Rochdale Local Plan

Integrated Assessment Scoping Report

May 2024

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Summary

1.1   The Integrated Assessment of Rochdale's emerging 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.

1.2   This Scoping Report has been produced as part of the Integrated Assessment (IA) of Rochdale's Local Plan review. It sets out the proposed sustainability objectives and assessment approach to undertaking the IA of the Local Plan. It will be subject to public consultation, alongside the emerging Local Plan.

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)

Rochdale's Local Plan

1.4   Rochdale Council is intending to prepare 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, area designations and site allocations for specific types of development to guide and manage the Borough's future growth and development needs. As well as allocations to deliver growth, it will also set out designations and zones relating to particular land uses such as open space, flood risk management and employment.

1.5   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.

1.6   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?

1.7 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).

1.8 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.

1.9 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).

1.10 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).

1.11 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.

1.12 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.

1.13 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.

The Scoping Report

1.14 The first stage in the Integrated Assessment process is to carry out a scoping exercise which sets the context and develops the proposed IA objectives against which the Plan will be assessed. It is also a consultation document, the purpose of which is to allow specified consultation bodies to comment on the proposed scope / objectives, and allow the local community and other stakeholders to view and comment on it. Consultation at this stage will help to ensure that the IA is comprehensive and robust enough to support the Plan during the later stages of full public consultation and examination.

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 pubic 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 Appendix 4.

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   This IA Scoping Report 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 as an appendix to the IA report and this will be fed into the IA as part of the iterative process. The HIA screening framework is shown in Appendix 5.
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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

3.3 This Scoping Report is Stage A – this is the first stage of the Integrated Assessment. It sets the context and objectives, establishes the baseline and determines the scope. Stage A includes the following tasks:

- Task A1 - Identifying other relevant plans, programmes and sustainability objectives

- Task A2 - Collecting baseline information

- Task A3 - Identifying key sustainability issues and problems

- Task A4 - Developing the Integrated Assessment framework, including a set of objectives

- Task A5 - Consulting on the scope of the Integrated Assessment

4   Other Relevant Plans Policies and Programmes (Task A1)

4.1   The Local Plan and IA will be influenced by many different plans, programmes and strategies. This is recognised by the SEA Directive which requires a review of relevant plans, programmes and strategies to be completed in the preparation of documents such as the Local Plan.

4.2   The purpose of Task A1 is to ensure that all relevant policies, plans and programmes and their objectives are taken into account, documented and key themes carried through into the assessment process, through the mechanism of the IA objectives. The relevant policies, plans and programmes from international level to the local level have been identified and summarised in Table 1.

4.3   Appendix 2 sets out in more detail the relevance of each policy, plan or programme, and the implications for the IA and Local Plan. This feeds through into the key issues section and the objectives of the IA.

Table 1 - Other relevant policies, plans and programmes reviewed

International
Overarching
EU Sustainable Development Strategy (2009)
Biodiversity
The United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (1992)
The EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 (2020)
Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC as amended by 97/62/EC), 1992
Birds Directive (2009/147/EC as amended), 2009
Ramsar Convention (1971)
Water and flood risk
Council Directive 2000/60/EC (Water Framework Directive) (2000, JNCC) Directive 2007/60/EC on the assessment and management of flood risks (2007, European Commission)
European Floods Directive 2007
Council Directive 91/271/EEC for urban wastewater treatment. Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the regions (2011, European Commission)
Air quality
EU Air Quality Framework Directive (1996)
EU Ambient Air Quality Directives (2008/50/EC) & (2004/107/EC)
EU Directive on the reduction of national emissions of certain atmospheric pollutants (2016/2284)
EUNECE Gothenburg Protocol on National Emissions Reduction Targets (1999)
Climate change and energy efficiency
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change 2015: The Paris Agreement
International Carbon Action Partnership (2007)
EU Energy Efficiency Plan (2011)
EU Energy Efficiency Directive (EU/2023/1791)
EU Directive on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources (2009/28/EC)
Waste and minerals (incl. pollution)
Directive 2008/98/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 November 2008 on waste and repealing certain Directives (Waste Framework Directive) (2008, European Commission)
Directive 2018/850 on the landfill of waste (2018, European Commission)
Directive 2006/21/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the management of waste from extractive industries (2006, EUR-Lex)
EU Integrated Pollution Prevention Directive (1996)

Landscape

The European Landscape Convention (Florence Convention) (2000, Council of Europe)

Historic Environment and Cultural Heritage

Convention for the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe (Granada Convention) (1985, Council of Europe)

European Convention on the Protection of Archaeological Heritage (Valetta Convention, (1992, Council of Europe)

National

Overarching

National Planning Policy Framework (2023)

Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023

National Infrastructure Strategy (2020)

Localism Act (as amended) (2011)

Equality Act (2010)

Design

Industrial Strategy: building a Britain fit for the future (Government White Paper – 2017) National Model Design Code (MHCLG, 2021)

National Design Guide (2021, MHCLG, Tibbalds Planning & Urban Design)

Economy

Northern Powerhouse Strategy (2016, HM Government)

Build Back Better – our plan for growth (HM Treasury, 2021)*

Climate Change and energy

Climate Change Act (2008)

Planning and Energy Act 2008

The Third National Adaptation Programme (NAP3) and the Fourth Strategy for Climate Adaptation Reporting (2023)

Net Zero Strategy: Build Back Greener (2022)

British Energy Security Strategy (2022)

Clean Growth Strategy, HM Government (2017)

Climate Resilient Infrastructure (2011)

The UK Renewable Energy Strategy (2009)

Carbon Plan: Delivering our Low Carbon Future (2011)

Biodiversity and green infrastructure

The Environment Act (2021)

The Environment Improvement Plan (2023)

Enabling a Natural Capital Approach (2020)

Making Space for Nature (2012)

The Path to Sustainable Farming: An Agricultural Transition Plan 2021 to 2024 (2020)

Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981)

The Hedgerows Regulations (1997)

Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (2006)

The Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations (2019)

The England Trees Action Plan 2021-2024

Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services (2018)

Environmental Damage (Prevention and Remediation) (England) Regulations 2015

The Countryside and Rights of Way Act (2000)

Air and soil

The Environmental Protection Act 1990

Part IV of the Environmental Act (1995)

Clean Air Strategy (2019)

National Air Quality Strategy (2011)

Air Quality Plan for Nitrogen Dioxide in the UK (2017)

Air Pollution: Action in a Changing Climate (2010)

Safeguarding our Soils: A Strategy for England (2009)

Water and flood risk

The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Regulations 2017

The Flood Risk Regulations (2009)

Flood & Water Management Act (2010)

Water Resources Act (1991)

Written Statement on Sustainable Drainage Systems (2014)

TCPA Policy advice note: inland waterways (2009)

National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy for England (updated 2022)

Historic Environment

Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act (1979)

Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act (1990)

The Historic Environment in Local Plans (2015, Historic England)

Historic England's Industrial Heritage Strategy - Draft (2021, Historic England)

Housing

The Housing Act (2004)

The Charter for Social Housing Residents: Social Housing White Paper (2021)

Housing White Paper "Fixing our Broken Housing Market" (2017)

Planning Policy for Travellers Sites (2015)

Transport and travel

Transport Investment Strategy (2017)

Roads Investment Strategy 2 (2020)

Transport Decarbonisation Plan 2021

The Long Term Rail Strategy for the North of England (Rail North, 2014)

The Northern Powerhouse: One 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)

Gear Change (2020)

Cycling and walking investment strategy (2017)

Cycle infrastructure design (2020)

Health and wellbeing

Play Strategy for England (2008)

White Paper: Healthy Lives, Healthy People: our strategy for public health in England, HM Government (2010)

Health and social care integration: joining up care for people, places and populations (2022)

Health and Social Care Act (2012)

People at the heart of Care Adult Social Care Reform White Paper (2021)

Confident Communities, Brighter Futures (2010)

Public Health England strategy 2020-25 (2020)

Planning for Sport Guidance (2019)

Sporting Future: A New Strategy for an Active Nation (2023)

Sport England Active Design – Creating Active environments Through Planning and Design (2023)

TCPA Public Health in Planning: Good Practice Guide, (2015)

Putting Health into Place: Introducing NHS England's Healthy New Towns programme (2019)

Promoting Healthy Cities, RTPI (2014)

Spatial Planning for Health - An evidence resource for planning and designing healthier places (2017)

Build Back Better: Our Plan for Health and Social Care (2021)

Education

Opportunity for all - Strong schools with great teachers for your child (March 2022)

Delivering schools to support housing growth (2023)

Waste and minerals

National Planning Policy for Waste (2014)

Waste Management Plan for England (2021)

Regional / Greater Manchester
Overarching
Greater Manchester Digital Strategy (2020)
Greater Manchester Culture Strategy (2019)
Greater Manchester Local Industrial Strategy (2019)
Greater Manchester Growth and Reform Plan (2014)
Greater Manchester Growth Plan (2011)
Places For Everyone Plan (2023)
Greater Manchester Infrastructure Framework 2040 (2019)
The Greater Manchester Strategy 2021 – 2031 good lives for all (2021)
Greater Manchester Police and Crime Plan 2022 – 2025 (2022)
Climate Change and Energy
The Greater Manchester Five Year Environment Plan 2019 - 2024
Greater Manchester Spatial Energy Plan: Evidence Base Study (2016)
Greater Manchester Climate Change and Low Emissions Implementation Plan 2016-2020 (2016)
Greater Manchester Low-Emission Strategy (2016)
Greater Manchester Climate Change Implementation Plan 2012
Natural Capital
Greater Manchester 5 Year Environment Plan
Greater Manchester Biodiversity Action Plan (2009)
Guidance for Greater Manchester - Embedding Green Infrastructure Principles (2019)
Greater Manchester Biodiversity and Geodiversity Action Plan (Quarries) (2011)
North West Green Infrastructure Guide (2008)
Greater Manchester Natural Capital Investment Plan (2019)
All our Trees - Greater Manchester's tree and woodland strategy (2020)
Greater Manchester's Local Nature Recovery Strategy Pilot Final Report (2021, GMCA)
Towards a Green Infrastructure Framework for Greater Manchester (2008)Natural Capital
An Ecological Framework for Greater Manchester (2008)
Water and flood risk
Greater Manchester Strategic Flood Risk Management Framework (2018)
Greater Manchester Level 1 Strategic
Flood Risk Assessment
Drainage and Wastewater Management Plan (2023)
Greater Manchester Integrated Water Management Plan (2023)
Greater Manchester Surface Water

Management Plan (2012)

Revised Draft Water Resources Management Plan 2024 (2023)

Final Drought Plan (2022, United Utilities)

North West River Basin Management Plan (2022)

Irwell Catchment Plan 2019 – 2027 (Irwell Catchment Partnership)

Waste and minerals

Greater Manchester Waste Development Plan Document (2012, AGMA)

Greater Manchester Minerals Development Plan Document (2013, AGMA)

Transport and travel

Strategic Transport Plan for the North (2019)

HM Government (2016) The Northern Powerhouse: One Agenda, One Economy, One North

Greater Manchester Transport Strategy 2040 (2021)

Greater Manchester Rail Policy 2012- 2024 (2012)

GM Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy – part of the GM Transport Strategy 2040

Change the region to change a nation: Greater Manchester's walking and cycling investment plan (2020)

Our 5 year Transport Delivery Plan 2021 - 2026 (2021)

Greater Manchester Freight and Logistics Strategy (2016)

Our Network (2019)

Our Prospectus for Rail (2019)

Streets for All (2019)

Greater Manchester Air Quality Action Plan (2016)

Health and wellbeing

Greater Manchester Population Health Plan (2017)

Creating Age-Friendly Developments - A practical guide for ensuring homes and communities support ageing in place (2023)

Greater Manchester Age-Friendly Strategy (2018)

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)

GMCA and NHS (2016) Greater Manchester Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy

Economy

Greater Manchester Local Industrial Strategy (2019, GMCA, the GM Local Enterprise Partnership and the UK Government)

HM Government (2014) Greater Manchester Growth Deal

HM Government (2016) Northern Powerhouse Strategy

Housing

Greater Manchester Housing Strategy 2019-2024 (2019)

Neighbouring authorities (all topics)
e.g., local plans

Rochdale

Overarching

Rochdale Council Place Plan for the Borough 2016-2021 (2016)

Rochdale Council Corporate Plan: People, Place, and Planet Council Plan 2023 - 2028

Rochdale Council Townships Plan 2020 - 2022

Rochdale Council Climate Change Strategy and Delivery Plan 2021 - 2025

Rochdale Council Climate Change Action Plan

Rochdale Growth Plan (2022)

With everyone, for everyone. A 10 year plan for the borough of Rochdale (2023)

Rochdale's Sustainable Community Strategy March 2011/12- 2021

Rochdale Borough Core Strategy (2016)

DRAFT Rochdale DPD Allocation

Annual Monitoring Report (2019)

Rochdale Digital Strategy 2022 - 2025

Historic Environment, rural and urban landscape

Open Space Survey (2022)

Landscape Capacity Study for Wind Energy Developments (2014)

Natural Environment and Climate Change

Township Green Infrastructure Plans: Rochdale, Middleton, Pennines

Landscape Capacity Study for Wind Energy Developments (2014)

Soil and contaminated land

Waste Management Strategy 2015 - 2020

Housing

Rochdale Housing Strategy 2017 - 2022

Rochdale SHMA (2015)

Rochdale SHLAA (2024)

Affordable Housing Requirements (2010)

Economy

Local Economy Report 2018 -2019

Rochdale Employment Land Study (2008)

Greater Manchester Employment Land Positions Statement (2009)

Rochdale Retail, Leisure and Cultural Facilities Study (2011)

Health, wellbeing, education and communities
Open Space Survey (due 2023)
Playing pitch strategy 2016 - 2026
Statement of Community Involvement (2021)
Rochdale Safer Communities Plan 2019-2022
Transport and travel
Rochdale Borough Transport Strategy (2014)
Rochdale Rail Corridor Strategy (2022)
Water
Rochdale Flood Risk Management Strategy 2014 - 2024
Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment (2011)
Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (2009)
Flood Risk management Strategy (2014)

5 Baseline Information (Task A2)

5.1   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.

5.2   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.

5.3   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.

5.4   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.

5.5   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

5.6   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 3: Sub Regional Context
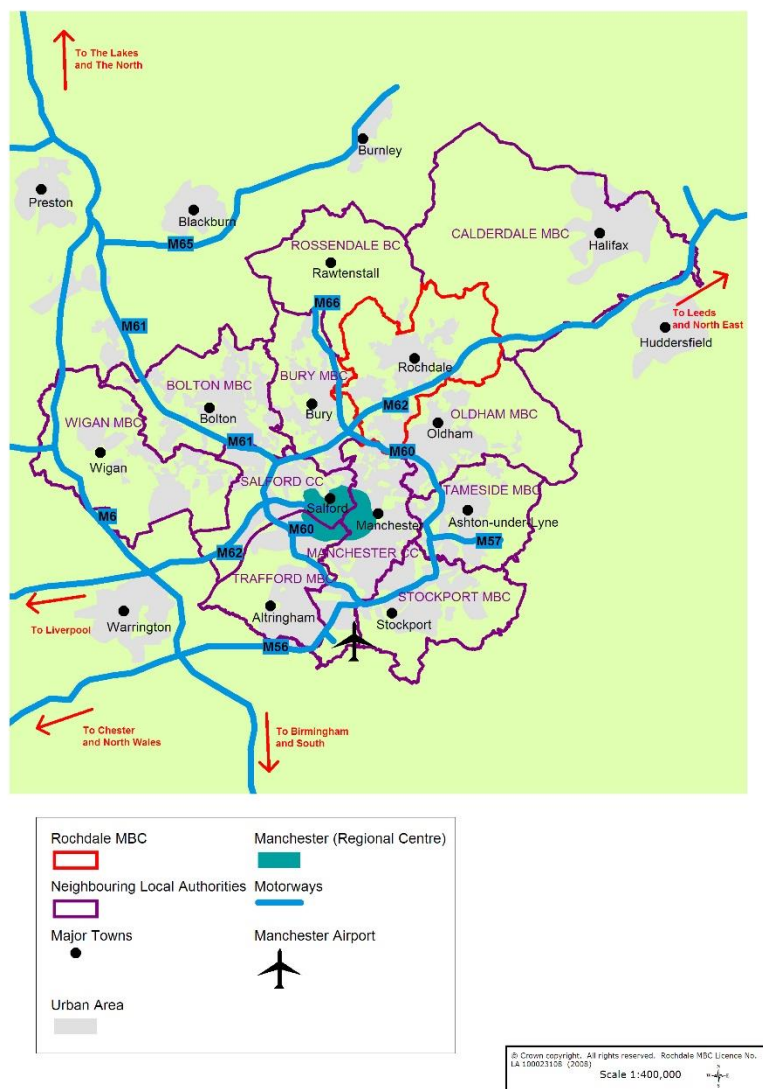
5.7   The main urban centres are the towns of Rochdale, Middleton and Heywood with the smaller settlements of Littleborough and Milnrow in the Pennine eastern fringes of the Borough. Inner urban neighbourhoods in Rochdale district contain large areas of terraced housing much of which dates back to the 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

5.8   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.

5.9   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 2: 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

5.10   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

5.11   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.

5.12   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.

5.13   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.

5.14   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.

5.15   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

5.16   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

5.17   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.

5.18   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.

5.19   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..

5.20   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.

5.21   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

5.22   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

5.23   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.

5.24   Figure 4 below shows Rochdale residents and whether their health was considered good, fair or bad. These figures are slightly lower than the national figures.

Figure 4: General Health in Rochdale
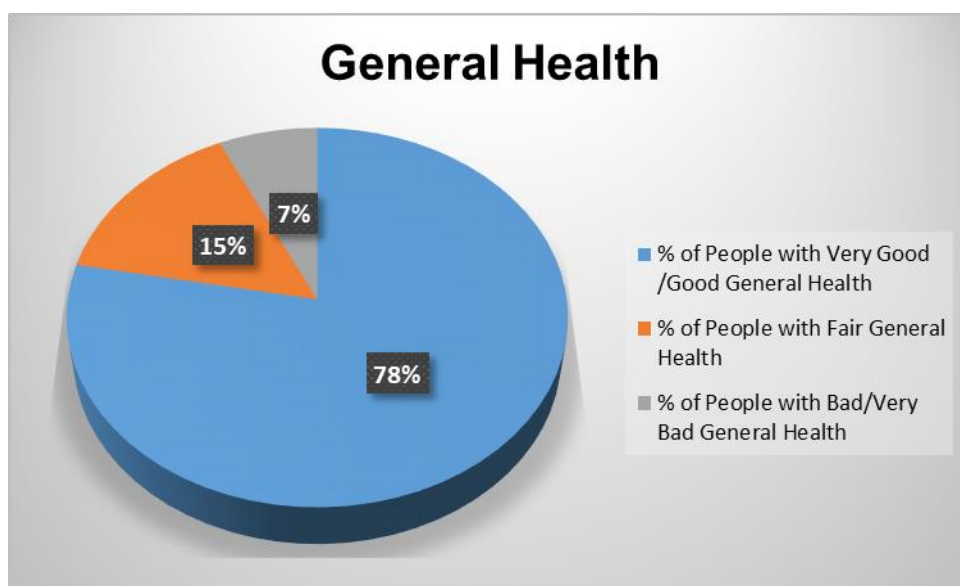
5.25 45% of children in our Borough are physically active, which is the same as the national average and slightly higher than the regional average. However, the adult figure of under 61% is significantly lower than the regional and national figures (64% and 66%). This is a major risk factor for a range of chronic diseases and disorders, and links directly to levels of adult obesity in the Borough.

5.26 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

5.27 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

5.28 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

5.28 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.

5.29 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 5: Indices of Multiple Deprivation 2019
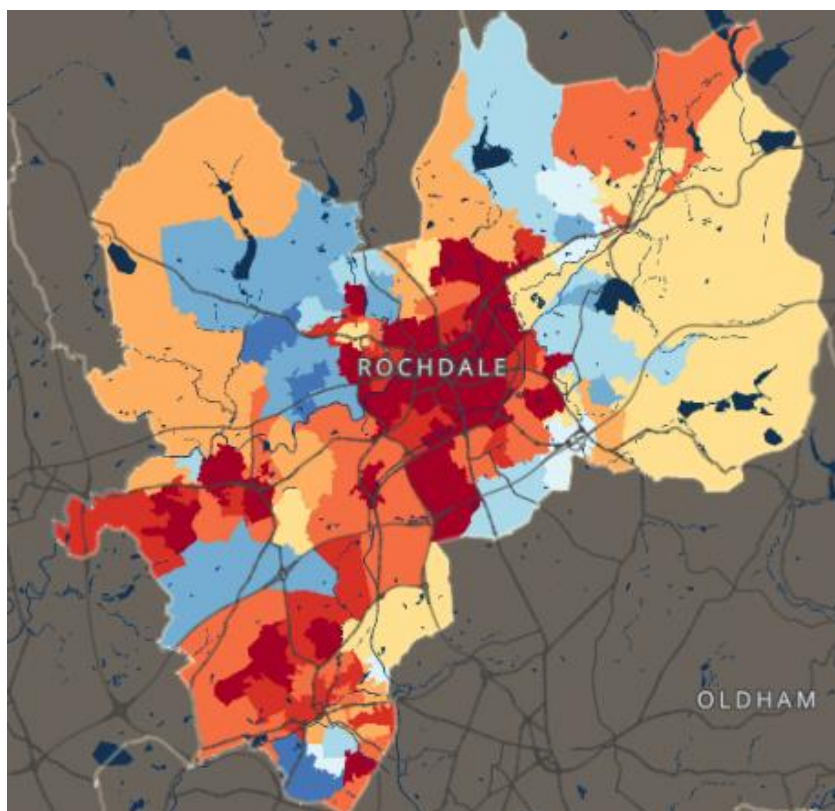
Links across the Integrated Assessment

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

Transport & Connectivity

5.31 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).

5.32 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.

5.33 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.

5.34 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%).

5.35 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

5.36 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

5.37 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.

5.38 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

5.39 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

5.40 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 6: Map of AQMA Areas in Rochdale
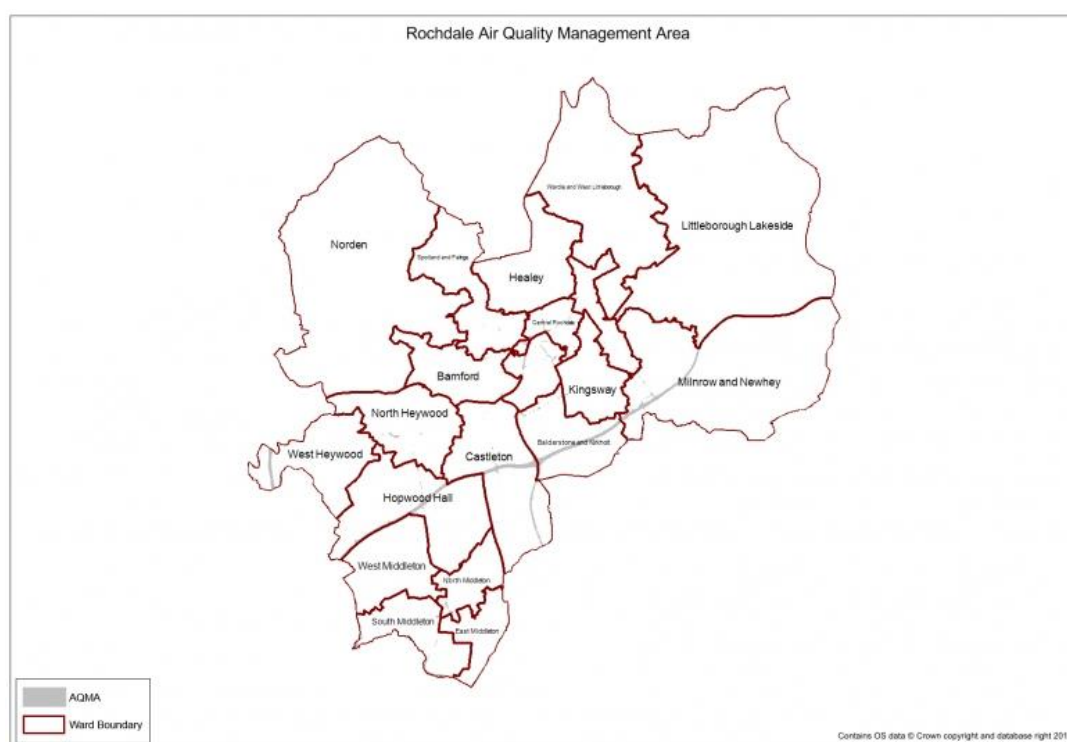
5.41 The 10 Greater Manchester authorities are currently developing a Clean Air Plan, to accelerate compliance with the legal limit for Nitrogen dioxide and to protect and promote the health of its population and the environment.

Links across the Integrated Assessment

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

Biodiversity and Geodiversity

5.43   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.

5.44   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.

5.45   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.

5.46   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]

5.47   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.

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[1] Greater Manchester Local Record Centre

Figure 7: Sites of Biological Importance in Rochdale
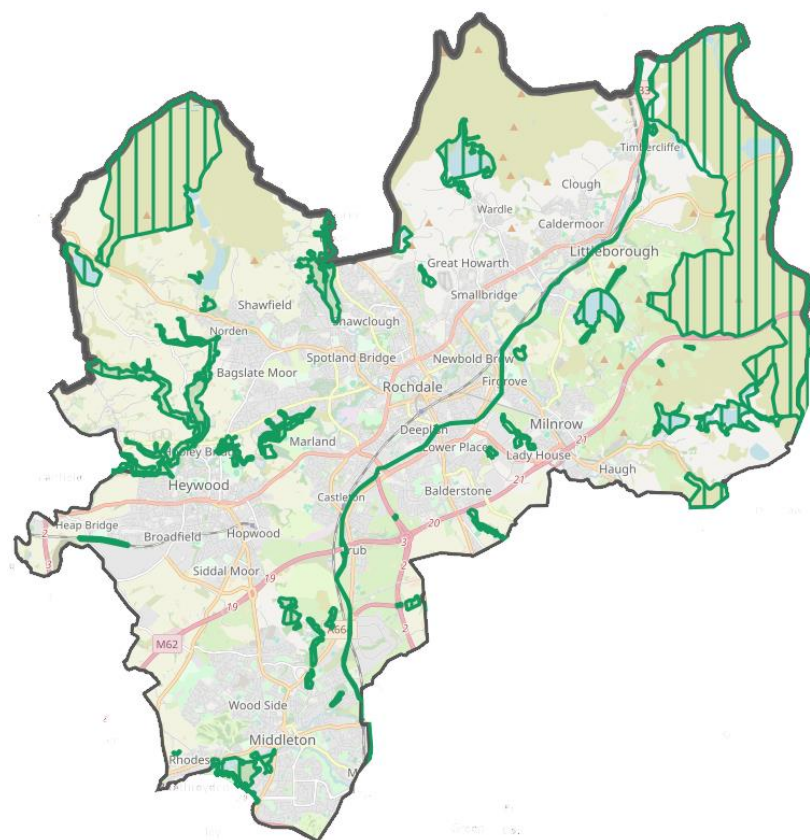
5.48   Greater Manchester was one of five areas selected by the Government to pilot the development of a Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS). The purpose of the LNRS is summarised as making spaces for nature which are more, bigger, better and joined through:

-    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.

5.49   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

5.43   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.

Green Infrastructure

5.50   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 8: Green Infrastructure Resources
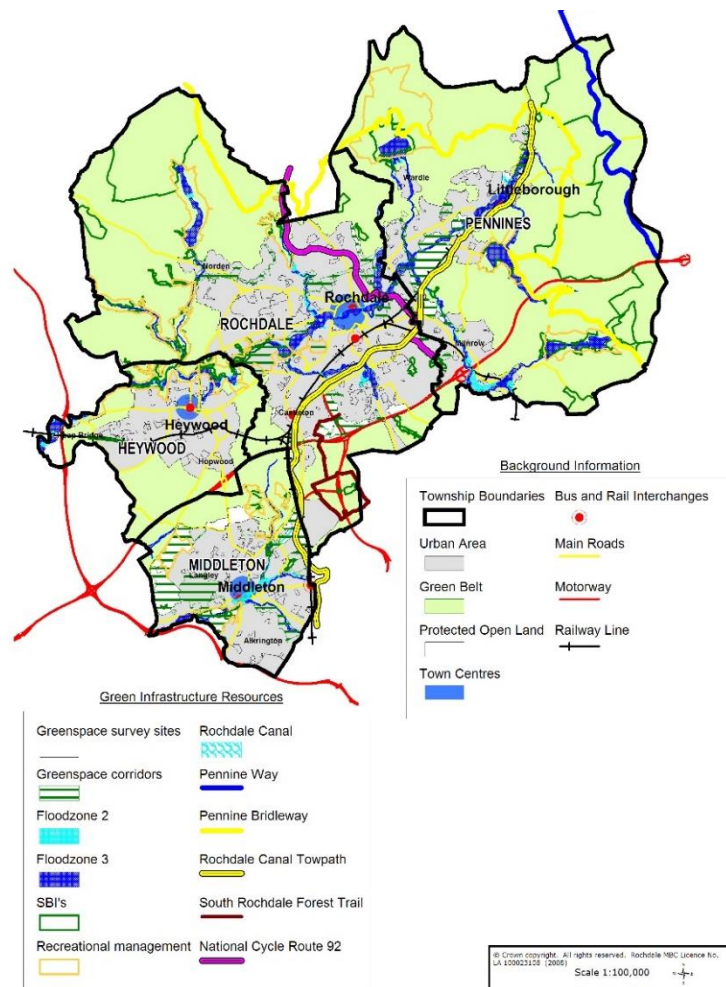
Links across the Integrated Assessment

5.51   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

5.52   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.

5.53   Figure 9 below shows that in general per capita CO2 emissions have been gradually decreasing in Rochdale in line with regional and national trends.

Figure 9: Per capita Carbon Dioxide Emissions by Year and Area
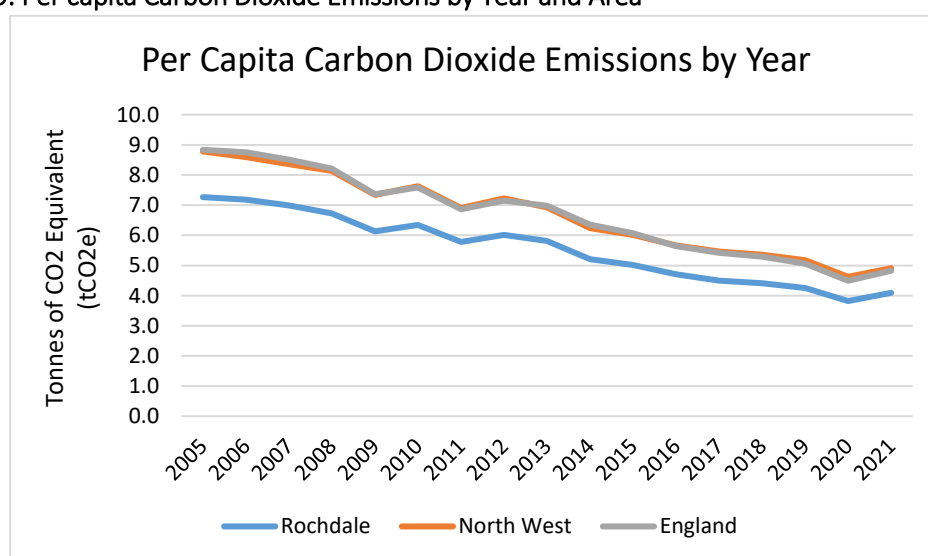
5.54   The sectors with the largest amount of CO2 emissions in the borough are transport and domestic, followed by industrial emissions.

Figure 10: Carbon Dioxide Emissions in Rochdale by Year and Sector
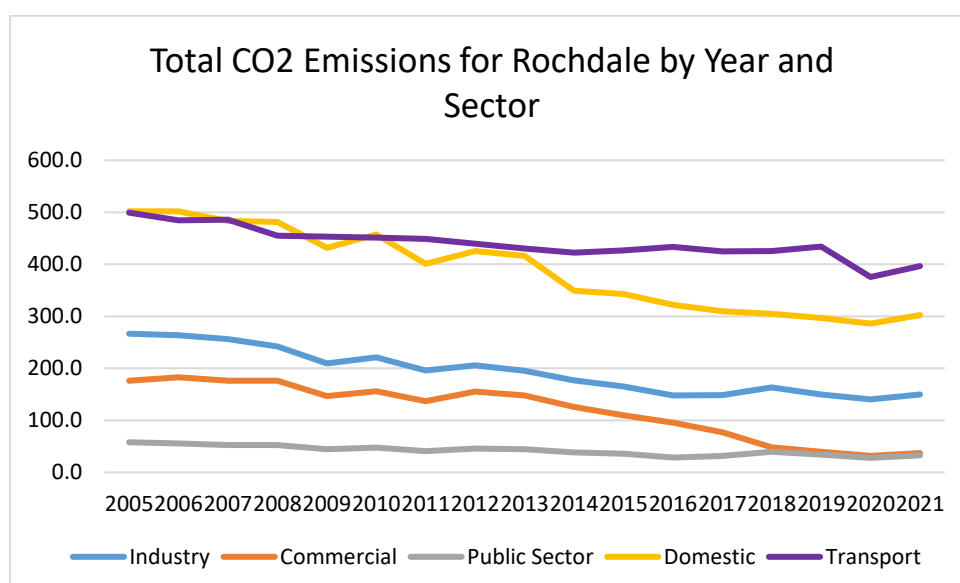
5.55 The sectors with the largest amount of CO2 emissions in the borough are transport and domestic, followed by industrial emissions.

Climate Adaptation and Resilience

5.56 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).

5.57 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.

5.58 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 11: Neighbourhood Flood Vulnerability Index (Source: Climate Just)
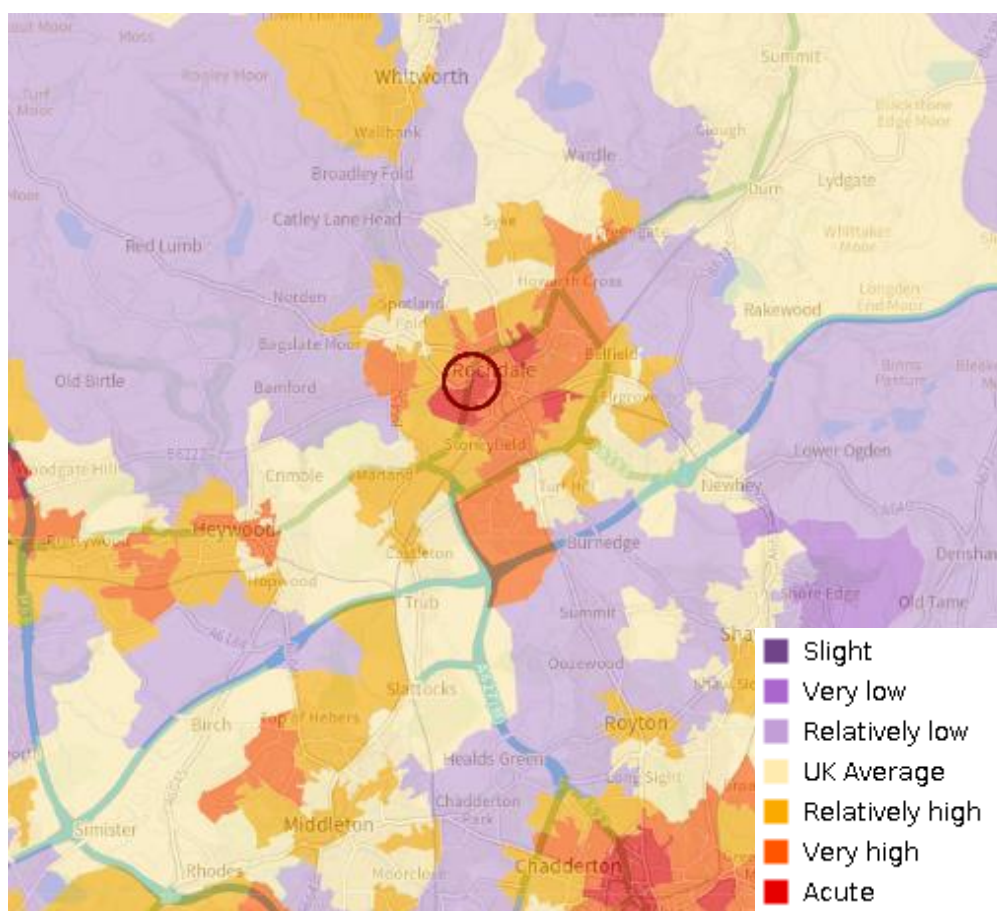
5.59   As well as increased precipitation and flooding events being recognised risks of climate change, there is also a growing risk of extreme heat as global average temperatures increase. These effects are already being experienced, such as in July 2022 when temperatures in Rochdale exceeded 37 °C. Such extreme heat events have been shown to have serious effects on health, particularly to vulnerable groups.

5.60   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 12: Heat Socio-spatial Vulnerability (Source: Climate Just)
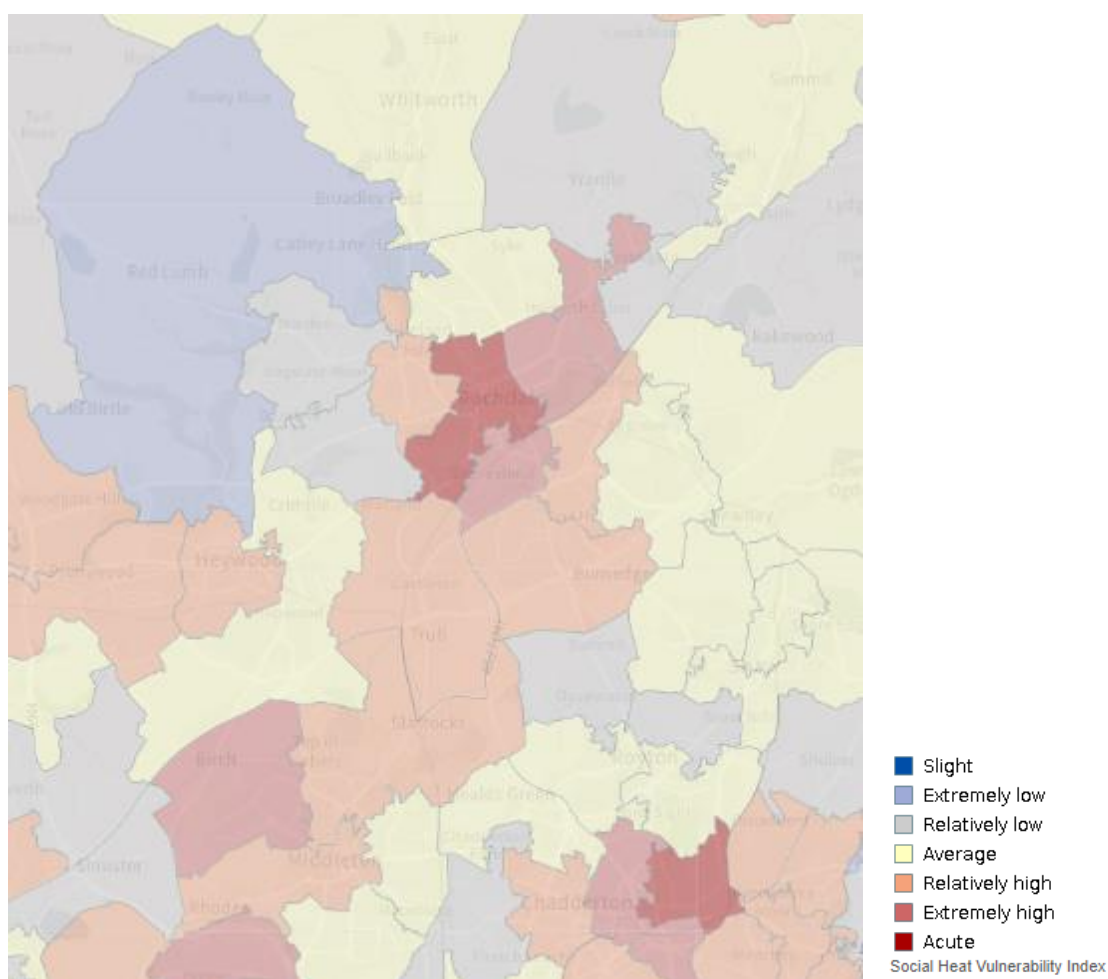
Links across the Integrated Assessment

5.61   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

5.62   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 13: The North West River Basin District

5.63 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

5.64 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.

5.65 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]

Links across the Integrated Assessment

5.66 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.

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[2] The Flood Hub

Figure 14: Map of Flood zones 2 and 3 in Rochdale
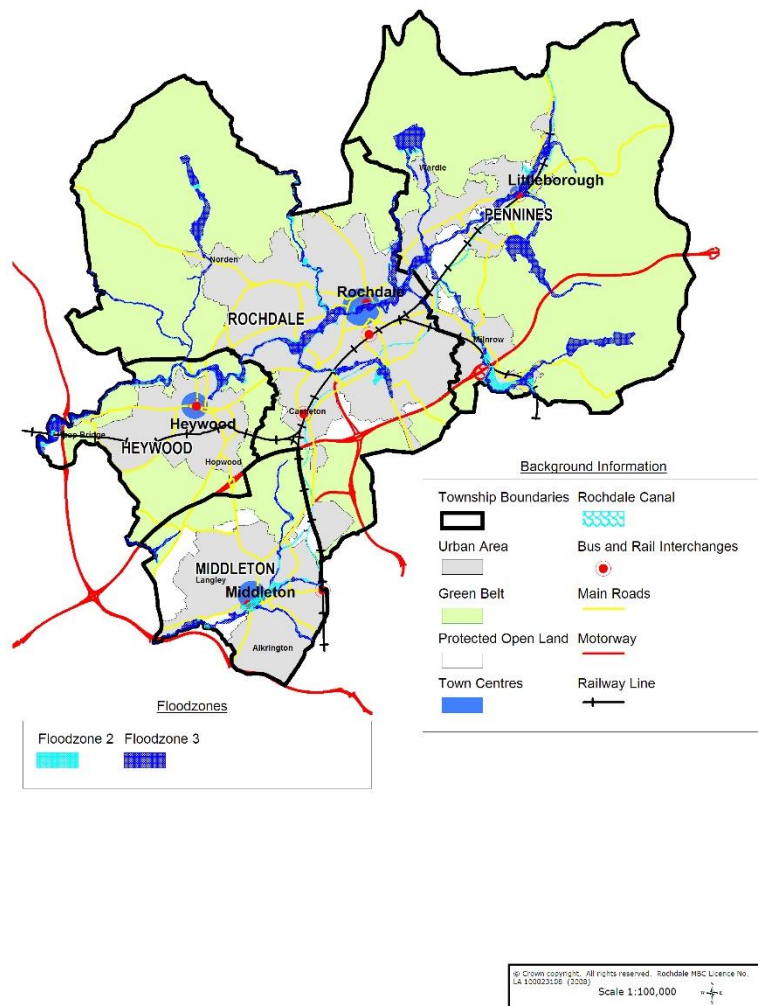
Landscape and Built Heritage

5.67 The historical development of the borough and its rapid industrialisation has left behind some high density, often poor quality development and an inappropriate mix of land uses. Housing can be cheek by jowl with industry and tightly packed developments fronting main roads has left little room for current levels of road traffic and to create attractive corridors. Compared with other industrial towns, the level of derelict and contaminated land is not high. However, contaminated land, on some older employment sites is particularly serious and is discouraging development and investment.

5.68 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.

5.69 The borough's setting, its heritage and rural attractions are seen as an asset not just for its residents but also for the visitor economy, which has great potential to expand. There is good survival of heritage from the 18th and 19th centuries, parts of Rochdale medieval town are of regional significance, and there are several outstanding historical landscapes.

5.70 Rochdale Town Hall, a grade one listed building regarded as one of the country's finest examples of Victorian Gothic architecture, re-opened in 2024 after an extensive period of restoration. The nearby Touchstones gallery has also received funding to develop a creative hub in the town centre. These flagship projects provide opportunities to expand the cultural offering in Rochdale town centre.

5.71 In 2022 the Council adopted the Middleton Town Centre Masterplan, which will provide a framework for placemaking and regeneration in order to identify and maximise opportunities in the town.

Links across the Integrated Assessment

5.72 Landscape and built heritage 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

5.73 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 3. 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

5.74   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 15: Map of Minerals Safeguarding Areas in Rochdale
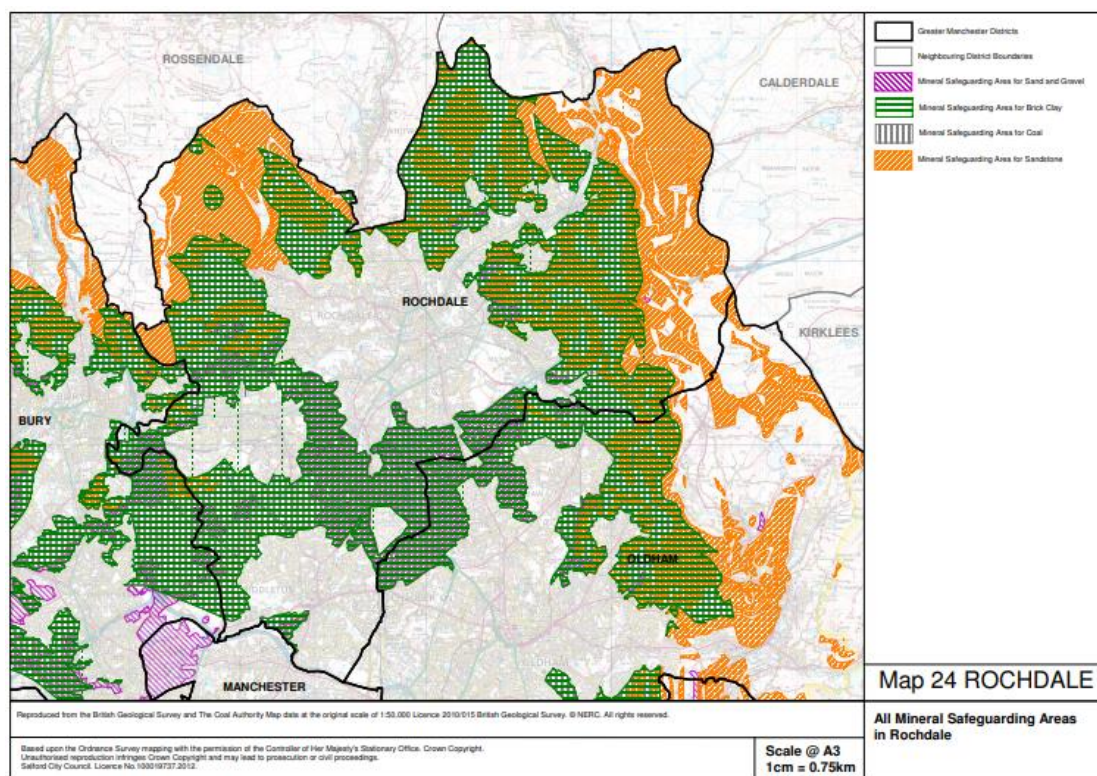
Waste

5.75 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.

Links across the Integrated Assessment

5.76 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

5.77 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.

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

5.79 Appendix 3 shows additional baseline indicators under the headings used in the Greater Manchester joint plan to ensure a broad range of topics are covered.

6 Key sustainability Issues

The analysis of 'other policies, plans and programmes' (as detailed in Chapter 4 and Appendix 2) and the 'collection of baseline data' (as detailed in Chapter 5 and Appendix 3), have allowed key issues to be identified which the Local Plan will need to respond to. These issues are detailed in the sections below in relation to each baseline topic areas (Table 3) and will be used to define the IA objectives in Chapter 7.

Table 4: Key Sustainability Issues

Topic	Issues	Aims
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. – Issues of overcrowding in some parts of the borough.	– 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	– Overconcentration of manufacturing industries whose employees are low skilled and on low wages. – Business survival rates are lower in comparison with elsewhere and there is also an under-representation of financial and business services within the borough. – 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.	– 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 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	− The Borough has a low skills base compared with regional and national averages	− Ensure sufficient access to education infrastructure with new developments.
Deprivation	− Some parts of the borough suffer from problems of high deprivation, particularly inner urban areas.	− Promote regeneration and investment in areas to improve the local economy and environment. − (Links across topic areas e.g. health, employment, housing, environment and crime).
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	− 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 has 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. − Development will need to be resilient to the impacts of climate change (e.g. extreme weather, risk of 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 allocating new development in Air Quality Management Areas.
Biodiversity & Geodiversity	− Biodiversity under pressure from development, poor management and design, and fragmentation of habitats. − Legal requirement to deliver Biodiversity Net Gain.	− Ensure sites of biodiversity 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 & built heritage	− Environmental challenges and opportunities for regeneration, recreation and conservation around Rochdale Canal. − Rochdale has a range of built heritage assets and outstanding landscapes. Landscape character types are identified in the PfE plan. − 3 Grade II, 6 Grade II* listed buildings and 3 Conservation Areas in the Borough are in the Historic England Heritage at Risk register.	− Promote opportunities for regeneration and recreation around the Rochdale Canal, while being sensitive to ecological considerations. − Ensure new development is sensitive to the characteristics of landscape character types. − Ensure new development protects and enhances listed buildings and Conservation Areas, especially those at risk.
Minerals & Waste	− Parts of the borough are covered by minerals safeguarding areas. − The Borough produces too much waste which goes to landfill.	− Ensure minerals are sustainability managed. − Promote sustainable management of waste.
Land Resources and Soils	− 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.

7   The Integrated Assessment Framework

7.1   The IA framework provides a means to assess the effects of the Local Plan.

The Framework comprises a set of objectives and assessment criteria based on the sustainability issues identified in Chapter 6. The objectives are a clear statement of what the Local Plan should achieve, and the assessment criteria are presented as a set of questions to enable the IA to test whether the Local Plan policies meet the objectives.

7.2   When devising objectives based on the key sustainability issues, it is important to ensure a robust and comprehensive assessment process without being overly-complex or onerous.

We examined the approaches to IA scoping taken by several other local planning authorities and decided that there were significant benefits of aligning with the 18 objectives in the Greater Manchester Places for Everyone Plan (PfE). This is considered an appropriate number of objectives and will promote consistency between PfE and our Local Plan. Where appropriate, our Local Plan objectives and assessment criteria will be modified to reflect local issues specific to Rochdale.

7.3   Table 5 below sets out the proposed IA Framework.

Proposals for the Integrated Assessment Process

7.4   At each stage of the Local Plan process, options will be identified and assessed against the proposed objectives set out in this document. In this way, sustainability issues can be identified and the proposals modified to ensure they are addressed.

7.5   Table 5 below shows an example of how it is proposed that options will be scored against sustainability objectives. This uses a ratings system, with comments as to why a particular rating has been scored. This assessment will form the body of the Integrated Assessment report, and will be carried out by a panel.

Table 5: The Sustainability Appraisal Framework

Number	IA Objective	Assessment criteria – Will the Rochdale Local Plan…
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.	Ensure an appropriate quantity and quality of housing land to meet the identified local need for market and affordable housing? 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	Ensure access to and provision of appropriate 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?

8	Support improved educational attainment and skill levels for all.	Improve education levels of children in the area, regardless of their background?
		Improve educational and skill levels of the population of working age?
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 resilient to the effects of climate change.	Ensure that communities, existing and new developments and infrastructure systems are resilient 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, heritage assets and their setting and the local character and distinctiveness of Rochdale	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?
		Protect or enhance the historic environment, including the significance of heritage assets (designated assets and locally listed assets) and their setting?
		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?

Table 6: Example of Sustainability Appraisal Options Comparison

--	Undermining – has potential to significantly undermine the objective	+	Fair – makes some direct or significant indirect contribution to the objective
-	Poor – does not contribute to the objective and is a missed opportunity	++	Good – makes a significant direct contribution to the objective
+/-	Weak – makes a minor, indirect contribution to the objective and is a missed opportunity	+++	Excellent – makes a close to optimal contribution to the objective

	Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	Comments	Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	Comments
Will the Plan create decent, energy efficient housing with a choice of location, size and tenure?	+	+	++	This option is likely to lead to significant improvements to housing stock in long term only	++	++	++	This option offers significant scope for improving the housing stock
Will the Plan encourage harmonious communities?	+/-	+/-	+/-	This option has no specific impact upon this objective	+/-	+	+	This option has elements in it which are likely to lead to stronger communities
Will the Plan Increase sport and leisure activities and greater access to the countryside to help promote healthier lifestyles?	+	++	+++	This option will lead to gradual improvement in open spaces, which will have more long term health benefits	-	--	--	This option allows development in such a way that in the medium to long term there will be a reduction in access to open spaces

8   Consultation on this scoping report

8.1   It is required that the statutory environmental bodies identified in the SEA regulations - namely Natural England, Historic England and the Environment Agency – are consulted at this stage.

8.2   The consultation period will last for 6 weeks.

8.3   Through the Regulation 18 consultation, local people and other stakeholders will also have the opportunity to consider and comment on this Report.

8.4   Specific comments are sought in respect of the following questions:

1. Are there any other relevant policies, plans or programmes that should be considered as part of the IA?
2. Do you agree with the issues that have been identified? Are there any other key issues that you think need to be addressed in the IA Report?
3. Do you agree with the IA objectives and indicators that have been identified?
4. Do you agree with the Integrated Assessment Framework Approach?

Appendix 1: SEA Directive Requirements

Table 7 shows the SEA Directive requirements, some of which are met by this scoping report. The Table indicates which of the requirements will be covered by which stage of the Integrated Assessment Report.

Table 7: SEA Directive requirements

The SEA Directive Requirements	Where covered in this report
Preparation of Environmental Report (Art. 5 and Annex I)	
a) An outline of the contents, main objectives of the plan or programme, and relationships with other relevant plans and programmes	Chapter 1, Table 1, Final IA Report
b) The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme	Table 12 and Final IA Report
c) The environmental characteristics of the areas likely to be significantly affected.	Chapter 5, Appendix 3 and Final IA Report
d) Any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan including, in particular those relating to any areas of particular environmental importance.	Final IA Report
e) The environmental protection objectives established at international community or national level, which are relevant to the plan or programme and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation.	Table 1 and Final IA Report
f) The likely significant effects on the environment, including issues such as biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors.	To be included in Final IA Report
g) The measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme.	To be included in Final IA Report.
h) An outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with, and description of how the assessment was undertaken including any difficulties.	To be included in Final IA Report.
i) A description of measures envisaged concerning monitoring in accordance with Article 10.	To be included in Final IA Report.

The report shall include the information that may be reasonably required taking into account current knowledge and methods of assessment, the contents and level of detail in the plan or programme, its stage in the decision-making process and the extent to which certain matters are more appropriately assessed at different levels in that process to avoid duplication of the assessment	To be included in Final IA Report.
Consultation	
Authorities with environmental responsibility, when deciding on the scope and the level of details of the information to be included in the environmental report	8.1, Final IA Report
Authorities with environmental responsibility and the public shall be given an early and effective opportunity within appropriate time frames to express their opinion on the draft plan and the accompanying environmental report before adoption of the plan or programme	To be included in Final IA Report.
Taking the environmental report and the results of the consultations into account in decision making	
Provision of information on the decision When the plan or programme is adopted, the public and any countries under Article 7 shall be informed and the following made available to those so informed: – The plan or programme as adopted – A statement summarising how environmental considerations have been integrated into the plan or programme and how the environmental report, the opinions of the public and statutory consultees, have been taken into account in accordance with Article 8 and the reasons for choosing the plans adopted, in the light of the other reasonable alternatives dealt with and: – The measures decided concerning monitoring.	To be included in Final IA Report.
Monitoring of the significant environmental effects of the plan's or programme's implementation	To be included in Final IA Report.
Quality assurance: environmental reports should be of a sufficient standard to meet the requirements of the SEA Directive	To be included in Final IA Report.

Appendix 2: Other relevant policies, plans and strategies and sustainability objectives

Table 8. 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 Archaeological Heritage (Valetta Convention), 1995	Promote polices for the conservation and enhancement of Europe's heritage	Not directly relevant but provides wider context for heritage considerations

Table 9: 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
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	IA objective on resilience to climate impacts

	priority for the Government, to help protect the economy and its future growth	
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		
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 creation of Clean Air Zones and policy options to improve air quality.	IA objective related to 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 heritage assets
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 heritage assets
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 Agenda, One Economy, One North (The Northern Transport Strategy)	Transport vision to maximise the economic potential of the North	Included for context
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

	welcoming, engaging and accessible for all local children and young people, including disabled children, and children from minority groups in the community	consideration of play facilities
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
Planning for Sport Guidance (2019)	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
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 guidance sets out 10 principles for 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 designing healthier places (2017)	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
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 10: 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	The Local Plan will contain policies related to strengthening communities and places IA requires objective on design, local environmental quality and inclusive communities

	− Strengthening communities and places	
Climate Change and Energy		
The Greater Manchester Five Year Environment Plan 2019 - 2024	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 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
Greater Manchester's Local Nature Recovery Strategy Pilot Final Report (2021, GMCA)		
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	The Local Plan should ensure that it considers the needs of the freight and logistics activities

	needs of freight and passenger demand for our transport network and systems	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 ensuring homes and communities support ageing in place (2023)	Key features to consider include: Celebrating Older People Planning for Age-Friendly Neighbourhoods Designing Age-Friendly Homes	Requires IA objectives on housing to meet local needs, inclusive neighbourhoods and high-quality development
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
Heritage and landscape		
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 11: 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	The Local Plan will need to refer to the Core Strategy to help determine which policies are

	460 new homes a year between 2012 and 2028, and 210 hectares of employment land.	appropriate for the new Local Plan, what evidence exists, and what else is needed.
	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 IA will need to refer to the Core Strategy for context.
DRAFT Rochdale DPD Allocation	The Allocations Plan is currently in draft form. It was consulted on in 2018 but has not been adopted due to PFE.	The Local Plan will need to refer to the draft DPD allocations as part of the evidence base.
	It proposes areas and sites around the borough to build or develop up to 2028. It also details possible uses for each of the sites. Our Allocations Plan is currently in draft form.	The IA will need to refer to the Core Strategy for context.
Annual Monitoring Report (2019)	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 2016 to 31 March 2017.	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		
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		
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	
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	
Flood Risk management Strategy (2014)		

Appendix 3: Stage A2 Baseline Indicators

Table 12: 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%	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

		16-64: 65.0% 65+: 15.9%			projections
Ethnicity	74% White 18.4% Asian/Asian British 2.4% Mixed/Multiple Ethnic Groups 3.6% Black/Black British 1.7% Other groups	Greater Manchester: 76.4% White 13.6% Asian England: 81.0% White 9.6% Asian	2011 81.7% White 14.9% Asian/Asian British 1.3% Black/Black British 1.7% Mixed/Multiple Ethnic Groups 0.4% Other groups	Rochdale has a higher proportion of Asian/Asian British residents than GM and England.	2021 Census
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	2011 – 87,552 Increase of 2,671 since last census.	Increase of 2,671 (267 per year) which equates to 3.1%.	2021 Census

		Greater Manchester – 4.4% increase			
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 mortrage (inc Shared 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 30-50dph: 52,25,83,43	Higher density development in town centres and close to transport hubs continues to be a strategic priority in Greater Manchester.	Rochdale Authority Monitoring Report

	<30dph: 34%		<30dph: 22,53,9,29		
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 major employment sites such as Kingsway Business Park and Heywood Distribution Park.	Rochdale Authority Monitoring Report
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	September 2023: Residents (16-64) economically active: 75.1% Unemployment: 4.4%	North West: Economically active: 77.2% Unemployment: 3.6% GB: Economically active: 78.6% Unemployment: 3.7%	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	22/23: 71.1%	(2022/23) North West: 73.8% Great Britain: 75.6%	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 (2023) 645.3/ 597.1	North West: 649/ 646.3 Great Britain: 682.6/ 682.6	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 (2023)
Employment by Industry	Rochdale: Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles: 20.3%	North West: Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles: 14.7%		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	ONS Business Register and Employment Survey (2022)

	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% 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%	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% 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%		technical activities, financial and insurance activities.	

	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%	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: 8.4% Professional Occupations: 16.6% Associate Professional Occupations: 14.6% Administrative & Secretarial occupations: 13.5% Skilled trades occupations: 8.3%	North West: Managers, Directors and Senior Officials: 10.2% Professional Occupations: 26.0% Associate Professional Occupations: 14.3% Administrative & Secretarial occupations: 10.7% Skilled trades occupations: 7.6%		Lower proportion of managers/directors and professional occupations. High proportion of caring, leisure and other service occupations.	ONS Annual Population Survey

	Caring, Leisure and Other Service: 13.0% Sales and Customer Services: 7.8% Process Plant & Machine Operatives: 7.0% Elementary Occupations: 10.7%	Caring, Leisure and Other Service: 8.7% Sales and Customer Services: 6.4% Process Plant & Machine Operatives: 5.9% Elementary Occupations: 9.6%			
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. This has decreased since 2019 in keeping with the national trend.	ONS Life expectancy for local areas in England, 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	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)

	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				
	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% Tram 0.9 Train 0.9 Bicycle 0.9 On foot 7.1	GM Work at home 28.6% Car/van 51.7% Bus/coach 5.4% Tram 1.4% Train 1% Bicycle 1.7% On foot 7.7%	% work at home increase from 2% in 2011 census	Joint lowest (with Oldham) % of people who work at home in Greater Manchester. Higher proportion of those who commute by car than GM average.	Census 2021
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%	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

		At least once a month: 9.3%			
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	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. However the average population per park, public garden or	Access to public green space in Great Britain (ONS, 2021)

	Median distance to nearest park/playing field (m): 307.97

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 | | 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 | N/A | N/A | The Green Flag award recognises and rewards well managed parks and green spaces. | RMBC |

	Middleton Cemetery, Middleton; Middleton Memorial Garden Milnrow Memorial Park Rochdale Town Centre Parks: Broadfield Park, 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	Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (2023)

				has increased since 2020, which during the peak of the Covid-19 pandemic.	
Total CO2 Emissions per sector	2021: Industry: 149.8 Commercial: 37.1 Public Sector: 33.1 Domestic: 302.3 Transport: 369.4	N/A	2010: Industry: 221.4 Commercial: 156.2 Public Sector: 47.8 Domestic: 457.4 Transport: 451.6	The transport sector followed by domestic, are the biggest sources of CO2 emissions. While the 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.	Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (2023)
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%	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%		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)

	Residential Gardens: 10.2% Undeveloped Land: 2.9% Unknown developed use: 4.5%	Residential Gardens: 4.9% Undeveloped Land: 0.9% Unknown developed use: 1.9%			
Landscape & Built Heritage					
Landscape Character Areas (Types)	The following Greater Manchester Landscape Character 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	N/A	N/A	Rochdale has a high proportion of GM's Open Moorlands and Enclosed Upland Fringes (West/South Pennines) character type, which is the largest character type in the borough by area.	Greater Manchester Landscape Character and Sensitivity Report (GMCA, 2018)
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	3 – Castleton (South), Middleton Town Centre		The target is zero	There are currently 28 Conservation Areas in Rochdale Borough.	Historic England Heritage at

England Heritage at Risk Register	and Rochdale Town Centre				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%	2021/22 – 50.6%	Recycling rates have plateaued in recent years but higher than national and regional averages.	DEFRA - Local Authority Collected Waste Statistics (2024)
		North West – 45.3%	2020/21 – 48.0%		
			2019/20 - 49.9%		
			2018/19 – 48.6%		
			2017/18 – 47.9%		

Appendix 4: Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) Template

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			
Disability			
Gender reassignment or Transgender people			
Marriage & civil partnership			
Pregnancy & maternity			
Race			
Religion or belief			
Sex			
Sexual orientation			
Carers			
Serving or ex serving armed forces			

Source: Taken from Rochdale Council Sustainability Impact Assessment

Appendix 5: Health Impact Assessment (HIA) Screening Template

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.		
Will the policy have an impact on social, economic and environmental living 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.		
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.		
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.		
Will the proposal have an impact on global health?		
*Equalities groups such as race, gender, health, disability, sexual orientation, age, religion or belief.		

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