

Local Development Framework

**Bolton's Core Strategy
Publication Document
Sustainability Appraisal
December 2009**

Shaping the future of Bolton

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1 Summary and Outcomes

Non-technical summary

- 1.1 The purpose of this non-technical summary is to summarise the main findings of the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) carried out on the Core Strategy
- 1.2 The Core Strategy sets out the broad spatial planning framework for guiding future development and investment in Bolton until 2026. A Sustainability Appraisal (SA) (including the requirements of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) regulations), is required to identify the likely environmental, economic and social impacts of the Core Strategy. The SA assesses the potential positive and negative impacts and suggests possible mitigation measures where necessary. This document presents the findings of the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) of the proposed submission document for Bolton's Core Strategy.

Methodology

- 1.3 Preparation of the SA involved a number of stages.
 - Production of a scoping report this identified the key sustainability issues facing Bolton.
 - Production of an Initial SA report which assessed the sustainability implications of the different options put forward by the Council.
 - Production of the Preferred Options SA report which appraised the Council's preferred option, reasons for discounting other options and suggested mitigation measures.
 - Production of the Publication document SA report which assessed the impacts of the core strategy policies.

Likely significant effects of the plan

- 1.4 The following paragraphs highlight the likely effects of the Core Strategy.

Social effects

- 1.5 It is likely the Core Strategy will:
 - Deliver the required number and mix of homes to support the increasing number of households.
 - Deliver more affordable homes.
 - Improve educational attainment and opportunities for young people through the provision of new purpose built schools.
 - Improve the health of the borough through the provision of new health care facilities.
 - Improve the built environment of areas most in need through investment and development in the renewal areas.
 - Improve access to jobs, recreation, schools and healthcare facilities by locating these services close to where people live, and in accessible locations.

Economic effects

- 1.6 It is likely the Core Strategy will:
 - Improve the vibrancy and prosperity of Bolton town centre

- Create 10,000 new jobs in the borough over the next 15 years
- Encourage more inward investment to the borough
- Preserve and enhance local distinctiveness through the adoption of robust design standards.

Environmental effects

1.7 It is likely the Core Strategy will:

- Make efficient use of land by concentrating development in the existing urban areas and on Brownfield sites.
- Potentially reduce the amount of urban green spaces through developing in these areas. This impact should be minimised through design policies.
- Protect and enhance the high quality visual environments of the outer areas of the Borough.
- Adversely affect landscape quality, biodiversity in the greenbelt, if greenbelt boundaries are altered.
- Lead to more development which can lead to greater resource use (notably water consumption, waste production and greenfield land-take), more pollution, and more impacts on landscape and biodiversity.
- Minimise the negative impacts of development through the requirement of sustainable design and construction standards.
- Potentially increase traffic, congestion, air pollution and contribute to climate change through the generation of more trips by private car;
- Reduce and mitigate the impacts of traffic generation through the promotion of development in accessible locations and travel by sustainable modes of transport.
- Strongly encourage the generation of renewable energy.
- Support the principles of the waste hierarchy and provide for sustainable waste management.
- Ensure new development is resilient to the impacts of climate change through the incorporation of design measures.
- Ensure the positive management of the blanket bog habitats within the West Pennine Moors. Ensuring that they fulfil their potential for biodiversity, recreation, decreasing flood risk and combating climate change.
- Have uncertain effects on flood risk. Encouraging development may lead to more impervious hard landscaped surfaces which would increase flood risk. This effect would be minimised by concentrating new development in areas of least flood risk and by minimising water run-off from new development through sustainable design and construction standards.

Difference the process has made

1.8 The sustainability appraisal tested the options in the emerging and preferred options stages of the Core Strategy for their likely significant environmental, social and economic effects. The Sustainability Appraisal along with national guidance and consultation responses has helped to guide the development of the proposed submission policies. Where necessary, mitigation measures have been proposed, as well as ways in which positive impacts can be enhanced.

2 Background

Purpose of Sustainability Appraisal

- 2.1 The new planning system requires the Council to undertake a SA of all Development Plan Documents (DPDs). The purpose of the SA is to promote sustainable development through the integration of sustainability considerations into the preparation and adoption of the Core Strategy. The SA incorporates the requirements of the Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA) Regulations.

Plan content

- 2.2 The Core Strategy sets out the broad spatial planning framework for guiding future development and investment in Bolton until 2026. It sets out broad locations for delivering strategic development needs such as housing, employment, retail, leisure, community facilities, essential public services and transport development, but it does not identify individual sites, except one major strategic site. The Core Strategy proposed submission document contains the following information:
- The Spatial Portrait describes the current state of Bolton and draws out issues that need to be addressed
 - The vision and objectives for the development of Bolton over the next fifteen years
 - Borough wide policies to implement the strategic objectives
 - A section on each part of the borough stating how it will develop over the next fifteen years
 - Planning contributions
 - A key diagram and other illustrations to explain the Core Strategy

Plan Objectives

- 2.3 The SA process requires that the Core Strategy Strategic Objectives are consistent with the Sustainability Objectives, and that any potential conflicts are identified and reduced by refining the objectives where necessary. These Strategic Objectives were appraised in full at the Preferred Options stage. There have been some changes to the objectives since the original appraisal. There are now 16 strategic objectives because of the addition of objectives on minerals, waste and flooding. These 3 new objectives have been assessed against the Sustainability Objectives. The remaining 13 are substantially the same as Preferred Options stage; they have not been appraised again.
- 2.4 Annex A of this report contains the revised Core Strategy Strategic Objectives and SA framework comparison table. The assessment showed that the Strategic Objectives and the Sustainability Objectives are largely compatible. There is no need to make any amendments to the Strategic Objectives following the assessment. The bullet points below highlight any changes to the compatibility assessment since the Preferred Option SA report.
- Strategic Objective 1 'To maximise access to health facilities, sports and recreation facilities, and to supplies of fresh food, especially for those living in the most deprived areas.' Is compatible with the objectives of Cleaner, Greener Bolton. Increasing opportunities to for walking and cycling will help to tackle climate change

by providing alternatives to the car, and help Bolton to live within its environmental limits.

- Strategic Objective 2 'To provide everyone in Bolton with the chance to learn, by locating over 16 provision in Bolton town centre and transforming Bolton's schools and colleges with new buildings and improved services' is compatible with the objectives of Cleaner, Greener Bolton.
- Strategic Objectives 3, 4 and 5 which relate to improving the economy and prosperity of the borough have been changed from being in conflict with the objectives of Healthy Bolton and Cleaner, Greener Bolton; to having uncertain effects. Development and growth can potentially have detrimental effects on the environment and health (i.e. through the use of natural resources, production of waste, and leading to more increased traffic generation, pollution and respiratory diseases.) Conversely, development and growth can also have positive benefits on improving the built environment and health by providing jobs and opportunities for local people, which can lead to improved quality of life and wellbeing.
- Strategic Objective 6 'To ensure that transport infrastructure supports all the aspects of the spatial vision and that new development is in accessible locations and makes the best use of existing infrastructure' .has been changed from being neutral to compatible with the objectives of 'Healthy Bolton'. Providing development in accessible locations, may lead to more people using alternatives to the car. Fewer cars on the road could lead to less congestion and pollution from standing traffic which can help to reduce the incidences of respiratory diseases.
- Strategic Objective 7 'To ensure that Bolton provides for sustainable waste management, and Strategic Objective 8 'To ensure that Bolton provides minerals to support economic growth in an environmentally sustainable way' have largely neutral effects on the Sustainability Objectives. These objectives are compatible with the objectives of 'Prosperous Bolton' and 'Cleaner and Greener Bolton'. These objectives will ensure that resources are used more efficiently which can have beneficial impacts on the prosperity of the borough.
- Strategic Objective 13 'To reduce the likelihood and manage the impacts of flooding in Bolton and minimise potential flooding to areas downstream,' has largely neutral effects on the Sustainability Objectives. It is compatible with the objectives of 'Prosperous Bolton' and 'Strong and Confident Bolton.' Reducing the risk of flooding has the potential to reduce the likelihood of flooding damaging business premises and causing disruption which can place a significant financial burden on the borough. Similarly, managing flood risk will reduce the likelihood of damage to people's homes and the associated physical and emotional distress that can occur through damage to property.

Compliance with SEA regulations

- 2.5 Planning authorities are also required to carry out a Strategic Environmental Assessment of local development documents in accordance with the requirements of a European Directive (2001/42/EC).
- 2.6 Government advice is that both Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment can be carried out in a single appraisal process. The sustainability appraisal process seeks to provide a framework that ensures that the environmental objectives meet all the requirements of the European Directive on Strategic Environmental Assessment. Annex B outlines how this appraisal meets these requirements.

3 Appraisal Methodology

Approach adopted

- 3.1 Production of the Core Strategy documents and the sustainability appraisals are carried out in tandem, with appraisal taking place at different stages to influence both policy direction and decision-making. At Key Issues Stage, the Council set out the draft issues and options of the Core Strategy. This included the spatial options, the quantity of development options and the development management options. At this stage the Sustainability Appraisal identified the likely economic, social and environmental effects of pursuing these different options. A further Sustainability Appraisal was carried out at Preferred Options Stage, which assessed the effects of the Preferred Policy approach. It also documented the reasons for rejecting the other options put forward.
- 3.2 This document concludes the Sustainability Appraisal report stage for the Core Strategy. It is not intended to replicate the previous stages but to draw on the previous appraisals to highlight the potential sustainability impacts that may arise from adopting the Core Strategy. This document identifies any changes that have been made to the Core Strategy since the Preferred Options Stage, and assesses the impact. It looks at how mitigation measures suggested by SA have been addressed and how the Core Strategy has taken into account the findings of the SA.

Timetable and responsibility

- 3.3 The Council has carried out sustainability appraisals on the various stages of the preparation of the Core Strategy, these were: Issues and Options (August 2007 – December 2007) and Preferred Options (September 2008 – September 2009).

Table 1 – The stages in preparing the Core Strategy and the Sustainability Appraisal, with our current position highlighted in bold

Core Strategy Stage	Sustainability Appraisal stage	Timescale
Key Issues Paper Evidence gathering, establishing the baseline and initial identification of key issues	Scoping report Stage A: Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope.	Public Consultation Jan - Apr 2007
Core Strategy Issues and Options Report Refinement of issues, development of alternative spatial options	Issues and options – Initial SA report Stage B: Developing and refining options and assessing effects. Stage C: Preparing the initial SA report Stage D: Consulting on the initial SA report.	Public Consultation Aug - Dec 2007
Core Strategy Preferred Options Report Formulation of preferred policy direction	Preferred Options report- Volume 2 Sustainability Appraisal Stage B: Refining options	Targeted Consultation Sep 2008 - Sep 2009

Core Strategy Stage	Sustainability Appraisal stage	Timescale
	and assessing effects. Stage C: Preparing the preferred options SA report. Stage D: Consulting on the Preferred Options SA report	
Core Strategy Proposed Publication Document Formulation of detailed policies Submission to the Secretary of State	Proposed Publication Document Stage C: Preparing the preferred options SA report Stage D: Consulting on the Preferred Options SA report	Publication January 2010 Submission Expected April 2010
Binding Inspector's Report Independent examination by Inspector		Examination hearing expected August 2010 Inspector's report December 2010
Core Strategy Formal adoption		March 2011

- 3.4 The Sustainability Appraisals were carried out by group of officers with different fields of expertise from within the Council and from partner organisations. The SA's involved the officers offering their expert opinion in a discussion session to assess the sustainability implications of the Core Strategy and to suggest any improvements.

Consultation arrangements

- 3.5 Consultation on the Sustainability Appraisal report will take place alongside the consultation on the Core Strategy. This will be for a statutory period of not less than six weeks. The council will then submit the Core Strategy to the Government and this will be followed with an examination by a government inspector. Finally, the inspector will issue a report to the council containing binding amendments that must be made to the report, before the Core Strategy is legally adopted

4 Sustainability Objectives, Baseline and Context

Links to other policies, plans and programmes

- 4.1 The Sustainability Appraisal Scoping report includes a review of plans and programmes. The purpose of this review is to ensure that the Core Strategy takes into account international, national and local priorities. Since the Scoping report was produced several key policies have emerged that may impact on the development of the Core Strategy. Appendix 2 of the Core Strategy lists the plans and programmes that have informed the development of the plan. Annex C of this report highlights the strategies which have influenced the Sustainability Appraisal that have emerged since the development of the Scoping report and their implications for the Core Strategy.

Social, environmental and economic baseline

- 4.2 Baseline data was collected for the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping report to help in building up a picture of Bolton. This baseline information helped to identify key challenges and opportunities facing the borough.

Key issues identified

- The range of issues related to an ageing population
- An increasing number of households year on year
- A gap between the least and most well off, demonstrated by high deprivation levels in some areas
- Lower life expectancy and higher death rates than the national average
- Relatively poor educational attainment compared to the country as a whole
- The imperative to improve accessibility to jobs and services
- Current poor access to Bolton Hospital by non car modes
- The vision to reduce the unemployment rate in the deprived areas
- The fact that new jobs require higher skills
- The beneficial economic relationship between Bolton and the city region
- The opportunities in the town centre provided by planned investment in further education through bringing together the two colleges, and the fast growing university.
- The vision to provide sufficient and well-located employment land and premises
- Opportunities that will be provided in the transformed and vibrant Bolton town centre
- The requirement to satisfy the identified need for facilities for disposal of waste and re-cycling
- There are active minerals workings in Bolton and more geological reserves are known.
- Bolton's recorded crime levels are reducing but perception of crime remains high

- The need to provide facilities for young people
 - To continue to reduce child fatalities on roads
 - The risk of flooding in river valleys
 - To avoid listed buildings on the “at risk” register being demolished or significantly damaged.
 - Achieving the best from greenspace of all types as well as public open spaces and environments
 - The need to achieve reduction of greenhouse gas emissions
 - Improving the built environment especially in the inner areas of Bolton and Farnworth
 - The protection of Bolton’s network of sites important for biodiversity and geodiversity beyond the designated sites, and the conservation and enhancement of landscape character and quality
 - The opportunity of providing sufficient and well located housing land to support the Growth Points Bid
 - The demonstrable need for affordable housing
 - To continue to strengthen relationships between established and new communities
- 4.3 Baseline information feeds into the sustainability appraisal process, as it can be used to help in the prediction of impacts of different policy approaches and in monitoring the effects of the plan.
- 4.4 The Core Strategy Scoping report contains the Sustainability Objectives (Sustainability Appraisal Framework) and the list of baseline indicators that relate to these Sustainability Objectives. The Sustainability Objectives were revised at the Preferred Options Stage, which has lead to a revision in the indicators. Annex D of this report contains the amended framework and baseline indicators.

Sustainability Appraisal Framework

- 4.5 The scoping report included a draft SA Framework, which was used to carry out the appraisal for the Issues and Options report. This framework has been revised for the Preferred Options stage due to the ‘refresh’ of the new Sustainable Community Strategy in 2007. This new framework ensures that it reflects the themes and priorities of the new Community strategy Bolton: Our Vision 2007-2017.
- 4.6 The Community Strategy identifies two main aims; to narrow the gap between the most and least well off and to ensure economic prosperity. The achievement of these aims will be supported by six priority themes: The toolkit used for the Sustainability Appraisal assesses the sustainability of proposals against the six priority themes.
- Healthy
 - Achieving
 - Prosperous
 - Safe
 - Cleaner and greener
 - Strong and confident

- 4.7 The following system is used to identify the Core Strategy's contribution to the six priority themes.

U - Undermining: has potential to significantly undermine the objective.

P - Poor: does not contribute to the objective and is a missed opportunity.

W - Weak: makes a minor, indirect contribution to the objective and is a missed opportunity.

F - Fair: makes some direct or significant indirect contribution to the objective.

G - Good: makes a significant direct contribution to the objective.

E - Excellent: makes a close to optimal contribution to the objective.

- 4.8 The Sustainability framework is contained in Annex D of this report.

5 Plan issues and Options

Options considered

Issues and Options

5.1 At Issues and Options Stage the Council put forward three different types of options:

- On the quantity of development
- On policies for development management
- And the overall spatial options.

5.2 The four spatial options put forward are listed below.

Option 1: Dispersed urban development - allowing development and investment anywhere within the urban area

Option 2: Concentrated urban development – concentrating development and investment in town centres, along transport corridors and in neighbourhood renewal areas

Option 3: Dispersed urban development combined with some peripheral development – allowing some development and investment on peripheral open land sites, though not the Green Belt

Option 4: Dispersed urban development combined with some peripheral development including Green Belt land – this would include peripheral open land sites and Green Belt sites such as Cutacre.

5.3 A sustainability appraisal was carried for all three types of options, Appendix 3 of the Issues and Options report contains this Initial Sustainability Appraisal. This Initial sustainability appraisal, along with feedback from consultations, and factual evidence helped the Council to develop its preferred spatial option.

Preferred Option

5.4 The preferred spatial option was for concentrated urban development with an element of peripheral development consisting of Green Belt land at Cutacre.

5.5 A further Sustainability Appraisal was carried out at Preferred Options Stage, which assessed the effects of the Preferred Policy approach. It also documented the reasons for rejecting the other options put forward.

Mitigation measures

5.6 The table below lists the mitigation measures that were identified at the Preferred Options stage and how the Core Strategy has addressed these concerns in the proposed submission document.

Recommendations for improvements/ mitigation measures

Number	Priority theme	Mitigation measure	Council response
1	Healthy	Flag up the importance in creating healthy workplaces through positive design. I.e.	Policy CG3 requires development to take account of positive design.

Number	Priority theme	Mitigation measure	Council response
		by encouraging the inclusion of amenity space around employment developments.	
2	Healthy	Encourage developers to provide childcare facilities on employment/training sites.	Policy SC2 ensures that community facilities are located in the neighbourhoods that they serve.
3	Achieving	LDF Team should work more closely with the Building Schools for the Future, 'Transforming Estates' and the 'Access points' work programmes.	Policy A1 refers to Building Schools for the Future; Policy SC1 to the Transforming Estates; Policy SC2 considers the location of community facilities.
4	Prosperous	<p>Require green travel plans for developments (both businesses and residential) that will generate additional traffic movements.</p> <p>The LDF should contain robust transport policies that promote sustainable transport and reduce the need to travel especially by private car. E.g. through the improvements in the public realm, promoting car clubs, inclusion of cycle and bus lanes etc</p>	<p>Policy P5 requires a Transport Assessment and Travel Plan for developments that generate major trips.</p> <p>Policy P5 will ensure that developments take into account accessibility by different types of transport.</p> <p>The area based policies TC1, TC3, TC5, TC6, TC7, TC10, TC11, RA2, and M2 contain provisions to enhance pedestrian links.</p> <p>RA2 6 seeks to improve public transport to link new and existing housing to employment opportunities.</p> <p>Policy LO1 Links to the surrounding areas, seeks to improve rail links from Bolton to the surrounding areas. It also requires the provision of an off-road cycle route from Bolton town centre to Bury town centre.</p>
5	Prosperous	Sustainable transport should be encouraged at the outset of the development - before the scheme has critical mass to	Policy P5 requires travel plans for major trip generating developments.

Number	Priority theme	Mitigation measure	Council response
		support public transport. Rather than at the end of the development process so that we don't have to re-educate people who have become used to travelling by car.	
6	Prosperous	Ensure that both Cutacre and the Horwich Loco works have the necessary transport infrastructure in place. This could be achieved through, planning conditions, by encouraging public investment through public transport funds, and by influencing public transport providers etc.	<p>Policy M2 –Horwich Loco Works requires that if the impacts on the surrounding highway network are unacceptable, the development will not be permitted. It also requires that the site is well served by public transport, cycling and walking.</p> <p>Transport issues for cutacre will be addressed in the Allocations DPD.</p>
7	Safe	Ensure that there are policies in place that 'design out crime'.	Policy S1 aims to ensure that the design of new development will take into account the need to reduce crime and the fear of crime.
8	Cleaner, Greener	Ensure there are policies in place in the LDF that conserve, enhance and design in green spaces-particularly in urban and regeneration areas.	<p>The Council aims to protect and enhance open spaces through Policy CG 1.2 Urban biodiversity-protection and enhancement and CG 1.3 Urban open space-protection and enhancement.</p> <p>Policies RA 1-RA3 specifically relate to the renewal areas. (Previously termed 'regeneration areas') RA1 – Inner Bolton requires that 'development takes opportunities to improve upon existing low levels of green infrastructure and soft landscaping in Bolton.'</p> <p>RA2- Farnworth requires that Farnworth Park is protected from development.</p> <p>RA3 –Broughton requires that 'development should take special care to incorporate high quality soft landscaping and</p>

Number	Priority theme	Mitigation measure	Council response
			green amenity spaces’.
9	Cleaner, Greener	The LDF should maximise opportunities to develop Green infrastructure including green link ways and open spaces. It should strongly encourage developments to incorporate areas of community space including green spaces to encourage social interaction and biodiversity.	Policies CG1, and policies RA1-3 aim to safeguard and enhance areas of green space and increase the provision of green infrastructure. Lo1 Links to the surrounding areas seeks to ‘Protect green infrastructure of sub-regional importance in the West Pennine Moors and the Croal Irwell Valley from adverse development.’
10	Cleaner, Greener	New developments should incorporate climate change adaptation features such as areas of shading, tree planting in the public realm etc	Policy CG3 Cleaner and Greener, The Built Environment seeks to ‘encourage the incorporation of design measures into new developments that allow adaptation and resilience to the impacts of climate change and extreme weather events.’
11	Cleaner, Greener	Ensure there are policies in place to minimise and tackle air pollution, and provide and enhance pedestrian links.	Policy CG4 – Cleaner and Greener, Compatible uses requires that development does not generate unacceptable impacts on air quality.
12	Cleaner, Greener	The LDF should maximise the positive impacts of any town centre investment through appropriate design policies.	TC 11- design and the built environment in the town centre seeks to protect, strengthen and enhance the distinctive townscape qualities of Bolton town centre.
13	Cleaner, Greener	Ensure design policies are in place that prevent inappropriate developments and to maximise potential for enhancing the built environment.	CG3 – The Built Environment requires that development proposals that contribute to good urban design and respect and enhance local distinctiveness.
14	Cleaner, Greener	Ensure the LDF contains a strong policy framework that	Policy CG2 – Sustainable Design and Construction,

Number	Priority theme	Mitigation measure	Council response
		supports and exceeds the requirements of the Sustainable Design and Construction SPD. Policies should be requiring and track best practice so that it is able to tighten these requirements over time and remain up to date and challenging.	strongly encourages developers to implement higher standards than the current SPD, in advance of more rigorous targets being set.
15		Strongly encourage major developments to become sustainable design and construction exemplars. For example; Cutacre and Horwich Loco works should incorporate significant sustainable design and construction technologies e.g. Combined Heat and Power.	Policy TC10 –Urban Village will provide an example of good practice in implementing environmentally sustainable development. Policy M2 specifically relates to Horwich Loco works. It will provide and enhance sustainable power solutions where possible.

Publication document

- 5.7 For the publication document a further sustainability appraisal has been carried out measuring an alternative way of meeting employment land requirements by identifying a number of smaller greenfield sites in the Green Belt and on Protected Open Land, rather than one large one at Cutacre, and by retaining the Horwich Loco Works as all for employment, rather than a mixed use site. These smaller greenfield sites had been identified by developers and landowners as part of the consultation procession on the Local Development Framework, including a call for sites. Although the Core Strategy does not support the development of these sites, they are deliverable sites in that they are supported by developers and landowners. Other sites have not been considered because they are not realistic, deliverable alternatives.
- 5.8 The spatial option is similar to the preferred option with the exception of proposing Cutacre as a major development site within the Green Belt. Spatial option 5 relies on proposing peripheral sites which are a mixture of Green Belt and Protected Open Space Land. Horwich Loco Works would also remain as solely employment and not mixed use, meaning that housing would need to be built elsewhere in the borough.
- 5.9 The additional option was subject to a separate Sustainability Appraisal which was directly compared to the preferred option.
- 5.10 Annex E contains the detailed assessment matrix for Option 5 but the main sustainability implications are detailed below.

Option 5 - Sustainability Implications

5.11 **Option 5: Concentrated and dispersed urban development with peripheral development on small sites including Green Belt and Protected Open Land**

- 5.12 The M61 corridor will be a focus for employment and will be accessible to people who need jobs; the Horwich Loco Works strategic employment site will be close to completion (for employment uses only) and a range of small sites for employment uses will be close to completion (on a mixture of what are currently Protected Open Land and Green Belt sites)

Key positive effects

- Development of the peripheral sites is closer to existing community facilities and services at Westhoughton, Horwich and Blackrod making sites more sustainable from an accessibility aspect.
- Focusing development within the urban renewal areas which will assist deprived areas and the borough as a whole

Key negative effects

- Risk that development will occur in areas not in greatest need, eg Farnworth
- Continued use of Loco Works as a heavy industrial area which is in close proximity to a large number of residential properties.
- Wasted opportunity to capitalise on the development potential of Horwich Loco Works.
- More highway improvement schemes are required to bring forward the option 5 sites in comparison to the Cutacre option.
- Not utilising Horwich Loco Works for residential will result in further pressures on the Green Belt and existing communities, especially fringe recreational sites for additional community facilities.

Conclusions

- 5.13 The appraisal shows that this option would perform less well than the chosen option on narrowing the gap between rich and poor, matching jobs and investment to those most in need, and promoting walking, cycling and public transport. This is because Cutacre is well positioned to provide employment for people from deprived areas in Bolton, as well as deprived areas in Salford and Wigan. Its large size would enable a comprehensive and integrated approach on providing public transport links to those deprived areas. The option would also perform less well on retaining local businesses, on improving the prosperity of the borough as a competitive regional centre, and raising the profile of Bolton to attract more investment. Cutacre would be a more attractive location for both local and regional companies than smaller sites in other locations.

6 Plan policies

Likely significant effects of the plan

- 6.1 The Core Strategy submission document contains the Core Strategy policies. These policies have not been individually appraised as their impact cannot be fully realised in isolation. The following paragraphs identify the likely impacts of implementing the Core Strategy as a whole rather than simply looking at the effects of individual policies.

Key positive effects

- 6.2 The Core Strategy will help deliver new healthcare facilities in accessible town centre locations and in renewal areas. Development in the renewal areas will provide facilities close to where people live, this is especially important in areas where car ownership is low. Development in these areas can help to improve the built environment and regenerate areas of most need. Locating health facilities in town centre locations will allow more people to access these facilities by public transport, cycling and walking; this will have a positive effect on improving the health of the borough.
- 6.3 Both Primary and Secondary schools are going through a major reorganisation to improve and upgrade school buildings. This will ensure that children are able to learn in fit for purpose facilities, and can further educational attainment in the borough.
- 6.4 At present there is a shortage of employment land in Bolton. The Core Strategy proposes to provide for between 145ha and 165ha of employment land between 2007 and 2026. The additional floorspace may provide expansion space for existing businesses to enable them to remain in the borough. This can help to retain and enhance local based businesses. This will provide job opportunities, encourage inward investment and increase the prosperity of the borough as a whole. Additionally, locating these jobs in accessible locations should allow local people to access these job opportunities.
- 6.5 The Core Strategy seeks to increase the quantity of retail floorspace concentrating predominantly in Bolton town centre. This will contribute to an active and thriving town centre, which is vital to ensuring that Bolton achieves its potential as a competitive sub-regional centre and for the future economic prosperity of the borough. There will be no major increase in retail floorspace at Middlebrook, which will ensure the prosperity of Bolton town centre is not undermined by an expansion of an out of town development.
- 6.6 The Core Strategy will plan for 12,492 additional dwellings between 2008 and 2026. Housing affects everyone's health, wealth and happiness. Improving standards of housing especially in the most deprived areas will raise the quality of life for the most disadvantaged people, which may help to narrow the gap between the best and least well off. The Core Strategy is a key determinant in quantity, location, quality, type and tenure of new housing. Improving the quality and mix of our housing offer will provide accessible and appropriate housing at all levels of the market. Ensuring that a percentage of new housing is affordable will allow newly forming households and first time buyers to get on to the property ladder. The Housing market assessment has identified the need to provide larger family homes. Larger family homes are important in attracting skilled employment into the borough. Policy SC1 sets out the housing mix and types that will be delivered. Providing a range of house types will enable households to stay in their local area, if and when their circumstances change. This flexibility can contribute to sustainable mixed communities this is important retaining a good socio-economic balance.

- 6.7 The Spatial Vision for Bolton means that new development will be located mostly in the existing urban area. At least 80% of housing development will be on previously developed land. Development will be concentrated in Bolton town centre, the renewal areas and the M61 corridor. Encouraging development in the existing urban areas and in accessible locations will provide facilities, jobs and services close to where people live, and ensure that services are accessible. This may encourage people to reduce the amount of trips using the car, and reduce the contribution to climate change. However, travel patterns are complex and any growth needs to be supported by a high quality transport network to ensure that development does not put additional strain on existing infrastructure and lead to air pollution and climate change.
- 6.8 The renewal areas consist of three geographically distinct locations: inner Bolton, Farnworth and Brightmet. These areas will be a focus for investment and development; this will include new housing, health, education and community facilities. This development led regeneration will create job and leisure opportunities for local people. Improving how people feel about where they live can have a significant effect on self esteem and aspirations. It can lead to a safer and more attractive environment and subsequently improve the health and well being of communities in these areas. This investment has the potential to transform these areas, and to help to narrow the gap between the most and least well off.
- 6.9 The M61 corridor will continue to be a focus for manufacturing and distribution uses. Altogether there will be between 105 and 110ha of land for new employment. The M61 corridor contains a new strategic economic development opportunity at Horwich Loco Works, which will become a mixed use site for employment and housing. This development will provide 4000 jobs and will transform the site from an under-used resource to a sustainable mixed use community. Developing the strategic sites of Horwich Loco works and a further development site in the vicinity of Cutacre tip to the south of Junction 4; will provide significant employment and investment opportunities. These strategic sites will further raise the profile of Bolton and attract more investment into the borough. There are priority neighbourhoods located close to these strategic sites and there is therefore potential for people who live in these neighbourhoods and who are most in need to access these job opportunities.
- 6.10 Prioritising development in the existing urban areas will ensure that the rural areas are protected from development. The rural areas are a key part of the borough's natural heritage. Not only are these rural areas important in themselves as a haven for wildlife and biodiversity but these areas are essential for sequestering carbon dioxide which is a major contributor to climate change. Ensuring these areas are protected from development will safeguard the distinctiveness of the landscape, reduce flood risk and maximise the amenity and tourism value of these areas.
- 6.11 In general terms, development and growth can improve social and economic well-being through the provision of job and leisure opportunities. The creation of a prosperous and thriving borough should be beneficial to all residents who may be able to access jobs, or facilities or benefit from an investment in their local area. As long as robust design policies are in place, development can enhance the built environment, especially in areas that are vacant or underused.

Key negative effects

- 6.12 Growth and development has the potential to cause negative effects on the environment, due to the consumption and transportation of raw materials in construction, the use of

natural resources and the production of waste over the lifetime of the development. In the short term, development can have negative effects on people's health through noise, dust and disruption in the construction phase. In the longer term, more development can contribute to the urban heat island effect. This is when heat is stored by hard surfaces such as roofs, roads and walls and is slowly released. This creates warmer temperatures in urban area. However, as with all development, the scale, duration and significance of such impacts will depend on timing and location.

- 6.13 The Core Strategy seeks to minimise these impacts by requiring developments to adhere to sustainable design and construction standards. Since the Preferred Options stage the sustainable design and construction policy (CG2) has been amended to be more in line with the Code for Sustainable Homes. All proposals for 5 or more residential units or 500m² or greater non-residential units are required to adhere to sustainable design and construction standards. This will capture more development than is currently the case and is more rigorous than the policy drawn up at the Preferred Options stage. Furthermore policy TC10 will deliver the urban village which will be an exemplar in sustainable design and construction. The Core Strategy recognises the need to ensure that new development is resilient to the effects of climate change and the role of green infrastructure in mitigating against climate change.
- 6.14 Poor development or development in the wrong location may put a strain on existing services and infrastructure and create additional social problems such as congestion, air pollution and subsequently increasing incidences of respiratory diseases. Concentrating development in accessible locations should reduce the pressure on existing infrastructure by providing alternative modes of travel to the car.
- 6.15 There is a risk that concentrating development in the urban area will reduce the amount of urban green spaces. Availability and proximity to green spaces has one of the biggest impacts on increasing physical activity levels. Green spaces are essential to provide 'green lungs' and help to mitigate air pollution and associated respiratory diseases. Reduction in urban green spaces and trees could result in a loss of biodiversity and key recreation areas. This would reduce the ability of the urban area to prevent surface water run off and could lead to an increased risk of flooding. Furthermore there would be fewer trees to sequester carbon dioxide emissions which are a main contributor to climate change. The Core Strategy seeks to address this by requiring development proposals to improve upon the existing low levels of green infrastructure and soft landscaping in Bolton.
- 6.16 Between 15ha and 20ha of employment land and 1600 dwellings will be developed on the Horwich Loco Works site. This may add strain to the existing infrastructure and result in traffic congestion, air pollution and contribute to climate change. The Core Strategy recognises this potential impact on traffic generation and the need to take account and mitigate against any adverse impacts.
- 6.17 To meet the requirement for land in the M61 corridor a further strategic employment site is needed for general industrial and distribution uses. The broad location for this strategic site will be in the vicinity of Cutacre to the south of Junction 4. Some land in this broad area is in the Green Belt, and will require a change in the greenbelt boundary. If development did take place in the greenbelt there may be a loss of green space and trees which may reduce the capacity of the borough to sequester carbon dioxide and add to the 'urban heat island' effect. This may also result in a loss wildlife habitats and therefore biodiversity.
- 6.18 Any development in the greenbelt may not have the necessary transport infrastructure in place and may lead to the generation of more trips by private car; therefore contributing to

climate change. This could further add to social exclusion as more disadvantaged areas are less likely to have access to a car and may be unable to access the development.

Timescale

- 6.19 The Core Strategy is a strategic planning document that sets out the broad spatial planning framework until 2026. Different developments will be delivered at different stages over the lifetime of the plan. The impact of the Core Strategy on social, economic and environmental objectives will vary depending on the timetable of delivery.

Cumulative effects

- 6.20 The SA took into account the possible indirect and combined effects of the Core Strategy. Clearly policies can not be considered in isolation but need to be looked at holistically. There will invariably be impacts when implementing individual policies, but some impacts occur or are exacerbated when combined with other policies. The SA identified these cumulative effects by appraising the options as a whole. Clearly this will not identify all potential impacts, but does go a long way towards coherent analysis of likely effects.

Development management policies

- 6.21 The Development Management Options were appraised at Preferred Options stage. The purpose of this appraisal was to compare and contrast the key sustainability implications of pursuing the different options in relation to the built environment, planning contributions, use considerations and transport and access. There was no mitigation measures put forward in relation to these options. The Core Strategy proposed Submission document has incorporated these Development Management policies into the Cleaner and Greener policies. These policies have developed since the Preferred Options report so a sustainability appraisal has been carried out to assess the impact of these policies.

Policy CG3- Cleaner and Greener, The Built Environment

Preferred Option Policy

In determining planning applications the Council will require development proposals to:

- Respect and enhance local distinctiveness and its special qualities including the layout, density, height, massing, architectural style, materials and landscaping.
- Respond to the main characteristics/features of the following areas: Bolton town centre; Renewal Areas: Inner Bolton, Farnworth and Breightmet; the M61 corridor, including Horwich Locoworks, Middlebrook and Cutacre; and the outer areas: Horwich and Blackrod, Westhoughton, Little Lever and Kearsley, North Bolton, West Bolton.
- Create safe places to avoid crime or fear of crime, which are also accessible to everyone regardless of age, gender or disability.
- Recognise the importance of sites, areas and buildings of archaeological, historic, cultural and architectural interest and their settings. In doing so preserve or enhance the historic environment of Bolton including its listed buildings, conservation areas, historic parks and gardens and archaeology

Key negative effects
None recorded.
Key positive effects
<p>The Preferred Option policy seeks to deliver good quality design and to preserve and enhance local distinctiveness. Creating a strong sense of place can improve perceptions of areas which can have positive benefits on quality of life and well-being. This can have positive benefits on the aspirations of local people and make a minor contribution to reducing crime and antisocial behaviour.</p> <p>Requiring sensitive design in Bolton town centre can help to build a vibrant and transformed place. This can have a positive effect on the prosperity of the borough as improved image can help to secure investor interest.</p>
Proposed Submission Document policy (updated policy following consultations)
<p>The Council and its partners will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expect development proposals to display innovative, sustainable designs that contribute to good urban design. • Respect and enhance local distinctiveness, ensuring development has regard to the overall built character and landscape quality of the area. • Require development to be compatible with the surrounding area, in terms of scale, massing, grain, form, architecture, street enclosure, local materials and landscape treatment including hard and soft landscaping and boundary treatment. Historical associations should be retained where possible. • Preserve and enhance the special characteristics of heritage assets and heritage areas, recognising the importance of sites, areas and buildings of archaeological, historic, cultural and architectural interest and their settings. • Ensure development is designed in an inclusive manner which is accessible and legible to all, regardless of age, gender, background or disability • Encourage the incorporation of design measures into new developments that allow adaptation and resilience to the impacts of climate change and extreme weather events and also to reduce the threat of fuel poverty, through the careful selection of aspect, layout and massing, and by making buildings increasingly energy efficient. • Maintain and respect the landscape character of the surrounding countryside and its distinctiveness. Any soft landscaping and landscape enhancement schemes should enhance biodiversity and be compatible with the nearby landscape character types identified by the Landscape Character Assessment
How has the policy changed?
<p>Policy still seeks to deliver good quality design with sense of place etc. Characterisation study from Greater Manchester Archaeological Unit (GMAU) has informed character areas which attributes a more locally distinctive approach.</p> <p>Policy is more detailed and perhaps more prescriptive in the area description chapters, however, this was always a proposal in the form of the character appraisal areas from the published preferred option policy.</p> <p>Policy encourages energy efficiency and climate change adaptation measures to be incorporated into designs.</p>
What are the sustainability implications of the changes made?
Identifying more character areas will ensure that local distinctiveness of these areas is

preserved and enhanced. This may make a minor contribution to further improve the built environment and improve the prosperity of the borough
The submission policy will help to maximise the energy efficiency of developments, and to ensure buildings are able to adapt to climate change.

Policy CG2 Cleaner and Greener, Sustainable Design and Construction

Preferred Option Policy

Standards should be as good as possible, therefore aiming to exceed the minimum requirements stipulated in the Sustainable Design and Construction SPD (SDC SPD). Detailed requirements will be set out in a revised Sustainable Design and Construction SPD, which can be further revised quickly to reflect changing circumstances. The SDC SPD sets out two differing thresholds for applying sustainable design and construction standards.

- On residential schemes of **5 units and/or 500m² non residential** to provide an **energy assessment** to reduce CO2 emissions through renewable energy sources by 10%
- For schemes of **10 or more units and/or 1000m² non residential** to provide a **sustainability statement and an energy assessment** that will reduce carbon emissions through renewable energy sources by 10%; manage water supplies; source construction materials and encourage the recycling of waste.

Issues taken into account within the SPD will include:

- Considerate Construction
- Sustainable Drainage, including Water Use
- Materials and Construction waste
- Biodiversity
- Climate Change and Renewable Energy
- Waste Management and Recycling

Key negative effects

Smaller developers may struggle to meet the sustainable design and construction requirements which may be detrimental to local businesses. It is not certain whether this will be an issue, and anecdotal evidence has shown that developers do not have difficulties with sustainable design and construction standards, but with the differing standards in different local authority areas. Additionally, since the economic downturn, the English planning press has reported increasing numbers of housing developers voluntarily submitting planning applications that will achieve the Code for Sustainable Homes (CSH) Level 3-6. This increase is possibly in response to a growing consumer appetite for more sustainable products and the desire for lower household running costs.

In the longer term these differing standards will be less of an issue as more local authorities adopt similar SPD's The Council's Preferred Option offers a flexible approach to allow the Council to respond to new and emerging national policy, and will ensure that Bolton Council's requirement are consistent with national policy.

Key positive effects

Ensure the efficient use of natural resources and energy, encourage waste reduction and minimisation, and help prevent flooding and minimise the impact on climate change.

Could help to encourage and support the renewables/ alternative technology development in Bolton.

Create a better designed and therefore more attractive place, which can contribute to a vibrant town centre and borough. This can have benefits for the local economy by encouraging investment in the borough.

Proposed Submission Document policy (updated policy following consultations)

The Council and its partners will:

1. Ensure that all development proposals contribute to the delivery of sustainable development, being located and designed so as to mitigate and adapt to climate change by incorporating high standards of sustainable design and construction principles.
2. Ensure that all proposals for 5 or more residential units or 500m² or greater non-residential units:
 - a) Achieve Level 3 of the Code for Sustainable Homes or the “very good” Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM) rating (or any subsequently adopted set of national sustainable construction standards);
 - b) Incorporate appropriate decentralised, renewable or low carbon energy sources to reduce the CO₂ emissions of predicted regulated and unregulated energy use by at least 10%. The most appropriate technology for the site and the surrounding area should be used. For the purposes of calculating the CO₂ emissions, an energy assessment which includes a carbon budget should be provided for the proposed development
 - c) Demonstrate the sustainable management of surface water run-off from developments. On Brownfield sites the rate of run-off should be 50% less than conditions before development. On Greenfield sites the rate of run-off should be no worse than the original conditions before development.

The following policy clause will be implemented once the city region investment fund has been established:

3. Ensure that all proposals for 5 or more residential units or 500m² or greater non-residential units:
 - achieve the minimum targets for carbon reduction as outlined in the AGMA Decentralised Energy Study (table extract shown below);
 - connect to existing or planned / potential decentralised and / or power schemes, where appropriate.

Where these minimum standards can not be met on site, the use of allowable solutions and contribution into the City Region investment fund will be allowed.

Differences between the PO policy and the Submission policy

The Submission policy lowers the threshold to 5 or more residential units or 500m² or greater non-residential units for all elements of the SDC SPD. It requires that proposals caught by the thresholds achieve carbon reduction targets once the city region fund has been established.

The new policy takes a simplified approach which references the Sustainable Design and Construction SPD for guidance and draws heavily on the Code for Sustainable Homes and BREEAM standards. These are nationally recognised standards, which comprehensively cover many of the areas in the SPD.

The additional specific clause for renewable energy is due to requirements in national planning guidance. These new thresholds for renewable energy production improve on the thresholds in the North West Regional Spatial Strategy (NW RSS.)

The requirement to sustainably manage surface water run off is in supplement to that in

CSH/BREEAM, covering both Greenfield & Brownfield land, and takes account of the effects of impervious hard surfaces and the increasing awareness of climate change related flooding.

What are the sustainability implications of the changes made?

The threshold of 5 / 500 for renewable energy is lower than RSS and could impact on smaller businesses developing 5- 9 units. Lowering the thresholds for all aspects of the SDC SPD will capture more development and should minimise the negative environmental impacts of buildings.

The requirement for developments to meet carbon reduction targets once the city region investment fund has been established; should help to mitigate against climate change. This approach should provide consistency in adopting sustainable design and construction standards to developers across the Association of Greater Manchester (AGMA)districts.

Once the CS is published, Building Regulations for energy and water consumption will be in line with CSH level 3, so the impact will relate to the additional criteria found in the CSH, and the surface water runoff clause. The impact on commercial developments will be more extensive in the short to medium term until the Part L is raised for commercial developments in 2012.

It is recommended that a series of forums are presented for SME's detailing best practice, how to make schemes financially viable etc.

Policy P5- Transport

Preferred Option Policy

It is recommended that in determining planning applications, consideration should be given to:

- The safety of proposed access arrangements
- Accessibility by different types of transport including public transport, cycling and walking as well as by car
- The design of developments to enable penetration by public transport
- Freight movement for industrial and storage uses
- Servicing arrangements
- Parking, including parking for cycles and powered two-wheelers
- The transport needs of people with disabilities
- The requirement for a Transport Assessment and Travel Plan with major trip generating developments

The preferred maximum parking standards will be a combination of Options A and C. Maximum parking standards as set down in the submitted draft Regional Spatial Strategy will be adopted. For uses that are not covered in the draft Regional Spatial Strategy, baseline standards will be derived for additional land use categories as set out in the current Bolton Unitary Development Plan. In addition, parking standards will be set for C3 residential use class. As in line with the Bolton Town Centre Transport Strategy, no new parking will be allowed within the Inner Bus Circulation Route in Bolton town centre. The Transport and Access SPD will set accessibility criteria that will reduce the parking requirement in town and district centre locations and along high frequency

transport corridors. Detailed requirements of the Transport and Access policy will be set out in a supporting SPD.
Key negative effects
None recorded.
Key positive effects
<p>A balanced approach to parking standards will help to ensure that developments away from the key transport corridors and the town centre are accessible, by providing the maximum parking standards (as set out in the draft Regional Spatial Strategy). This can ensure that facilities such as health services, leisure activities, and job opportunities are accessible.</p> <p>This approach may also present a more attractive option to investors who wish to maximise the accessibility of their developments. More investment in the borough can have beneficial impacts on local and existing businesses.</p> <p>Lower parking standards across the key transport corridors and in Bolton town centre may lead to more people leaving their cars at home and using public transport. This could help to cut congestion and therefore air pollution and lead to safer roads and a more pleasant environment.</p>
Proposed Submission Document policy (updated policy following consultations)
<p>Policy P5 The Council and its partners will ensure that developments take the following into account</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accessibility by different types of transport, prioritising pedestrians, cyclists, public transport users over other motorised vehicle users. • The design of developments to enable accessibility by public transport • Freight movement for industrial and storage uses • Servicing arrangements • Parking, including parking for cycles and powered two-wheelers, in accordance with the parking standards set out in Appendix 3 • The transport needs of people with disabilities • The requirement for a Transport Assessment and Travel Plan with major trip generating developments.
Differences between the PO policy and the Submission policy
None.
What are the sustainability implications of the changes made?
None recorded.

Incompatible uses
Preferred Option Policy
<p>It is recommended that in determining planning applications, consideration is given to the impact of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noise • Safety

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Smell • Disturbance • Air pollution • Water pollution • Ground pollution • Light pollution • Unstable land • Contaminated land • Derelict land
Key negative effects
None recorded.
Key positive effects
<p>Noise, safety, smell and pollution can affect human health. Ensuring these impacts are considered in determining planning applications can help to ensure that impacts to human health are minimised.</p> <p>Ensuring any planning application considers the impact of pollution can help to protect parks and wildlife habitats from any potential pollution incidents.</p>
Proposed Submission Document policy (updated policy following consultations)
<p>CG4: The Council and its Partners will ensure that new development is sympathetic to surrounding land uses and occupiers, protecting amenity, privacy, safety and security.</p> <p>Development should not generate unacceptable nuisance, odours, fumes, noise or light pollution, nor cause unacceptable impacts upon water, ground or air quality.</p> <p>Development proposals on land that is (or is suspected to be) affected by contamination or ground instability must include an assessment of the extent of the issues and any possible risks. Development will only be permitted where the land is, or is made, suitable for the proposed use.</p>
Differences between the PO policy and the Submission policy
<p>The policy name has changed to Compatible Uses –</p> <p>The policy has removed a lot of the various forms of negative impacts and defined a range of broader nuisance types in its place. The privacy and amenity aspect will improve development proposals, especially for existing dwellings. There are already Policy Control Notes which seek to control privacy, but the Core Strategy policy will increase flexibility and subjectiveness of privacy.</p> <p>Privacy and amenity has been included in the policy as a direct consideration of planning application.</p> <p>The remaining policy wordings relate to contamination and ground instability</p>
What are the sustainability implications of the changes made?
Potentially, improving the privacy, overlooking and amenity of developments may reduce crime and lead to more sustainable communities.

Planning Contributions
Preferred Option Policy
<p>In determining planning applications the Council will expect developers to provide or contribute towards the cost of providing appropriate physical and social infrastructure that arises as a result of proposed development. Provision will be required through planning obligations and agreements where necessary to make development acceptable in planning terms and to achieve the objectives of sustainable development.</p> <p>Thresholds</p> <p>The Council will use a threshold of 15 dwellings in assessing whether planning obligations will be required from proposed housing developments. For all other forms of development a size threshold of 0.4 hectares will be applied to sites.</p> <p>Types of infrastructure</p> <p>For new residential development contributions will be sought for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Affordable housing • Open space provision and maintenance • Off-site access and transport of all types including public transport, cycling and walking • Health and well-being • Education • Community facilities • Employment fund to compensate for the loss of employment <p>For all types of development, including housing, contributions will be sought for additional types of infrastructure necessary to remedy deficiencies that arise from development or any other mitigation or compensatory measures required, including where relevant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public art for all development above the threshold • Biodiversity where a development would have an adverse effect on a feature of biodiversity interest • Green infrastructure where a development would have an adverse effect on existing green infrastructure; this would be in addition to the requirement on residential development for open space • Flood protection and mitigation measures including those to address the adverse effects of surface water run-off, where a flood risk assessment shows it to be necessary.
Key negative effects
<p>Some representatives from the development industry argue that lowering the thresholds and extending the range of infrastructure; may have implications for the viability of sites, particularly small sites on brownfield land</p> <p>If this is the case this may have detrimental implications for the economy and housing delivery. This could impact negatively on investment and therefore the prosperity of the borough. .</p>
Key positive effects
<p>It is assumed that lowering the threshold will result in more planning contributions being obtained by the Council. This will result in more facilities for the community, ranging from affordable housing provision, education, health and wellbeing, off-site access and public transport provision to biodiversity and green infrastructure. Therefore more</p>

facilities may help to improve the health of the borough and provide more opportunities for local people which can facilitate independent living, improve well-being and quality of life.

It is assumed that lowering the threshold to 15 dwellings from the current threshold of 25 dwellings will result in more affordable housing being delivered.

The inclusion of public realm improvements within Bolton town centre, in the list of planning contributions will help to build a vibrant town centre and raise the profile of Bolton. Additionally, it is anticipated that lowering the thresholds will cause more development to be captured and will therefore lead to more contributions being acquired. Public realm improvements may help to improve Bolton's built heritage.

Extending the range of infrastructure types to include a employment related fund should have positive benefits on training, skills, and enhancing local businesses. On a general level, if the planning contributions are providing additional community facilities, and improving the borough as a whole, this could lead to an improvement in prosperity. (I.e. there may be more investment in the borough if it perceived to be thriving).

The inclusion of green infrastructure and flood mitigation measures should lead to the creation of more amenity and biodiversity space and reduce the risk and impact of flooding.

Proposed Submission Document policy (updated policy following consultations)

Policy IPC.1: The Council will require developers to provide or contribute towards the cost of providing appropriate physical and social infrastructure that arises as a result of proposed development and/or to mitigate the impact of development. Provision will be required through planning obligations and agreements where necessary to make development acceptable in planning terms and to achieve the objectives of sustainable development.

In determining planning applications the Council will apply a threshold of 15 dwellings in assessing whether planning obligations will be required from proposed housing developments. For all other forms of development a size threshold of 0.4 hectares will be applied to sites. For new residential development specific contributions will be sought for:

- Affordable housing
- Open space provision and maintenance
- Health and well-being
- Education
- Community facilities

For all types of development, including housing, contributions will be sought for additional types of infrastructure necessary to remedy site specific deficiencies that arise from development or any other mitigation or compensatory measures required.

These may include where relevant:

- Off-site access and transport of all types including public transport, cycling and walking
- Biodiversity where a development would have an adverse effect on a feature of biodiversity interest
- Green infrastructure where a development would have an adverse effect on existing green infrastructure; this would be in addition to the requirement on residential development for open space
- Flood protection and mitigation measures including those to address the adverse effects of surface water run-off, where a flood risk assessment shows it to be necessary.
- Mitigation or compensate against air quality impacts in Air Quality Management Areas
- Contributions to the public realm improvements within Bolton town centre
- The pursuit of any other material policy considerations or site specific matters, for

example contributions towards the wider plans to restore the Manchester, Bolton and Bury canal.

Town Centre:

Within Bolton town centre it is anticipated that the Council will primarily seek contributions to secure high quality improvements to the public realm.

Differences between the PO policy and the Submission policy

No change to the thresholds.

The employment mitigation fund has been removed from the list of potential planning contributions.

What are the sustainability implications of the changes made?

Removing the employment mitigation fund from the potential list of planning contributions may potentially be a missed opportunity to improve skills, training and support local businesses.

7 Assumptions

7.1 The SA relies on an element of subjective judgement and predictions about how development in the borough will affect the local environment and patterns of behaviour. In order to appraise high level policies the following assumptions have been made.

- Encouraging investment in the borough will result in jobs and facilities for local people. More money in the local economy will increase the wealth of local people and lead to an increased quality of life.
- Encouraging development in renewal areas will benefit these areas and the borough as a whole, as local people can access these jobs.
- Promoting development in accessible locations will reduce the number of car trips, and therefore reduce the impact on climate change.
- Development may have negative effects on the environment due to the consumption and transportation of raw materials in construction, the use of natural resources and the production of waste over the lifetime of the development.
- Development may create social problems e.g. air pollution through extra journeys, or loss of green spaces.

Limitations

7.2 We have to recognise that the factors which influence how people, live, work and play are extremely complex. Just because schools, health or leisure facilities are located close to where people live does not necessarily mean that people will use and benefit from these services. There are numerous factors which affect employment patterns, and although location can improve access to jobs, there is no guarantee that local people will benefit. Local people may not have the skills required to access the jobs and they may end up going to people from outside the borough. Similarly individual travel patterns are difficult to determine, since this depends on a wide range of factors many of which are outside the remit of the planning system. Of these factors, perhaps the most significant influence is the cost of fuel, although the ease of driving from 'A' to 'B' is another

8 Social, environmental and economic effects of the Core Strategy

- 8.1 The Core Strategy will have significant effects on social, environmental and economic objectives. The following paragraph highlights the likely effects of the Core Strategy. It is important to note that the impact of options and policies can be difficult to judge in many cases. Unlike sustainability appraisal of sites, for which there is more significant information on the likely impacts of development, appraisal of strategic spatial policies may be difficult to judge due to their broad nature. Ultimately how policies are implemented will determine the type, nature and scale of impact that occurs.

Social effects

- 8.2 It is likely the Core Strategy will:

- Deliver the required number and mix of homes to support the increasing number of households.
- Deliver more affordable homes.
- Improve educational attainment and opportunities for young people through the provision of new purpose built schools.
- Improve the health of the borough through the provision of new health care facilities.
- Improve the built environment of areas most in need through investment and development in the renewal areas.
- Improve access to jobs, recreation, schools and healthcare facilities by locating these services close to where people live, and in accessible locations.

Economic effects

- 8.3 It is likely the Core Strategy will:

- Improve the vibrancy and prosperity of Bolton town centre.
- Create 10,000 new jobs in the borough over the next 15 years.
- Encourage more inward investment to the borough.
- Preserve and enhance local distinctiveness through the adoption of robust design standards.

Environmental effects

- 8.4 It is likely the Core Strategy will:

- Make efficient use of land by concentrating development in the existing urban areas and on Brownfield sites.
- Potentially reduce the amount of urban green spaces through developing in these areas. This impact should be minimised through design policies.
- Protect and enhance the high quality visual environments of the outer areas of the Borough.
- Adversely affect landscape quality, biodiversity in the greenbelt, if greenbelt boundaries are altered.

- Lead to more development which can lead to greater resource use (notably water consumption, waste production and greenfield land-take), more pollution, and more impacts on landscape and biodiversity.
- Minimise the negative impacts of development through the requirement of sustainable design and construction standards.
- Potentially increase traffic, congestion, air pollution and contribute to climate change through the generation of more trips by private car.
- Reduce and mitigate the impacts of traffic generation through the promotion of development in accessible locations and travel by sustainable modes of transport.
- Strongly encourage the generation of renewable energy.
- Support the principles of the waste hierarchy and provide for sustainable waste management.
- Ensure new development is resilient to the impacts of climate change through the incorporation of design measures.
- Ensure the positive management of the blanket bog habitats within the West Pennine Moors. Ensuring that they fulfil their potential for biodiversity, recreation, decreasing flood risk and combating climate change.
- Have uncertain effects on flood risk. Encouraging development may lead to more impervious hard landscaped surfaces which would increase flood risk. This effect would be minimised by concentrating new development in areas of least flood risk and by minimising water run-off from new development through sustainable design and construction standards.

9 Implementation

Next steps

- 9.1 Once it is approved, consultation on the Core Strategy publication document must be for a statutory period of not less than six weeks, and this will take place in New Year 2010. The council will then submit the Core Strategy to the Government and this will be followed with an examination by a government inspector. Finally, the inspector will issue a report to the council containing binding amendments that must be made to the Core Strategy before it is legally adopted. This is timetabled for March 2011.
- 9.2 Once the Core Strategy is adopted, then it sets the policy framework for the Allocations Development Plan Document. It will enable consultation on the preparation of the Allocations DPD to start, and this will address specific sites.

Proposals for monitoring

- 9.3 The SA process requires that the significant sustainability effects are identified and monitored in order to identify at an early stage any unforeseen adverse effects, and to be able to undertake appropriate remedial action. Significant effects indicators (SEI), which are used to measure and monitor the impact of the policies on sustainability and lead to more informed decision-making.
- 9.4 The indicators below were identified as SEI's.
- Core Indicator E3 – Renewable Energy
 - Core Indicator E2 Biodiversity
 - Local Indicator L10 Transport – 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.
- 9.5 Annex D of this report sets out the Sustainability Framework and the baseline indicators. These indicators are monitored through the Annual Monitoring report.

ANNEX A:

Testing the Core Strategy Strategic Objectives against the SA Framework

	Sustainability Objectives						
Core Strategy Proposed Submission document Strategic Objectives	Healthy Bolton	Achieving Bolton	Prosperous Bolton	Safe Bolton	Cleaner, Greener Bolton	Strong and Confident Bolton	Seizing the Opportunities
Healthy Bolton							
1. To maximise access to health facilities, sporting and recreation facilities, and to supplies of fresh food, especially for those living in the most deprived areas, and to increase opportunities for walking and cycling.							?
Previous version of the objective: To maximise access to health facilities, sporting and recreation facilities, and to supplies of fresh food, especially for those living in the most deprived areas							?
Achieving Bolton							
2. To provide everyone in Bolton with the chance to learn, by locating over 16 education provision in Bolton town centre and transforming Bolton's schools and colleges with new buildings and improved services.					-		?
Prosperous Bolton							

	Sustainability Objectives						
Core Strategy Proposed Submission document Strategic Objectives	Healthy Bolton	Achieving Bolton	Prosperous Bolton	Safe Bolton	Cleaner, Greener Bolton	Strong and Confident Bolton	Seizing the Opportunities
3. To take advantage of the economic opportunities presented by Bolton town centre and the M61 corridor and ensure that these opportunities benefit those people living in the most deprived areas.	?				?		?
4. To create a transformed and vibrant Bolton town centre.	?				?		?
5. To ensure that Bolton takes full economic advantage of its location in the Greater Manchester City Region.	?	?		?	?	-	?
6. To ensure that transport infrastructure supports all the aspects of the spatial vision and that new development is in accessible locations and makes the best use of existing infrastructure.		-		?			?
Previous version of the objective: To ensure that transport infrastructure supports all the aspects of the spatial vision and that new development makes the best use of existing infrastructure	?	-		?			?
7. New objective: To ensure that Bolton provides for sustainable waste management.	-	-		-		-	?

	Sustainability Objectives						
Core Strategy Proposed Submission document Strategic Objectives	Healthy Bolton	Achieving Bolton	Prosperous Bolton	Safe Bolton	Cleaner, Greener Bolton	Strong and Confident Bolton	Seizing the Opportunities
8. New objective: To ensure that Bolton provides minerals to support economic growth in an environmentally sustainable way.	-	-		-		-	?
Safe Bolton							
9. To reduce crime and the fear of crime, and improve road safety by ensuring that neighbourhoods are attractive and well designed.							?
Cleaner and Greener Bolton							
10. To minimise Bolton's contribution to climate change and mitigate and adapt to its adverse effects.		-		-		-	?
Previous version of the objective: To minimise climate change and its adverse effects by minimising greenhouse gas emissions from new buildings, maximise the use of renewable energy, locating development where it can make the best use of existing infrastructure, and adapting to the adverse effects of climate change.		-		-		-	?
11. To conserve and enhance the best of Bolton's built heritage, and improve the quality of open spaces				?		-	?

	Sustainability Objectives						
Core Strategy Proposed Submission document Strategic Objectives	Healthy Bolton	Achieving Bolton	Prosperous Bolton	Safe Bolton	Cleaner, Greener Bolton	Strong and Confident Bolton	Seizing the Opportunities
and the design of new buildings							
Previous version of the objective: To conserve the best of Bolton's built heritage, and improve the quality of open spaces and the design of new buildings				?		-	?
12. To protect and enhance Bolton's biodiversity.		-		-		-	?
Previous version of the objective: To protect and promote Bolton's biodiversity.		-		-		-	?
13 New objective: To reduce the likelihood and manage the impacts of flooding in Bolton and to minimise potential flooding to areas downstream.	-	-		-		-	?
Strong and Confident Bolton							
14. To provide housing that meets the needs of everybody reflecting the needs of an ageing population and a growth in the number of households.							?
15. To focus new housing in the existing urban area, especially in Bolton town centre, Council owned housing areas and in mixed use developments on existing older				?			?

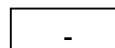
	Sustainability Objectives						
Core Strategy Proposed Submission document Strategic Objectives	Healthy Bolton	Achieving Bolton	Prosperous Bolton	Safe Bolton	Cleaner, Greener Bolton	Strong and Confident Bolton	Seizing the Opportunities
industrial sites.							
16. To develop mixed communities which encourage community cohesion and ensure access for all to community and cultural facilities.					-		?

KEY

Compatible:



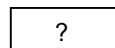
Neutral:



Possible conflict:



Unknown:



ANNEX B – The SEA Directive’s requirements: how these are met through the SA report.

The SEA requirements	Where covered in the report
a) an outline of the contents, main objectives of the plan or programme and relationship with other relevant plans and programmes;	2.2 Plan content 2.3, 2.4 Plan objectives 4.1: Links to other policies, plans and programmes. ANNEX C List of relevant plans and programmes.
b) the relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme;	4.2: Social, environmental and economic baseline.
(c) the environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected	4.2: Social, environmental and economic baseline. 1.7: Environmental effects 8.4: Environmental effects
d) any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to Directives 79/409/EEC and 92/43/EEC	4.1: Links to other policies, plans and programmes. ANNEX C List of relevant plans and programmes.
e) the environmental protection objectives, established at international, Community or Member State level, which are relevant to the plan or programme and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation;	4.1: Links to other policies, plans and programmes.
f) the likely significant effects (1) on the environment, including on issues such as biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors	1.5 Social effects 1.6: Economic effects 1.7 Environmental effects 5.7 -5.13 Options considered 6: Plan policies ANNEX E detailed assessment matrix.
g) the measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme;	5.6 Mitigation measures
h) an outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with, and a description of how the assessment was undertaken including any difficulties (such as technical deficiencies or lack of know-how) encountered in compiling the required information;	3 Appraisal Methodology 7.1: Assumptions 7.2 Limitations
(i) a description of the measures envisaged concerning monitoring in accordance with Article 10	9.3 Proposals for monitoring
(j) a non-technical summary of the information provided under the above headings.	1.1-1.8 Non technical summary

ANNEX C:

Review of plans and programmes (Additions since the scoping report)

Title of plan/programme	Relevant objectives	Implications for Core Strategy
International/ European Framework		
European Landscape Convention (2006)	The European Landscape Convention aims to encourage public authorities to adopt policies and measures at local, regional, national and international level for protecting , managing and planning landscapes throughout Europe. Landscape is defined as an “area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors”. The Convention applies this definition to all parts of the country’s territory, urban as well as rural areas, to both outstanding and ordinary landscapes, to degraded as well as well-preserved places.	Ensure that the Core Strategy protects and enhances landscapes.
The European Water Framework Directive (2000)	The Directive will help to protect and enhance the quality of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • surface freshwater (including lakes, streams and rivers) • groundwaters • groundwater dependant ecosystems • estuaries • coastal waters out to one mile from low-water. 	Ensure that planning policies protect and enhance the water environment.
National Framework- Planning Policy guidance notes and statements		
Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation) Act 1990	It requires the local planning authority, where it considers that an application for the development of land may affect the setting of a listed building, to publicise such applications by [publishing a] notice in a newspaper circulating in the locality in which the land is situated and by the display of a notice on or near the land. Where a local planning authority maintains a website for the purpose of advertisement of applications, the authority must also state, in the notice of application published in the newspaper and displayed on the land, details of the website.	Ensure that listed buildings and Conservation Areas are preserved and enhanced.
Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979	Section 61(12) defines sites that warrant protection due to their being of national importance as 'ancient monuments'. These can be either	Ensure that Ancient monuments are preserved and enhanced.

Title of plan/programme	Relevant objectives	Implications for Core Strategy
	Scheduled Ancient Monuments or "any other monument which in the opinion of the Secretary of State is of public interest by reason of the historic, architectural, traditional, artistic or archaeological interest attaching to it".	
PPS7: Sustainable Development in Rural Areas	PPS7 recognises that many country towns and villages are of considerable historic and architectural value. The document seeks a commitment to good design that makes an important contribution to local identity and regional diversity. It supports the re-use of existing buildings in the countryside where this would meet sustainable development objectives and the need to preserve buildings of historic or architectural importance. It identifies that the historic environment has a role in the economics of the region through tourism and leisure.	Ensure local distinctiveness is preserved and enhanced through appropriate design policies.
Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) (2007) PPS1 Planning and Climate Change - Supplement to PPS1	Sets out how local planning can support achievement of the zero-carbon targets alongside meeting community needs for economic and housing development. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a strong emphasis on incorporating decentralised, renewable and low carbon energy in new developments, alongside other considerations such as sustainable waste management, sustainable drainage systems and opportunities for sustainable transport. • 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 inclusions; • Conserve and enhance biodiversity, recognising that the distribution of habitats and species will be affected by climate change. 	<p>Ensure that planning policies encourage the incorporation of sustainable design and construction standards.</p> <p>Ensure that new developments are designed to be resilient to the impacts of climate change.</p> <p>Ensure policies are in place that conserve and enhance biodiversity.</p>
The "Planning and Energy Act 2008"	This Act allows local planning authorities to include in the local development plan reasonable requirements for renewable and low carbon energy, and energy efficiency standards that exceed current building regulations.	Set renewable energy standards for developments.
Circular 02/2000 Contaminated Land	The Government's objectives for contaminated land are set out in this circular. These are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To identify and remove unacceptable risks to human health and the environment; 	Ensure that development should not cause unacceptable impacts upon water, ground or air quality."

Title of plan/programme	Relevant objectives	Implications for Core Strategy
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To seek to bring damaged land back into beneficial use; and To seek to ensure that the cost burdens faced by individuals, companies and society as a whole are proportionate, manageable and economically sustainable 	
Human Rights Act	<p>The Human Rights Act includes various sections, one of which, Article 8, relates to privacy:</p> <p>“Everyone has the right to respect for his private and family life, his home and his correspondence.”</p> <p>This means that the protection of private life and the home may be relevant to decisions made in planning. Permitting the carrying out of an unpleasant development near to homes, for example a nuclear plant or waste site, might affect the enjoyment of personal property, and may be an interference with rights under Article 8.</p>	Ensure that new development is sympathetic to surrounding land uses and occupiers, protecting privacy.
DCLG (2008) The Code for Sustainable Homes (CSH) Setting the standard in sustainability for new homes	<p>This is an environmental assessment method for rating and certifying the performance of new homes and is a national standard for use in the design and construction of new homes, with a view to encouraging continuous improvement in sustainable home building</p> <p>The CSH incorporates an additional package of sustainability measures that are above and beyond Building Regulations standards. The Code assesses the sustainability of a home in a holistic manner against nine design categories: energy and CO2 emissions, pollution, water, health and wellbeing, materials, management, surface water run-off, ecology, waste. At present, adhering to the Code for Sustainable Homes is only mandatory for publicly funded housing, however all new homes should be rated against the Code (even if it is for a “nil rating”).</p>	Ensure that the Core Strategy’s requirements for sustainable design and construction are in keeping with the Code for Sustainable Homes.
The Countryside Agency and Scottish Natural Heritage (2002) Landscape Character Assessment Guidance for England and Scotland’	<p>This guidance provides advice on Landscape Character Assessment, an important tool for all those involved in influencing the landscape. It is recognised as the national guidance on landscapes.</p>	Recognise the importance of landscapes.
Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (2006)	<p>Section 40 of the Act states that: “Every public authority must, in exercising its function, have regard, so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity”.</p>	Ensure that biodiversity is protected and enhanced.

Title of plan/programme	Relevant objectives	Implications for Core Strategy
Regional Strategies		
The North West of England Plan Regional Spatial Strategy to 2021. (RSS)	<p>The RSS contains a whole suite of policies that inform the development of the Core Strategy. Of particular interest to the SA are the following policies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DP 9 Reduce Emissions and Adapt to Climate Change • Policy EM1 Integrated Enhancement and Protection of the Region's Environmental Assets 	<p>Ensure that the Core Strategy contributes to reductions in the Region's carbon dioxide emissions from all sources and ensuring effective adaptation to likely environmental, social and economic impacts of climate change.</p> <p>Ensure that environmental assets are conserved and enhanced.</p>
Streets for all North West- a regional English Heritage guide to management of streets and open spaces.	Sets out principles of good practice for street management - such as reducing clutter, co-ordinating design and reinforcing local character.	Ensure that design policies respect local distinctiveness.
Sub- regional		
Association of Greater Manchester Authorities (AGMA) (2008) Greater Manchester Ecological Framework:	<p>This study sets out to create an inclusive Framework implementable through the land-use planning system.</p> <p>Analysis of the distribution of habitats and land uses in Greater Manchester shows that the sub-region is biologically diverse but habitats generally occur in small fragmented patches. The study identifies broad areas sharing similar ecological characteristics. Following this approach five broad 'Biodiversity Opportunity Areas' are identified with policy mechanisms for habitat enhancement.</p>	Ensure that habitats are protected and enhanced.
Urbed, Faber Maunsell and Quantum (2009) AGMA Greater Manchester Decentralised Energy and Zero Carbon Buildings Spatial Planning Study:	AGMA commissioned a study to provide an evidenced based understanding of local feasibility and potential for renewable and low carbon energy technologies within the Greater Manchester City Region. The focus of the study is on providing sufficient strategic evidence to enable Core Strategies to set minimum targets for heat and power and identify opportunities for linking new development and supporting energy infrastructure with existing communities.	Set targets for heat and power.
AGMA (2008) Towards a Green-infrastructure for Greater	The study addresses strategic definitions of green infrastructure for the city region and how the sub-region actively plans and supports its	Recognise the importance of the provision of green infrastructure.

Title of plan/programme	Relevant objectives	Implications for Core Strategy
Manchester:	growth, in a cross boundary, multi-agency approach. The study looks at priority areas for green infrastructure creation, conservation and enhancement and relevant case studies in mature urban areas. Crucially the study addresses how the LDF and Core Strategies can integrate green infrastructure at the local level.	
AGMA (2008) Greater Manchester Strategic Flood Risk Assessment.	This purpose of this study is to assess the existing and likely future levels of flood risk for Greater Manchester. The SFRA demonstrates that Bolton is at relatively low risk from fluvial flooding.	Ensure that the impacts of flooding are minimised.
AGMA (2008) Greater Manchester Strategic Housing Market Assessment	The Assessment identified four housing market areas, with Bolton being included in the North Western area with Bury, Wigan and part of Salford.	Identify and deliver the appropriate level, type and mix of housing to meet the boroughs need.
New Growth Point programme.	The New Growth Point programme, which initially comprises Manchester, Salford, Trafford and Bolton, seeks to improve the quality and range of housing in Greater Manchester to underpin economic growth and sustainable communities. This will be achieved by meeting the following objectives of the NGP Programme: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To remove constraints and develop solutions for the delivery of new housing in strategically important sites in urban areas ▪ To support new developments which provide the right mix, type, size and tenure of housing within sustainable neighbourhoods, including the delivery of affordable housing ▪ To balance renewal and growth to ensure appropriate housing choices for all sections of the communities; and ▪ To actively align investment to deliver new housing development and sustainable neighbourhoods and to seek an extension of this approach within Government Departments and key partner agencies 	Deliver an additional 1,044 homes above the Regional Spatial Strategy for the North West (RSS) allocation between 2008 and 2017
AGMA Transport modelling for	Modelling work is currently being undertaken at the Greater Manchester	Support the potential to make

Title of plan/programme	Relevant objectives	Implications for Core Strategy
Greater Manchester	level to assess the transport impact of the proposals in all Greater Manchester councils' emerging Core Strategies. Bolton Council has received a draft report on the initial runs of the Strategic Planning and Transport models, and is working to identify solutions from the issues raised. One of the key outputs of the model recognises the need to focus on smarter choice measures, but also to improve on those implemented to date and seek good practice examples.	smarter choices and to minimise trips by private transport Ensure that sustainable modes of transport are fully integrated into new developments.
Greater Manchester Urban Historic Landscape Characterisation Project, 2008 (HLC project)	In Bolton the HLC project has characterised the visible historic environment of the borough, including the recording of character areas and their constituent attributes and components on a GIS database.	Ensure the local distinctiveness of the character areas are preserved and enhanced.
Local		
ARUP (2008) Bolton's Employment Land Study	The ARUP report identified the need for 175-195 hectares of employment land in Bolton in the period up to 2026. The Study showed that there is demand for low density office floorspace that cannot be met in Bolton town centre.	Need to provide the employment land required.
Bolton Council (2008) Housing Strategy 2008-2011	The Bolton Housing Strategy aims to make certain that Bolton's homes and housing services meet residents' needs and aspirations, and set a clear vision for housing in Bolton. The strategy has been developed through consultation with a range of stakeholders at local and regional level, with priorities developed through the findings of Housing Needs Studies, a Private Sector Stock Condition Survey and the SHMA. The key Strategic Housing Priorities set out in the document are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide housing that is affordable and provides choice whilst meeting the needs and demands of the future • To create and promote communities that are sustainable and inclusive • To improve the quality of private sector housing • To promote health, well-being and quality of life • To strengthen our partnership approach to improve housing, services and communities. 	Identify and deliver the appropriate level, type and mix of housing to meet the boroughs need.
Roger Tym and Partners (2008), Bolton Strategic	The purpose of the SHLAA is to identify specific, deliverable sites for housing for the first five years of a plan that are ready for development	Identify and deliver the appropriate distribution of future

Title of plan/programme	Relevant objectives	Implications for Core Strategy
Housing Land Availability Assessment (SLHAA)	and to keep this topped up over-time in response to market information .	housing development across Bolton.
David Couttie Associates (2008) Bolton Strategic Housing Market Assessment SHMA)	<p>This Strategic Housing Market Assessment aims to enable the authority to understand the nature and level of housing demand and need within Bolton.</p> <p>The key findings are described below;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a need to increase the level of affordable housing. • For affordable housing, property size targets should range between 50% smaller units, and 50% three and four-bedroom houses to meet the needs of single, couples and family households; • There is a need for additional social rented dwellings. • There is a need for larger family dwellings. • There will be an increased demand on support services, adaptations and specialist accommodation. 	Identify and deliver the appropriate level, type and mix of housing to meet the boroughs need.
Bolton Council (2007) Bolton Mills Action Framework: Guidance for the Future Role of Bolton's Mills	<p>The Bolton Mills Action Framework identified 7 Key Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To recognise the value of Bolton's mills; • To conserve the best of Bolton's Industrial Heritage; • To maximise Bolton's available employment space and provide a 'ladder of accommodation' of varying values; • To preserve local distinctiveness; • To ensure that mills are an asset to the communities they sit within rather than a liability; • To diversify the uses of mills; and • To recognise that not all mills are an asset to the Communities they sit within – prioritise the best 	Recognise the value of Bolton's mills.
Bolton Council Open Space Assessment 2007	This study provides an overall framework to guide the planning, delivery, management and monitoring of open space, sport and recreation facilities in Bolton.	Safeguarding and enhancement of open space across the borough.
Roger Tym and Partners (2008), Bolton Retail and Leisure study.	This study assessed the need for retail development in the borough.	Provide the appropriate level of retail development in the right locations.

ANNEX D: Sustainability Appraisal Framework

No	Sustainability Objective	Narrative/ Indicator	Unit of measurement	2006 indicator (Baseline)	Comparators	Trends	Source
1	Healthy Bolton						
1a	Narrow the gap between the rich and the poor; ensuring everyone in Bolton is able to enjoy a long, healthy and happy life; regardless of where they live?	Deprivation ranking	Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) score	Bolton is one of the more deprived boroughs in England. Overall, it is ranked 50th (out of 354 local authorities, with 1 being the most deprived area),	Bolton is one of 45 districts in England with four or more district level measures in the worst 50 in England. Manchester, Salford, Rochdale and Oldham also fell into this category.		For 2006 data: Indices of Deprivation, ODPM, 2004 For Trends and comparators: Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) score.
1b	Address the causes of ill health?	Life expectancy	Years	Male life expectancy at birth in Bolton in 05-07 was 75.1 years and 79.6 for females.	In 05-07 nationally life expectancy for males was 77.7, and 81.1 for females. Life expectancy in Bolton is lower than the national figure for both males and females.	Nationally, life expectancy has been gradually increasing for both males and females. Life expectancy in Bolton has only significantly increased in recent years for males, and	Office for National Statistics Health and Social Care Information Centre

No	Sustainability Objective	Narrative/ Indicator	Unit of measurement	2006 indicator (Baseline)	Comparators	Trends	Source
						remained fairly constant for females.	
		16+ current smoking rate prevalence	% of adults that smoke	No data for 2006 23.0% in 2007			Bolton Health Survey 2007
		Limiting long term illness		In 2001, 20% of people assessed themselves as experiencing some form of long-term illness, health problem or disability. Amongst working age people 16% reported they had an LLTI.	In 2001, 18% of people assessed themselves as experiencing some form of long-term illness, health problem or disability in England and Wales. Amongst working age people 14% reported they had an LLTI for England & Wales. For this age group Bolton has the 56 th highest rate of limiting long-term illness out of 354 English districts.		Office for National Statistics, 2001 Census of Population,
1c	Improving standards of, and equitable	***Transport –	%	GP: 98%		In 2007/08 all	Bolton Council

No	Sustainability Objective	Narrative/ Indicator	Unit of measurement	2006 indicator (Baseline)	Comparators	Trends	Source
	access to, local health care services, well-being and welfare?	Amount of new residential development within 30 minutes public transport time of a GP, a hospital, a primary school, secondary school, area of employment and a major retail centre.*** Significant effects indicator (SEI)		Hospital: 22% Primary school: 100% Secondary school: 94% Area of employment: 96% Major retail centre: 96%.		new residential developments were within 30 minutes public transport time of a GP, primary school, secondary school, area of employment, but only 11% of development was within 30 minutes of a hospital. This is an improvement on previous years, but still shows problems in public transport access to the hospital.	Planning Research Team.
1d	Tackle drugs and alcohol misuse?						
1e	Promote independence by giving local people greater control over their lives?						
1f	Increase physical activity and sports participation?	% Residents participating in sport and physical activity.3 or more times per week.	%	22.7% in 2007.		This Indicator is not annually measured.	Sport England 'Active People' Survey 2006
2	Achieving Bolton						

No	Sustainability Objective	Narrative/ Indicator	Unit of measurement	2006 indicator (Baseline)	Comparators	Trends	Source
2a	Improve Educational attainment, providing new school buildings and improved services for the whole community?	KS4 pupils achieving 5 A*-C (inc Maths & English)	%	38%	In 2007 Bolton 40% of KS4 pupils achieving 5 A*-C (inc Maths & English). Nationally this figure was 47%.	Consistently increasing in line with the national average.	Department for Children, Schools & Families.
2b	Provide everyone with the chance to learn, by promoting and supporting adult learning (informal and vocational), including providing good quality affordable childcare?	Working age people qualified to L3	% Working Age Population	17.3%		Increasing (In 2007 19.9%)	Annual Population Survey 05-07 & Local Area Labour Force Survey 99-04, Office for National Statistics.
2c	Raise aspirations, create opportunities (provide tools and information) for everyone to achieve their potential and make a positive contribution to Bolton life and play a full part in society?	Yr 11 school leavers who are NEET (Not in Education, Training or Employment)	% Yr 11 school leavers in Bolton LEA	8.9%		There was a slight reduction in 2007 to 8.7%	Bolton Council
2d	Making effective use of information and communication technology?						
3	Prosperous Bolton						
3a	Match jobs and investment to those most in need by enhancing local people's opportunities to gain new skills	Unemployment and Worklessness	Model-Based Estimates of Unemployment (%)	5.4%			
3b	Supporting, retaining and enhancing local based business?						
3c	Supporting and promoting sustainable products and technologies?						

No	Sustainability Objective	Narrative/ Indicator	Unit of measurement	2006 indicator (Baseline)	Comparators	Trends	Source
3d	Build a transformed, vibrant town centre?	Build a transformed vibrant town centre – number of jobs in the town centre.	Number of jobs.	No data available for 2006. 19500 2007		2007 is the most up to date data.	Bolton Council, 'Development & Regeneration, Town Centre Position Statement, Jones Lang LaSalle, (March 07)
		Amount of completed retail, office & leisure development in town centres (%)	%	37.2%		The amount of retail, leisure and office development was lower in 2007 than in 2005 or 2006, but a higher proportion was in town centres.	Bolton Council Planning Research Team
3e	Promoting the value of local distinctiveness around Bolton's landscape and built heritage?	No of listed buildings	Number of buildings	333			English Heritage and Bolton Council (2007)
		No of conservation areas	Number of conservation areas	26			English Heritage and Bolton Council (2007)
		Change in the number of buildings on English Heritage's buildings at risk	Number of buildings	25		Increasing, in 2008 there were 26.	Bolton Council

No	Sustainability Objective	Narrative/ Indicator	Unit of measurement	2006 indicator (Baseline)	Comparators	Trends	Source
		Register					
3f	Reduce the need to travel and promote walking, cycling and public transport?	<p>***Transport – Amount of new residential development within 30 minutes public transport time of a GP, a hospital, a primary school, secondary school, area of employment and a major retail centre.***</p> <p>Significant effects indicator (SEI)</p>	%	GP: 98% Hospital: 22% Primary school: 100% Secondary school: 94% Area of employment: 96% Major retail centre: 96%.		In 2007/08 all new residential developments were within 30 minutes public transport time of a GP, primary school, secondary school, area of employment, but only 11% of development was within 30 minutes of a hospital. This is an improvement on previous years, but still shows problems in public transport access to the hospital.	Bolton Council Planning Research Team.
3g	Improving the provision of effective, inclusive, affordable and integrated transport systems?						
3h	Improving the prosperity of the borough as a competitive sub-regional centre?	Bolton Gross Value Added (£)	£	No data available for 2006 2007: 0.7bn			Bolton Council, 'Development & Regeneration, Town Centre Position Statement,

No	Sustainability Objective	Narrative/ Indicator	Unit of measurement	2006 indicator (Baseline)	Comparators	Trends	Source
							3iJones Lang LaSalle, (March 07)
3i	Raise and improve the profile of Bolton by building on the brand to attract more investment and opportunities for local people?						
3j	Encouraging and promoting sustainable procurement and ethically traded goods and services?						
3k	Improve young people's skills, which contributes to the local economy?						
4	Safe Bolton						
4a	Further reduce crime and the fear of crime?	Fear of crime	% Respondents Answering the Question			Bolton's recorded crime levels are reducing but perception of crime remains high.	Place Survey
		Number of key crimes			Bolton had a consistently higher key crimes rate per 1,000 resident population compared to England & Wales during 2005/06-2007/08.	Bolton's total key crimes rate fell 15% from 06/07-07/08, whereas England & Wales fell 11%, indicating that the gap in recorded crime rates may be narrowing.	Home Office Recorded Crime BCS Comparator Data
4b	Prevent and tackle anti-social behaviour, by working with schools, families and the	Perceptions of anti-social	% Respondents			There have been	Bolton Council General

No	Sustainability Objective	Narrative/ Indicator	Unit of measurement	2006 indicator (Baseline)	Comparators	Trends	Source
	community?	behaviour	Answering the Question			significant reductions in the perceptions of anti-social behaviour since 2003 for all aspects except teenagers hanging round on the streets.	Residents Survey
4c	To enable all children and young people to be brought up in a safe, happy and secure environment?						
4e	Make our roads safer?	Number of children killed or seriously injured		19		Since reported figures in 2005, child fatalities on roads have decreased	Greater Manchester Transportation Unit
		Total number of people killed or seriously injured		101			Greater Manchester Transportation Unit
5	Cleaner and Greener Bolton						
5a	Clean public spaces and neighbourhoods, with everyone playing their part to create safer communities?						
5b	Providing and maintaining high quality parks and open spaces?	The No of people satisfied with local parks and open spaces	% Total respondents answering the question	70%		Slightly reduced since 2006.	Place Survey
5c	Utilising green space as an educational, recreational and bio-diversity space?						
5d	Ensuring the diversity of nature is valued by increasing the area and quality of	Changes in areas and populations	(+/-ha)			All sites of special	Greater Manchester

No	Sustainability Objective	Narrative/ Indicator	Unit of measurement	2006 indicator (Baseline)	Comparators	Trends	Source
	wildlife habitats?	of biodiversity Importance: .No of sites of special scientific interest				environmental importance (SSIs, SBIs and LNRs) were retained.	Ecological Unit
		Sites of Biological Importance (SBI)	(+/-ha)	+6.4		Increasing: In 2007 +7.3ha, in 2008 +3.8.	Greater Manchester Ecological Unit
		No of Local Nature Reserves	(+/-ha)	7 Local Nature Reserves.		All LNRs were retained.	Greater Manchester Ecological Unit
5e	Ensuring Bolton lives within its environmental limits; limiting resource use and pollution to levels at which land, air and water resources can cope without damage?	Percentage of Rivers Good	%	31.4%		No new data available.	Environment Agency
		Percentage of Rivers Fair	%	58.2%		No new data available.	Environment Agency
		Air Quality Management Zone		Air Quality Management Zone declared along major roads.			Bolton Council
5f	Ensuring the way land is used and developed contributes to social, economic and environmental well-being?	No of and site area of derelict sites	Ha	126		The amount of derelict land has somewhat reduced since 2006.	Bolton Council
5g	Minimise the use and maximise the efficiency of energy, and increase the contribution to renewable technologies?	Renewable energy generation Significant effects indicator (SEI)	Megawatts	0.064		Slight increase: in 2007 0.101megawat ts installed, in 2008 0.114 megawatt installed.	Corporate Property Services, Bolton Council
5h	Maintaining and enhancing the built						

No	Sustainability Objective	Narrative/ Indicator	Unit of measurement	2006 indicator (Baseline)	Comparators	Trends	Source
	environment, incorporating good quality sustainable design and construction techniques?						
5i	More efficient and effective use of natural resources and materials?						
5j	Encouraging waste to be reduced at source, and providing opportunities for reuse, recycling, and recovery?	Household Waste Recycling Rate	Tonnes	Total household waste arisings for 2005/6 amounted to 108,943 tonnes. Of this total 18,468 tonnes (16.95%) was recycled and 8,687 tonnes (7.97%) was composted.		Waste produced is decreasing. (Total household waste arisings tonnes. for 2007/8 amounted to 109,816.25 tonnes) Recycling rate is increasing (2007/8 Of this total 21,313.05 tonnes (19.41%) was recycled and 12,261.67 tonnes (11.17%) was composted. The remainder was taken to Raikes Lane Thermal Recovery Unit, which converts waste to energy thus	Bolton Plan BVPI 82a and 82b

No	Sustainability Objective	Narrative/ Indicator	Unit of measurement	2006 indicator (Baseline)	Comparators	Trends	Source
						avoiding landfill. The residual bottom ash was recovered and sent to a specialist contractor for re-use..	
5k	Tackling climate change; ensuring minimisation, mitigation and adaptation methods are in place to tackle present and future challenges?	CO2 reduction from Local Authority operations	Tonnes Co2	No data available for 2006 48295			Bolton Council Carbon Management Plan
5l	Ensuring that flood risk is minimised?	Amount of land at risk from flooding	ha	Identified flood risk along some river valleys"			
5m	Future proofing policies and strategies; ensuring that the implications of policy and practice for future generations both globally and locally are fully considered?						
6	Strong and Confident Bolton						
6a	Create decent, affordable and resource efficient homes that meet the needs of local people?	Gross affordable house completions	Gross completions	98			Bolton Council Planning Research Team
		Average house price (£)	£	£104,939		House prices increased between 2006-2008 (In 2007 the average house price was £115,112, in 2008 it was £118,511)	HM Land Registry, House Price Index
6b	Further reduce homelessness?	No of people		1.8 In 2007			Bolton Council.

No	Sustainability Objective	Narrative/ Indicator	Unit of measurement	2006 indicator (Baseline)	Comparators	Trends	Source
		accepted as homeless					Housing Strategy
6c	Encourage everyone to be more active in their community, making it easier to get involved in decision making and volunteering?						
6d	Encourage everyone to be more active in their community, making it easier to get involved in decision making and volunteering?						
6e	Ensure we all live in harmony-strengthening relations between new and established communities?	People who feel that people from different backgrounds in their area get along	%	72% in 2007			Place Survey
6f	Contribute to sustainable communities by improving the local environment particularly in deprived neighbourhoods?	Deprivation ranking	Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) score	Bolton is one of the more deprived boroughs in England. Overall, it is ranked 50th (out of 354 local authorities, with 1 being the most deprived area),	Bolton is one of 45 districts in England with four or more district level measures in the worst 50 in England. Manchester, Salford, Rochdale and Oldham also fell into this category.		For 2006 data: Indices of Deprivation, ODPM, 2004 For Trends and comparators: Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) score.
6g	Supporting the foundations of a strong voluntary and community sector; with community and faith groups continuing to play an important role?						
6h	Provide more cultural opportunities and	Use of public	% Total	Not available			

No	Sustainability Objective	Narrative/ Indicator	Unit of measurement	2006 indicator (Baseline)	Comparators	Trends	Source
	ensuring they are available to all?	libraries, visits to museums/galleries, engagement in the arts, etc.	respondants answering the question				
7	Seizing the opportunities						
7a	Working with cross-sectoral partners to ensure effective planning and delivery across the borough?						
7b	Including appraisal, monitoring and review mechanisms?						
7c	Ensuring relevant stakeholders and active organisations are involved in the development and implementation of decisions?						
7d	Integrate with other policies?						

BOLTON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT APPRAISAL TOOLKIT – October 2008

SUMMARISING THE BOLTON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT APPRAISAL TOOLKIT

This 'Toolkit' provides a checklist and dialogue process to promote 'sustainable development'. It has been designed to help align the key decisions and activities, plans and strategies of all the Bolton Strategic Partnerships with the principles and priorities for 'sustainable development' now established by the UK Sustainable Development Strategy 'Securing the Future' and the Priority Themes for our new Sustainable Community Strategy... 'Bolton: Our vision 2007-2017'.

Sustainable development;

The Government's UK Sustainable Development Strategy 'Securing the Future' describes 'sustainable development' as 'Enabling all people throughout the world to satisfy their basic needs and enjoy a better quality of life without compromising that of future generations'. The Strategy defines the principles for achieving sustainable development as 'living within environmental limits and a just society by means of a sustainable economy, good governance and sound science'. It advocates four agreed priority areas for action and these are now reflected within this toolkit and 'Bolton: Our vision 2007-2017' ie;

1. **Sustainable Consumption and Production**
2. **Confronting Climate Change and Energy issues**
3. **Protecting Natural Resources and Enhancing the Environment**
4. **Creating Sustainable Communities and a Fairer World.**

The new Sustainable Community Strategy and its relationship with the Local Area Agreement, the Local Development Framework and other major strategies is recognised by government as holding the key to achieving these important global, national and local priorities and in helping the people of Bolton make better, more informed choices about their future. This will enable and encourage behaviour change by organisations and individuals and bring greater engagement by all in our communities, essential if our Strategic Partnership is to deliver the tangible benefits from sustainable development and help to create genuine 'sustainable communities' across Bolton

The Sustainable Development Forum has been established to promote these important messages and give support to our strategic partnerships in developing their contributions and the Forum recommends the adoption and application of this appraisal toolkit.

USING THE APPRAISAL TOOLKIT

Who should use the Toolkit?

The Toolkit is already adopted and used by Bolton Council to inform and improve its major plans and strategies and it is suggested that all the organisations who are members of the Bolton Strategic Partnership will benefit by also applying it to their own plans, ensuring that all Partnership contributions to 'Bolton: Our vision 2007-2017' will have sustainability at their core.

When should it be used?

The Toolkit can be used to assess potential implications of a strategy, project or plan as well as its outcomes. To maximise its value and impact the Toolkit should be used at the earliest development stage and then again at the implementation stage of a wide range of activities such as:

- **Policy and programme development**
- **Project assessment**
- **Strategy and policy appraisal**
- **Grant application and assessment**

The toolkit is simple and easy to use (Council's SD Team and others in the SD Forum have experience of applying the toolkit and can help you to introduce the process into your planning and decision making). Experience has shown this appraisal process to be most effective when undertaken in small groups forming an opinion on the areas where the toolkit can bring most help.

The Toolkit should help:


- Identify positive contributions to "Bolton: Our vision 2007-2017" by highlighting and evidencing good practice using the six levels of effectiveness below.
- Identify possible areas of conflict and
- Consider and develop improvements to address overlaps and gaps or underperforming contributions
- Add value to activities by giving a more joined up overview of impacts and how benefits can be maximised
- Maintain clarity about what the Partnership, plan or strategy is aiming to achieve.

Bolton: Our Vision 2007-2017 Priority Themes:

1. **Healthy Bolton**
2. **Achieving Bolton**
3. **Prosperous Bolton**
4. **Safe Bolton**
5. **Cleaner, Greener Bolton**
6. **Strong and Confident Bolton**

Identifying Contributions

U	Undermining: has potential to significantly undermine the objective	F	Fair: makes some direct or significant indirect contribution to the objective
P	Poor: does not contribute to the objective and is a missed opportunity	G	Good: makes a significant direct contribution to the objective.
W	Weak: makes a minor, indirect contribution to the objective and is a missed opportunity	E	Excellent: makes a close to optimal contribution to the objective.



The Appraisal Toolkit has been developed by Forum for the Future together with the Bolton Strategic Partnership and the SD Forum

Section 1 This section should be completed by the person(s) responsible for the activity

What are you proposing to do and what is the objective?

A new spatial option, Option 5 is to be appraised to ensure that the Council has looked at suitable alternatives. The Preferred Option proposes to use Horwich Loco works for mixed development (housing and employment) and Cutacre as an employment site. Option 5 proposes to use Horwich Loco works and peripheral green belt sites and protected open land sites to cater for employment needs of the Borough. Housing will need to be re-distributed elsewhere from Horwich Loco works.

Its role is to assist with the identification of the appropriate approach, and to predict implications for sustainable development and put forward recommendations for improvement where necessary.

What are the measures of success?

To efficiently utilise land across the borough. To capitalise on development opportunities. To protect and enhance biodiversity. To create a strong and confident Bolton.

How will the activity be implemented and who is best placed to deliver it?

To be agreed. – A mixture of public and private investment. Horwich Loco works is to be developed by Blue Mantle, Emersons and Bolton Council.

What lessons have been learnt previously which affect this activity?

The preferred spatial option has previously been assessed with the Sustainability Appraisal toolkit. This gives the Council the advantage of identifying weaknesses in its Preferred Option and option 5 through directly comparing against one another.

To what extent have the views, opinions and concerns of the community* been considered in the planning of the activity?

The issues and preferred options have all been consulted with members of the public and stakeholders from around the Borough and the region. A detailed list of the comments has been collated and suitably evidenced throughout the process. The opinions of the consultees have ultimately influenced the Council's Spatial Options. Furthermore, consultation with the Planning Inspectorate has also shaped the formation of Option 5.



What are the financial implications of this activity?

TBA

What are the staffing implications of this activity?

Support and advice will be available from Bolton Council throughout the process.

What are the sources of finance?

Finance will come from primarily private sector developers with possibilities for public sector funding.

What are the longer-term ambitions and ongoing commitments?

The Core Strategy sets out the long-term spatial vision for the Borough and the strategic policies and proposals to deliver that vision. It sets out the Council's preferred approach to spatial planning over the next 15 years.

What arrangements have been made to deliver this activity using partnerships?

The preparation of the Core Strategy has involved consultation and engagement with its partners, the public and others. The process is a continually evolving with assessment and monitoring at every stage.

What arrangements are in place for monitoring and evaluating the development and implementation of this activity?

The activity will be monitored by Bolton Council through the annual monitoring report.

What are the significant risks associated with this activity and how will they be managed?

The risk in not choosing the best spatial option could undervalue the opportunities and strengths of the Borough. There is the risk that the Planning Inspectorate may find our Core Strategy unsound if the spatial options are not justified with sufficient evidence. At present, Bolton Council is managing the process through consultation, policy evolution and higher level management.

Section 2 This section should be completed in a small group.

Bolton Partnership Vision Appraisal Toolkit: Refresh

What contribution does this activity make to:		Contribution						Evidence	Actions for Improvements
		U	P	W	F	G	E		
1	Healthy Bolton								
1a	Narrow the gap between the rich and the poor; ensuring everyone in Bolton is able to enjoy a long, healthy and happy life; regardless of where they live?				x			Development and investment in the borough will provide employment opportunities. Although these job opportunities will not necessarily narrow the gap between the rich and the poor; concentrating development in Renewal Areas may help deprived communities to access these jobs. Although targeting investment into Renewal Areas will not necessarily 'ensure everyone in Bolton is able to enjoy a long healthy and happy life; regardless of where they live' improving the more deprived areas will improve the town as a whole and therefore all its residents. Proximity and accessibility to jobs via public transport is paramount to supporting disadvantaged areas. Option 5 areas are located in generally inaccessible locations as compared to the preferred option areas.	Major public transport infrastructure investment between disadvantaged areas and option 5 areas.
1b	Address the causes of ill health?				x			There are direct correlations between deprivation and unemployment which will be improved as a result of releasing green belt and protected open land for employment uses.	

Section 2 This section should be completed in a small group.

Bolton Partnership Vision Appraisal Toolkit: Refresh

What contribution does this activity make to:		Contribution						Evidence	Actions for Improvements
		U	P	W	F	G	E		
1c	Improving standards of, and equitable access to, local health care services, well-being and welfare?				x			There are strategies in place to provide Health care facilities to areas that need it. Option 5 areas are located in areas further away from Bolton Royal Hospital. Cutacre does give the option to access the Royal Bolton Hospital by improving transport links in the south of the borough.	
1d	Tackle drugs and alcohol misuse?			x				Research has shown that increasing levels of wealth can lead to increasing levels of alcohol and drug misuse. Design of areas could mitigate factors. Without strong empirical evidence to identify how the differences between option 5 and the Preferred Option, it is difficult to justify a change in the sustainability appraisal score.	
1e	Promote independence by giving local people greater control over their lives?			x				The LDF has a significant influence over accessibility and independence through designating land for development and transport policies. It can provide a mix of house types and designs to allow people to stay in their local community, when/if their circumstances change. (More cohesive communities can reduce incidents of nuisance and antisocial behaviour.)	

Section 2 This section should be completed in a small group.

Bolton Partnership Vision Appraisal Toolkit: Refresh

What contribution does this activity make to:		Contribution						Evidence	Actions for Improvements
		U	P	W	F	G	E		
1f	Increase physical activity and sports participation?			x				<p>This option seeks to regenerate peripheral open land and green belt areas. This may lead to a reduction in crime and the fear of crime. If people feel safer they may walk to places rather than taking the car. (Personal safety is often cited as a reason for not walking/using public transport.)</p> <p>Access to green spaces is the biggest factor in influencing how much physical activity people do. The LDF has potential to increase levels of physical activity through providing more green spaces.</p>	Flag up the importance of designing in pedestrian access/links, green spaces/infrastructure and allotments etc.
2	Achieving Bolton								
2a	Improve Educational attainment, providing new school buildings and improved services for the whole community?			x				<p>The LDF is working with the Building Schools for the Future programme to work towards improving school buildings. Replacing or consolidating existing schools may affect traffic patterns, and community cohesion. Any new build schools will be required to incorporate sustainable design and construction technologies (as long as they qualify by threshold).</p> <p>S106 contributions would be required on disaggregated housing sites throughout for residential. A potential for lower contributions compared to a larger site such as the Loco Works.</p>	LDF Team should work more closely with the Building Schools for the Future work programme to identify school in areas where most needed.

Section 2 This section should be completed in a small group.

Bolton Partnership Vision Appraisal Toolkit: Refresh

What contribution does this activity make to:		Contribution						Evidence	Actions for Improvements
		U	P	W	F	G	E		
2b	Provide everyone with the chance to learn, by promoting and supporting adult learning (informal and vocational), including providing good quality affordable childcare?				x			Training establishments should be accessible to local people. New community spaces should be provided so community groups have a place to meet. (Some people may find it difficult to access formal training and prefer more informal local opportunities to gain new skills.)	Include policies that promote childcare facilities next to employment/training sites.
2c	Raise aspirations, create opportunities (provide tools and information) for everyone to achieve their potential and make a positive contribution to Bolton life and play a full part in society?				x			This Preferred option promotes development in Renewal Areas. This development will help to regenerate these areas and may create job and leisure opportunities for local people.	The LDF should continue to link in with the 'Transforming Estates' work.
2d	Making effective use of information and communication technology?				x			The LDF is reasonably well aligned with the 'Access Points' strategy.	The LDF should continue to link in with the 'Access points' strategy.
3	Prosperous Bolton								
3a	Match jobs and investment to those most in need by enhancing local people's opportunities to gain new skills?		x					Some of the Borough's most deprived areas are located within Farnworth areas. Poor transport connections to peripheral site such as Westhoughton and would disadvantage people's opportunities of a new job due to the proximity of these sites. Conversely, Cutacre is well positioned in the vicinity of the more deprived areas making it capable of being more accessible. A single allocation of employment would lead to a comprehensive improvement of public transport.	Major transport improvements required to Middlebrook and Chequer bent for option 5.

Section 2 This section should be completed in a small group.

Bolton Partnership Vision Appraisal Toolkit: Refresh

What contribution does this activity make to:		Contribution						Evidence	Actions for Improvements
		U	P	W	F	G	E		
3b	Supporting, retaining and enhancing local based business?			x				<p>Cutacre offers larger warehousing opportunities, which fits with Council strategy for offices in the urban areas including town centre, light industry at Horwich Loco.</p> <p>Public Highway Improvements at De Havilland Way and Middlebrook would be required to make Loco works safe for larger employment uses. Cutacre would secure more jobs due to existing M61 access and location to deprived areas where existing businesses will benefit from competition and access to services.</p> <p>The Loco works would remain as light grade industrial and major investment and development potential would be missed.</p>	
3c	Supporting and promoting sustainable products and technologies?			x				<p>There are opportunities to support sustainable technologies by requiring/encouraging new developments to incorporate sustainable technologies. The LDF could do this by going beyond the requirements of the Sustainable Design and Construction SPD. (SDC SPD)</p>	Specify the maximum requirements for Sustainable Design and Construction in the LDF.
3d	Build a transformed, vibrant town centre?				x			<p>This option seeks to build a transformed, vibrant town centre.</p>	The LDF should maximise the positive impacts of this Town Centre investment through appropriate design policies.

Section 2 This section should be completed in a small group.

Bolton Partnership Vision Appraisal Toolkit: Refresh

What contribution does this activity make to:		Contribution						Evidence	Actions for Improvements
		U	P	W	F	G	E		
3e	Promoting the value of local distinctiveness around Bolton's landscape and built heritage?		x					The proposed mixed use site at Horwich Loco works will bring an underused area back into use. This will contribute to the local distinctiveness of Horwich & Bolton. Cutacre would be less obtrusive compared to option 5 sites which are reasonably undisturbed land. Cutacre is an open cast mine whilst Gibb Farm is directly adjacent to an SSSI which would be put under development pressures.	
3f	Reduce the need to travel and promote walking, cycling and public transport?			x				<p>The Horwich Loco works is accessed only directly via foot and car. Without transit link from Middlebrook this would not be possible to access via public transport. If the Loco works were to be a mixed use site the highway improvements to enable public transport would be a reality.</p> <p>Ownership issues would lead to partial developments of peripheral sites as opposed to Loco.</p> <p>A single allocation of employment would lead to a comprehensive improvement of public transport.</p>	
3g	Improving the provision of effective, inclusive, affordable and integrated transport systems?			x				Similar issues to 3f.	

Section 2 This section should be completed in a small group.

Bolton Partnership Vision Appraisal Toolkit: Refresh

What contribution does this activity make to:		Contribution						Evidence	Actions for Improvements
		U	P	W	F	G	E		
3h	Improving the prosperity of the borough as a competitive sub-regional centre?			x				Horwich Loco Works and Cutacre are supported by sub regional action plan. Funding would be lost, prosperity lost in regional context. The competitiveness of the borough would suffer. Wasted opportunities, wasting resources already allocated from public and private investors. Salford and Wigan to suffer also.	
3i	Raise and improve the profile of Bolton by building on the brand to attract more investment and opportunities for local people?			x				As 3H.	
3j	Encouraging and promoting sustainable procurement and ethically traded goods and services?			x				There are opportunities to promote sustainable procurement by requiring/encouraging new developments to incorporate sustainable technologies.	
3k	Improve young people's skills, which contributes to the local economy?					x		Under this option, Bolton Town Centre will be a main location for education, especially for those over 16 years old.	
4	Safe Bolton								
4a	Further reduce crime and the fear of crime?				x			<p>This option seeks to target development in the Renewal Areas. This development lead regeneration may improve the prospects of these areas and lead to reduction in crime and the fear of crime.</p> <p>Higher crime levels closer to Hulton. So option 5 could be better.</p>	Ensure there are policies in place that 'design out crime'.

Section 2 This section should be completed in a small group.

Bolton Partnership Vision Appraisal Toolkit: Refresh

What contribution does this activity make to:		Contribution						Evidence	Actions for Improvements
		U	P	W	F	G	E		
4b	Prevent and tackle anti-social behaviour, by working with schools, families and the community?			x				It is not within the scope of the LDF to prevent and tackle antisocial behaviour. However, spatial planning does have a role in creating sustainable, cohesive communities and minimising opportunities for antisocial behaviour. E.g. by designing recreational green spaces into residential areas, and providing lighting and benches etc.	
4c	To enable all children and young people to be brought up in a safe, happy and secure environment?				x			On a general level, development should help to provide a safe and happy environment by providing jobs, homes, services and prosperity.	Maximise opportunities to include green spaces in urban areas. Green spaces are essential to provide 'green lungs' and help to mitigate air pollution and associated respiratory diseases.
4d	Make our roads safer?				x			Option 5 seeks to maximise development in peripheral areas and along key transport corridors; this may take cars of the road if more people use public transport; which may make roads safer. There are currently no detailed schemes and without a comparative model of option 5 and the preferred option it is difficult to justify a change in score.	Ensure there are appropriate design and transport policies in place that give priority to the pedestrian.
5	Cleaner and Greener Bolton								
5a	Clean public spaces and neighbourhoods, with everyone playing their part to create safer communities?				x			Promoting development in Renewal Areas should help to regenerate and improve these neighbourhoods.	Planning policies seek to maintain, enhance and encourage green spaces in new developments.
5b	Providing and maintaining high quality parks and open spaces?			x				There is a risk that promoting development in urban areas may result in a loss of green spaces in the urban areas.	Planning policies seek to maintain, enhance and encourage green spaces in new developments.

Section 2 This section should be completed in a small group.

Bolton Partnership Vision Appraisal Toolkit: Refresh

What contribution does this activity make to:		Contribution						Evidence	Actions for Improvements
		U	P	W	F	G	E		
5c	Utilising green space as an educational, recreational and bio-diversity space?			x				There is a risk that promoting development in urban areas may result in a loss of green spaces in the urban areas.	
5d	Ensuring the diversity of nature is valued by increasing the area and quality of wildlife habitats?		x					Proposing development in Green Belt and Open Space will result in impacts to biodiversity, including possible impacts to the SSSI at Gibb Farm and surrounding locality.	
5e	Ensuring Bolton lives within its environmental limits; limiting resource use and pollution to levels at which land, air and water resources can cope without damage?		x					Any new developments will put stress on the environment through the construction phase in using natural resources etc. New developments will also create waste and pollution. Pollution levels at the Horwich Loco Works (Armstrong's) will remain high risk within a mixed use locality,	
5f	Ensuring the way land is used and developed contributes to social, economic and environmental well-being?			x				Development can improve the standards of wellbeing. However, public transport improvements to Leigh and Atherton through to hospital would only come forward on the basis that Cutacre is developed. This opportunity would be lost with option 5.	
5g	Minimise the use and maximise the efficiency of energy, and increase the contribution to renewable technologies?				x			The Core Strategy polices encourage the use of renewable technologies and sustainable design. It is envisaged that all new developments will contribute to the production of low and zero carbon energy production.	

Section 2 This section should be completed in a small group.

Bolton Partnership Vision Appraisal Toolkit: Refresh

What contribution does this activity make to:		Contribution						Evidence	Actions for Improvements
		U	P	W	F	G	E		
5h	Maintaining and enhancing the built environment, incorporating good quality sustainable design and construction techniques?				x			This option seeks to promote development in the borough, particularly in the Renewal Areas. It is anticipated that this development will improve the built environment by developing vacant and underused sites; particularly in areas in need of regeneration. Additionally the Sustainable Design and Construction SPD will require these construction techniques in developments over a certain threshold.	
5i	More efficient and effective use of natural resources and materials?				x			The SDC SPD will require at least 10% of the total value of materials used should derive from recycled content in the products and materials selected (In all non-residential developments over 1000M2 or 10 or more dwellings) It also requires that for the same thresholds any demolitions include measures to maximise the reclamation of materials for recycling and reuse.	
5j	Encouraging waste to be reduced at source, and providing opportunities for reuse, recycling, and recovery?				x			The SDC SPD includes requirements to reduce waste and provide appropriate recyclables and waste storage in new developments. (This applies to developments over a certain threshold.)	

Section 2 This section should be completed in a small group.

Bolton Partnership Vision Appraisal Toolkit: Refresh

What contribution does this activity make to:		Contribution						Evidence	Actions for Improvements
		U	P	W	F	G	E		
5k	Tackling climate change; ensuring minimisation, mitigation and adaptation methods are in place to tackle present and future challenges?			X				<p>This option will result in a net loss of greenbelt land which may reduce the amount of green space and trees which can facilitate urban cooling and sequester carbon dioxide.</p> <p>Development on a number of different greenbelt sites is less likely to have the necessary transport infrastructure in place. Therefore this option may lead to the generation of additional trips by private car. Therefore contributing to climate change.</p>	The LDF should contain robust transport policies that promote sustainable transport and reduce the need to travel especially by private car. It should require robust green travel plans from major developments including residential.
5l	Ensuring that flood risk is minimised?				X			<p>Allowing some development on the greenbelt will reduce the amount of open space that is available to soak up water.</p> <p>SPD more applicable for brownfield site, higher flood reduction required 50% on brownfield. No diff consensus.</p>	
5m	Future proofing policies and strategies; ensuring that the implications of policy and practice for future generations both globally and locally are fully considered?					X		Sustainability appraisal carried out	The LDF should ensure that is requiring best practice sustainability standards, and that it is able to tighten these requirements over time by tracking best practice.
6	Strong and Confident Bolton								

Section 2 This section should be completed in a small group.

Bolton Partnership Vision Appraisal Toolkit: Refresh

What contribution does this activity make to:		Contribution						Evidence	Actions for Improvements
		U	P	W	F	G	E		
6a	Create decent, affordable and resource efficient homes that meet the needs of local people?				x			The LDF seeks to provide housing that meets everybody's needs. The SDC SPD can help to ensure that new houses are resource efficient. The LDF should include appropriate affordable housing policies. This links in with the 'Transforming Estates' work and other work to provide shared ownership and mixed tenure developments. By providing mixed tenure and different house types; people can choose where to live rather than being pigeon holed into specific areas.	
6b	Further reduce homelessness?				x			Requiring more homes to be developed may help to reduce homelessness.	
6c	Encourage everyone to be more active in their community, making it easier to get involved in decision making and volunteering?			x				The LDF will not encourage volunteering opportunities, but the consultation process will encourage people to get involved in decision making.	
6d	Ensure we all live in harmony-strengthening relations between new and established communities?				x			Development has the potential to impacts on local communities. Clearly different interest groups and communities have conflicting needs and wishes for development. Although it is not always possible to avoid these conflicts; extensive consultation and engagement with local communities can ensure that development is sited in the most suitable location.	
6e	Contribute to sustainable communities by improving the local environment particularly in deprived neighbourhoods?					x		This option promotes development in the Renewal Areas, which should improve the local environment particularly in these neighbourhoods.	

Section 2 This section should be completed in a small group.

Bolton Partnership Vision Appraisal Toolkit: Refresh

What contribution does this activity make to:		Contribution						Evidence	Actions for Improvements
		U	P	W	F	G	E		
6f	Supporting the foundations of a strong voluntary and community sector; with community and faith groups continuing to play an important role?			x				The LDF can help to support the voluntary and community sector by providing community spaces.	
6g	Provide more cultural opportunities and ensuring they are available to all?					x		This will depend on what development comes forward and what is developed. Transport policies should be in place to ensure cultural opportunities are available to all.	
7	Seizing the opportunities								
7a	Working with cross-sectoral partners to ensure effective planning and delivery across the borough?					x		The LDF Team is working with the PCT, the Vision Steering Groups and various Council departments.	
7b	Including appraisal, monitoring and review mechanisms?					x		The LDF will be monitored and reviewed through the Annual Monitoring Report process.	
7c	Ensuring relevant stakeholders and active organisations are involved in the development and implementation of decisions?					x		There has been an extensive consultation process at the Issues and Options stage; including consultation with young persons, an Asian women's group and all the Area Forums etc.	
7d	Integrate with other policies?			x				The LDF is working well to integrate with the Bolton Vision, and the Access Points Strategy.	The SA picked up opportunities to integrate further with the 'Transforming Estates' and Building Schools for the Future' programme.