of New Developments	Dwellings per hectare (dph) 2021/22 >50dph: 6% 30-50dph: 60%	N/A	Dwellings per hectare (%) Year:20/21 to 17/18 >50dph: 26,22,9,29	Higher density development in town centres and close to transport hubs continues	Rochdale Authority Monitoring Report

	<30dph: 34%		30-50dph: 52,25,83,43 <30dph: 22,53,9,29	to be a strategic priority in Greater Manchester.	
Housing Affordability Ratios	Lower Quartile Affordability Ratio 2021 5.61 Median Quartile Affordability Ratio 2021 6.23	Lower Quartile Affordability Ratio (2021) England: 8.04 North West: 6.11 Manchester: 6.91 Oldham: 5.87 Wigan: 5.53 Bury: 7.65 Median Quartile Affordability Ratio (2021) England: 9.05 North West: 6.43 Manchester: 6.67 Oldham: 5.99 Wigan: 5.67 Bury: 7.50	Lower Quartile Affordability Ratio 2020: 5.21 Median Quartile Affordability Ratio 2020: 5.58	Rochdale is the 2nd most affordable borough in GM (after Wigan) based on lower quartile affordability ratio, and 4th most based on median quartile (behind Wigan, Oldham and Bolton)	Housing affordability in England and Wales: 2022 (ONS)
House prices	Average house price (2022): £188,186	GM average: £236,489 England: £306,000		Biggest increase in price was for terraced houses between 2012-2022.	Rochdale Authority Monitoring Report
Economy					
Employment Completions	2022/23: 51860 sqm	N/A	(sqm) 2021/22: 4694 2020/21: 7109 2019/20: 25142 2018/19: 6592 2017/18: 58612	Employment floorspace in Rochdale is predominantly for B2/B8 uses. In recent years this figure has fluctuated depending on the completion of large industrial and warehousing units on	Rochdale Authority Monitoring Report

				major employment sites such as Kingsway Business Park and Heywood Distribution Park.	
Town Centre Footfall	2021 Rochdale residents: 5,112,000 Visitors from elsewhere: 1,988,000	N/A	2019: Rochdale Residents 3,600,000 Visitors from elsewhere; 1,400,000	Visitor's to Rochdale town centre has increased significantly since the opening of Rochdale Riverside.	Rochdale Borough Council
Business Enterprises	Rochdale: Micro (0-9) – 6,055 (88.3%) Small (10 to 49) – 665 (9.7%) Medium (50 to 249) – 105 (1.5%) Large (250+) – 30 (0.4%) Total – 6,855	North West: Micro (0-9) – 88.3% Small (10 to 49) – 9.6% Medium (50 to 249) – 1.7% Large (250+) – 0.4%	Rochdale - 2011 Micro (0-9) – 5,000 (86.3%) Small (10 to 49) – 565 (9.7%) Medium (50 to 249) – 95 (1.9%) Large (250+) – 20 (0.4%) Total – 5,000	Similar distribution to the North West figures.	UK Business Counts 2023 (ONS)
Employment					
Economically active population	June 2025: Residents (16-64) economically active: 71.3% Unemployment: 5.4%	North West: Economically active: 77.3% Unemployment: 4.0% GB: Economically active: 78.8% Unemployment: 4.1%	September 2011: Residents (16-64) economically active: 72.0% Unemployment: 9.9%	Rochdale has a lower rate of economic activity and higher rate of unemployment than regional and national averages. However, as in the country as a whole, these figures have improved over the past decade.	ONS Annual Population Survey

Employment Rate	24/25: 67.9%	(2024/25) North West: 74.1% Great Britain: 75.5%	11/12: 62.3%	The overall employment rate in Rochdale is significantly higher than a decade ago, but still below regional and national comparators.	ONS Annual Population Survey
Weekly Earnings by Residence/Place of Work	Rochdale (2025) 689.5/ 667.9	North West: 734.8/ 734.2 Great Britain: 766.6/ 766.6	2022: 548.8/ 537.4 2012: 477.3/ 435.8	While Rochdale is close to the regional average for earnings by residence, significantly lower by place of work, suggesting higher earners commuting out of the borough.	ONS Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (2025)
Employment by Industry	Rochdale: Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles: 20.3% Human health and social work activities: 12.7% Education: 8.9% Construction: 6.3% Manufacturing: 12.7% Transport & Storage: 7.6% Public administration and defence; compulsory social security: 3.2% Administrative and support service activities: 8.9%	North West: Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles: 14.7% Human health and social work activities: 15.1% Education: 8.1% Construction: 5.2% Manufacturing: 9.0% Transport & Storage: 4.7% Public administration and defence; compulsory social security: 5.0% Administrative and support service activities: 8.3%		Significantly higher proportion of manufacturing and retail jobs in Rochdale. In addition, there is a higher proportion of jobs in transport and storage. There is a lower proportion of jobs in professional and technical activities, financial and insurance activities.	ONS Business Register and Employment Survey (2022)

	Professional, scientific and technical activities: 3.8% Accommodation and food service activities: 5.7% R, S, T, U Other: 3.8% Information and communication: 3.2% Financial and insurance activities: 0.6% Real estate activities: 1.6% Water supply; Sewerage, Waste management and Remediation activities: 0.5% Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply: 0.2% Agriculture, Forestry and fishing: 0.2% Mining and quarrying: 0.1%	Professional, scientific and technical activities: 9.4% Accommodation and food service activities: 7.9% R, S, T, U Other: 4.0% Information and communication: 3.4% Financial and insurance activities: 2.4% Real estate activities: 1.6% Water supply; Sewerage, Waste management and Remediation activities: 0.7% Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply: 0.3% Agriculture, Forestry and fishing: 0.2% Mining and quarrying: 0.1%			
Employment by Occupation	Rochdale: Managers, Directors and Senior Officials: 9.6% Professional Occupations: 22.8%	North West: Managers, Directors and Senior Officials: 10.0% Professional Occupations: 26.7%		Lower proportion of managers/directors and professional occupations.	ONS Annual Population Survey (June 2025)

	Associate Professional Occupations: 12.9% Administrative & Secretarial occupations: 10.2% Skilled trades occupations: 8.5% Caring, Leisure and Other Service: 12.1% Sales and Customer Services: 4.6% Process Plant & Machine Operatives: 5.7% Elementary Occupations: 12.4%	Associate Professional Occupations: 14.0% Administrative & Secretarial occupations: 9.1% Skilled trades occupations: 8.1% Caring, Leisure and Other Service: 9.5% Sales and Customer Services: 6.4% Process Plant & Machine Operatives: 6.4% Elementary Occupations: 9.5%		High proportion of caring, leisure and other service occupations.	
Qualifications	No qualifications - 23% Level 1 - 11% Level 2 - 14% Apprenticeship - 6% Level 3 - 17% Level 4 - 26%	GM/England % No qualifications - 20/18 Level 1 – 10/10 Level 2 – 13/13 Apprenticeship – 6/5 Level 3 – 17/17 Level 4 – 32/34	2011 No qualifications 29% Level 1 15% Level 2 16% Apprenticeship 4% Level 3 12% Level 4 19%	Rochdale has a higher proportion of residents with no qualifications than GM/England. However, this has changed since 2011 with a lower proportion of residents with no qualifications and a higher proportion with levels 3 and 4.	2021 Census
Health					
Life expectancy at birth	(2018 – 2020) Male : 76.7 Female: 80.9	England: Male : 79.4 Female: 83.1	2019: Male: 77.1 Female: 81.2	Life expectancy in Rochdale is lower than the national average.	ONS Life expectancy for local areas in England,

				This has decreased since 2019 in keeping with the national trend.	Northern Ireland and Wales
Healthy Life Expectancy at birth (2018-2020)	57.4 (male) 58.5 (female)	63.1% (England, male) 63.9% (England, female)	2019: 59.0 (male) 59.4 (female)	Significantly lower healthy life expectancy than national average.	ONS Health state life expectancies
General health as a percentage of all people	Very good / good general health: 77.9% Fair general health: 15.0% Bad/very bad general health: 7%	GM: very good / good health: 79.2 England: 81.7%	2011: Very good/ good: general health – 77.7% Fair general health: 14.8% Bad/very bad general health: 7.6%	Residents with good general health lower than GM and National averages.	Census 2021
Adult Obesity (2021-22)	67.5% obese/overweight	63.8% (England) 66.0% (North West)	-	The proportion of adults who are obese/overweight is above the national and regional figures.	Sport England
Childhood obesity	Rochdale: 39.3% of year 6 children are overweight or obese (2022/23)	36.6% England 38.3% North West	-	5th highest proportion in Greater Manchester	NHS 2022
% of adults who are physically active	Rochdale – 60.9% (2021/22)	North West – 65.2% England – 67.3%	2020/21 – 58.4% 2019/20 – 57.9% 2018/19 – 63.0%	Lower percentage than the regional and national figures, however this has increased in the borough since 2019/20.	Active Lives Adult Survey (Sport England)
% of children who are physically active	Rochdale – 44.9% (2020/21)	North West – 44.0% England – 44.9%	2019/20 – 33.4% 2018/19 – 46.9% 2017/18 – 38.4%	The 2020/21 figure was in line with the national average.	Active Lives Children and Young People Survey (Sport England)

Social Infrastructure					
State Funded School Capacity (2022)	Primary No. of schools: 69 No. of school Places: 22,875 No. of pupils: 21,555 No. of pupils that are full or have 1+ pupil in excess of capacity: 17 No. of pupils in excess of school capacity: 65 Excess as a % of total places: 0.28 Number of schools with one or more unfilled places: 52 Number of unfilled places: 1385 Number of unfilled places as a % of total places: 6.1 Secondary No. of schools: 13 No. of school Places: 15,330 No. of pupils: 13,995 No. of pupils that are full or have 1+ pupil in excess of capacity: 2 No. of pupils in excess of school capacity: 49	Primary North West/England Pupil Excess as a % of total places: 0.77/0.45 Number of unfilled places as a % of total places: 8.5/ 11.5 Secondary North West/England Pupil Excess as a % of total places: 0.74/0.92 Number of unfilled places as a % of total places: 11.0/ 12.5	N/A	No comments.	Annual School Capacity Survey (DfE 2022)

	Excess as a % of total places: 0.32 Number of schools with one or more unfilled places: 11 Number of unfilled places: 1384 Number of unfilled places as a % of total places: 6.1				
Deprivation					
Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) - Proportion of Neighbourhoods in most deprived 10% nationally	IMD 2019 Rochdale: 20th	Manchester: 5th Oldham: 16th Salford: 19th Bolton: 31st	IMD2015 Rochdale: 17th	Rochdale continues to have a significant proportion of neighbourhoods in the most deprived 10% nationally. The trend is similar to other nearby areas of the conurbation such as Oldham and Salford.	MHCLG
Proportion of fuel poverty poor	Parliamentary Constituency: Rochdale – 18.3% Heywood and Middleton – 13.3%	Greater Manchester: 15.1% North West: 14.4%	-	A household is defined as being in fuel poverty if the energy efficiency rating is Band D or below and their disposable income (after housing and fuel costs) is below the poverty line. Parts of the borough have a high proportion of households in fuel poverty.	Sub-regional fuel poverty date 2022 (BEIS)
Transport & Connectivity					

Percentage of residential development completions from 1st April 2021 to 31st march 2022 within 30 minutes of a range of services travelling on foot / public transport	GP health Centre: 100% Hospital: 46.4% Primary school: 100% Secondary school: 100% Areas of Employment: 100% Major Retail Centre(s): 100%	N/A	2013/14: 99.63% (Health Centre, schools, areas of employment, retail centres)	No account taken of specific access requirements.	Rochdale AMR
Rail Patronage	Numbers using borough's railway stations (2022-2023): 2,133,772	Most common destination: Manchester Victoria	2021-22: 1.81m 2020-21: 0.63m 2019-20: 2.77m 2010-11: 1.97m 2000-01: 0.94m	Rail patronage peaked in 2019-2019/20 before dropping significantly during Covid-19. Rail patronage has increased significantly in the previous year but may continue to be impacted by disruption to services and increased home working.	Office of the Rail Regulator
Metrolink patronage	All Rochdale Stations (6) Passenger trips (2021-22): 1,569,600	N/A	2020-21: 910,600 2019-20: 3,163,000 2018-19: 3,152,000 2017-18: 2,630,000 2016-17: 2,536000	Shows a trend of increasing metrolink patronage up to the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic.	TFGM (2023)
Travel to Work	Rochdale Work at home 21.3% Car/van (inc passengers) 60.6% Bus/coach 4.9%	GM Work at home 28.6% Car/van 51.7% Bus/coach 5.4% Tram 1.4% Train 1%	% work at home increase from 2% in 2011 census	Joint lowest (with Oldham) % of people who work at home in Greater Manchester.	Census 2021

	Tram 0.9 Train 0.9 Bicycle 0.9 On foot 7.1	Bicycle 1.7% On foot 7.7%		Higher proportion of those who commute by car than GM average.	
Proportion of Adults who Cycle	2022 At least once a week: 5.1% At least once a month: 3.7%	GM At least once a week: 9.7% At least once a month: 6.6% England At least once a week: 13.1% At least once a month: 9.3%	2019 At least once a week: 12.7% At least once a month: 8.8%	Rochdale has a significantly lower proportion of adults who cycle than the regional and national averages.	Participation in walking and cycling (local authority rates) – Department for Transport
Air Quality					
Annual Mean NO2 Monitoring Results (µg/m3)	Rochdale Queensway: 2022 - 27	N/A	2021 – 28.5		2022 Air Quality Annual Status Report (GMCA)
Biodiversity and Geodiversity					
Areas of biodiversity importance - International: Special Protection Areas (SPA) Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)	Part of the South Pennine Moors Phase 2 SPA - 20944.5ha South Pennine Moors SAC – 65025.5ha Rochdale Canal SAC - – 26.1ha	N/A	-	1 Special Protection Area and 2 Special Areas of Conservation in Rochdale.	Natural England Open Data (2023)

Areas of biodiversity Importance - National: SSSIs	SSSIs: South Pennine Moors - 20944.5ha Rochdale Canal – 26.37ha	N/A	-	2 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) in Rochdale.	Natural England Designated Site View (2023)
Areas of biodiversity Importance - local:	Number of Sites of Biological Importance: 47, total area of 2515ha Including: South Pennine Moors Alkrington Woods Ashworth Valley Healey Dell Hollingworth Lake Hopwood Woods Naden Valley Piethorne Reservoirs and Plantations Watergrove Reservoir	N/A	2016 – 42 1984 - 23	47 Sites of Biological Importance (SBIs).	Greater Manchester SBI Register GMEU (2020)
Number of Local Nature Reserves	3 Local Nature Reserves: Healey Dell Hopwood Woods Alkrington Woods	N/A	N/A	Currently 3 Local Nature Reserves in the borough.	RMBC
Green Infrastructure					
Access to Green Space	Average distance to nearest park/playing field (m): 374.92 Median distance to nearest park/playing field (m): 307.97	Average distance to nearest park/playing field (m): GM: 319.97 England: 417.17	N/A	When compared with Greater Manchester, Rochdale has a higher average distance to the nearest park/playing field.	Access to public green space in Great Britain (ONS, 2021)

	Average number of parks and public gardens and playing fields within 1,000 m radius: 3.95 Average population per park or public garden or playing field: 8641.89	Median distance to nearest park/playing field (m): GM: 281.16 England: 317.61 Average number of parks and public gardens and playing fields within 1,000 m radius: GM: 5.11 England: 4.43 Average population per park or public garden or playing field: GM: 8751.97 England: 9077.30		However the average population per park, public garden or playing field is slightly lower, meaning there are more parks per person. These figures give an overall summary and don't provide detail around distribution of green space within the borough.	
Green Flag sites	11 Green Flag Sites Denhurst Park, Rochdale Hare Hill Park, Littleborough; Hopwood Park, Heywood Middleton Cemetery, Middleton; Middleton Memorial Garden Milnrow Memorial Park Rochdale Town Centre Parks: Broadfield Park,	N/A	N/A	The Green Flag award recognises and rewards well managed parks and green spaces.	RMBC

	Packer Spout with St Chad's and Rochdale Memorial Gardens Queen's Park, Heywood; Truffet Park, Middleton Balderstone Park, Rochdale				
Tree Canopy cover	14.1%	GM: 17.8% National: 16%	N/A	Rochdale has a lower proportion of tree canopy cover than the GM and national averages. Increasing tree cover continues to be a priority for the multiple benefits they bring.	Forestry Commission 2021
Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Emissions					
Per Capita Emissions (tCO2e)	2021: 4.1 (tCO2e)	2021 North West: 4.9 England: 4.8	2005: 7.3 2010: 6.3 2015: 5.0 2020: 3.8	Rochdale has less CO2 emissions per capita than regional and national comparators. While there has been a general reduction since 2005, the figure has increased since 2020, which during the peak of the Covid-19 pandemic.	Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (2023)
Total CO2 Emissions per sector	2021: Industry: 149.8 Commercial: 37.1 Public Sector: 33.1 Domestic: 302.3	N/A	2010: Industry: 221.4 Commercial: 156.2 Public Sector: 47.8 Domestic: 457.4	The transport sector followed by domestic, are the biggest sources of CO2 emissions. While the	Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (2023)

	Transport: 369.4		Transport: 451.6	total quantity of CO2 emissions has decreased in the past two decades, there was a small increase after 2020, which was during the peak of the Covid-19 pandemic.	
Land Resources					
Land Use	Rochdale: Community Service: 1.8% Industry & Commerce: 1.6% Minerals & Landfill: 0% Residential: 3.6% Transport & Utilities: 7.9% Agriculture: 29.9% Forest, Open Land & Water: 32.4% Outdoor Recreation: 5.1% Residential Gardens: 10.2% Undeveloped Land: 2.9% Unknown developed use: 4.5%	England: Community Service: 0.7% Industry & Commerce: 0.4% Minerals & Landfill: 0.1% Residential: 1.3% Transport & Utilities: 4.4% Agriculture: 63.1% Forest, Open Land & Water: 20.1% Outdoor Recreation: 2.1% Residential Gardens: 4.9% Undeveloped Land: 0.9% Unknown developed use: 1.9%		Significantly higher proportion of forest, open land and water in Rochdale, of which the majority is open land. Consequently, there is also a lower proportion of land use for agriculture.	Land Use statistics: England 2022 (DLUHC, 2022)
Landscape					
Landscape Character Areas (Types)	The following Greater Manchester Landscape Character	N/A	N/A	Rochdale has a high proportion of GM's Open Moorlands and Enclosed Upland Fringes	Greater Manchester Landscape Character and Sensitivity Report (GMCA,

	Types fall within Rochdale: Open Moorlands and Enclosed Upland Fringes (West/South Pennines) Pennine Foothills (West/South Pennines) Urban Fringe Farmland Incised Urban Fringe Valleys			(West/South Pennines) character type, which is the largest character type in the borough by area.	2018)
Historic Environment					
Number of heritage assets on the Historic England Heritage at Risk Register (excluding conservation areas)	3 Grade II listed buildings and 6 Grade II* listed buildings		The target is zero	There are currently 370 listed buildings in Rochdale Borough and approximately 209 buildings of local interest.	Historic England Heritage at Risk Register 2023
Number of conservation areas on the Historic England Heritage at Risk Register	3 – Castleton (South), Middleton Town Centre and Rochdale Town Centre		The target is zero	There are currently 28 Conservation Areas in Rochdale Borough.	Historic England Heritage at Risk Register 2023
Extractive Resources					
% of mineral development planning applications permitted in line with presumption in favour of sustainable development (Greater Manchester)	100%	N/A	N/A		Greater Manchester Joint Minerals Development Plan Authority Monitoring Report 2019-20
Waste Management					

Collected Waste	2022/23 Total Collected Waste (tonnes): 72,253 Household total waste (tonnes): 70,296 Household - waste sent for recycling-composting-reuse (tonnes): 33,092	N/A	2021/22 Total Collected Waste (tonnes): 76,238 Household total waste (tonnes): 74,169 Household - waste sent for recycling-composting-reuse (tonnes): 37,524	Total collected waste has decreased in the last year.	DEFRA - Local Authority Collected Waste Statistics (2024)
Recycling Rate	Rochdale – 47.1%	England – 41.7% North West – 45.3%	2021/22 – 50.6% 2020/21 – 48.0% 2019/20 - 49.9% 2018/19 – 48.6% 2017/18 – 47.9%	Recycling rates have plateaued in recent years but higher than national and regional averages.	DEFRA - Local Authority Collected Waste Statistics (2024)