Strategic Environmental Assessment and Sustainability Appraisal

Local Development Framework - Core Strategy

Non Technical Summary
Wyre Borough Council

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Local Development Framework - Core Strategy

Non Technical Summary

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## ABBREVIATIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BREEAM</td>
<td>Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cSAC</td>
<td>Candidate Special Area of Conservation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NTS</td>
<td>Non Technical Summary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pSPA</td>
<td>Potential Special Protection Area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SA</td>
<td>Sustainability Appraisal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAC</td>
<td>Special Area of Conservation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEA</td>
<td>Strategic Environmental Assessment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SNPA</td>
<td>Snowdonia National Park Authority</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPA</td>
<td>Special Protection Area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSSI</td>
<td>Site of Special Scientific Interest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUDS</td>
<td>Sustainable Drainage System</td>
</tr>
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</table>
INRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Wyre Borough Council has prepared a Preferred Options Core Strategy Development Plan Document to guide development within the borough up to 2028. The Core Strategy will be formally adopted as part of Wyre Borough Council’s Local Development Framework. The Local Development Framework will eventually replace the existing Wyre Local Plan that was adopted in July 1999.

The Core Strategy is the most important planning document that Wyre Borough Council will produce and will form the main consideration when determining planning applications. It will establish the planning framework for the borough’s administrative area, setting out where new homes, employment and shops will be located as well as which areas will be regenerated and those that will be conserved.

When preparing the Core Strategy it is a legal requirement to undertake a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) to ensure that the environmental and sustainability performance of the plan is assessed and improved. The term SA shall be used to refer to the combined SA/SEA for the remainder of this report. This report is the Non Technical Summary (NTS) of the SA process for the Core Strategy.

1.2 Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment

SA is a process for assessing the social, economic and environmental impacts of a plan and aims to ensure that sustainable development is at the heart of the plan-making process.

It is a legal requirement that the Core Strategy is subject to SA, under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. This Act states that the SA must comply with requirements of the SEA Directive which was transposed directly into UK law through the SEA Regulations.

The aim of the SEA is to ‘provide for a high level of protection of the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development’ (Article 1 of the SEA Directive).

The principle of ensuring a better quality of life for everyone, now and in the future, lies at the heart of sustainable development. The overarching aim of the SA process is to ensure better decision-making and planning. The process should begin early in the preparation of the Core Strategy.

1.3 Consultation

Consultation has been undertaken at the following stages of the SA process:

1. A Scoping Report was produced and issued to the Environment Agency, Natural England and English Heritage in 2006 to confirm the scope and level of detail to be included in the SA Report.

3 In March 2011 a new overarching Scoping Report that could be applied to all Development Plan Documents (that form part of Wyre’s Local Development Framework) and a Mini-Scoping Report specific to the Core Strategy were produced. Together these Scoping Reports superseded previous Scoping Report produced in 2006. The 2011 Scoping Reports were issued for consultation in March 2011. Comments received were taken forward and incorporated into the SA process.

4 Statutory consultees and the public are currently being consulted upon the SA Report and the Preferred Options Core Strategy.

1.4 How to Provide Feedback

This NTS has been published for consultation with the SA Report and Preferred Options Core Strategy. Please address any consultation responses to David Thow (Head of Planning Services) at the address below:

People and Places Directorate,
Wyre Council,
Civic Centre,
Breck Road,
Poulton-le-Fylde,
Lancashire FY6 7PU.

1.5 Habitat Regulations Assessment

European law requires that if the Core Strategy is deemed to have a significant effect upon a designated wildlife site of European importance, which is not directly concerned with the management of the site for nature conservation, it must be subject to a procedure known as, ‘Appropriate Assessment’. Sites of European importance include: Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), candidate Special Areas of Conservation (cSAC), Special Protection Areas (SPA), potential Special Protection Areas (pSPA) and also Ramsar sites.

A separate exercise has been undertaken to determine if the Core Strategy would need to be subject to Appropriate Assessment and this is documented in a separate Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening Report. The report concluded that there were uncertainties as to whether the Core Strategy would lead to significant effects on sites of European importance.
2	THE SA PROCESS

2.1	Stages in the SA Process

The SA process can be broken down into five main stages which are presented in Table 2-1 below.

Table 2-1	Stages in the SA Process

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stage in the SA Process</th>
<th>Main Elements of the Process and Application to this SA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A - Scoping</td>
<td>Setting context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope – this is often referred to as the scoping stage.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B - Assessment</td>
<td>Developing and refining options and assessing effects – Wyre Borough Council initially undertook an assessment of a number of options for the Core Strategy and consulted upon them in 2008. Following this Wyre Borough Council refined their options in 2011 and prepared the Preferred Options Core Strategy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C – SA Report</td>
<td>Preparing the SA Report – An SA Report was produced documenting the assessment of the Preferred Options Core Strategy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D - Consultation</td>
<td>Consulting on the plan and SA Report – an Initial SA Report was consulted upon in 2008 and the Preferred Options Core Strategy is currently being consulted upon.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E - Monitoring</td>
<td>Monitoring the significant effects of implementing the Core Strategy – this will be undertaken once the Core Strategy has been adopted. A proposed monitoring framework is presented in the SA Report.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2.2	The Scoping Stage

Stage A of the SA process started in 2006 and a Scoping Report was produced to set the framework for the remainder of the SA process. However, in March 2011 a new revised Scoping Report was produced that could be applied to all Wyre’s Development Plan Documents (that form part of Wyre’s Local Development Framework) in addition a mini-Scoping Report was also produced in March 2011 that was specific to the Core Strategy. Both these Scoping Reports supersede the previous Scoping Report produced in 2006. The 2011 Scoping Reports included the following:

- A review of other international, national, regional and local plans and programmes that could influence the development of the SA and the Core Strategy. The review of these documents focussed upon identifying key environmental and sustainability objectives that would need to be considered.
- The identification of key sustainability issues and opportunities in the borough. This was based upon an understanding of the existing social, economic and environmental conditions in the borough.
- The framework that would be used to assess the sustainability performance of the Core Strategy.

2.2.1	Review of Plans, Policies and Programmes

A review of other relevant plans, policies and programmes was undertaken to identify the relationship between them and the Core Strategy to assist the SA process. Key principles have
been noted and used to positively influence the direction of the Core Strategy. The key themes from the review included:

- The need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase energy efficiency.
- The need to ensure that new housing development meets local needs (for all sections of society).
- The need to protect and enhance the vibrancy of both rural and urban areas.
- The need for the protection and enhancement of the quality and character of urban and rural areas.
- Recognising the need for the landscape to evolve and for development to be appropriate to the landscape setting and context.
- The need to conserve and enhance biodiversity as an integral part of economic, social and environmental development.
- The need to protect and enhance the historic environment. The Government has an overarching aim for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment and heritage assets.
- To need to promote sensitive waste management.
- To need to promote more sustainable transport choices and to improve accessibility.
- The need to promote the use of renewable energy and renewable technologies in appropriate locations.
- Recognising the importance of open spaces, sport and recreation and the contribution that they make to enhancing quality of life.
- The prudent use of natural resources.
- The need to promote and protect the water environment including issues such as quality and resource use.
- The need to protect and enhance air quality.
- The need to promote community cohesion and to establish towns and villages where individuals want to both live and work.
- The need to broaden the economic base of rural areas and to promote sensitive rural diversification schemes.
- The need to adapt to the threat posed by climate change.
- The need to protect and enhance biodiversity resources particularly sites of international importance e.g. SPAs, SACs and Ramsar sites.
- The need for long-term sustainable patterns of development that provide for the economic and social needs of all populations.
- The need to reduce crime and fear of crime.
- The need to protect and enhance ecosystem functions and services.
- Raising levels of health and well-being and promoting greater levels of physical activity.
- Establishing a housing market that meets the needs of all residents.
- The importance of using Brownfield land for housing development as opposed to Greenfield.
- Promoting sustainable economic development and a range of employment opportunities that meet the needs of all sectors of the population and all skills levels.
• Promoting higher levels of design quality including improvements to energy efficiency. The importance of education and knowledge based industries should be built upon.

2.2.2 Baseline Characterisation

To ensure that a robust assessment of the emerging Core Strategy is undertaken, it is necessary to understand the existing conditions and characteristics of the Wyre borough, for example, the location of key environmental features like Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Scheduled Ancient Monuments, population dynamics including migration patterns and the condition of housing stock and its affordability.

Using the baseline data that has been collated, key sustainability issues and opportunities have been identified to inform the preparation of the Core Strategy and the SA process. Further information about issues and opportunities are presented in Section 3.2.2 of the SA Report.

2.2.3 The SA Framework

The SA Framework was developed using the review of plans and programmes, baseline data and key sustainability issues and opportunities. The framework comprises a series of SA Objectives which are aspirational goals that Wyre Borough Council should strive to work towards through the preparation of the Core Strategy.

The SA Framework is used to test the sustainability performance of the Core Strategy, thereby highlighting its key strengths and weaknesses.

Table 2-2 below presents the SA Objectives that have been used to assess the Core Strategy.

Table 2-1 SA Objectives

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SA Objective</th>
<th>SA Sub-Objectives</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1 To reduce crime, disorder and fear of crime | • To reduce levels of crime  
• To reduce the fear of crime  
• To reduce levels of anti-social behaviour  
• To reduce alcohol and substance misuse  
• To encourage safety by design |
| 2 To improve levels of educational attainment for all age groups and all sectors of society | • To increase levels of participation and attainment in education for all members of society  
• To improve access to and involvement in lifelong learning opportunities  
• To improve the provision of education and training facilities |
| 3 To improve physical and mental health and wellbeing for all and reduce health inequalities | • To improve access to health and social care services especially in isolated areas  
• To reduce health inequalities amongst different groups in the community  
• To promote healthy lifestyles  
• Encourage the development of strong, cohesive communities |
| 4 To ensure housing provision meets local needs | • Ensure that there is sufficient housing to meet identified needs in all areas  
• Ensure that housing meets acceptable standards |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SA Objective</th>
<th>SA Sub-Objectives</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Increase the availability of affordable housing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>To improve sustainable access to basic goods, services and amenities for all groups</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>To encourage sustainable economic growth, inclusion and business development across the borough</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>To deliver urban renaissance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>To protect and enhance biodiversity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>To protect and enhance the borough’s landscape and townscape character and quality</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5. To improve sustainable access to basic goods, services and amenities for all groups
   - Ensure that public transport services meet people’s needs
   - Ensure that highways infrastructure meets people’s needs (including walking and cycling routes)
   - Promote the use of sustainable travel modes and reduce dependence on the private car
   - Improve access to cultural and recreational facilities
   - Maintain and improve access to essential services and facilities, including in rural areas
   - Improve access to open space
   - Conserve and enhance opportunities for public access to the countryside and coast

6. To encourage sustainable economic growth, inclusion and business development across the borough
   - To diversify the economy
   - To diversify and increase employment opportunities
   - To encourage economic growth
   - To encourage new business formation and inward investment
   - To encourage sustainable tourism
   - To reduce levels of unemployment in areas most at need
   - Improve household earnings
   - To encourage sustainable farm diversification

7. To deliver urban renaissance
   - Improve the vitality and vibrancy of town centres
   - Improve access within urban areas by sustainable means
   - Promote adjacency of employment, recreation and residential areas in urban areas
   - Support the preservation and/or development of a high quality built environment
   - Protect and enhance townscape character and quality
   - Promote the development of multi-functional green infrastructure in urban areas
   - Enhance the reputation of urban areas as places to live, work and visit

8. To protect and enhance biodiversity
   - Protect and enhance designated sites of nature conservation importance
   - Protect and enhance wildlife especially rare and endangered species
   - Protect and enhance habitats and wildlife corridors
   - Provide opportunities for people to access wildlife and open green spaces
   - Protect and enhance geodiversity

9. To protect and enhance the borough’s landscape and townscape character and quality
   - To protect and enhance landscape character and quality
   - To protect and enhance townscape character and quality
   - To promote sensitive design in development
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SA Objective</th>
<th>SA Sub-Objectives</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• To promote local distinctiveness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• To minimise noise pollution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• To minimise light pollution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 To protect and enhance the cultural heritage resource</td>
<td>• To protect and enhance historic buildings and sites and their setting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• To protect and enhance historic landscape/townscape value</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 To protect and enhance the quality of water features and resources and reduce the risk of flooding</td>
<td>• To protect and enhance ground and surface water quality</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• To protect and enhance coastal waters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Encourage sustainable use of water resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Encourage the inclusion of flood mitigation measures such as Sustainable Drainage Systems (SUDS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Reduce and manage flooding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 To limit and adapt to climate change</td>
<td>• To reduce greenhouse gas emissions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• To require the inclusion of SUDS in new development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• To reduce the demand for energy and increase energy efficiency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• To increase the use of renewable energy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• To reduce CO₂ emissions from the transport sector</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 To protect and improve air quality</td>
<td>• To protect and improve local air quality</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 To ensure sustainable use of natural resources</td>
<td>• Reduce the demand for raw materials</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Promote the use of recycled and secondary materials in construction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Reduce the amount of derelict and vacant land</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Ensure that contaminated land will be guarded against</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Encourage development of brownfield land where appropriate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Maintain and enhance soil quality</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Increase the proportion of waste recycling and re-use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Reduce the production of waste</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Reduce the proportion of waste landfilled</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3 THE SA OF THE CORE STRATEGY

3.1 Approach

3.1.1 Elements of the Core Strategy

The following elements of the Core Strategy were subject to the SA process:

- The Vision;
- The Strategic Objectives;
- The Preferred Spatial Strategy (Policies CS1 and CS2);
- The Area Strategies (Policies CS3 – CS12); and
- The Core Policies (Policies CS13 – CS28).

3.1.2 Assessment of Alternatives

The SEA Directive requires that the SA assessment considers alternatives. The Preferred Options Core Strategy includes alternative options for individual elements of the Core Strategy including:

- Three alternative spatial strategies;
- Two or three alternative options for each Area Strategy; and
- One, two or three alternative options for the Core Policies.

The alternatives were subject to the same SA process as the Preferred Options and their performance against the SA objectives outlined in the relevant sections below. It should be noted that recommendations were made on the most sustainable options to take forward to the preferred options stage.

3.1.3 Assessment of Iterations

Following the agreement of the preferred options a draft Core Strategy was produced. A draft SA based on the draft Core Strategy was then undertaken and included a number of sustainability recommendations. Sustainability recommendations were made on the Vision, the Strategic Objectives, the Preferred Spatial Strategy, the Area Strategies and the Core Policies. The draft SA was then reviewed by Wyre Borough Council’s spatial planning team. Some of the SA recommendations were then incorporated into Core Strategy to improve the plans sustainability performance and the poorer performing options were rejected. Examples of important initial recommendations that were taken on board include:

- It should be ensured that provision of services meets the needs of all sectors of the borough’s population – Wyre has an elderly population particularly in the rural east.
- A strategic review of traffic management should be undertaken to avoid increases in traffic in movement. This may involve routing changes combined with measures to encourage the use of the public transport measures being implemented.
- Specific reference to sustainable transport should be outlined i.e. promoting walking and cycling as alternative modes of transport in order to encourage active and healthy lifestyles.
A proportion of new developments should meet the Code for Sustainable Homes ‘Level 4’ or greater, or BREEAM ‘Excellent’.

The initial recommendations that were suggested largely involved the strengthening / tightening up of the policy text in order to improve sustainability performance. Key themes of the initial recommendations included improving sustainable transport, mitigating against climate change and ensuring services can accommodate proposed development.

The sections below outline the sustainability performance of the Core Strategy following these revisions.

3.2 **Assessment and Outcomes**

3.2.1 **Assessment of the Vision**

The Vision was reviewed against the SA Objectives and key strengths, weaknesses and recommendations were identified. The Vision places an emphasis on the need to create a ‘desirable location for people to live, work and visit’ which would positively fulfil many of the social SA Objectives. With regards to the natural environment the Spatial Vision seeks to ensure there is a robust and co-ordinated management of the natural and built environment.

3.2.2 **Assessment of the Strategic Objectives**

The Core Strategy includes a series of Strategic Objectives that have been developed to guide the formation of policies and strategies within the plan.

The Strategic Objectives were assessed for their compatibility with the SA Objectives.

On the whole the Strategic Objectives and the SA Objectives complement each other. However, new housing would increase water consumption therefore a conflict was identified against Strategic Objective 6 ‘Meet local housing needs for all for life’.

3.2.3 **Assessment of the Preferred Spatial Strategy**

The Preferred Spatial Strategy (contained within Policies CS1 and CS2) presents a high level approach for broad development locations for the whole borough. It comprises nine spatial areas and a Strategic Site with an Area Strategy (Policies CS3-12) being produced for each. It states that regeneration will be focussed within the areas of Fleetwood, Cleveleys and Thornton, with a Strategic Site being identified by Policy CS12. The Preferred Spatial Strategy also outlines the type, quantity and distribution of new development.

Overall, Policies CS1 and CS2 scored well against the SA Objectives demonstrating they present a sustainable option. Growth is dispersed across the borough, with a focus of regeneration in areas in most need (Fleetwood/Thornton). New development will be required to provide an appropriate mix of accommodation including affordable housing. Employment hubs will be at Hillhouse (Thornton), Poulton-le-Fylde and Catterall. The Port of Fleetwood will be protected for employment. In addition, the majority of new service provision will be in urban towns and key service centres. Poulton-le-Fylde, Garstang and Knott End/Preesall are key service centres. Policies CS1 and CS2 also include specific reference to the protection of heritage, biodiversity, landscape, Green Belt, recreational assets and best and most versatile agricultural land.

Following the initial SA of the draft Preferred Spatial Strategy the recommendation; ‘Engage with local communities in the design of regeneration initiatives – to help increase community
‘buy-in’ and to raise feelings of community spirit’ was not taken on board, however, it is believed it is still a valid recommendation (although it may be difficult to implement).

Alternatives

Prior to the selection of the Preferred Spatial Strategy (Policies CS1 and CS2) three alternative spatial strategies were subject the SA process. All three of the alternative options promote the majority of new development to the areas most at need in the Fleetwood-Thornton Corridor. However, while there are a number of benefits to this it is seen as an imbalanced and inflexible option as rural areas would not be given the opportunity for essential growth. None of the three options were taken forward as a preferred option. Instead, a hybrid approach, building upon the strengths of Option 3 (includes the creation of six mini-core strategies) was selected as the Preferred Option.

3.2.4 Assessment of the Area Strategies

The Wyre borough has been divided into nine Area Strategies and a Strategic Site, each of which has its own policy detailing key matters to be delivered over the life of the Core Strategy. The Area Strategies have been prepared to form the building blocks of the Preferred Spatial Strategy (Policies CS1 and CS2) by providing greater and more local detail. Each Area Strategy has been assessed against the SA Objectives. Table 3-1 summarises the overall performance of the Area Strategies and their alternative options against the SA Objectives.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area Strategy</th>
<th>Assessment of Area Strategies</th>
<th>Assessment of Alternatives</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| CS3 - Fleetwood | The key areas of regeneration focus correspond to some of the highest areas of deprivation. The Area Strategy seeks to protect townscape, heritage and biodiversity resources. However, the anticipated construction of 800 new dwellings by 2028 could lead to adverse effects on water resources, local air quality and climate change. Although, potential adverse effects were identified through the SA assessment of the Area Strategy, the Core Strategy should be read as a whole, therefore issues relating to water resource, local air quality and climate change would be mitigated through the Core Policies. | • CS3A Minimal regeneration approach  
• CS3B Radical regeneration approach  
The preferred option (CS3) provides the most balanced and sustainable solution compared with CS3A and CS3B. CS3A is seen as lacking ambition and may not address many of the regeneration needs of the town. While CS3B may be able to deliver greater benefits, it is also seen as potentially too aggressive and is unlikely to be deliverable in the current economic climate. |
| CS4 - Thornton | This Area Strategy makes a clear commitment to protecting biodiversity, landscape and townscape resources. The Area Strategy commits to improving the quality of and access to open space as part of the development of a green infrastructure network and the retention of existing tourism facilities such as the Wyre Country Park and Ecology centre (and creating a link to Fleetwood Nature Park). The Area Strategy also seeks to provide new homes and employment opportunities within the area. However, the construction of 900 new homes by 2028 could lead to adverse effects on water resources, local air quality and climate change. As above, although potential adverse effects were identified through the SA assessment of the Area Strategy, the Core Strategy should be read as a whole, therefore issues relating to water resources, local air quality and climate change would be mitigated through the Core Policies. | • CS4A Expansion approach  
• CS4B Concentrated regeneration approach  
The preferred option (CS4) provides the most balanced and sustainable solution compared with CS4A and CS4B. CS4A is too expansive and would result in the loss of environmental resources and amenity within the area. CS4B has similar benefits to the preferred option but does not go as far in terms of delivering protection to local and neighbourhood centres and in terms of enhancing the greenspace network. |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area Strategy</th>
<th>Assessment of Area Strategies</th>
<th>Assessment of Alternatives</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| CS5 - Cleveleys | This Area Strategy provides for limited infill residential development (without encroaching onto greenbelt) and seeks to protect the natural beauty of the coastal panorama (70 new dwellings by 2028). The overall regeneration proposals and widening the range of town centre uses should also benefit long-term economic viability. Approximately 2,070 sq m of additional comparison goods floorspace would also be provided by 2021. A number of measures are also proposed to encourage the visitor economy including the modernisation of visitor accommodation, maximising the vibrancy of the Town Centre offer and improving the public realm and green infrastructure. Large areas of the strategy fall within Flood Zones 2 and 3 according to the strategic flood maps produced. However, the option specifically proposes improvements to coastal defences to ensure against flood risk. Development will only be permitted where the risk of flooding can be managed in accordance with the flood risk policy. | CS5A Suburban Expansion Approach  
CS5B Hybrid Approach  
CS5C ‘Business as Usual’ Approach  
The preferred option (CS5) provides the most balanced and sustainable solution compared with CS5A, CS5B and CS5C. CS5A incorporates an urban extension which would have significant environmental effects and could detract from the area’s tourism and economic potential. CS5B is similar to the preferred option although it would require relocation of employment at Dorset Avenue for the benefit of residential provision. CS5C is a low intervention option which would not deliver the required regeneration benefits. |
| CS6 - Poulton-le-Fylde | This Area Strategy promotes the use of sustainable modes of transport and improving the public realm. It also seeks to establish a green infrastructure network which would benefit biodiversity resources and healthy lifestyles. Proposed housing provision for the Area Strategy is 600 units proposed at unspecified locations by 2028. This would help to diversify the housing stock and supply more affordable family homes to meet local needs reducing current pressures for new housing. The re-definition of Poulton-le-Fylde primary shopping area should help concentrate the viability of the Town Centre area for the future. Overall regeneration proposals for Poulton-le-Fylde and widening the range of Town Centre uses would also benefit long-term viability, improve sustainability performance and support the principles of urban renaissance. | CS6A Suburban Expansion Approach  
CS6B ‘Business as Usual’ Approach  
The preferred option (CS6) provides the most balanced and sustainable solution compared with CS6A and CS6B. CS6A may be able to deliver some benefits, however, it is also seen as potentially too aggressive and the loss of such a large amount of agricultural land significant. There may also be deliverability issues with CS6A in the current economic climate. CS6B is lacking in ambition and would not address current deficiencies within Poulton-le-Fylde. |
| CS7 - Rural West | This Area Strategy seeks to ensure the special character and distinctiveness of the Rural West area will be protected. It commits to ensure nature conservation and habitat sites will benefit from high levels of protection. Improvements to public transport infrastructure proposed within the strategy could reduce current congestion problems on the A588(T) over Shard Bridge during peak hours. Large areas of the strategy fall within Flood Zones 2 and 3 according to the strategic flood maps produced. However, the Area Strategy specifically states that development proposals within these areas would only be permitted where the use is considered appropriate to the level of risk and suitable mitigation measures are taken. | CS7A Restrictive Approach  
CS7B Expansion Approach  
The preferred option (CS7) provides the most balanced and sustainable solution compared with CS7A and CS7B. CS7A would not address current deficiencies within the Rural West. CS7B would deliver some benefits, however, it is also considered to be too aggressive as it would include inappropriate development without consideration for the local environment and loss of areas of open countryside. |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area Strategy</th>
<th>Assessment of Area Strategies</th>
<th>Assessment of Alternatives</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| CS8 - Central Rural Plain | The strategy commits to ensuring the Central Rural Plain will be a thriving rural area with 200 new dwellings by 2028. Intense use will be made of extensive areas of high-grade agricultural land utilising modern sustainable practices. Largely beneficial scores were recorded against the SA Objectives. | • CS8A Restrictive Approach  
• CS8B Permissive Approach  
The preferred option (CS8) provides the most sustainable solution compared with CS8A and CS8B. CS8A would not address current deficiencies within the Rural Central Plain. CS8B would deliver some benefits, however, it would also include inappropriate development without consideration for the local environment and loss of areas of open countryside and agricultural land. |
| CS9 - Garstang and Catterall | The strategy seeks to create a prosperous town centre with excellent facilities and services, offering local employment in a diverse range of industries, and providing a green, safe and clean area that is connected to the countryside. The Area Strategy provides for 550 new dwellings to 2028 which would diversify the current housing stock. However, some of the area identified for development lie within Flood Zone 2 and 3. Therefore, development should seek to avoid these areas and prioritise areas in Flood Zone 1. Adverse effects were also recorded against the air quality SA Objective as increasing the population and tourist ‘pull’ to the area could lead to a deterioration of local air quality. | • CS9A ‘Business as Usual’ Approach  
• CS9B Expansion Approach  
The preferred option (CS9) provides the most balanced solution compared with CS9A and CS9B. CS9A would not address current deficiencies within Garstang and Catterall. While CS9B would deliver some benefits, it would also include inappropriate development without consideration for the local environment and loss of areas of open countryside and agricultural land. |
| CS10 - Rural East and Uplands | Rural East and Uplands will be a tranquil rural area, valued for its landscapes and biodiversity, supported by sustainable forms of agriculture and tourism that protect and enhance the environment. Opportunities for the enjoyment of the natural beauty of the area will have been widened, whilst preventing harmful impacts. Residential development is limited within this area with 40 new homes proposed to 2028. Therefore positive impacts were recorded against most of the SA Objectives. | • CS10A Restrictive Approach  
• CS10B Hybrid Approach  
• CS10B Permissive Approach  
The preferred option (CS10) provides the most sustainable solution compared with CS10A, CS10B and CS10C. CS10A would result in the economic decline of the rural area as the option places a greater concern to maintain the landscape rather than to encourage its enjoyment. CS10B would deliver some opportunities, however, local housing needs would be met closer to the greater range of services located in Garstang which would not benefit more rural areas of the Area Strategy. CS10C would deliver benefits for housing and employment however this would be to the detriment of the area’s attractiveness to visitors and tourists alike. |
| CS11 - Wyre Sands | Largely positive scores were recorded against the SA Objectives as no physical development is proposed within the Wyre Sands. The strategy seeks to ensure the Wyre | • CS11A No Wyre Sands Strategy, deal with through other Area Strategies  
• CS11B No Wyre Sands Area Strategy, |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area Strategy</th>
<th>Assessment of Area Strategies</th>
<th>Assessment of Alternatives</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sands makes a vital contribution towards the character of the borough, being valued for its thriving wildlife, outstanding landscape and leisure opportunities, whilst also playing a role in climate change mitigation.</td>
<td>deal with through a Core Policy CS11A and CS11B would not offer opportunities for a coordinated approach to the protection and enjoyment of the Wyre Sands which is particularly important due to the presence of European sites.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CS12 – Fleetwood Thornton Strategic Site</td>
<td>Significant development is anticipated within this Strategic Site. Land would be provided to enable the delivery of approximately new 1,300 dwellings (to 2028) and 73 hectares of employment land (to 2021). Positive scores were recorded against most of the SA Objectives, however, the construction of 1,300 new homes by 2028 could lead to adverse effects on water resources, local air quality and climate change. Although, potential adverse effects were identified through the SA assessment of the Area Strategy, the Core Strategy should be read as a whole, therefore issues relating to water resource, local air quality and climate change would be mitigated through the Core Policies.</td>
<td>There is no realistic alternative other than to have an option that deals with this area as a strategic site for enhancement, regeneration and protection.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Recommendations and Mitigation Potential**

During the initial SA of the draft Core Strategy many recommendations were suggested to improve the sustainability performance of the Area Strategies. Key recommendations that were taken on board include (NB this list is not complete):

- It should be made clear that the Area Strategies would not lead to adverse effects on European designated sites. The Area Strategies should be subject to HRA.
- All proposals should seek to enhance biodiversity and protect areas of greenspace.
- greater reference should be made to the need for high quality design that complements and enhances the existing historic character of the borough.
- A strategic review of traffic management should be undertaken to avoid increases in traffic in movement.
- Consideration should be given to the different requirements of various community groups more specifically.
- Specific reference to sustainable transport should be outlined i.e. promoting walking and cycling as alternative modes of transport in order to encourage active and healthy lifestyles.

The following recommendation was not taken on board within the initial SA of the preferred option for the Wyre Sands Area Strategy, however, it is believed it is a still valid recommendation:

- Whilst ensuring protection of local environmental assets and wildlife interests, outdoor tourism could include elements of education regarding the local environment i.e. interpretation boards which could offer community and educational benefits to the area.
3.2.5 Assessment of the Core Policies

The Core Strategy contains 16 Core Policies designed to guide development within Wyre in accordance with the spatial framework set out in the Strategic Objectives. There are 16 Core Policies in total. Each Core Policy has been assessed against the SA Objectives. Table 3-2 summarises the overall performance of the Core Policies along with their alternative options against the SA Objectives.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Core Policy</th>
<th>Assessment of the Core Policies</th>
<th>Assessment of Alternatives</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| CS13 – Sustainable Development    | The policy will ensure that new housing stock is of an acceptable standard in terms of sustainability and climate change issues by reference to achieving Code for Sustainable Homes ‘Level 3’ and BREEAM ‘Very Good’. The policy does not make explicit reference to protecting and enhancing biodiversity, geodiversity, improving access to open space, landscape/townscape character or heritage all of which would be environmental sustainability aspects, but does cross reference to Policy CS1, the Preferred Spatial Strategy which aims to protect features of visual, environmental, historic and strategic importance. The policy seeks to ensure that new developments are sited within areas where there is access to existing infrastructure and services. | • CS13A: Two policies approach  
• CS13B: One policy dealing with Sustainability and Climate Change and major renewable energy  
The preferred option (CS13) is not completely different to CS13A and CS13B. CS13A would highlight more areas of sustainability giving some benefits over the preferred option, however this is early in policy development.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| CS14 – Quality of Design          | The policy seeks to ensure that new housing stock is of an acceptable standard in terms of sustainability, not just build quality, by specifying the achievement of Building for Life. The policy will build resilience into designs to take into account climate change. This will include an element of consideration for flooding and SUDS incorporation. There is the potential for high quality design, particularly in areas of the borough targeted for regeneration, to indirectly bring economic benefits if the resulting improvements in the quality of townscape and living environments help to stimulate investment. | • CS14A: One policy dealing with quality of design and sustainable development  
• CS14B: Specific policy dealing with design for residential only (addressing Building for Life Standards) and a separate general design policy  
• CS14C: Area based policy on key sites, setting exemplar design standards, in addition to a general design policy  
In general, the preferred option (CS14) is lacking some information related to high quality design. The policy would benefit from being considered with Policy CS13 to give a more comprehensive guide to sustainable development and design requirements which tend to overlap. Higher standards in some areas could be achieved through CS14B and exemplar sites. However, this may give rise to future inequalities within the borough.                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| CS15 – Economy, Regeneration and  | Largely positive and neutral scores were recorded against the SA Objectives for this policy. The policy seeks to facilitate economic development by encouraging investment in the borough, creating new | • CS15A: No policy. Implement through the Preferred Spatial Strategy and Area Strategies only  
• CS15B: A policy that deals only with B                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Core Policy</th>
<th>Assessment of the Core Policies</th>
<th>Assessment of Alternatives</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>businesses which are a range of sizes and types. In the long term this has the potential to improve employment opportunities and to increase the local skills base.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CS16 - Transport, Accessibility and Movement</td>
<td>Largely positive and neutral scores were recorded against the SA Objectives for this policy. Generally the policy will contribute to improving transport services and options within the borough, making the borough more attractive for investors and visitors.</td>
<td>CS16A: Two policies: General and detailed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CS17 - Infrastructure and Community Facilities</td>
<td>Largely positive scores were recorded against the SA Objectives, particularly regarding the sustainable use of natural resources, protecting water resources, enhancing the borough’s landscape and townscape, protecting local biodiversity and improving sustainable access.</td>
<td>CS17A: No policy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CS18 - Green Infrastructure</td>
<td>This policy aims to improve the standards of Public Rights of Way, open space, off-road networks (e.g. cycle paths and footpaths) and sport and recreation provision. Therefore many positive scores were recorded, particularly against the environmental SA objectives.</td>
<td>CS18A: Identify all of the borough’s green infrastructure assets and not permit development that compromises the integrity of the overall network</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CS19 - Biodiversity</td>
<td>The policy aims to protect and enhance sites with high biodiversity/geodiversity value, including</td>
<td>CS19A: Minimum Protection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>CS19B: Generic policy dealing with</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>The preferred option (CS15) provides for a balanced approach to economic development, regeneration and education. CS15A and CS15B would contribute less to the achievement of the sustainability objectives for economic development and education. CS15C would bring the same benefits in terms of economic development, regeneration and education, with an added emphasis on retail development.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Core Policy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Core Policy</th>
<th>Assessment of the Core Policies</th>
<th>Assessment of Alternatives</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| and Geodiversity     | designated sites, non-designated sites and protected species. All of which positively supports SA Objectives related to biodiversity and geodiversity, but also indirectly support SA Objectives relating to landscape and townscape protection, and water resources. | both natural and historic built environment  
CS19A may leave some environmental features at risk from development. CS19B may not focus sufficiently on all pertinent issues and may lead to dilution, for biodiversity and heritage resources alike. The preferred option (CS19) generally supports the objectives through coverage of geodiversity and biodiversity issues. |
| CS20 - Housing Mix   | The policy will ensure that new housing is well designed, incorporates adequate public open space and is available in appropriate locations for vulnerable community groups (including those who are homeless). Many positive scores were recorded against the SA Objectives as housing development will include links to multifunctional green infrastructure to encourage community cohesion, promote healthy lifestyles and recreational uses and promote alternative transport options for commuting. In addition, the policy would result in biodiversity and landscape/townscape improvements. |  
- **CS20**: A include policy based criteria with a specific density for all developments  
- **CS20B**: Include a specific size of dwellings for developments based on current identified need  
- **CS20C**: Dealing with housing mix through the area based strategies  
CS20A and CS20B may lead to a relatively inefficient use of land resources, although are more likely to ensure that residents have larger living spaces, creating an attractive area in which to live and being potentially more attractive to some potential developers. Similarly, CS20C would ensure that local needs within each of the areas are met. However, the preferred option (CS20) provides the most balanced approach. |
| CS21 - Affordable Housing | Mainly neutral scores were recorded against the SA objectives for this policy. The policy will ensure that affordable housing is available within most new housing developments. The larger the development, the higher the proportion of affordable housing to be provided. Few links could be made with housing affordability and the SA objectives. |  
- **CS21A**: A varied area based target percentage figure  
- **CS21B**: Provide affordable housing on all new housing development sites regardless of the number of dwellings  
- **CS21C**: Dealing with affordable housing through the area based strategies  
CS21A and CS21C would require further consideration for the spatial distribution of affordable housing to ensure this meets local needs. The preferred option (CS21) gives a good balance on the provision of affordable housing whilst ensuring developers are encouraged to invest in the area. In terms of maximising the provision of and distribution of affordable housing, CS21B would ensure that all residential developments contain some provision for affordable stock. |
| CS22 – Provision for Gypsies, | Providing permanent or allocation of temporary locations for travelling communities will reduce the frequency of illegal camping on private ground and |  
- **CS22A**: Include criteria within a generic housing mix policy  
- **CS22B**: Deal with through the area |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Core Policy</th>
<th>Assessment of the Core Policies</th>
<th>Assessment of Alternatives</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Travellers and Travelling Showpeople</td>
<td>contribute to creating a strong cohesive community within the area.</td>
<td>strategies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>CS22A is not recommended as both types of provision have different requirements and it could lead to issues not being appropriate addressed. CS22B will give rise to similar environmental effects as the preferred option (CS22) and would provide an advantage in terms of strategically considering areas which would be suitable for this use.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| CS23 – Major Developed Sites in the Green Belt | The policy will generally improve the standard of educational offering in the area with the refurbishment of the Fleetwood Nautical College and Rossall School. The policy will protect Green Belt and ensure that development is confined to previously developed areas and will aim to use existing transport infrastructure. | • CS23A: The “do nothing “ option  
• CS23B: To be dealt with in the area strategies |
|                                                 |                                                                                                 | CS23A would afford the most protection for the green belt within Wyre as no development would occur within green belt. CS23B would see similar benefits arising as per the preferred option (CS23). Generally the preferred option provides the most support for the sustainability objectives by providing for minimal development within green belt on sites which are either derelict or in need of refurbishment. This would bring these areas back into productive use. |
| CS24 – The Countryside                         | Largely beneficial and neutral scores were recorded against the SA Objectives for this policy. The policy encourages low impact development for outdoor recreation or tourism which will improve access and encourage use of the surrounding countryside. The policy will also encourage farming, forestry and equine related activities. Mineral extraction is also proposed which could potentially be damaging to the wider landscape character (and potentially the Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty) of an area. | • CS24A: Landscape, heritage and settlement character approach  
• CS24B: Area Strategy based approach  
CS24A would afford most protection for the landscape, heritage and settlement character of the area by strategically considering the potential, most appropriate and preferred locations for development within the countryside. CS24B and the preferred option (CS24) would allow development to be brought forward in a more ad hoc fashion, which would not necessarily ensure the most appropriate locations are chosen for development within the countryside. This could be potentially severely damaging in relation to mineral extraction. |
| CS25 – Flood Risk and Water Resources          | The policy ensures high standards of water conservation are achieved in new development, however, these standards are not specified within the policy. This will also assist developments in achieving the Code for Sustainable Homes and Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM) standards. In addition, the policy seeks to ensure development avoids areas of flood risk. | No alternatives were considered for this Core Policy. |
| CS26 - The Open                                | The policy aims to protect the character and landscape of the Open Coasline locally designated    | • CS26A: No policy            |

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Core Policy | Assessment of the Core Policies | Assessment of Alternatives
--- | --- | ---
Coastline | area to ensure that the coastline remains available for recreation in the future. | • CS26B: A Policy for the whole Coastal Zone
CS26A would not afford any protection to the coastal area. CS26B would bring about similar implications as the preferred option (CS26), only it would be implemented slightly differently. The preferred option is considered to be the most balanced option in terms of sustainable development.

CS27 – Renewable Energy | The policy aims to adapt to, and mitigate for, climate change; contribute to national targets and reduce CO₂ emissions and to promote the security of the national energy supply by reducing overall fossil fuel demand and increasing the use and provision of renewable energy. | • CS27A: Moving renewable energy into Sustainable Development policy
• CS27B: An additional separate policy on Wind Energy
CS27A would bring about similar effects as the preferred option (CS27), however, some issues may become diluted and overly complicated through the merging of two Core Policies. CS27B would also bring about similar effects as the preferred option, however, it would contain unnecessary repetition and may result in some confusion with the Core Policies. The preferred option is considered to be the most balanced option in terms of sustainable development.

CS28 – The Historic Environment | This policy aims to ensure heritage assets and their setting are protected, conserved and, where appropriate, enhanced and that new development respects these features. As this policy is very specific to protecting heritage assets few links could be made with other SA Objectives. | • CS28A: No policy in the Core Strategy with policies dealing with heritage and the historic environment being contained only within the Sites Allocations and Development Management DPD
CS28A would not afford any additional protection to the boroughs heritage assets. The preferred option (CS28) is therefore considered to be the most balanced option in terms of protecting heritage assets.

Recommendations and Mitigation Potential
During the initial SA of the draft Core Strategy many recommendations were suggested to improve the sustainability performance of the Core Policies. Key recommendations that were taken on board include (NB this list is not complete):

- Policies could require a certain proportion of new developments to meet the Code for Sustainable Homes ‘Level 4’ or greater, or BREEAM ‘Excellent’.
- Development should aim to improve sustainable transport provision to serve regenerated sites.
- Residential developments should incorporate access to and where necessary, additions to the green infrastructure network.
- Green infrastructure links should integrate within the wider landscape or urban fabric to improve the quality of the surrounding environment.
Many recommendations were also made to include cross referencing within individual Core Policies to other sections of the Core Strategy. Many of these recommendations of which were taken on board.

The following recommendations were not taken on board within the initial SA of the preferred options for the Core Policies, however, they are still believed to be valid recommendations:

- Policies could be strengthened to ensure that locations for new developments facilitate the growth of communities, ensure existing educational establishments and health and social care facilities can cope and refuse storage is incorporated to encourage recycling.
- The policies should encourage the co-location of employment, recreational and residential land and maximise access to sustainable/alternative transport routes to discourage private car use and reduce emissions to air.
- A recommendation was made to improve the strength of the biodiversity Core Policy in line with the Habitats Directive, the following wording was suggested:
  
  ‘Designated sites of international nature conservation importance (Special Protection Areas, Special Areas of Conservation and also Ramsar sites – known collectively as European Sites) are protected by European and UK law and as such should be protected from development in all but exceptional circumstances. In such cases, development that could adversely affect the integrity of these sites (either alone or in combination) will not be permitted unless alternative solutions cannot be demonstrated. Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest can be demonstrated and compensatory measures can be implemented. An assessment under the requirements of the ‘The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010’ should be undertaken for all development which has potential to result in significant effects upon a European site.’

- Sites must have sufficient surface water drainage (including sustainable drainage) and sewerage services. Sites should encourage waste avoidance, facilitate the recycling of waste and provide for sufficient storage space for waste.
- Policies should be strengthened to make it necessary to use brownfield land where possible and Greenfield land where there are no viable brownfield alternatives.

### 3.2.6 Summary

Table 3-3 presents a summary of the SA assessment scores recorded for Policies CS1 – CS28 against the SA Objectives.
| SA Objective | CS1 & CS2 | CS3 | CS4 | CS5 | CS6 | CS7 | CS8 | CS9 | CS10 | CS11 | CS12 | CS13 | CS14 | CS15 | CS16 | CS17 | CS18 | CS19 | CS20 | CS21 | CS22 | CS23 | CS24 | CS25 | CS26 | CS27 | CS28 |
|--------------|----------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 1            | ++       | +   | +   | +   | +   | +   | 0   | 0   | +   | 0    | +   | ++   | 0   | ++   | 0   | +    | +/- | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0    | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   |
| 2            | ++       | +   | +   | +   | +   | +   | +   | 0   | 0   | +    | +/- | 0   | 0    | 0   | 0    | 0   | 0    | +   | 0   | 0   | 0    | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   |
| 3            | ++       | +   | +   | +   | +   | +   | +   | +   | +   | +/- | 0   | +    | +    | +    | +    | +    | +    | +    | +    | 0    | +    | ?   | 0   | 0   |
| 4            | ++       | +   | +   | +   | +   | +   | +   | 0   | 0   | +    | +    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | ++   | ++   | ++   | ++   | ++   | +    | 0   | 0   |
| 5            | ++       | ++  | ++  | ++  | ++  | ++  | +/+ | ++  | +/+ | +/+ | 0   | +    | ++   | +    | 0    | +    | +/- | ++   | 0    | +    | 0    | 0   | 0   | 0   |
| 6            | ++       | ++  | +   | +   | +   | +   | ++  | ++  | 0   | 0    | ++   | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | +    | ++   | ++   | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0   | 0   |
| 7            | ++       | ++  | +   | +   | +   | +   | ++  | ++  | +   | +   | ?    | 0    | +    | ++   | ++   | 0    | +/- | ++   | 0    | +    | +    | ++   | 0   |
| 8            | +        | +   | +   | +   | +   | +   | ++  | ++  | +   | +   | ?    | 0    | +    | ++   | ++   | 0    | +/- | ++   | 0    | +    | +    | ++   | 0   |
| 9            | +        | ++  | ++  | ++  | ++  | +/+ | +   | -   | +   | +   | ?    | +/- | +    | ++   | ++   | +    | +/- | +/+ | +    | ++   | +    | ++   | +   |
| 10           | +        | ++  | 0   | 0    | 0    | +   | +   | +    | -   | +   | ?    | +/- | 0    | +    | +    | +    | +/+ | 0    | +    | +    | ++   | +   |
| 11           | -        | +/- | +/+ | +   | ?   | +   | +   | +   | +   | ++   | +/- | ++   | ++   | +/   | 0    | +    | +    | +    | ?    | +    | ++   | +   |
| 12           | +/-      | -   | -   | +   | +   | ++  | ++  | +/+ | +   | ?   | -   | +    | +    | +/- | +    | +    | +    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0   |
| 13           | +/-      | -   | -   | +   | +   | 0   | -   | +   | +/- | -   | -   | 0    | -    | +    | +/- | +    | +    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0   |
| 14           | +        | +   | +   | +/- | +/- | +   | +   | +   | 0   | +    | +/- | +    | ?   | 0    | +    | +    | +/+ | 0    | ?    | +    | +/- | +    | +   |

Key

Major Positive Impact  The policy strongly supports the achievement of the SA Objective.  ++
Positive Impact  This policy contributes partially to the achievement of the SA Objective but not completely.  +
Neutral/ No Impact  There is no clear relationship between the policy and/or the achievement of the SA Objective or the relationship is negligible.  0
Positive and negative  The policy has a combination of both positive and negative contributions to the achievement of the SA Objective.  +/-
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>outcomes</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Uncertain outcome</td>
<td>It is not possible to determine the nature of the impact as there may be too many external factors that would influence the appraisal.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Negative Impact</td>
<td>The policy is partially detrimental to the achievement of the SA Objective.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Major Negative Impact</td>
<td>The policy strongly detracts from the achievement of the SA Objective.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## CUMULATIVE AND SYNERGISTIC EFFECTS

The SEA Directive requires that the cumulative\(^1\) and synergistic\(^2\) effects of the plan are assessed. The identification and assessment of cumulative and synergistic effects is often undertaken using a topic-based approach. This means assessing effects by topic groups e.g. population, biodiversity etc rather than defining effects by SA Objective. A summary of the cumulative impacts of the Core Strategy is provided in Table 4-1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Likely Cumulative Effect (Positive, Negative, Neutral)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reduction in Crime Rates and Fear of Crime</td>
<td>Positive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Educational Attainment</td>
<td>Positive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skills and Training Provision</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health of the borough’s population</td>
<td>Positive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing Provision</td>
<td>Positive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community cohesion</td>
<td>Positive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access to goods and services</td>
<td>Positive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sustainable Economic Growth</td>
<td>Positive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic Inclusion</td>
<td>Positive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biodiversity</td>
<td>Positive and Negative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Townscape and Landscape Quality</td>
<td>Positive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heritage Assets</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Climate Change</td>
<td>Positive and negative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Air Quality</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Energy Efficiency</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural Resources</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sustainable Transport</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The assessment of cumulative effects has demonstrated that the Core Strategy will have a large number of benefits environmentally, socially and economically for the borough.

Positive and negative cumulative effects have been recorded for biodiversity. The Core Strategy (and the associated HRA) seek to ensure protection of the biodiversity resources with an emphasis on protecting European sites. The Core Strategy also seeks to create a green infrastructure network and enhance the quality of the natural environment, which could generate positive benefits. Provisions to improve accessibility for the population could indirectly generate

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\(^{1}\) Cumulative effects can occur when several developments have insignificant effects but when combined together they result in a significant effect or several individual effects of plan (e.g. air pollution, biodiversity losses) have a combined effect.

\(^{2}\) Synergistic effects occur when effects interact to produce a total effect greater than the sum of the individual effects.
the enhancement of natural areas. However, development within Greenfield and brownfield land has the potential to result in loss of biodiversity.

Positive and negative cumulative effects were also recorded for climatic factors, air quality, energy efficiency, natural resources and sustainable transport. The concentration of investment, regeneration and new development in the urban west (including the Strategic Site) could potentially lead to increased travel and congestion, which could generate implications upon local air quality in the long-term. However, the Core Strategy contains a number of provisions for improved public transport and promotion of sustainable travel, which would help to alleviate some of these potential cumulative impacts. Although the Core Strategy contains provisions to mitigate flood risk, there is potential for development to increase run-off rates and exacerbate flood risk. The Core Strategy makes provisions for sustainable development and design, incorporating energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy, the prudent use of natural resources. In addition, all new development has the potential to use natural resources, increase pressure upon water and energy resources, and generate increased waste production.

5 MONITORING FRAMEWORK

Monitoring is an ongoing process, integral to the implementation of the Core Strategy. It is an SEA Directive requirement to monitor the significant effects of a plan or programme.

The proposed monitoring framework was designed to focus mainly on significant sustainability effects identified during the SA, including effects:

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

The following effects are proposed to be monitored over the whole life of the Core Strategy (to 2028):

- Provisions focused towards Fleetwood and Thornton in the Core Strategy have the potential to lower crime and fear of crime within the borough through regeneration benefits and security by design measures.
- The Core Strategy seeks to create attractive conditions for business development and economic growth focusing on those areas most in need of regeneration with elevated levels of deprivation.
- The Core Strategy primarily focuses development and regeneration efforts towards areas which suffer the highest levels of deprivation. Provisions of better quality housing and new employment opportunities are important factors that affect health and well-being.
- The Core Strategy would lead to residential development across the borough which would help widen the choice, quality and affordability of housing. At least half of new housing would be located in the area most at need, including affordable housing in the most deprived areas and new housing in the areas which contain the poorest quality housing stock (urban west).
- The Core Strategy contains provisions for improving accessibility and connectivity throughout the borough which would meet the needs of all communities.
- Provisions for environmental enhancements, e.g. green infrastructure network and new open spaces, would contribute to improved biodiversity and not affect deprived areas. The Core Strategy would also improve connectivity with biodiversity resources within wider areas.
• Regeneration and development built to a high quality design along with heritage protection measures outlined in the Core Strategy would help to protect and enhance the local townscape and heritage features.

• All development has the potential to impact upon water quality and resources. The Core Strategy would ensure new development avoids areas of flood risk and encourages SUDSs.

• The Core Strategy would contribute to sustainable transport through its provisions for improved pedestrian / cyclist access. The Core Strategy seeks to ensure that all development is designed to the highest quality, to ensure efficiency and adaptation to climate change. All development would consider the potential for flood risk. Renewable energy schemes are encouraged in appropriate locations from large scale to micro-scale.

• The Core Strategy would encourage sustainable resource use.

For each of the effects above that were identified to be monitored over the lifetime of the Core Strategy relevant indicators and targets were assigned to each effect along with a review timescale.

As previously stated monitoring should be ongoing during the whole life of the Core Strategy. Therefore the targets assigned to the significant effects will need to be reviewed and updated as new ones are developed and existing ones modified. In addition new or more appropriate indicators may also be developed as more information is gathered and the SA process and Core Strategy further develops.

6 NEXT STEPS

The Preferred Options Core Strategy along with the SA Report and associated appendices will be consulted upon for a minimum of six weeks. Following the end of the consultation period the Proposed Submission Core Strategy will be prepared and the SA Report will be updated accordingly.