

# ROCHDALE BOROUGH LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK CORE STRATEGY

## Preferred Options Sustainability Appraisal Report



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## Chapter 1: Non Technical Summary and How to Comment

**SEA Directive Annex 1 (j)**  
(see para 2.3)

- 1.1 This document outlines the process and outcomes in respect of the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) of the Rochdale MBC Core Strategy Development Planning Document (DPD). This is required by the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and the European Union Directive 2001/42/EC (SEA Directive), the latter requiring 'Environmental Assessment' which may be, and in this case is, incorporated into the SA process.
- 1.2 Sustainability Appraisal assesses the potential impact of a particular plan on economic, social and environmental objectives to ensure that it promotes sustainable development. In this way the plan can be amended to take account of any negative impacts it may have. For a Development Plan Document such as the Core Strategy, integration of Sustainability Appraisal into its preparation process is vital. Thus the appraisal has been aligned with all phases of the DPD preparation.

### The Core Strategy and its likely significant effects

- 1.3 The Core Strategy DPD is the key document of the Local Development Framework (LDF), the statutory land – use plan for the Borough. It will set a strategic framework for growth and development in the Borough up to at least 2026. It will have a significant impact upon where new development takes place in the borough, and therefore will significantly impact upon quality of life of residents, the number of jobs in the borough, the quality of the environment, (both natural and built) and the character of the borough. Biodiversity could be harmed or enhanced by the development of the borough, and the Core Strategy can influence this. Wider issues which the Core Strategy can influence include climate change and pollution in the region and beyond.
- 1.4 The Core Strategy is being developed in a number of stages. The 'Issues and Options' stage identified six 'spatial options' for the future development of the borough. This has now been refined into 'Preferred Options', containing a spatial strategy, key strategic sites and locations and core policies. All of these have been subject to Sustainability Appraisal, and the appraisals themselves have been subject to consultation along with the various stages of the DPD documents.

### The SA Process

- 1.5 The first stage in the SA process was to carry out a scoping exercise, setting the context and objectives. This involved scoping other relevant policies and plans and baseline information, leading to identification of key sustainability issues and problems and development of an SA Framework – 'sustainability objectives' against which the plan will be assessed. These objectives derive either from other relevant plans or programmes, or from a review of the baseline information / issues and problems. This scoping exercise and Framework development was undertaken and is outlined in the SA Scoping Report which was published in April 2009. 26 objectives were identified.

- 1.6 The six spatial options of the Core Strategy 'Issues and Options' were assessed against the objectives and this assessment influenced the development of the 'Preferred Options' spatial strategy, key sites and locations for future development and core policies. All of these were then assessed using the same objectives.

#### The difference the process has made to date

- 1.7 The initial sustainability appraisal which took place of the six spatial options helped to identify the most sustainable options and where different options performed best in sustainability terms. This informed the selection process and the subsequent preferred options document.
- 1.8 The appraisal of the key sites and locations for future development growth helped to identify the most sustainable locations and assisted in directing proposed future growth where it can be most sustainably accommodated, including suggesting refinements for the 'growth corridors' identified in the Preferred Options document, some of which are essentially a number of the sites which have been assessed. The appraisal of the core policies allowed for refinement of the policies to ensure that they will help to deliver more sustainable growth.
- 1.9 Thus the Preferred Options document which is now submitted for consultation has taken on board the assessment process in order to ensure maximum contribution to the future sustainable development of the borough.

#### Monitoring the significant effects of the plan

- 1.9 It is possible that, following consultation, the plan will be further amended and if there are any significant changes these will be subject to the same sustainability appraisal process. Further, the significant environmental effects of the implementation of the plan will be monitored to identify any unforeseen adverse effects and to enable appropriate remedial action to be taken. This will be done by developing indicators which relate to the sustainability objectives.

#### How to comment on the report

- 1.9 Comments on this draft SA report, as well as on the Development Plan Document itself, can be made during the six-week formal consultation period which begins on 26<sup>th</sup> October 2009. Official comments forms are available at [www.rochdale.gov.uk](http://www.rochdale.gov.uk) and also at the locations listed in appendix 3.
- 1.10 All comments must be submitted by **5 pm on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2009** to:

**By post:** Strategic Planning Team  
Floor 2  
Telegraph House  
Baillie Street  
Rochdale, OL16 1JH

**By fax:** 01706 864144

**By email:** [Strategic.planning@rochdale.gov.uk](mailto:Strategic.planning@rochdale.gov.uk)

## Chapter 2: Introduction

- 2.1 This document is the draft Sustainability Appraisal report (SA report) of the Rochdale MBC Core Strategy Development Planning Document (DPD). The SA report is the key output of the SA process, documenting the work carried out during the appraisal of the DPD.
- 2.2 The purpose of Sustainability Appraisal is to promote sustainable development through better integration of sustainability considerations in the preparation and adoption of plans (in this case, the proposed Development Planning Document constitutes 'the plan'). SA identifies and reports on the likely significant effects of the plan and the extent to which the implementation of the plan will achieve the social, environmental and economic objectives by which sustainable development can be defined. It does this by assessing the plan against 'sustainability objectives' developed from relevant plans and programmes and baseline information ( the 'Framework', developed during the scoping process).
- 2.3 Sustainability Appraisal of DPDs is a requirement of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. The SA must also meet the requirements of the European Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive 2001/42/EC (SEA Directive). In order to clarify how this report meets the requirements of the SEA Directive, which are outlined in Annex 1 of that document and labelled (a) to (j), boxes shaded in blue throughout the report (example: [SEA Directive Annex 1 \(a\)](#) ) will signpost where a particular requirement is being met.
- 2.4 The plan will also be subject to Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) of its impact upon European Protected Sites. In many ways this is a similar exercise to the SA, but obviously dealing with very specific potential impacts. The HRA will be put forward for comments at the same time as the plan and the SA.

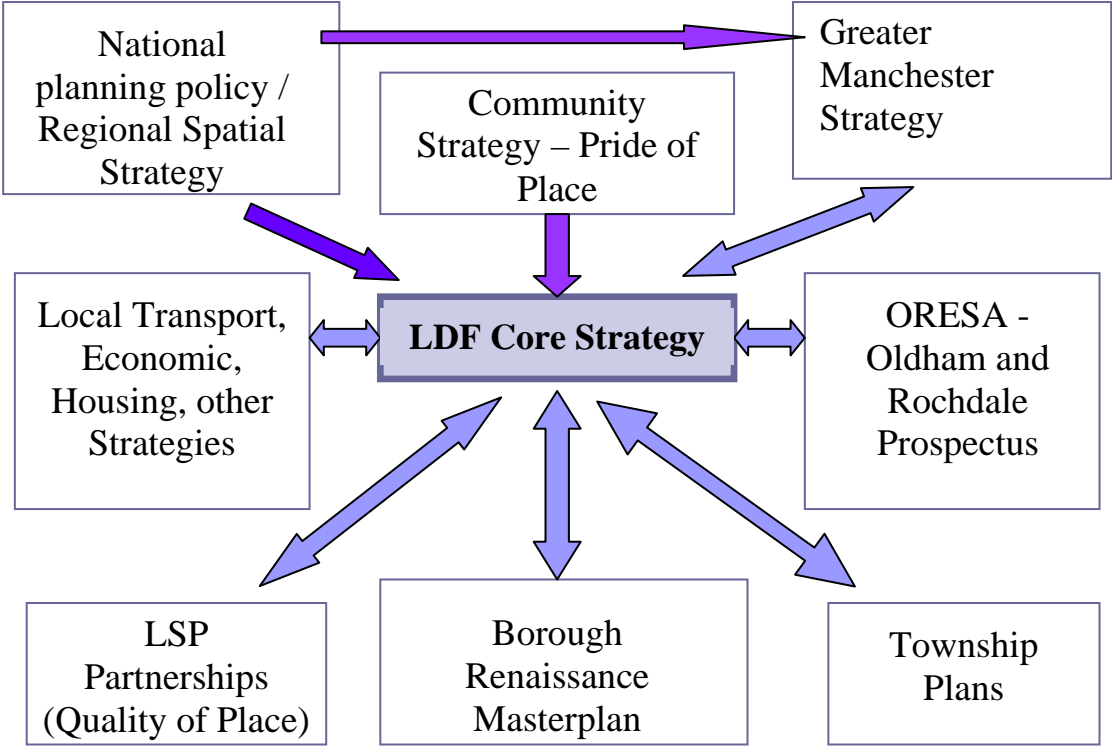
### The Core Strategy Development Planning Document and its likely impact on sustainability issues [SEA Directive Annex 1 \(a\)](#)

- 2.4 The Local Development Framework (LDF) will gradually replace the Rochdale Borough Unitary Development Plan (UDP), the existing statutory land-use plan for the Borough. The LDF is a portfolio of documents which primarily consists of Development Plan Documents (DPDs) and Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs). The existing UDP policies will be saved until they are replaced within the LDF.
- 2.5 The Core Strategy is the leading document of the Local Development Framework and it will set a strategic framework for growth and development in the Borough up to at least 2026. It sets the overall direction of growth and development, where development should be focussed, the key strategic sites required to deliver the strategy, and the broad policies for improving the borough. The key objectives of the Core Strategy are:
- Delivering a more prosperous economy
  - Creating successful and healthy communities
  - Improving design, image and quality of place

- Conserving and managing the natural environment and resources
  - Improving accessibility and delivering sustainable transport
- 2.6 The development of the Core Strategy is now at its second key phase: the 'Preferred Options' stage. Last year, at the 'Issues and Options' stage, there was consultation with the local community, landowners, development interests, agencies and infrastructure providers on six different options for how the borough should develop over the next 15 years. Those options explored how much housing and employment growth we should plan for and where development should be located. The options also looked at what facilities and services we need to go with that development and how we should protect our environment and improve the look of the borough.
- 2.7 After consideration of the views expressed, the 'preferred' (but not final) spatial option and policies are being presented. We have called this stage the 'Preferred Options' stage because they are not fixed and there are still some matters which are not decided on. As well as this, key growth corridors and strategic sites for the future development of the borough have been identified.
- 2.8 The direction which the Core Strategy, and its constituent elements, takes will have significant impacts upon economic, social and environmental objectives. Its influence is mainly spatial, i.e. the future spatial distribution of development in the borough, but it can also influence the types of developments that take place and how they are designed / laid out / constructed.
- 2.9 From an economic perspective, the Plan can allocate areas for future economic growth and ensure that sufficient land is available, and can influence the distribution of jobs in the borough. It can help to promote the borough to attract inward investment and encourage a visitor economy. From a social perspective, it can protect community facilities and influence the location and type of housing that is built. Environmentally, the Plan can prioritise brownfield development, can require energy efficiency standards, safeguard biodiversity and require climate change adaptation measures. It can influence the amount of pollution in the borough and the transport options available.
- 2.10 Figure 2.1 below shows the relationship of the Core Strategy with other relevant plans and programmes. The Core Strategy must have regard to the targets set out in the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) in respect of new housing and employment provision, and must also reflect the policies contained in that document. It will also reflect the community's key priorities (set out in the Sustainable Community Strategy 'Pride of Place') through the engagement of the Local Strategic Partnership, and will support and guide other strategies of the Council and its partners. The Core Strategy has also been progressed alongside the refresh of the Borough Renaissance Masterplan (as a means of agreeing and ensuring delivery of priority regeneration and development projects) and the Transport Strategy (in order to prioritise and help deliver the transport investment necessary to support the Core Strategy).



**Figure 2.1 relationship of Core Strategy to other relevant plans and programmes**



## Chapter 3: Context

SEA Directive Annex 1 (e)

### 3.1 Key documents relating to sustainability

The SA scoping report produced in April 2009 outlines the context of the appraisal in respect of other plans, programmes and policies in detail. However, it is worth noting again the key documents with which this appraisal process is seeking to align the Core Strategy, and how the objectives of those documents have been taken into account during the preparation of the Plan.

#### Securing the Future – The UK Government’s Sustainable Development Strategy (2005)

The Strategy highlights the renewed international push for sustainable development from the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg in 2002. It creates shared priorities for UK action. These are:

- Sustainable consumption and production – achieving more with less;
- Climate change and energy – seeking to secure a profound change in the way we generate and use energy;
- Natural resource protection and environmental enhancement – protecting and enhancing the environment to ensure a decent environment for everyone;
- Sustainable communities – creating communities which embrace the principle of sustainable development at the local level.

The Plan puts natural resource protection and sustainable communities as two of its key objectives, and well as containing a comprehensive climate change policy.

#### Planning Policy Statement 1: Delivering Sustainable Development (PPS1)

Sets out the key principles in terms of facilitating and promoting sustainable and inclusive patterns of urban and rural development. by ensuring high quality development through good and inclusive design, and the efficient use of resources. Planning authorities should ensure that sustainable development is treated in an integrated way in their development plans. In particular they should carefully consider the interrelationship between social inclusion, protecting and enhancing the environment, the prudent use of natural resources and economic development. Planning authorities should seek to achieve outcomes which enable social, environmental and economic objectives to be achieved together.

The Plan outlines policies in respect of good design and efficient use of resources, and also outlines the relationships between its economic, social and environmental objectives.

Planning Policy Statement: Planning and Climate Change (Supplement to PPS1)

Spatial strategies should:

- make a full contribution to delivering the Government's Climate Change Programme and energy policies, and in doing so contribute to global sustainability;
- in providing for the homes, jobs, services and infrastructure needed by communities, and in renewing and shaping the places where they live and work, secure the highest viable resource and energy efficiency and reduction in emissions;
- deliver patterns of urban growth and sustainable rural developments that help secure the fullest possible use of sustainable transport for moving freight, public transport, cycling and walking and which, overall, reduce the need to travel, especially by car;
- secure new development and shape places that minimise vulnerability, and provide resilience, to climate change and in ways that are consistent with social cohesion and inclusion;
- conserve and enhance biodiversity, recognising that the distribution of habitats and species will be affected by climate change;
- reflect the development needs and interests of communities and enable them to contribute effectively to tackling climate change; and
- respond to the concerns of business and encourage competitiveness and technological innovation in mitigating and adapting to climate change.

The Plan has a comprehensive climate change policy which reflects the PPS1 Supplement, outlining measures for tackling and adapting to climate change.

Rising to the Challenge: A Climate Change Action Plan for England's Northwest

Sets out a vision for the region and outlines outcomes to be achieved by 2020. These relate to both reducing regional greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to unavoidable effects of climate change, and the actions set out are characterized as enabling, encouraging, engaging, exemplifying and catalyzing.

The Plan relates to a number of the actions which relate to planning.

Pride of Place: The Community Strategy for Rochdale Borough 2007 – 2010:

Priority themes are Increasing Jobs and Prosperity, Making Sure Every Child Matters, Improving Community Safety, Creating a Cleaner Greener Environment and Improving Health and Wellbeing.

The Plan reflects the community's key priorities as set out in 'Pride of Place'.

### 3.2 Key characteristics of Rochdale Borough

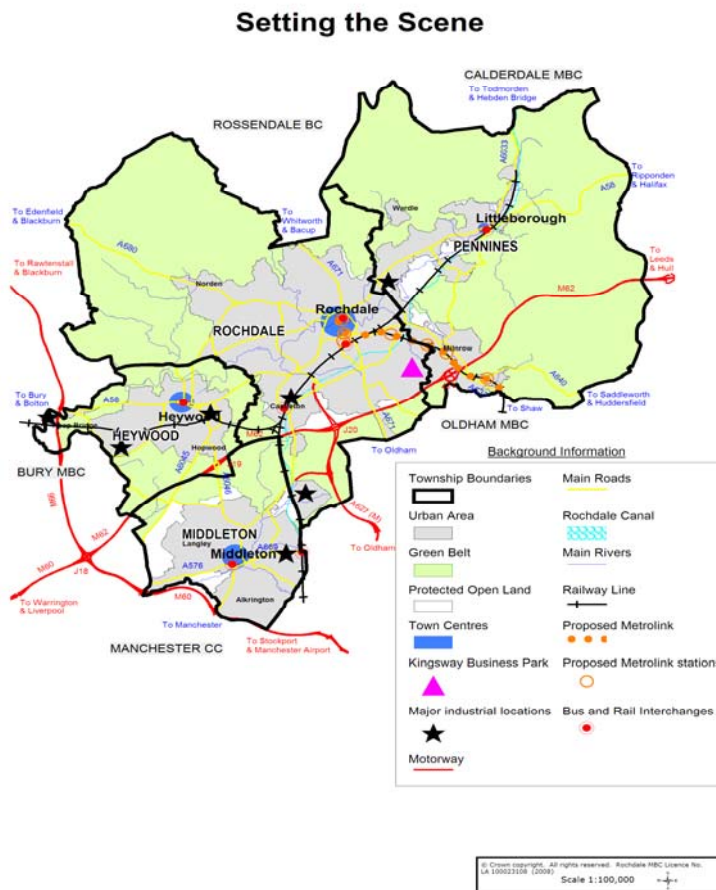
3.3 From the key documents and evidence base, the scoping report goes on to describe the baseline characteristics of the borough and identify the key sustainability issues. The latter can be summarised as follows:

- Housing areas in the Borough are polarised in terms of quality and price of housing
- Relatively low levels of house building in recent years has restricted choice
- An underperforming economy in comparison to the city region and north west
- Over-dependence on declining manufacturing sectors
- Poor skills profile in the workforce
- High levels of worklessness, resulting in high levels of the workforce being on benefits in particular in the inner areas
- Educational attainment and technical skills in the Borough, particularly in deprived areas, are low and accessible education and training facilities are needed to address this
- Crime and fear of crime is a problem in some parts of the Borough, particularly in the inner areas, town centres, some large housing estates and less secure employment areas
- There are national and local commitments to tackling climate change and its impacts generally including ensuring all new developments in the Borough are carbon neutral by 2020
- There is a need to widen travel choice and enhance sustainable accessibility to employment opportunities, shopping, education and local services
- 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
- Access to the countryside is poor in many parts of the Borough and urban open spaces vary significantly in quality and diversity
- The biodiversity of the Borough is under pressure from development, poor management and design and the loss of key features such as urban garden spaces; the Borough, like all local authorities, has a duty to have regard to the conservation of biodiversity in exercising its functions
- The Borough has a very low level of tree cover (3%)
- The percentage of rivers of good or fair quality is low
- There is pressure for more renewable energy developments
- Significant parts of the borough's urban areas are designated flood zones 2 or 3 on the Environment Agency flood map
- Significant parts of the Borough are covered by Air Quality Management Zones
- The Borough produces too much waste and sends most of it to landfill sites
- There are 3 Grade 11\* listed buildings in the Borough which are on the English Heritage Buildings at Risk Register 2008

- Access to the countryside and quality greenspace is poor in many parts of the Borough
- The general health of the population is worse than the national average

### 3.4 Rochdale Borough – current state of the environment

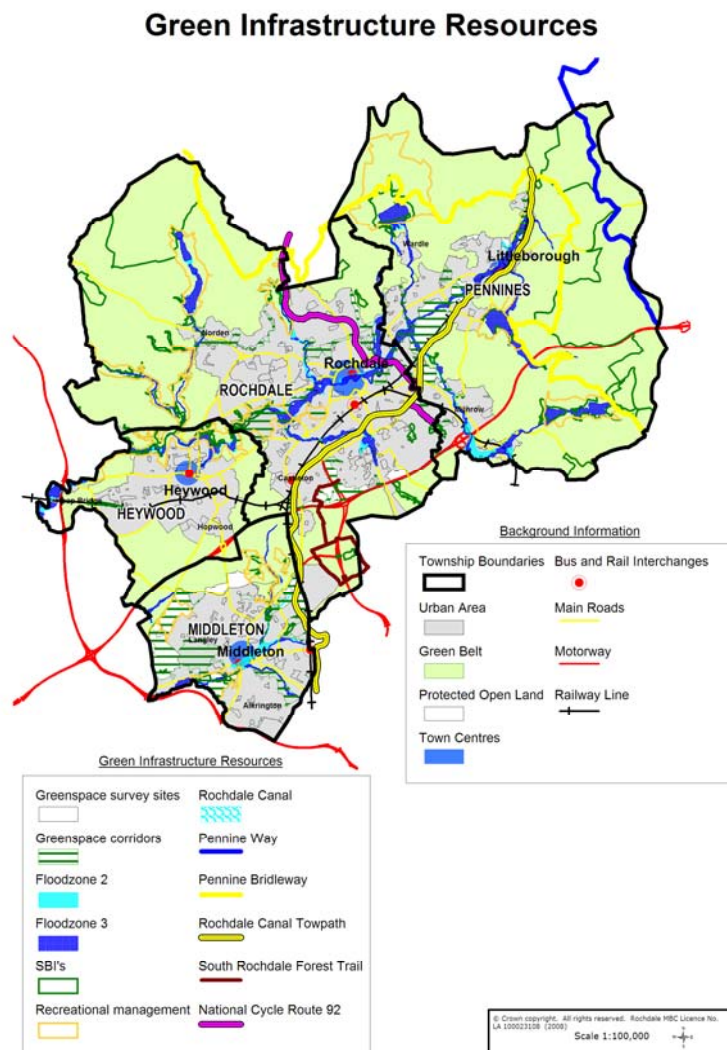
SEA Directive Annex 1 (b) and (c)



3.3 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 south west includes a more low level (sandstone and clay) landscape leading to the edges of the city of Manchester.

3.4 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.



- 3.4 The borough has a significant number of Sites of Biological Importance located throughout the urban and rural area and as part of greenspace corridors and networks. 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 (the South Pennine Moors are also a Special Protection Area). Three Local Nature Reserves and one Country Park are located at Healey Dell, Hopwood Woods, Alkington Woods and Hollingworth Lake respectively.
- 3.5 Only 3% of the borough is woodland, primarily located in the river valleys and reservoir catchments.
- 3.6 Species of high conservation concern in the borough are; water vole, brown hare, pipistrelle bat, Daubenton's bat, whiskered bat, noctule bat, brown long-eared bat, skylark, linnet, reed bunting, spotted flycatcher, tree sparrow, grey

partridge, bullfinch, song thrush, great crested newt, floating water plantain, grasswack pondweed, house sparrow and starling.

- 3.7 Further detail in respect of the state of the environment in the borough is contained in the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report.
- 3.8 In terms of the likely evolution of the state of the environment were the plan not to be implemented, it is likely that there would be deterioration in the environmental quality of the Borough and in its biodiversity. This is because the plan aims to ensure new development contributes positively to environmental quality and biodiversity, in a way that is stronger than the existing planning policy framework. The plan also incorporates comprehensive policy relating to tackling climate change, climate change adaptation, water management and pollution, policies which reflect the latest national, regional and local guidance.

## Chapter 4: Development of the Sustainability Objectives

### SA Scoping report

4.1 The Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report was produced in June 2007, outlining how the scope of the SA was determined by examining the evidence base and relevant plans, policies and strategies. This was also the initial consultation document of the SA process, allowing the following relevant bodies to comment (amongst others):

- Natural England
- English Heritage
- The Environment Agency

4.2 Comments were received and the scoping report was revised in the light of these.

### Revised scoping report

4.3 Due to the length of the process in respect of developing the Local Development Framework, two years had passed between the production of the original scoping report in 2007 and the stage of preparation of the Preferred Options report. Due to this, and bearing in mind the importance of aligning the SA process with all stages of the DPD process, the scoping exercise was undertaken again in April 2009. This involved a new scope of relevant plans, programmes and policies, taking into account new documents produced in the period since the original scoping report. Additionally, relevant baseline information was updated and the SA framework was aligned further with the priorities of the local Community Strategy.

4.4 The updated scoping report was submitted for consultation on 7<sup>th</sup> April 2009 for a period of 5 weeks. The following bodies and organisations were consulted:

- Natural England
- English Heritage
- The Environment Agency
- Government Office for the North West
- The North West Regional Assembly (4NW)
- Greater Manchester Ecology Unit
- Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce
- Rochdale Civic Society
- Rochdale Local Strategic Partnership
- Home Builders Federation
- Adjoining Authorities

4.5 Comments on the revised scoping report were received from the Environment Agency, English Heritage and Natural England. These comments, and the responses to them, are summarised in Table 4.1 below.



**Table 4.1 Comments on revised scoping report and responses**

<u>Matters raised</u>	<u>Comments</u>	<u>Revisions to scoping report</u>
<b><u>English Heritage</u></b>		
Table 1 misses out some key documents and you should refer to the list on page 7 and 8 of our guidance note	Best practice indicates that this stage of the scoping report should not be a comprehensive list of those documents of relevance, rather a select list. It has been decided therefore to limit the list largely to those documents which have clear key objectives and targets relevant to the plan	Addition of European Landscape Convention, Northwest Climate Change Action Plan and Northwest Tourism Strategy
Baseline information – indicators can be informed by examples in English Heritage guidance note and the section on baseline information	Noted	A wider set of indicators relating to heritage will be used to monitor the impacts of the Plan and these are set out in the revised Framework
There may well be grade II listed buildings at risk in the area, which are not covered by the English Heritage Register	This is agreed and therefore an indicator relating to grade II buildings at risk will be introduced	The wider set of indicators relating to heritage will include grade II buildings at risk and this is shown in the Framework
The Framework has a different set of objectives from the SA objectives in Table 2. The SA Framework must include an objective for the historic environment	Agreed	Table 2 and Framework aligned so that they have the same objectives. Objective relating to historic environment included in Framework (objective 5E)
<b><u>Natural England</u></b>		
Section 5 of the report refers to Appropriate Assessment (AA) – however, this is just one stage of the process and the procedure should be referred to as Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening. Any HRA should also look wider than the Borough boundary and look for ‘pathways’ between the Borough and European sites within and outside Rochdale	Agreed	Section 5 of the report amended to reflect Natural England advice
The Biodiversity Duty is a new duty for local authorities and we would expect to see a reference to it in all relevant planning documents including the Core Strategy and its Sustainability Appraisal	Agreed	Reference to Biodiversity Duty included in Table 3 – identified as a key issue
Review of Relevant Plans, Policies and Programmes – we suggest inclusion of the following documents (list included)	Best practice indicates that this stage of the scoping report should not be a comprehensive list of those documents of relevance, rather a select list. It has been decided therefore to	Northwest Climate Change Action Plan and Green Infrastructure Guide added. GM Geodiversity Action Plan will be added when published.

	limit the list largely to those documents which have clear key objectives and targets relevant to the Plan.	
Baseline Information – could be expanded to point out the international designations of the Rochdale Canal and South Pennine Moors Sites, and reference made to later paragraphs where further detail is cited	The international designations are referred to.	Cross reference to later more detailed paragraphs.
We would welcome inclusion of baseline data in much more detail. We would welcome detailed references to the following (list follows)	Agreed that more detailed baseline data would be useful, however still prioritising that data which can be measured and monitored, and which can be impacted upon by the Plan	Baseline data revised to include more detail including in respect of most of the suggested areas.
Key Sustainability Issues – we would welcome an issue raised for development pressures potentially causing a detrimental effect on landscape (and townscape) character and quality, and the inclusion of broad issues as follows (list follows)	Agreed that some of those issues suggested are key issues facing the Borough, and should be included	Table 3 amended to take into account some of the suggested further issues.
Developing the SA Framework - We would welcome broad sustainability objectives and indicators covering the following (list follows)	Agree with the list of suggestions and there are either existing objectives relating to the list or new ones will be added	Framework revised to take account of suggestions.
<b><u>Environment Agency</u></b>		
We support the Policies, Plans and Programmes detailed. However, we feel that the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment should also be included within this section	Agreed	SFRA to be included.
It is not clear why water quality is included in objective 9 as it relates to water quality rather than flood risk	Agreed	Objectives revised to reflect comments.
Key Issues – Allocation of sites should be done in line with the SFRA.	Agreed	SFRA compliance referred to in Key Issues and the SA Framework.

4.6 As a result of the comments received the scoping report, including the Framework was revised. The revised Sustainability objectives are shown in Table 4.2 below:

**Table 4.2: The Sustainability Objectives**

Objective	Sub-questions	
1. Developing Sustainable Neighbourhoods	1A	Will the plan enable the provision of decent housing?
	1B	Will the plan create an accommodation mix which reflects the needs and aspirations of local communities?
	1C	Will the Plan encourage harmonious communities?
	1D	Will the plan ensure that new development is easily accessible and well connected to public transport, community facilities and services, and quality open space?
2. Increasing Jobs and Prosperity	2A	Will the plan support and retain the Borough's local businesses, promoting a competitive and dynamic business environment?
	2B	Will the plan enable the provision of more jobs?
	2C	Will the plan enable the provision of better paid jobs?
	2D	Will the Plan attract new retail investment to town centres?
	2E	Will the Plan raise the profile of the Borough within the North West region, attracting more investment and opportunities for local people?
3. Making Sure Every Child Matters	3A	Will the Plan help to tackle obesity and poor health in children and adults?
	3B	Will the Plan promote and enhance opportunities for safe and sustainable travel to and from schools?
	3C	Will the Plan protect and enhance local play facilities?
4. Improving Community Safety	4A	Will the Plan reduce crime and the fear of crime?
	4B	Will the Plan promote 'Home zone' schemes, reducing car access and limiting speeds, creating safer and more attractive street environments?
5. Creating a Cleaner, Greener Environment	5A	Will the Plan reduce traffic?
	5B	'Will the plan reduce local carbon emissions and energy use, contributing to national and global targets'?
	5C	Will the Plan create and protect ample and high quality green space and green infrastructure?
	5D	Will the Plan protect and enhance the historical, cultural and archaeological heritage of the Borough?
	5E	Will the Plan protect and enhance landscape (and townscape) character, quality and local distinctiveness?
	5F	Will the Plan protect and enhance biodiversity and provide opportunities for new habitat creation.
	5G	Will the plan tackle the effects of climate change?
	5H	Will the Plan encourage the efficient use of natural resources in the location, construction and use of developments?
	5I	Will the Plan ensure that flood risk is minimised?
6. Improving Health and Wellbeing	6A	Will the Plan lead to better access to healthcare services?
	6B	Will the Plan reduce health inequalities?
	6C	Will the Plan Increase sport and leisure activities to help promote healthier lifestyles?

## Chapter 5: Sustainability Appraisal

SEA Directive Annex 1 (f)

### Initial appraisal of spatial options

SEA Directive Annex 1 (h)

- 5.1 In August 2008 an initial sustainability appraisal of the six key spatial options outlined in the Core Strategy issues and options report was undertaken. This was carried out by a panel representing different disciplines, specifically sustainability and economic and environmental affairs. They took a professional judgement of the likely impacts of the Plan. The assessment was made on the assumption that all of the 'development options' identified in each of the spatial options will be realised, i.e. that all potential sites are developed; this may not be the case in reality.
- 5.2 The six spatial options considered were:
1. Dispersed development in the built up area
  2. Focus on regeneration areas in the built up area
  3. Option 2 + Focus on south Rochdale and south Pennines
  4. Option 2 + Focus on Heywood and Middleton
  5. (Options 3 + 4) Focus on the south of the borough
  6. High growth development dispersed across the borough.
- 5.3 The findings were used to inform the Issues and Options document, in particular the descriptions of key advantages / disadvantages for each option were amended to align better with the findings, and the descriptions of the impacts of each option were also amended.
- 5.4 This appraisal is shown in Appendix 1. As can be seen, each option was scored either excellent, good, fair, weak, poor or undermining in respect of each of the objectives. The sustainability objectives used related to the same issues as those outlined in the 2007 scoping report, however presentational changes included rewriting the objectives to make them more concise and aligning them with the objectives of the UK Sustainable Development Strategy and the Borough's Community Strategy.
- 5.5 The Appraisal showed that the 'High Growth' options (options 4 to 6) were significantly less sustainable than the 'Current Growth' options. Spatial Option 2 rated best overall, with Option 1 appearing weak and Option 3 rating better than Options 4 to 6.
- 5.6 Difficulties encountered and assumptions made  
The Appraisal had to assume that all of the development options identified in each of the Spatial Options will be realised, something which may not necessarily be the case. Nonetheless, the findings gave a broad indication of the sustainability of the Options.
- 5.7 The sustainability appraisal of the spatial objectives was published for consultation along with the Issues and Options report in September 2008.

5.8 The strategy which has been taken forward to the 'Preferred Options' stage broadly reflects Option 5 but has a lot less growth and development of greenfield sites outside the urban area, taking into account sustainability considerations. The emphasis on regeneration to be found in Option 2 was also taken forward in the 'Preferred Options'. Looking at the results of the appraisal in Appendix 1, it can be seen that many of the areas in which Option 5 performed poorly related to loss of open space, i.e. greenfield development, and thus this area of poor performance in relation to sustainability objectives has been addressed by the decreased emphasis on greenfield development.

### **Appraisal of the Key Strategic Sites and Locations identified in the Core Strategy preferred options**

5.9 The Core Strategy Preferred Options identifies those areas where future development is likely to be concentrated. These include 'Economic Growth Corridors', which will consist of a number of key strategic development sites, and strategic employment / housing sites are also identified elsewhere (outside of the growth corridors). In addition to this, another element of the Preferred Options is an emphasis on regeneration, and specific regeneration areas are identified.

5.10 In order to comply with the SEA directive, it is important that alternatives are assessed, and the most sustainable of those alternatives identified. This has been done with the spatial options which were originally put forward, but it is equally important that all potential key development sites and the Economic Growth Corridors they make up are examined, so that those which are most sustainable can be prioritised and measures identified to mitigate impacts. In order to address this matter, 62 key sites around the borough were assessed against the sustainability objectives (Table 5.1), including those that made up Economic Growth Corridors. These included sites brought forward from the Issues and Options stage of the Plan, sites brought forward from the Unitary Development Plan and sites nominated by individual landowners. The assessment used a similar ratings system to the initial SA described in para. 5.1 above, except the ratings were revised to be strongly positive, positive, neutral, negative, strongly negative or unknown.

5.11 The growth corridors proposed in the Preferred Options document are as follows:

- Rochdale Town Centre / Kingsway Corridor
- Castleton Corridor
- South Heywood / J19 corridor
- Middleton Town Centre / Oldham Road

#### Rochdale Town Centre / Kingsway Corridor

This growth corridor would be made up of the following sites:

- Rochdale town centre in the north as a focus for service and office development and employment opportunities

- Kingsway Business Park in the south as a key regional employment destination with a focus on industries to broaden the economic base along with associated leisure, hotel and new housing
- Between the two a focus on new employment and housing development to regenerate the areas around the railway station, the wider Oldham Road corridor and Canal Basin.

This corridor includes the Milkstone, Deeplish and Newbold regeneration area, and is closely related to the regeneration areas which cover Falinge, Spotland and Sparth, East Central Rochdale and Kirkholt.

#### Castleton Corridor

This growth corridor would be made up of the following sites:

- Sandbrook Park in the north east which contains office, retail and leisure development with some new offices still to be developed on the site.
- The Royle Works and Former Woolworths sites on Royle Barn Road which offer opportunities for employment and mixed use development in a highly accessible and sustainable location.
- Cowm Top allocated employment site.
- Land east and west of the canal at Trub and adjacent Corus site which together form a large mixed use opportunity to assist the regeneration of Castleton. This includes tourism opportunities related to canal with potential link to East Lancs Railway.

#### South Heywood / J19 corridor

This growth corridor would be made up of the following sites:

- Heywood Distribution Park which is currently seeking status as a Simplified Planning Zone.
- Existing employment sites within the urban area off Hareshill Road before releasing additional land;
- New employment development on land currently in the Green Belt off Hareshill Road following development of existing sites.
- Mixed use development (housing and employment) around Collop Gate Farm with a new local centre, providing an attractive new location attracting new residents
- New link road between Junction 19 of M62 and junction 3 of M66 to service new development and reduce heavy traffic in Heywood town centre.

#### Middleton Town Centre / Oldham Road

This growth corridor would be made up of the following sites:

- Improvements to the Oldham Road and Grimshaw Lane corridors, including new housing and employment development on appropriate sites;
- Regeneration of the land around British Vita including new housing and employment development, improved open space and River Irk corridor;
- Also includes East Middleton regeneration area with potential to provide good quality housing on available brownfield sites, notably around Middleton Junction and Glen Grove, and improve the overall living environment.

- 5.12 In the case of the Castleton Corridor and South Heywood / J19 growth corridors, these are essentially made up of a number of the key sites which have been assessed in Table 5.1; in the case of the two other growth corridors, these are essentially regeneration areas.
- 5.13 The column on the far right of Table 5.1 indicates whether it is intended to take a particular key site forward. This decision was made after the sustainability appraisal had taken place, and gives an indication of how sustainability objectives have influenced site selection. Decisions on a number of sites have yet to be made, as indicated.
- 5.14 Analysis of the sustainability appraisal of key sites and what it means for taking the Economic Growth Corridors forward in a sustainable manner is contained below (5.15 onwards).

Key:

+2	+1	0	-1	-2	
Strongly positive	Positive	Neutral / not applicable	Negative	Strongly negative	Unknown / not enough information

**Table 5.1: Sustainability appraisal of strategic sites and locations identified in the Core Strategy (Preferred Options stage)**

Site name	Sustainability Objectives																								Overall score	Taken forward? (u = unknown)					
	1A	1B	1C	1D	2A	2B	2C	2D	2E	3A	3B	3C	4A	4B	5A	5B	5C	5D	5E	5F	5G	5H	5I	6A			6B	6C			
1) Middleton West	+				+	+				+		+				-	-	-		-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+		-4	U
2) Stakehill	+		-	-	+	+					-	-	+			-	-	-		+	+	+	+		-	+	+		-15	X	
3) Land south of Hareshill Road	+		-	-	+	+			+		-	-	+			-	-	-		+	+	+	+		-	+	+		-14	X	
4) Land north of Hareshill Road	+				+	+			+		+	+				-	-	-		+	+	+	+		-	+	+		-6	✓	
5) Land south of Manchester Road	+		+		+	+			+		+	+				-	-	-		+	+	+	+				+		-2	✓	
6) Trub Farm (west of canal)	+				+	+			+		+	+				-	-	-	+	+	+	+		-	+	+		-6*	U		
7) Broad Lane	+		+								+	+				-	-	-		+	+	+	+				+		-9	U	
8) Land north of Langley Lane (e)	+				+	+					+	+				-	-	-		+	+	+	+						-6	U	
9) Land north of Langley Lane (w)	+				+	+					+	+				-	-	-		+	+	+	+			+			-2	U	
10) Dye House Lane	+		+	+	+	+				+	+	+				-	-	-		+	+	+	+		-	+	+		2	✓	
11) Roch Valley	+			-	-	+						+				-	-	-	+	+	+	+		-	+	+			-15	X	
12) Ashworth Moor WTW	+		-	-	-	+			-	+	-	+				-	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-25	X	
13) Car Megastore (small site)	+		+	+	+	+					+	+				+	+			+	+	+	+						10	✓	
14) Car Megastore (large site)	+		+	+	+	+					+	+				+	+	+		+	+	+	+						15	✓	







48) Akzo Nobel																									21	✓
49) Gort Sand Pit																									10	✓
50) Carcraft, Castleton																									25	✓
51) Two Bridges Road AoO																									22	✓
52) Durn AoO																									21	✓
53) Plot S, Kingsway																									18	✓
54) Plot X, Kingsway																									11	✓
55) CEMEX site, Nile Street																									19	✓
56) Central Retail Park, Rochdale																									28	✓
57) Land to the west of Bridgefold Road																									13	✓
58) Parkfield Industrial Estate																									24	✓
59) Land at Healey Hall Mills																									-3	✓
60) Royle Works (Dunlop)																									21*	✓
61) Ealees, Littleborough																									25	✓
62) Trub Farm (east of canal)																									27	✓

\* Table 5.1 – comments:

Land south of Manchester Road - Assessment based more around development of northern half of site. Land at southern end closest to motorway is far less sustainable. 3a has slightly worse score because of air quality issue relating to proximity to motorway.

Hare Hill Road, Littleborough – 5D - could be positive or negative depending on quality of scheme and treatment of existing mill building.

Hopwood Hall College, Middleton – 2A & 2C - Based on potential for high tech employment linked to college.

Trafalgar Centre, Belfield Road - Assumption that development is constrained to previously developed part of site. Significant flooding issue.

Former Woolworths depot, Rochdale - For 5D (& 5E) much depends on retention of offices on Royle Barn Rd.

Rooley Moor Road (TBA) - For 5I based on fact that much of site is currently developed and therefore redevelopment may just maintain status quo.

Land at Healey Hall Mills - Some of positives for biodiversity reflect opportunity for enhancement in terms of building and landscape quality.

**Table 5.2: Sustainability appraisal of ‘Regeneration’ growth corridors**

Site name	Sustainability Objectives																								Overall score and comments		
	1A	1B	1C	1D	2A	2B	2C	2D	2E	3A	3B	3C	4A	4B	5A	5B	5C	5D	5E	5F	5G	5H	5I	6A		6B	6C
Rochdale Town Centre / Kingsway Corridor	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	29
Middleton Town Centre / Oldham Road	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	23

Appraisal of the Strategic Sites and Locations identified in the Core Strategy preferred options – Conclusions

SEA Directive Annex 1 (g)

- 5.15 This assessment shows that many of the key sites perform badly in respect of environmental sustainability objectives, especially those objectives relating to green space. In terms of the proposed Economic Growth Corridors, the following conclusions may be reached:
- 5.16 Rochdale Town Centre / Kingsway Corridor  
This corridor is mainly urban, providing regeneration opportunities, and the 'greenfield' elements of it (the Kingsway Business Park) is already allocated and under construction. It includes the regeneration of Rochdale town centre and public transport infrastructure improvements. This Corridor performs well against sustainability objectives (see Table 5.2).
- 5.17 Castleton Corridor  
The Cowm Top and Sandbrook Park areas are already allocated and under development. The remainder of the growth corridor consists of the following key sites from the appraisal carried out and shown in Table 5.1:
- Site 6 – Trub Farm (west of canal) (appraisal score: -6)  
(part of) Site 42 – Trows Farm, Trows Lane (-9)  
Site 45 – Former Woolworths depot (+27)  
Site 60 – Royle Works (Dunlop) (+21)  
Site 62 - Trub Farm (east of canal) (+27)
- As can be seen, sites 45, 60 and 62 score highly in respect of the sustainability appraisal, being 'brownfield' and close to public transport / shops and other services. However, sites 6 and 42 perform badly. Thus this corridor would be very good in sustainability terms provided that sites 6 and 42 are not taken forward.
- 5.18 South Heywood / J19 corridor  
Some of the elements of this growth corridor are urban and regeneration -based. Of main concern in respect of sustainability, therefore, are the proposed Green Belt development sites, which have been assessed under the sustainability appraisal outlined in Table 5.1 as follows:
- Site 3 – Land south of Hareshill Road (appraisal score: -14)  
Site 4 – Land north of Hareshill Road (-6)  
Site 5 – Land south of Manchester Road (-2)  
Site 40 – (part of) Siddall Moor Farm, Hareshill Road (-8)
- It is clear that this growth corridor does not score well in terms of environmental sustainability objectives, largely due to the fact that it involves the take up of 'greenfield' Green Belt land. However, these

sites do score well in respect of accessibility and there would be a new local centre, and they score well in comparison to other peripheral sites. It is recommended that development is contained as close as possible to the existing urban area with the minimal Green Belt loss, and that the sustainability of this corridor can be improved by the improvement of local transport links and services. If site 3 is not taken forward, and site 40 only partially taken forward, there would be a significant improvement in the sustainability of the corridor (taking into account sustainable transport and other infrastructure improvements).

5.19 Middleton Town Centre / Oldham Road

This corridor is urban, providing regeneration opportunities. It includes town centre regeneration and public transport improvements. As can be seen in Table 5.2, it performs well against the sustainability objectives.

5.20 In respect of the 62 key sites generally, analysis of the appraisal shows that there is a close correlation between those sites which perform poorly in the appraisal and those which are not being taken forward. This shows evidence that the plan is underpinned by sustainability considerations. The key exceptions to this are the sites which make up the South Heywood / J19 corridor, and this has been analysed in 5.16 above.

**Appraisal of the 'Preferred Options' spatial strategy, strategic objectives and core policies**

5.21 A workshop took place on 28<sup>th</sup> July 2009, bringing together experts from a range of disciplines. This workshop assessed the spatial strategy and core policies against the sustainability objectives which had been previously identified in the scoping report described above and which have been used to assess the key sites and locations.

Present at the workshop were the following experts:

- Andrew Eadie, Rochdale MBC Strategic Planning Officer
- Barry Simons, Rochdale MBC Sustainability Development Service Manager
- David Morris, Rochdale MBC Design and Conservation Officer
- Mike Hodge, Greater Manchester Police
- Len Harris, Oldham and Rochdale Housing Market Renewal
- Susan Ayres, Rochdale MBC Economic Affairs Unit
- Adrian Watson, Rochdale MBC Environmental Health
- Neil Hewertson, Groundwork Northwest

The workshop was chaired by independent consultants - Ian Grimshaw of TEP LLP and facilitated by Heidi Curran of C.E.C Ltd and Alison Chapman of TEP LLP.

The Core Strategy Preferred Options spatial strategy, strategic objectives and core policies are outlined in Table 5.3 below.

**Table 5.3: The Core Strategy Preferred Options Spatial Strategy and Core Policies**

SEA Directive Annex 1 (a)

Policy ref	Policy
SP1	The Spatial Strategy Overview
SP2	The Spatial Strategy in the south of the borough
SP3	The Spatial Strategy in the north of the borough
<b>Strategic Objective SO1: To deliver a more prosperous economy</b>	
CP1	Establishing thriving town centres
CP2	Focussing economic growth
CP3	Regenerating existing employment sites
CP4	Encouraging the visitor economy
CP5	Diversifying the rural economy
<b>Strategic Objective SO2: To create successful and healthy communities</b>	
CP6	Delivering the right amount of housing in the right places
CP7	Delivering the right type of housing
CP8	Providing affordable homes
CP9	Meeting the housing needs of gypsies and travellers
CP10	Improving health and well being
CP11	Delivering education facilities
CP12	Improving community facilities and cohesion
<b>Strategic Objective SO3: To improve design, image and quality of place</b>	
CP13	Protecting and enhancing local character
CP14	Improving image
CP15	Design of new development
<b>Strategic Objective SO4: To conserve and manage the natural environment and resources</b>	
CP16	Tackling climate change
CP17	Managing green belt
CP18	Managing other protected/reserved open land
CP19	Enhancing green spaces and corridors
CP20	Protecting biodiversity and geodiversity
CP21	Managing water resources and flood risk
CP22	Managing and improving air quality
CP23	Managing waste
CP24	Managing minerals resources
<b>Strategic Objective SO5: To improve accessibility and deliver sustainable transport</b>	
CP25	Delivering sustainable transport
CP26	Improving accessibility

- 5.22 It was recognised that each panel member was capable of giving much more detailed feedback than could be taken on the day and so they were asked to submit extra comments in writing.
- 5.23 The discussion which took place enabled a matrix to be produced, and this is shown in Table 5.4 below. It is similar in style to the initial appraisal matrix shown in appendix 1, and summarises the conclusions of the workshop. Further detail of the conclusions of the workshop is outlined in para. 5.23 below.
- 5.24 The conclusions of the workshop informed the assessment of the Preferred Options spatial strategy and policies. The workshop conclusions were then examined in detail and used to inform Appendix 2 of this document, which gives a more comprehensive assessment, expanding on the summary shown in table 5.4. The assessment takes an overview of the workshop discussions and represents a refinement of the conclusions, taking into account the wider workshop report which was produced and therefore the appendix in Appendix 2 may vary slightly from table 5.4.



**Table 5.4: Sustainability Appraisal of the ‘preferred options’ spatial strategy and core policies, 28 July 2009**

**Key:**

Strongly positive	Positive	Neutral / not applicable	Negative	Strongly negative	Unknown / not enough information

Rochdale MBC Core Strategy ‘Preferred Options’ Objectives and Core Policies		Sustainability Objectives					
		Sustainable neighbourhoods	Increasing jobs and prosperity	Making sure every child matters	Improving community safety	Creating a cleaner, greener environment	Improving health and wellbeing
<b>Spatial Strategy</b>							
SP1	The Spatial Strategy overview						
SP2	The spatial strategy in the south of the borough						
SP3	The spatial strategy in the north of the borough						
<b>To deliver a more prosperous economy</b>							
E1	Establishing thriving town centres						
E2	Focusing economic growth						
E3	Regenerating existing employment areas						
E4	Encouraging the visitor economy						
E5	Diversifying the rural economy						
<b>To create successful and healthy communities</b>							
C1	Delivering the right amount of housing in the right places						
C2	Delivering the right type of housing						
C3	Providing affordable homes						
C4	Meeting the housing needs of gypsies and travellers						
C5	Improving health and well being						
C6	Delivering education facilities						

<b>C7</b>	Improving community facilities and cohesion						
<b>To improve design, image and quality of place</b>							
<b>P1</b>	Protecting and enhancing local character						
<b>P2</b>	Improving image						
<b>P3</b>	Design of new development						
<b>To conserve and manage the natural environment and resources</b>							
<b>R1</b>	Tackling climate change						
<b>R2</b>	Managing green belt						
<b>R3</b>	Managing other protected open land						
<b>R4</b>	Enhancing green space and corridors						
<b>R5</b>	Protecting biodiversity and geodiversity						
<b>R6</b>	Managing water resources and flood risk						
<b>R7</b>	Managing and improving air quality						
<b>R8</b>	Managing waste						
<b>R9</b>	Managing mineral resources						
<b>To improve accessibility and deliver sustainable transport</b>							
<b>T1</b>	Delivering sustainable transport						
<b>T2</b>	Improving accessibility						

## 5.25 Summary of sustainability appraisal of the 'Preferred Options' spatial strategy and core policies:

### The spatial strategy

Only two comments were received on the spatial policies following the workshop. The policies were commented upon for their impacts on two of the sustainability objectives: sustainable neighbourhoods and cleaner, greener environments. On the former, the policies were considered to be a positive approach, although it was recognised that there were some issues in the detail, which was discussed in the assessment of the core policies. With regard to the environment, the policies were considered to be generally inconclusive; it was felt that the policies would probably lead to an increase in traffic, which was negative, but that many of the other sub questions for the environment *could* be positive, depending on implementation. More information could be included within the policies regarding environmental ambitions than is present at the moment, which would go some way to clarifying the likely effect of the policy on the environmental objectives.

### Achieving economic growth and prosperity

The policies under this objective were generally considered to be positive for the sustainability objectives: the Town Centre, Regeneration, Visitor and Rural policies all received a positive response from the panel. However on one of the key policies, "Focussing economic growth", the panel was not convinced that it would achieve the "increased jobs and prosperity" objective, which one might consider that it should; at the same time the policy was likely to lead to significant environmental impacts. This calls for greater clarity in the policy regarding the ambition for jobs and skills, and ensuring that the later policies on the environment are strong enough to help mitigate the environmental effects.

### Creating successful and healthy communities

The policies under this objective were, again, generally positive, especially for increasing jobs and prosperity, children, community safety and health. They received a more mixed response for sustainable neighbourhoods and the environment. In particular, the policy to increase housing supply was assessed as negative for both of these sustainability objectives. This is an important policy and significant in terms of its impacts. The policy to "deliver the right type of housing" is important in terms of addressing the concerns raised on housing numbers and it did not resolve the issues. Both policies need to be more ambitious and specific about their goals for implementation and move away from repeating past policy goals; new concepts of sustainable neighbourhoods need to be incorporated into these policies.

### Improving quality of place, image and design

These policies were well received by the panel and considered positive across the suite of sustainability objectives, in some areas strongly positive. The panel did consider that they could be strengthened in tow areas in particular: the image policy must be about addressing issues, not just perceptions and the design policy needs to be mandatory and delivered through an SPD.

### Tackling climate change and conserving natural resources

The response to these policies was quite mixed. In terms of climate change, it was felt the policy was positive for all of the sustainability objectives and strongly positive for children, environment and health. The panel also considered the policies for green belt, green spaces, biodiversity and water to be positive across the range of sustainability objectives, However they were very uncertain about a number of the policies under this objective; more so than the earlier objectives. Managing protected land, waste and minerals were all assessed as unknown and the panel expressed their disappointment that there was too little information to make a proper assessment. This area of the strategy requires more attention and much more detail.

### Improving accessibility and delivering sustainable transport

This objective was supported for its policy on delivering sustainable transport, which was considered mostly positive for the sustainability objectives. However the policy to increase accessibility was met with a great deal of confusion and could not be fully assessed. There needs to be greater clarity in what is meant by “accessibility” for this policy to be successful.

## 5.24 Mitigation measures

The appraisal outlined above and detailed more comprehensively in Appendix 2 gives a good indication of where the spatial strategy / policies align with sustainability objectives and where they do not. The Core Strategy Preferred Options Spatial Strategy and Core Policies have been re-assessed in the light of the appraisal, and measures taken to ensure better alignment with the sustainability objectives are outlined in Table 5.5 below. This shows the sustainability issues raised and the responses to them.

**Table 5.5: Sustainability Appraisal of ‘Preferred Options’ Core Policies – issues raised and mitigation measures proposed**

SEA Directive Annex 1 (g)

**Core Policies SP1 to 3: The Spatial Strategy (note: these have now been re-named as policies SP2 to SP4)**

Key sustainability objective	Issues raised	Comments / Mitigation measures
Sustainable Neighbourhoods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SP1, and by definition SP2 and SP3, are clearly intended to focus development in the south of the borough where there are opportunities for development which supports urban regeneration objectives and reasonable connection to jobs and services. In the north the policy is one of restriction but not stagnation. This supports the development of sustainable neighbourhoods, although clearly there are some issues with the detail of how this is expressed in the core policies.</li> </ul>	Agreed and comments noted. The issues that are raised in respect of the detail of the core policies are discussed further under the relevant policies below.
Increasing jobs and prosperity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strategy to focus development in south of borough within reasonable distance of local jobs</li> </ul>	Agreed
Making sure every child matters		
Improving community safety		
Creating a cleaner, greener environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>More support for public / sustainable transport needed (although overall strategy has some co-ordination with local / regional transport links)</li> <li>Green infrastructure is more than just ‘primary green infrastructure corridors. Also about mitigation of climate change, health and well being etc – the best societies have GI extending right into urban areas and neighbourhoods; why not Rochdale?</li> <li>There appears to be a conflict between aspirations to protect the green belt and allowing development in it – there needs to be a more explicit explanation of this</li> <li>Historical, cultural and archaeological heritage – ok</li> <li>Landscape and townscape quality and local distinctiveness – possibly needs to be more explicit on aspirations and approach</li> <li>No mention of enhancing biodiversity</li> </ul>	<p><b>Policies SP3 and SP4 amended to include specific sections relating to the delivery of sustainable transport</b></p> <p>It is a characteristic of Rochdale Borough that green infrastructure extends far into the urban areas, and the Core Strategy will seek to protect and enhance this infrastructure</p> <p>This conflict is recognised and the release of Green Belt will only be if absolutely necessary and in the most sustainable location possible.</p> <p>Aspirations and approach are outlined in the Strategic Objectives.</p> <p><b>Policies SP3 and SP4 have been amended to make specific reference to protecting and enhancing natural ecology</b></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Little detail on how climate change will be tackled</li> <li>• No reference to efficient use of natural resources</li> </ul>	The spatial strategy ensures that development is in the most sustainable locations and this will help to tackle climate change and lead to efficient use of resources. Policy SP3 has been amended to make reference to the realising of opportunities for decentralised sustainable energy networks in the growth locations.
Improving health and wellbeing		

### Core Policy E1 : Establishing Thriving Town Centres

Sustainable Neighbourhoods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local centre's should provide for local needs</li> <li>• Little reference to housing or community, only to retail</li> <li>• Would there be the market for town centre living? The plan does not seem to aim for mixed use.</li> <li>• Aspiration of the policy is not worked through</li> <li>• The town centre must relate to the neighbourhood for this to succeed</li> </ul>	<p>Agreed. The policy has been changed to include housing as a use which will be supported in the town centre to enhance the role of the centre during the day and night (details of housing numbers are provided in the RTCE SPD).</p> <p>Agreed that local centre's could be made more explicit – changes have been made to include more on the specifics such as the types of uses, the identification of priority local centre's, the protection of local centre's and the creation of new one.</p>
Increasing jobs and prosperity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This is impacted by the wider financial systems over which there is no local control. This is not acknowledged in the policy</li> <li>• Must seek a balance between the less high earning, retail etc jobs which are important at the local level, and the higher earning graduate jobs which will attract people back to the area.</li> <li>• A positive policy but there is room to strengthen the diversity of economic policy</li> </ul>	Comments noted. Kingsway is dealt with in more detail under policy CP2 which provides the economic angle. No changes recommended.
Making sure every child matters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is no direct link, the policy does not aim to meet this need so generally neutral</li> <li>• Indirectly, if it is a thriving centre, it will be busier and with sustainable transport links, which would make it safer for children</li> <li>• Section 106 agreements can be used from town centre developments to secure play area for children</li> </ul>	Comments noted. No changes recommended.
Improving community safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Crowd out crime - a thriving centre means more people, which reduces crime</li> <li>• Depends how thriving is defined as a busy night scene in the centre may</li> </ul>	Comments noted. The aim is to create a 24 hour economy by having a combination of uses appropriate during the day and night which should reduce the fear of crime and make it safer e.g. housing and a night

	lead to issues with alcohol related crime	economy.
Creating a cleaner, greener environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If the policy is well implemented, it will achieve this.</li> <li>• If ‘thriving’ means big box retail, or economically busy rather than a diverse range of services to cater for local needs it may not achieve this aim</li> <li>• Indirectly, if a thriving centre is unsupported by good public transport people will access it by car, which is negative for the environment</li> <li>• The introduction of more chain stores etc can reduce local character and have a negative impact on heritage and cultural assets</li> <li>• The policy is not explicit enough to achieve its aims with regard to the environment</li> <li>• Thriving needs defining or possibly replacing</li> </ul>	Comments noted. No changes recommended.
Improving health and wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is no obvious link here, impact is neutral</li> <li>• It could have a negative impact on air quality, but if it is implemented in a sustainable way which a focus on reducing carbon, it should remain neutral</li> <li>• No mention of health in the policy</li> </ul>	Comments noted. The policy aims to strengthen the town centre with adjoining areas and neighbourhoods making it more accessible and improving public transport and making it easier by walking and cycling. No changes recommended.

**Core Policy E2: Supporting jobs and prosperity**

Sustainable Neighbourhoods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All the development is proposed for the south of the Borough, this could hinder the northern neighbourhoods</li> <li>• Rochdale has its own economic centre and encourage people to work in the area, and is not dependant on Manchester</li> </ul>	<p>The policy for the north maintains existing levels of employment, this allows protection of the environment and thus quality of life and jobs.</p> <p>This is acknowledged and the strategy aims to maintain the balance that currently exists. The relationship with Manchester can be beneficial to Rochdale Borough and the strategy seeks to exploit this.</p>
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Increasing jobs and prosperity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need to make Rochdale more attractive than other places for inward investment, for example through leading the way in green energy provision and sustainable buildings.</li> <li>• Location is key – businesses are drawn to the accessibility of the M62, but there is a need to ensure they use the local work pool too.</li> <li>• Can the policy deliver its objectives; it could allow warehouses to dominate as it is not specific about favouring high quality investment which provides jobs.</li> <li>• Could take the policy a step further and be sector specific in attracting inward investment</li> <li>• Kingsway is the most important economic site and the council should hold strong for high quality investment which will bring jobs, and not settle for large warehouse developments. This is a 15 year plan and should look ahead with vision, as it is trying to do</li> </ul>	<p>Agree. The policy wording has been expanded to include specific reference to promoting green industries.</p> <p>Agreed. The policy makes reference to this point.</p> <p>Draft PPS4 is explicit that planning authorities should not be restrictive in this respect.</p> <p>The policy does mention specific sectors, but the impact of planning on this is limited. The Manchester Independent Economic Review (MIER), for example, advises against this.</p> <p>Kingsway already has outline planning permission based on transport assessment and this sets out limits on amount of B1, B2 and B8. This is being reviewed.</p>
Making sure every child matters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No direct link but increasing jobs and prosperity will increase quality of life for the community which will have a positive effect in the long term</li> </ul>	Agreed
Improving community safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This policy should lead to a busier, thriving town and consequently more people, which will reduce crime</li> <li>• However, a more prosperous area could attract different sorts of criminal</li> <li>• Well designed, mixed use residential and employment areas means there are people in the area at all times, which reduces crime</li> </ul>	Agreed
Creating a cleaner, greener environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A growth policy could harm the environmental credentials of an area</li> <li>• It would depend on how the policy was implemented</li> </ul>	Acknowledged. Therefore the plan ensures that growth is mitigated through e.g. public transport, landscaping, design, location. Policy DM1 ensures the inter-relationship between all the aspects of the plan.
Improving health and wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is no direct link and no mention of health in the policy</li> </ul>	



**Core Policy E3: Regenerating existing employment sites**

Sustainable Neighbourhoods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy allows flexibility and is aiming in the right direction</li> <li>• There is potential for live work units</li> <li>• Must not encroach onto greenbelt land</li> </ul>	GB release is possibly required to meet land release targets. Will only be released as and when required.
Increasing jobs and prosperity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This policy could lead to the loss of employment sites to residential as it does not state that the sites must be regenerated to employment uses</li> <li>• An overall loss of employment land</li> <li>• However, traditional manufacturing industry will decline and the sites need to be regenerated in some way</li> <li>• Mixed developments and live/work units would be successful</li> </ul>	<p>Acknowledged. Seeking to ensure that land is put to its best possible use. Brownfield land is only real source for sustainable housing development</p> <p>Policy will seek to ensure adequate provision of employment land through allocation (210 hectare supply proposed)</p> <p>Mixed use will be encouraged but there is often a lack of demand</p>
Making sure every child counts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No direct links, generally a neutral policy</li> <li>• If the parents work locally this is likely to have a positive effect on the children</li> </ul>	
Improving community safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This will have a positive impact as the fewer derelict or unused areas, the less opportunity for crime</li> </ul>	
Creating a cleaner, greener environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It depends on the implementation</li> <li>• Should seek opportunities to restore some areas to open space or green corridors, and ensure new buildings are sustainable</li> <li>• There could be some loss of Heritage, for example the old mill buildings, if the derelict buildings are demolished</li> </ul>	<p>Agreed. Such opportunities will be sought.</p> <p>Policy P1 will seek to protect the borough's heritage.</p>
Improving health and wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If implemented well this policy could have a positive effect, especially if it is more site specific, for example it could tackle contamination on the TBA site</li> <li>• Contaminated land remediation would be positive for health</li> <li>• There is an strong demand for allotments, if the sites were cleaned up and regenerated to open space, urban gardens etc this policy would have a positive impact</li> </ul>	Opportunities for providing and improving open space will be taken.

**Core Policy E4: Encouraging the visitor economy**

General	The Pennines and Hollingworth Lake are key visitor attractions but the Borough has other attractions which should not be overlooked. The policy is lacking a list of specific sites and attractions which it would be useful to have. •	The policy has been amended to include a list.
Sustainable Neighbourhoods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acknowledges all the key elements and should have a positive influence</li> <li>• If it encourages the improvement of green spaces to make the area more attractive to visitors, this would benefit local communities too</li> </ul>	
Increasing jobs and prosperity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Second jobs, such as running a stable or a B&amp;B contribute to the visitor economy</li> <li>• No vision as to how this will be achieved, for example, there has been discussion towards encouraging a new visitor attraction in the area; perhaps this could be mentioned specifically</li> </ul>	It is felt that the best approach would be to re-invigorate and enhance the existing characteristics and attractions of the borough.
Making sure every child matters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If the policy was more explicit, it could have a more positive impact</li> <li>• Most attractions are out door, especially in the northern areas with access to the Pennines. If this was promoted and made accessible it would bring benefits to children</li> </ul>	It is considered that the improvement of the visitor economy will benefit all age ranges.
Improving community safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visitors are not street wise to the local area and can provide opportunities for crime</li> <li>• Visitors often arrive by car and then park them in remote places while they go walking for the day which also presents opportunities for crime</li> </ul>	The enhancement of visitor facilities should be designed in a crime – excluding manner, as outlined in policy P3.
Creating a cleaner, greener environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This would bring an increase in traffic and the number of people on the moors etc which may have a negative impact</li> <li>• If the policy was specific about protecting the environment whilst encouraging the visitor economy that would be helpful, policies 5c – 5f are useful in that respect</li> </ul>	This is agreed. Development of the visitor economy must have regard to the protection and enhancement of the natural resources, as outlined in policy R5.
Improving health and wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The local people could also use the facilities which would benefit their quality of life mental wellbeing. The out door activities would increase fitness</li> </ul>	

**Core Policy E5: Diversifying the rural economy**

Sustainable Neighbourhoods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If well implemented, it has the potential to be positive.</li> <li>• Depends if it includes housing, developers are keen to develop Littleborough further. If rural areas are protected from inappropriate development then it is potentially positive</li> </ul>	This policy is not referring to rural housing, but to economic development within the rural area through small scale rural business activity.
Increasing jobs and prosperity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is a range of ways to diversify especially in the clean fuel and reducing carbon emissions sector, including forestry, energy crop growing, renewable energy provision</li> <li>• Has to have a positive effect on prosperity</li> </ul>	The focus of this policy is rural economic regeneration which may be from a number of sectors including renewable energy clean fuel. It is not appropriate to include greater detail on a specific sector within this policy, as it is included in policy 16: Tackling Climate Change
Making sure every child counts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children will benefit from a stronger and more diverse economy but there is no direct link</li> </ul>	
Improving community safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Economic input into the rural economy will have a positive impact on the rural community and should reduce crime</li> </ul>	
Creating a cleaner, greener environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The success of the policy depends on people not going for just housing development. The economic driver for housing is so strong it may crush other objectives and the rural land may get released for employment, but in reality be used for housing</li> <li>• The scale of development has to be realistic, for example, large scale wind energy developments are not appropriate</li> <li>• It is aiming in the right direction and if carefully implemented should be successful</li> </ul>	<p>This policy is not referring to rural housing, but to economic development within the rural area through small scale rural business activity.</p> <p>Large scale wind farm developments would not be appropriate to this policy which is focused on small scale rural business development appropriate to the rural landscape.</p>
Improving health and wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If the rural community is sustained by its own economy and people are content with their local area they will be less inclined to travel far reducing carbon emissions and improving the air quality.</li> <li>• More likely to use the local area for recreation if there are the opportunities which will improve fitness</li> </ul>	Agreed.

**Core Policy C1: Delivering the right amount of housing in the right places**

Sustainable Neighbourhoods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This policy has been taken forward well. The regeneration guidelines have been followed and the right locations have been focused on.</li> <li>• There has been some consideration of jobs and mixed use development; the housing areas relate to the employment areas well, although care should be taken to ensure it is realistic.</li> <li>• Perhaps it is not visionary enough; it should aim for mixed use sustainable communities.</li> <li>• It focuses on numbers and deals with the pressure to meet housing targets but does not address the need for sustainability and how this will be achieved</li> </ul>	<p>There is potential to bring the ‘sustainable’ elements of this policy more to the fore. The first two comments are quite positive but the overall score is negative presumably based on the overall focus on delivering numbers. This may be a contextual problem in that the need to demonstrate how we will meet our targets is a fundamental objective of this policy. However, through relatively minor changes the overall sustainable approach, linked to regeneration, use of brownfield sites and sustainable locations, could be made more explicit.</p>
Increasing jobs and prosperity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There will be construction activity every year as a result of new development</li> <li>• There will be indirect jobs for refuse collection, local shops, local police etc; it has a high potential to create jobs</li> </ul>	<p>No change required.</p>
Making sure every child counts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No direct impact</li> <li>• The proximity of new housing to schools will be a key issue</li> </ul>	<p>The issue of proximity to schools can be best addressed through the Infrastructure Planning element of the Core Strategy which seeks to ensure that major new development is aligned with the provision of facilities and services.</p>
Improving community safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New houses, in the right place, which are well designed, will help reduce crime. Design out crime.</li> </ul>	<p>No change required.</p>
Creating a cleaner, greener environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any development is generally negative for the environment, but assuming development is a necessity, it is a positive policy</li> <li>• Too much focus on numbers which is unsustainable</li> <li>• The pressure may mount to use green belt areas as they are easier and more desirable.</li> <li>• There is a need to be strict and not allow cheap, quick development. It should be well designed and aesthetically pleasing</li> <li>• Any new housing development will increase carbon usage, water usage, traffic</li> </ul>	<p>Given the statement at the end of the first point it is surprising that this has subsequently come out with a negative score. The issue of the focus on numbers is dealt with above and is required in relation to regional and national policy.</p>
Improving health and wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No direct impact. The health of the new residents will be improved if the housing is well located and with good access to facilities</li> </ul>	<p>I would have expected the delivery of new homes could have a positive impact in terms of people's health and well being, especially since new homes will not have those problems that older, poorly maintained housing can have e.g. damp.</p>

**Core Policy C2: Delivering the right type of housing**

Sustainable Neighbourhoods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The north/south divide in the area could lead to issues, for example it could emphasise the split in richer areas and poorer areas</li> <li>• There is not enough higher value housing in Rochdale</li> <li>• Potential to build higher value houses in the areas which traditionally have smaller houses and vice versa</li> <li>• The policy does not break the cycle, it does not makes any changes from existing policy so compounds the existing issues</li> </ul>	<p>The north / south split is more about accessibility, and subsequently sustainability, and it is therefore surprising that this element has not been considered in a more positive way.</p> <p>The policy does mention the need for higher value housing across the borough to provide for local demand and redress the current imbalance in the housing stock. Even in higher value areas across the borough, there are smaller properties e.g. Littleborough, Norden, Wardle etc. Given the general need to deliver more high value housing and create attractive housing locations it would seem inappropriate to try and direct lower value dwellings to these areas. It is acknowledged that there needs to be better quality and higher value housing in the poorer areas in order to widen their appeal but this should not result in needing to direct smaller houses elsewhere.</p> <p>Potential to consider wording to emphasise the objective to create stronger, more balanced and sustainable housing markets in the longer term.</p>
Increasing jobs and prosperity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Larger houses will attract graduates back to the area</li> <li>• A diverse range of housing type will provide for all the different skill sets in the local population</li> </ul>	Comments noted. No change required.
Making sure every child counts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If there are more of the right types of houses to cater for families then the children would experience a better home situation and a better quality of life.</li> </ul>	Comments noted. No change required.
Improving community safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High density housing which is designed well and provides a high quality mix of housing will reduce crime</li> </ul>	Comments noted. No change required.
Creating a cleaner, greener environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It the housing is well designed and is sustainable it would be positive, however, there is no mention of this in this policy.</li> </ul>	It may be useful to make the design message stronger within this policy and this may improve the neutral score for this objective.
Improving health and wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This policy would help increase quality of life</li> </ul>	Comments noted. No change required.

**Core Policy C3: Providing affordable homes**

Sustainable Neighbourhoods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The aim of the policy is to provide sustainable affordable homes so it has a positive impact on this objective</li> <li>It is easier to achieve this in new housing areas which can be designed from scratch, it is more difficult in areas of existing development</li> </ul>	Comments noted. No change required.
Increasing jobs and prosperity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jobs will be provided through construction work, and in the longer term through service provision to the residents</li> </ul>	Comments noted. No change required.
Making sure every child counts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The aim is to increase the quality of life for the children who will be resident in these homes so the policy impact is positive on this objective</li> </ul>	Comments noted. No change required.
Improving community safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This depends on the quality of the housing provided. It should not be implemented through provision of lower grade properties. It must meet good design and safety principles, for example, strong windows and doors, good locks, or it will lead to problems. They are likely to be built by social housing companies so should be good quality.</li> <li>If they are built by developers as a consequence of having to provide some affordable housing as part of a planning condition they could be cheap and have a negative impact</li> </ul>	As with previous policy, the design element of the policy could be brought out a bit stronger in terms of the quality of the affordable housing to be provided.
Creating a cleaner, greener environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Same issues as above – depends on good quality and design</li> </ul>	See comments above.
Improving health and wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Same issues as above - depends on good quality and design</li> </ul>	See comments above.

**Core Policy C4: Meeting the housing needs of gypsies and travellers**

General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There are some obvious problems with site location for the existing local community but overall it is the management of risk and avoidance serious negative issues. It is a very positive policy for the traveller population.</li> </ul>	
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Sustainable Neighbourhoods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is useful to have a specific site as this reduces other problems such as encroachment onto green space, untidy sites when travellers move on, nuisance.</li> <li>It is broadly sustainable policy which would benefit neighbourhoods</li> </ul>	Comments noted. No change required.
Increasing jobs and prosperity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>By creating a specific site the issues are removed from other, less appropriate areas and prosperity of the whole area should increase</li> </ul>	Comments noted. No change required.
Making sure every child counts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For the gypsy and traveller children, this should improve their quality of life considerably</li> </ul>	Comments noted. No change required.
Improving community safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This policy should increase harmony and decrease tension which leads to safer communities</li> </ul>	Comments noted. No change required.
Creating a cleaner, greener environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>By finding a specific site the environmental damage which can be created is much reduced. Although there may be some local environmental issues, a high negative impact is avoided elsewhere</li> <li>The scale of the sites should be limited.</li> </ul>	Comments noted. No change required.
Improving health and wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It should lead to better access to doctors, schools and all services and facilities for the traveller population</li> </ul>	Comments noted. No change required.

#### Core Policy C5: Improving health and well being

General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This policy is a bit vague and although it has good aims, there is not enough definition in it. The implementation plan needs strengthening.</li> </ul>	
Sustainable Neighbourhoods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If well implemented, this policy can only strengthen communities</li> <li>Are the aims of the policy achievable through the implementation strategy?</li> </ul>	Comments noted. No changes recommended.
Increasing jobs and prosperity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This would lead to less sick days and a stronger and happier working population, which would increase prosperity</li> </ul>	Comments noted. No changes recommended.
Making sure every child counts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Positive aims but how is it to be achieved? There needs to be a stronger structure.</li> </ul>	Again the focus of this policy is everyone in the borough and is does not preclude anyone group. The plan aims to tackle problems of obesity including child obesity. Reference to children's centre's such as Surestart could be included – part of joint health centres.
Improving community safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Needs to be more specific</li> </ul>	As mentioned before this policy tries to bring together a number of issues which is dealt with in more detail in other policy areas. There is a reference to crime and safety through design but the specifics are dealt with under policy P3. Reference included in policy to reflect this.

Creating a cleaner, greener environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Good quality play areas and open space is really important and should have more emphasis</li> <li>• Potential to replace 'well being' with 'sustainable', or any number of words. The policy needs more definition.</li> </ul>	Comments noted. No changes recommended.
Improving health and wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strongly positive aims but a bit weak on implementation</li> </ul>	Comments noted. No changes recommended. See above comments.

### Core Policy C6: Delivering education facilities

General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This policy has more substance and is underpinned with specific goals for implementation. If all come to fruition, the policy will achieve its aims.</li> </ul>	
Sustainable Neighbourhoods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This policy will have a positive impact</li> </ul>	Comments noted. No changes recommended.
Increasing jobs and prosperity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The education facilities are the bedrock of improving the economic situation of an area</li> <li>• This will provide jobs in the educational facilities as well as job training for future employees</li> <li>• Construction jobs</li> </ul>	Comments noted. No changes recommended.
Making sure every child counts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some secondary school children go outside the Borough as there is competition for places at present. The policy seeks to improve this situation</li> <li>• The school green areas could be used by the local children for recreation out of school time if well designed. At present school fields are often fenced off and inaccessible</li> <li>• Overall, improving educational facilities should benefit every child</li> </ul>	Comments noted. No changes recommended.
Improving community safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A good education can reduce the number of future criminals so more good quality, well designed schools could reduce future crime</li> </ul>	Comments noted. No changes recommended.
Creating a cleaner, greener environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• English Heritage are trying to protect historic education school buildings as the present trend is knock them down and start again. This policy could therefore have a negative impact</li> <li>• Travel to school distances could be improved if there were more, well located schools</li> <li>• Rochdale has a strong reputation for sustainable schools and leading the way in sustainable design. This fact should be accentuated, and could be incorporated into the policy.</li> </ul>	It is appropriate that this matter is addressed in policy 13, which seeks to protect the best of the borough's heritage.
Improving health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Positive impact</li> </ul>	Comments noted. No changes recommended.



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**Core Policy C7: Improving community facilities and cohesion**

Sustainable Neighbourhoods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This is a new area for planning policy. The intention is positive but more detail is needed for it to work.</li> <li>Does not deliver on specifics</li> </ul>	Agreed. The policy now reflects the needs and aspirations of the community and ensures that new development is easily accessible and located in a sustainable location, well connected to public transport, serve the community and meet a mix of opportunities for everyone.
Increasing jobs and prosperity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improving the community as a whole should increase economic activity and create more jobs</li> </ul>	Comments noted. No changes recommended.
Making sure every child counts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Positive intentions</li> </ul>	Comments noted. No changes recommended.
Improving community safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If the community works well and manages itself, there is less crime</li> </ul>	Comments noted. No changes recommended.
Creating a cleaner, greener environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>People who are happier in their surrounding environment will respect it so this policy should bring benefits for the environment</li> </ul>	Comments noted. No changes recommended.
Improving health and wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If people respect their community there should be a better sense of place which will lead to increased well being</li> </ul>	Comments noted. No changes recommended.

**Core Policy P1: Protecting character**

Sustainable Neighbourhoods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local distinctiveness is a reason why people come to an area. All places have character, even the less affluent areas and a strong character can give meaning and well being to poorer areas</li> </ul>	Comments noted. No changes recommended.
Increasing jobs and prosperity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The image of a place is important as it attracts investment which increases prosperity which attracts more businesses to an area. If the image poor the community will decline</li> </ul>	Comments noted. No changes recommended.
Making sure every child counts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The environment and local character of a neighbourhood shapes how the child grows up giving a mildly positive but indirect impact from this policy</li> </ul>	Comments noted. No changes recommended.
Improving community safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>People are more likely to protect their area and leave it neglected if it has a strong character. This reduces the potential for crime</li> <li>A neighbourhood with a strong character leads to a lower fear of crime</li> </ul>	Comments noted. No changes recommended.

Creating a cleaner, greener environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If it has a strong character it should be protected with a designation</li> <li>• This is the right type of policy but more detail is needed in the implementation</li> </ul>	Agreed. Detail to be provided in a further Supplementary Planning Document drawing on Landscape Character Assessment which will be carried out.
Improving health and wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as previous comments</li> </ul>	See above.

**Core Policy P2: Improving Image**

Sustainable Neighbourhoods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is an image issue in the Rochdale area; giving image and improving the environment a high priority is important.</li> <li>• Emphasis should be placed on design and quality</li> </ul>	Comments noted. No changes recommended.
Increasing jobs and prosperity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strengthening the image of a place, for example the gateways and corridors, encourages inward investment. Rochdale has a poor image and is below its potential for attracting investment</li> </ul>	Comments noted. No changes recommended.
Making sure every child counts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This policy could indirectly improve the quality of life for children but there is no direct impact</li> </ul>	Comments noted. No changes recommended.
Improving community safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If implemented, this would send messages that the community was well cared for, which would reduce crime</li> </ul>	Comments noted. No changes recommended.
Creating a cleaner, greener environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The policy is vague and focuses on improving the perception only, not the actual heritage.</li> <li>• Enhancing and protecting the existing heritage will benefit this policy aim</li> <li>• Should be more than a marketing drive</li> </ul>	There will be more emphasis on specific heritage assets incorporated into policy 13 above, and a further detailed policy for development control in respect of heritage assets will follow.
Improving health and wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>	No comments made.

**Core Policy P3: Improving design**

General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This could be a more strongly worded policy. Should be aiming for more. A Greater vision.</li> </ul>	Noted but this policy provides detail which fleshes out the vision provided in policies 13 and 14 above.
Sustainable Neighbourhoods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Generally a good policy, respecting the local built form and using it to guide future development is sound policy</li> <li>There are occasions when inventive design are required but this is sometimes restricted</li> <li>Does the design Guide have SPD status and is it up to date? Developers will not follow the guidance if it is not obligatory.</li> </ul>	The Guide has SPD status. This policy is essentially the 'list' of design principles and the bridge between the more visionary policies 13 and 14 above and the SPDs.
Increasing jobs and prosperity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>	No comments made.
Making sure every child counts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>	No comments made.
Improving community safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Designing out crime is an essential part of good design</li> </ul>	Noted.
Creating a cleaner, greener environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sustainable design is the key to the future</li> <li>There could be an issue if sustainable design is more expensive to implement and run</li> <li>The design guide should be updated to incorporate sustainable principles</li> </ul>	The policy updates the design guide in sustainability matters. As well as this, a climate change adaptation SPD will follow.
Improving health and wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>	No comments made.

**Core Policy R1: Tackling climate change**

Sustainable Neighbourhoods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Site location is key when designing sustainable communities</li> <li>Any new development sites must conform to the rules in this policy and there will be an overall positive impact from the policy</li> <li>Larger development proposals will be more likely to be accepted by the community if it has sustainable credentials</li> </ul>	Comments noted. No changes recommended.
Increasing jobs and prosperity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Green travel plans are a requirement for new businesses in the area which will benefit employees and the environment</li> <li>If renewable energy costs more, fuel poverty may be an issue in the future</li> </ul>	Disagree that renewable energy is conducive to fuel poverty. More likely to reduce fuel poverty in the long run.
Making sure every child counts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Indirect positive impacts for the future</li> </ul>	Comments noted. No changes recommended.

Improving community safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>	No comments made.
Creating a cleaner, greener environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This is a comprehensive policy which addresses environmental and heritage issues and will have strongly positive benefits for the environment</li> </ul>	Comments noted. No changes recommended.
Improving health and wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This would improve air quality and have a positive influence on flooding issues in the long term</li> <li>Generally positive but the benefits would apply to the wider area and would be long term</li> </ul>	Comments noted. No changes recommended.

### Core Policy R2: The Green Belt

Sustainable Neighbourhoods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Restricting the outward spread, sometimes sprawl of urban areas is good for well formed neighbourhoods.</li> </ul>	
Increasing jobs and prosperity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If the site at Heywood is agreed the benefits will spread to the wider area</li> <li>There is potential for small scale forestry and energy crops in the green belt and greener fuels are being more common</li> </ul>	
Making sure every child counts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The green belt provide open space for children, often within relatively easy access</li> </ul>	
Improving community safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Neutral. There are different criminal issues in the greenbelt and this policy would not affect the safety of the area</li> </ul>	
Creating a cleaner, greener environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is always considerable pressure on the green belt. Care should be taken to ensure it is not nibbled away slowly as this would have a long term negative impact on the environment</li> <li>The policy has a positive outlook which will benefit the environment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Land will not be released until and if it is needed. It is hoped that the Green Belt will be increased in other areas to compensate.</li> </ul>
Improving health and wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The green belt provides opportunities for recreation and outdoor exercise which will benefit the health and well being of local residents in the long term</li> </ul>	

### Core Policy R3: Other protected open land

General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The focus of this policy is unclear. Does it relate to the release of land for development or does it relate to site protection.</li> </ul>	The policy safeguards land not in the Green Belt but identifies land which may have potential for development. <b>The policy has been amended and the options clarified.</b>
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Sustainable Neighbourhoods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Need more information</li> </ul>	
Increasing jobs and prosperity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is local opposition to schemes which would create jobs on this open land as it is often in semi-rural areas</li> </ul>	The need to meet housing and employment land requirements means that some land outside the urban area may be needed. Refining options for land release has taken account of the relative sustainability impacts of different locations.
Making sure every child counts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>	
Improving community safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>	
Creating a cleaner, greener environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Once it is not protected as part of the green belt designation it is under huge pressure, especially for housing. This policy is unclear and ambiguous. More information is needed</li> </ul>	The policy protects long term safeguarded land as though it is green belt even though it may not meet the purposes of green belt set out in government policy. <b>The policy has been amended and options clarified.</b>
Improving health and wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>	

#### Core Policy R4: Enhancing green spaces and corridors

General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The use of 'no net loss' is defensive and lacks vision. It could aim for an 'increase' in green spaces.</li> </ul>	<b>The reference to no net loss has been removed. Text amended to refer to proposals providing new GI where possible and enhancing existing GI.</b>
Sustainable Neighbourhoods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The concept that if you lose the green area through necessity in one area, you replace it in another is a sound policy</li> <li>The policy is a bit bland and lacks vision</li> <li>Could aim to create a green grid, or set higher targets</li> <li>Recreation land has been passed down from previous policies, there is the potential to transform this into a GI network</li> </ul>	Policy reference to a green grid or targets are more appropriate to consider in the context of the Borough's developing GI Strategy. <b>An expanded reference to a strategic GI approach and the importance of a GI network has been included.</b>
Increasing jobs and prosperity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The multi-functional emphasis on Green Infrastructure developments is beneficial to the wider community and the attracting new business to the area</li> </ul>	
Making sure every child counts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Safe green corridors linking recreation and play area will improve child safety</li> <li>It will also increase the sense of community and access to green space and nature for every child</li> </ul>	
Improving	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Similar to above</li> </ul>	

community safety		
Creating a cleaner, greener environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This policy should be more focused on how it can assist with mitigating for the impact of climate change</li> </ul>	A specific policy is included for Climate Change and it is important not to repeat more detailed policy contained therein. A further reference to climate change impacts has been included in the opening paragraph of the policy.
Improving health and wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This policy will provide access to the recreation areas which will increase fitness</li> <li>It will increase the sense of well being found when people have access to nature</li> </ul>	

#### Core Policy R5: Protecting biodiversity and geodiversity

General	There is a general recognition of the fact that biodiversity will change with the effects of climate change. There is a need to accept this and adapt to the changes, rather than try and protect the existing situation.	Agreed, however, there is currently no substantial agreement as to the effect that climate change will have on biodiversity. Hence, we need to both protect and enhance the existing biodiversity and allow for change as appropriate through preventing fragmentation, and linking and buffering existing habitats to allow for migration etc as appropriate. Have now included a reference to preventing fragmentation and linking and buffering for climate change.
Sustainable Neighbourhoods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>With a positive focus on creating new habitats, this policy should have a positive impact on sustainable neighbourhoods</li> </ul>	
Increasing jobs and prosperity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Indirectly, this will attract inward investment as it will provide a valuable contribution to high quality working environments</li> </ul>	
Making sure every child counts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>	
Improving community safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>	
Creating a cleaner, greener environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rochdale does not have its own BAP, it uses the Greater Manchester BAP. Potential to take this policy further and create a Rochdale BAP</li> </ul>	Agreed, this policy now includes a reference to the Local (Rochdale) BAP. Although currently unfinished, this will be completed during 2009.
Improving health and wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>With access to nature, the well being of the population should increase</li> </ul>	

**Core Policy R6: Managing water resources**

Sustainable Neighbourhoods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This policy is an essential part of a sustainable community</li> </ul>	Comments noted. No changes recommended.
Increasing jobs and prosperity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If the water resource is well managed, there would be lower overall usage, which would lead to an economic saving for the wider population</li> </ul>	Comments noted. No changes recommended.
Making sure every child counts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>	No comments made.
Improving community safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>	No comments made.
Creating a cleaner, greener environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There are flooding issues in Rochdale, for example in Littleborough, and this policy has the potential to manage the situation to reduce this risk</li> <li>A surface water management plan would be beneficial</li> </ul>	Policy to be amended to refer to possible specific flood mitigation measures and the possibility of surface water management plans.
Improving health and wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There are some water quality issues which need addressing, which this policy would seek to achieve. There is potential for the plan to be more specific and tackle individual water quality problems</li> </ul>	Policy to be amended appropriately

**Core Policy R7: Improving air quality**

General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This is a reactive not a proactive policy. There should be more visionary, it needs 'teeth'. The specific areas with air quality issues should be named. This will help remediate individual air quality problem areas. It is not ambitions enough.</li> </ul>	The policy will be amended to be more proactive and specific to certain areas, e.g. Air Quality management Zone.
Sustainable Neighbourhoods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Congestion and sustainable transport are the main issues in this policy. The policy tries to address these and should be effective</li> </ul>	Comments noted. No changes recommended.
Increasing jobs and prosperity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Some companies will look for areas with cleaner air to benefit their employees</li> <li>If the air quality is not high, it may put investors off</li> </ul>	Noted; reason for strengthening the policy, which will be done.
Making sure every child counts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There will be broad, long term benefits for the wider population</li> </ul>	Comments noted. No changes recommended.
Improving community safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is no relation between crime rates and air quality</li> </ul>	Comments noted. No changes recommended.

Creating a cleaner, greener environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This is a weak policy which accepts the present situation. It should be aiming for an improvement</li> <li>• It only focuses on new development, there should be aim to improve the present situation too</li> </ul>	The policy will be amended to be more proactive and specific to certain areas, e.g. Air Quality management Zone.
Improving health and wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The intention is positive put the policy is weak</li> </ul>	See above.

### Core Policy R8: Managing Waste

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is not enough background supporting information to make informed judgments on this topic</li> </ul>	This will be provided by the GM Joint Waste Plan.
Sustainable Neighbourhoods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There should be a drive to reduce waste? It was agreed this probably was included in the policy as part of the waste hierarchy but this would be unclear to most readers.</li> <li>• A missed opportunity; the policy needs more drive</li> </ul>	Measures to reduce waste generated as opposed to waste minimization through the treatment and management of waste are necessary but are largely beyond the scope of the Local Development Framework. However, the policy has been amended to clarify the 'waste hierarchy' to assist readers.
Increasing jobs and prosperity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A waste management site would create jobs</li> <li>• If the waste disposal requirements were too stringent for businesses stricter rules may drive new investment away</li> </ul>	Noted. Waste legislation will be largely responsible for setting such rules rather than the Core Strategy or the GM Joint Waste Plan.
Making sure every child counts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unknown</li> </ul>	
Improving community safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unknown</li> </ul>	
Creating a cleaner, greener environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unknown</li> </ul>	
Improving health and wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unknown</li> </ul>	



**Core Policy R9: Managing minerals resources**

General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is not enough information in this policy to assess it correctly. The impacts are mostly unknown. Generally, it was felt the policy should be more forward thinking and identify local opportunities to increase sustainability.</li> <li>• Using local building stone would be far more sustainable than importing foreign stone but there are very strict regulations against opening local quarries</li> </ul>	It is not always the case as extraction can have other environmental impacts depending on where it is. It is possible for man made materials to replicate natural stone. The policy refers to recycling of construction waste eg. through site management plans. The purpose of safeguarding local mineral resources is to ensure that extraction can more easily meet local markets to meet local construction needs.
Sustainable Neighbourhoods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>	
Increasing jobs and prosperity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>	
Making sure every child counts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>	
Improving community safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>	
Creating a cleaner, greener environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>	
Improving health and wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>	

**Core Policy T1: Delivering sustainable transport**

Sustainable Neighbourhoods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This is a positive, detailed policy</li> <li>• Delivery is the key issue and will depend on individual transport schemes including rail links, bus routes and cycle tracks.</li> </ul>	The schemes included are those that can feasibly be delivered in the life of the Core Strategy. For longer term aspirations there is only a commitment to establish a justification and business case or not.
Increasing jobs and prosperity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustainable access to employment areas is really important and a sound transport network will encourage businesses to an area</li> </ul>	
Making sure every child counts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This policy assists create safer roads and clearer air, which will have an indirectly positive impact on children</li> </ul>	
Improving community safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If well implemented, it should make the roads, and all modes of transport safer</li> </ul>	Continuation of already established approach through GM LTP.

Creating a cleaner, greener environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There should be more of a focus on reducing carbon emissions, it does not explicitly states CO2 needs to be reduced.</li> <li>• If you improve the transport network and road connectivity, then you automatically increase the number of cars on the road which is a negative impact of the policy</li> </ul>	Strengthening the sustainable transport offer will reduce carbon emissions if they are successful. 16 out of 19 proposals improve sustainable travel and contribute to tackling CO <sub>2</sub> . <b>Strengthened explicit links between the two.</b> HA's motorway hard shoulder running is proven to reduced emissions and Heywood Relief road will reduce travel distances in accessing the distribution parks and contribute to CO.
Improving health and wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If the policy set more visionary targets, it could seriously benefit the air quality which would have a positive impact on health. However, at present the policy is not strong enough to implement a serious change</li> </ul>	No the responsibility of LDF Core Strategy to set Health and Wellbeing targets only to provide policies and measures that will contribute to those set by LSP and in LAA.

### Core Policy T2: Improving Accessibility

General	The ambitions of the policy are good but it is all a bit unclear. Does the policy relate to the mode of transport and accessibility to the wider transport network, or does it relate to access to services e.g. doctors. Needs clarifying.	<b>The accessibility policy section has been re-written to clarify, with an introduction to Policy T2.</b> It is a development control policy outlining the council expectations from itself, its partners and developers in the transport assessment, travel plan accessibility requirements etc in preparing all new development and infrastructure improvements. Standards will be the same for both public sector and private development.
Sustainable Neighbourhoods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unknown</li> </ul>	
Increasing jobs and prosperity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>	
Making sure every child counts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unknown</li> </ul>	
Improving community safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unknown</li> </ul>	
Creating a cleaner, greener environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unknown</li> </ul>	
Improving health and wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unknown</li> </ul>	

## **Conclusion on the Sustainability Appraisal of the Core Strategy DPD to date**

- 5.25 The Sustainability Appraisal of the six spatial options assisted with the selection process for the Preferred Option and was able to lead to refinements of that option in order that sustainability considerations genuinely underpinned the Preferred Option.
- 5.26 The Sustainability Appraisal of the key sites and locations helped to identify those sites with the most positive impact in sustainability terms and the sites which are proposed to be taken forward correspond well with the SA findings. Further, this process allowed an analysis of the sustainability of the proposed Economic Growth Corridors, and whilst there are clear sustainability concerns in respect of the proposed Growth Corridor to the south of Heywood, the impact has been minimised and can be further minimised if mitigation measures such as improved public transport links are put in place as part of the strategy for the area.
- 5.27 The Sustainability Appraisal of the core policies has allowed detailed analysis of the proposed policy contents and as a result of this a number of changes have been proposed to the policies (for clarification, these are highlighted in green in Table 5.5).
- 5.28 It is considered that the SA which has taken place to date provides a comprehensive analysis of the Core Strategy DPD and its various constituent elements, however it should be noted that the SA should be aligned with all stages of the DPD and therefore the SA process will continue after the consultation and when the allocations and policies of the Core Strategy have been refined further.

## **Chapter 6: Next steps and monitoring framework**

**SEA Directive Annex 1 (i)**

### **Next steps**

- 6.1 Following consultation upon this document and the DPD the documents will be reviewed in the light of comments made and, where appropriate, changes will be made to the documents prior to adoption by the Council. If there are significant changes to the DPD that have not already been the subject of this SA it will be necessary to assess these changes against the SA framework to ensure that the significant social, environmental and economic effects are appraised. A further SA report will be submitted alongside the submission of the Plan.

## Monitoring significant effects

- 6.2 Monitoring the significant effects of the plan will take place on a regular basis, by continuing regular assessment of the implementation of the plan against the sustainability objectives, bearing in mind that these in themselves may be subject to review as key issues and problems evolve. This will involve looking at the baseline information and targets which constitute the indicators informing the sustainability objectives; these are outlined in Table 6.1 below. Any significant effects identified will inform the annual monitoring report. It is recognized that the indicators identified below are incomplete and further work will take place to refine them.
- 6.3 If unforeseen adverse effects are identified, an investigation will be undertaken to determine what action can be taken.

**Table 6.1: Monitoring indicators for significant effects of the plan**

(AMR = Annual Monitoring Review)

Sustainability Objective	Sub-questions	Indicators	Remedial Action (column for future use)
1. Developing Sustainable Neighbourhoods	1A	% of Council houses and other dwellings meeting national decency standards (AMR); Number of vulnerable households living in fuel poverty	
	1B	% of housing stock empty (Housing Strategy); Affordable dwellings completed as a % of all new housing completions (Audit Commission / Housing Needs Survey)	
	1C	% of people who believe people from different backgrounds get on well together in their local area (LAA)	
	1D	Amount of new residential development within 30 minutes public transport time of: a GP; a hospital; a primary school; a secondary school; areas of employment; and a major retail centre (AMR)	
2. Increasing Jobs and Prosperity	2A	Loss of employment land (AMR); VAT registered businesses per 10,000 working age population (AMR)	
	2B	Total number of jobs in the Borough (AMR; Pride of Place); Employment rate (Economic Development Strategy)	
	2C	Skill levels (Economic Development Strategy)	
	2D	Amount of new retail in town centres (AMR)	
	2E	Increase in visitor numbers (Aiming High) - Indicators to be developed -	
3. Making Sure Every Child Matters	3A	Year on year rise in childhood obesity (AMR); % of 5-16 year olds participating in a minimum of two hours each week of high quality PE and school sport (Community Strategy)	
	3B	% of schools with a travel plan (Aiming High)	
	3C	Amount and quality of play facilities (Green Infrastructure Survey); % of play areas conforming to LEAP standards (Community Strategy)	

4. Improving Community Safety	4A	% of residents who feel that the Borough is a safe place to live (Pride of Place); Domestic burglaries per 1000 population (Audit Commission); Reduction in key crimes (Aiming High)
	4B	- Indicators to be developed -
5. Creating a Cleaner, Greener Environment	5A	Traffic levels (annual area wide traffic reports, GMTU)
	5B	% of people travelling to work by car, public transport and foot / bicycle; Rail patronage (AMR); Travel Plans (AMR); Per capita CO2 emissions in the LA area (Audit Commission); Energy efficiency of the housing stock (Community Strategy); Renewable energy installed by type (AMR)
	5C	% of residential properties within 400 metres of a good quality natural greenspace, woodland, greenspace corridor or national cycle network / national trail (LAA / Economic Development Strategy); % of eligible open space managed to Green Flag award standard
	5D	% of listed buildings at risk (English Heritage Buildings at Risk register); Number / extent of Conservation Areas
	5E	- Indicators to be developed -
	5F	Woodland cover (Pennine Edge Forest Strategy); Change in areas and populations of biodiversity importance (AMR); % of rivers of good or fair quality (Environment Agency General Quality Assessment)
	5G	- Indicators to be developed -
	5H	% of household waste recycled (RMBC / Defra); % of development on brownfield land (AMR / RSS); Housing Density (AMR)
	5I	Number of planning applications granted contrary to the advice of the Environment Agency on flood defence grounds
6. Improving Health and Wellbeing	6A	- indicator to be developed -
	6B	General health as a % of all people (Census data); Life expectancy; gap in health inequalities
	6C	% of adults participating in at least 30 minutes moderate intensity sport and recreation on 3 or more days per week; % of population within 20 minutes travel time (urban – walking; rural – driving) of a range of 3 different sports facility types, at least one of which has achieved a quality mark

## Appendix 1: Sustainability Appraisal of the six spatial options outlined in the Core Strategy issues and options report

Explanation: The Appraisal objectives derive from the UK Sustainable Development Strategy and are aligned with the Borough Community Strategy: Pride of Place.

For more details of the Spatial Options, please see the Core Strategy Issues and Options Report.

The comments represent a summary of the panel discussion.

Key:

	<b>Excellent: makes a close to optimal contribution to the objective</b>
	<b>Good: makes a significant direct contribution to the objective</b>
	<b>Fair: makes some direct or significant indirect contribution to the objective</b>
	<b>Weak: makes a minor, indirect contribution to the objective and is a missed opportunity</b>
	<b>Poor: does not contribute to the objective and is a missed opportunity</b>
	<b>Undermining: has potential to significantly undermine the objective</b>
	<b>N/A</b>

Appraisal Objectives	Spatial Options						Summary of panel conclusions
	1	2	3	4	5	6	
<b>Better access to healthcare services, reducing health inequalities, promoting health and well-being throughout the borough's neighbourhoods and communities</b>							Increased traffic generation and loss of green space of higher growth options may have negative health impacts.
Increasing sport and leisure activities and greater access to the countryside and other open spaces to help promote healthier lifestyles							The higher growth options result in pressure for the development of greenfield sites and also some loss of countryside.
<b>Improving lifelong education and training, enabling people of all ages to acquire knowledge and skills</b>							Initiatives in respect of this objective are already taking place, especially in regeneration areas, and these initiatives are likely to remain in place for all the options
Supporting and retaining the borough's local businesses, promoting a competitive and dynamic business environment, providing local people with more and better paid jobs							Low growth options may result in businesses in regeneration areas being displaced by housing. The higher growth options, on the other hand, provide new employment development opportunities.

<b>Redeveloping the borough's town centres, attracting new retail investment to the primary shopping areas</b>							Options 1 to 3 include initiatives in respect of town centres, and whilst options 4 to 6 do also, they could potentially encourage out-of-centre retail which could damage the viability of town centres.
Achieving a locally and nationally well-connected transport system, particularly in terms of public transport							Although options 3 to 5 have advantages over 1 and 2, such as the promotion of East Lancs railway, new roads could be negative in terms of this objective and option 6 is likely to lead to increased traffic problems.
<b>Conserving and enhancing the Borough's diverse built and natural heritage</b>							The higher growth options, with loss of green space, could have a very negative impact.
Raising the profile of Rochdale within the North West region, attracting more investment and opportunities for local people							Higher growth options can be good for the Borough's profile, however option 6 could lead to a more negative image because of the visual and environmental impact of less restrained development
<b>Further reducing crime and the fear of crime</b>							The options that focus on regeneration perform well against this objective, with regeneration initiatives tackling this subject. However, option 6 has less focus on regeneration.
Protecting and enhancing biodiversity and habitats and providing opportunities for new habitat creation							There are some initiatives in connection with regeneration programmes. Higher growth options, however, mean loss of green space / countryside and negative impacts on habitats / biodiversity.
<b>Ensuring a reduced impact upon the local and global environment; reducing pollution and waste and saving energy and water to within empirically tested environmental limits</b>							All the options could have a negative impact unless policies address these issues. Increased land take and traffic generation of the higher growth options meant they scored particularly badly.
Tackling climate change through reducing local carbon dioxide emissions and energy use, contributing to national and regional targets related to mitigation							Option 2, with its focus on regeneration, was felt to align with the high regeneration standards in this area as well as minimising increased traffic. Growth options involving new roads were felt to have a negative impact on this objective.
<b>Achieving effective climate change adaptation</b>							Increased land take up can increase the urban heat island and greenfield development leads to increased run-off. Option 6 potentially allows development on flood plains.

Ensuring that flood risk is minimised							Some regeneration initiatives are in flood areas, and this potential problem needs to be addressed. With the higher growth options, increased run-off is an issues and their was particular concern in respect of the British Vita site.
<b>Protecting or improving inland waters</b>							None of the options were felt to have significant benefits for this objective, and this needs to be picked up at further stages. Higher growth options, with increased land take, could cause flood pulses.
Reducing the need to travel and promoting walking, cycling and public transport							Regeneration areas are generally close to public transport and some of the possible development areas are also. It was felt that much depended on the details of implementation, although option 6 was likely to lead to residential areas some distance from employment.
<b>Creating decent, warm, safe and secure houses cutting energy use, with choice of location, size and tenure</b>							Whilst it was felt that regeneration initiatives were improving the situation in respect of this objective, it was felt that the higher growth options might impact negatively on accessibility, and therefore choice, of locations for some groups.
Ensuring that the future development of the Borough benefits all sectors of the community and all ethnic groups							Whilst regeneration initiatives, to some extent, seek to benefit some sectors of the community, it was felt that more needed to be done. Growth points in higher growth options appear to be focused on less diverse areas.
<b>Ensuring sustainable communities by improving the local environment</b>							Policies will need to ensure that opportunities are taken in regeneration areas. Option 6 might be particularly negative as there will inevitably be less focus on regeneration areas.



## Appendix 2: Appraisal of the Preferred Options Spatial Strategy and Core Policies

Key:

Strongly positive	Positive	Neutral / not applicable	Negative	Strongly negative	Unknown / not enough information

Core Strategy 'Preferred Options' Objectives and Core Policies	Sustainability Objectives																									
	1. Sustainable Neighbourhoods				2. Increasing jobs and prosperity					3. Making sure every child matters			4. Improving community safety		5. Creating a cleaner, greener environment							6. Improving health and wellbeing				
	A	B	C	D	A	B	C	D	E	A	B	C	A	B	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	A	B	C
<b>Spatial Strategy Overview</b>																										
SP1: The Spatial Strategy Overview																										
SP2: Spatial Strategy – south of borough																										
SP3: Spatial Strategy – north of borough																										
<b>To deliver a more prosperous economy</b>																										
E1: Establishing thriving town centres																										
E2: Focussing economic growth																										
E3: Regenerating existing employment areas																										
E4: Encouraging the visitor economy																										
E5: Diversifying the rural economy																										
<b>To create successful and healthy communities</b>																										
C1: Delivering the right amount of housing in the right places																										
C2: Delivering the right type of housing																										
C3: Providing affordable homes																										

C4: Meeting the housing needs of gypsies and travellers																						
C5: Improving health and wellbeing																						
C6: Delivering education facilities																						
C7: Improving community facilities and cohesion																						
To improve design, image and quality of place																						
P1: Protecting character																						
P2: Improving image																						
P3: Improving design																						
To conserve and manage the natural environment and resources																						
R1: Tackling climate change																						
R2: managing green belt																						
R3: managing other protected / reserved open land																						
R4: Enhancing green spaces and corridors																						
R5: Protecting biodiversity and geodiversity																						
R6: Managing water resources and flood risk																						
R7: managing and improving air quality																						
R8: managing waste																						
R9: Managing mineral resources																						
To improve accessibility and deliver sustainable transport																						
T1: Delivering sustainable transport																						
T2: Improving accessibility																						

## Appendix 3

### Location of documentation and comments forms

- Planning and Regulation Services, Floor 1, Telegraph House, Baillie St, Rochdale
- Rochdale Customer Service Centre, Floor 2, Municipal offices, Smith Street, Rochdale
- Middleton Customer Service Centre, Sadler Street, Middleton
- Milnrow Customer Service Centre, 82 Dale Street, Milnrow
- Heywood Customer Service Centre, 44-46 Market Street, Heywood
- Littleborough Customer Service Centre, Council Offices, Harehill Park, Littleborough
- Kirkholt Customer Service Centre, 46 The Strand, Kirkholt, Rochdale
- Langley Customer Service Centre, 17 Lingmell Close, Langley, Middleton
- Alkington Library, Kirkway, Middleton
- Balderstone Library, Balderstone Park, Rochdale
- Belfield Library, Belfield Community School, Samson Street, Rochdale
- Castleton Library, Castleton Community Centre, Manchester Road
- Darnhill Library, Argyle Parade, Heywood
- Heywood Library, Church Street, Heywood
- Langley Library, Windermere Road, Middleton
- Littleborough Library, hare Hill Park, Littleborough
- Middleton Library, Long Street
- Milnrow Library, Newhey Road
- Norden Library, Norden Community School, Shawfield Lane
- Smallbridge Library, 121-123 Smithybridge Road
- Spotland Library, Ings Lane, Rochdale
- Wardle Library, 448 Birch Road, Wardle
- Wheatsheaf Library, Baillie Street, Rochdale
- Junction Community Library, Jumbo Social Centre, Grimshaw Lane, Middleton

For more information, phone Strategic Planning on Tel: 01706 924371  
or email [strategic.planning@rochdale.gov.uk](mailto:strategic.planning@rochdale.gov.uk)

Comments should be sent to the address on the front cover and should reach us by **7<sup>th</sup> December 2009**.