

Name of the activity being assessed	Local Plan Part 2: Site Allocations and Development Management Policies (referred to as the plan in the text below).				
Directorate / Department	Growth and Prosperity (previously Regeneration)	Service	Planning	Assessment lead	Gill Finlay, Principal Planner, Strategic Planning Group
Is this a new or existing activity?	<input type="checkbox"/> New <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Existing	Responsible manager / director for the assessment		Brian Bailey	
Date EIA started	24/10/2013	Implementation date of the activity (The adoption of the Local Plan Part 2 is expected at the Council Forum meeting due to be held 03 December 2015.)		03/12/2015	

SECTION 1 - ABOUT YOUR ACTIVITY

The following has been prepared as an update to the EIA previously carried out for this project in October 2013. The original EIA was completed in 2 parts:

1. Local Plan Part 2: Site Allocations and Development Management Policies, 30 October 2013:
<http://www.blackburn.gov.uk/General%20EIA/RG13LocalPlan-Part2EIAv1.0.pdf>
2. Supplementary note, 24 October 2014.

The Council is committed to the monitoring and regular review of completed EIA at least every three years; the 2013 document confirmed that the next review would be 2016. However it is considered an opportune time at this stage in the Local Plan preparation, as we go forward to adoption, for a review to be carried out. Once adopted the Local Plan will become a key part of the Council's development plan and will be used to guide development and investment across the borough to 2026.

How was the need for this activity identified?	<p>The preparation of a local plan (development plan) is a statutory requirement in planning legislation. The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires local planning authorities (Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council) to prepare and adopt a development plan.</p> <p>In March 2012 the government published the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). This sets out the government's planning policies for England and provides a framework for the production of local plans which are intended to reflect the needs and priorities of local communities. The NPPF confirms that all Councils should have an up-to date plan in place.</p> <p>The Council has prepared its local plan (development plan) in 2 parts:- Part 1 – Core Strategy was adopted in January 2011 Part 2 – Site Allocations and Development Management Policies (due to be adopted 2015)</p> <p>Once Part 2 has been adopted, the above together with the Joint Lancashire Minerals and Waste Local Plan (adopted September 2013) produced jointly with Lancashire County Council and Blackpool Council forms the development plan for Blackburn with Darwen.</p> <p>Update November 2015</p> <p>The requirement for a Local Plan to be in place and be up-to-date remains in place. Planning Practice Guidance published in March 2014 reinforces the role of the Local Plan in setting out the vision and framework for the future development of the area.</p>
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Who else will be involved in undertaking the equality analysis and impact assessment?

Please identify additional sources of information you have used to complete the EIA, e.g. reports; journals; legislation etc.

Deborah Sheppard, Business Support Manager, Growth and Prosperity Department

Localism Act (2011): <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2011/20/contents/enacted>

Who are you consulting with? How are you consulting with them? (Please insert any information around surveys and consultations undertaken)

During the preparation of the Local Plan there has been ongoing consultation with the community, professional/interest groups and other stakeholders.

In part this consultation is a statutory requirement set out in planning legislation.

Planning legislation also requires local authorities to have a Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) in place to support plan preparation. The SCI outlines how the Council will involve all sections of the community in the planning process including the preparation of local plans. It includes information and guidance on: -

- Consultation techniques – these cover a range of recognised consultation methods that will present information and invite involvement via a range of different media;
- The importance of an inclusive approach that offers an opportunity for all groups to engage;
- Consultees. The SCI identifies a range of groups –specific consultation bodies and general consultation bodies that should be included in the consultation. The document recognises that some groups may reorganise and new ones establish; it therefore includes a commitment to amend the list to include successor bodies. The Council has an element of discretion regarding the general consultation bodies involved depending on the nature and scope of each document
- How community feedback will be taken into account and be used to inform the content of the document in preparation;
- Contact information for the Council

Prior to adoption the SCI was subject to consultation and an independent examination by a Planning Inspector. The consultation was advertised and would have included contact details for further information and for making a response; a number of representations were received.

The Inspector found the SCI to be sound and fit for purpose.

The consultation on the local plan has been carried out in accordance with the Council's adopted SCI. A copy of the Council's Statement of Community Involvement' and the Planning Inspector's report is available on the Council's website and can be found here: <http://cms.intra.blackburn.gov.uk/server.php?show=ConWebDoc.25586>

The Inspector's report includes an appendix that notes the representations received in response to the consultation on the SCI and the changes made to the document.

The Council tends to treat the statutory requirements as minimal obligations. It is committed to engaging with all who may be affected by and /or have expressed a wish to be involved with the preparation of plans that include their homes/neighbourhoods and the borough generally. The Council acknowledges that consultation is a 2- way process and has made a commitment to all involved with this plan making process that it will set out its response and the actions taken in relation to community/stakeholder feedback. More detail is provided below within this section.

With regard to the Local Plan the Planning Team have tried to be fully inclusive in terms of the language used in publicly available information (both consultation material and the document) and in the arrangements for and the individuals and groups being addressed/notified of the opportunities to take part in the preparation of the plan. We have compiled a database/ mailing list including people who have been involved with previous plan making work, have asked to be kept informed as the Local Plan Part 2 evolves and/or who have responded to the recent consultation events relating to the local plan. The opportunity to be added to the mailing list has been publicised at each event, on the Council website, at neighbourhood meetings and noted on exhibition material. These people are routinely included in updates/feedback and information on next stages, in particular the next stages of consultation.

In addition we have worked closely with the neighbourhood based teams on the arrangements for consultation including to identify whether there are any locally based groups with particular needs that need to be considered to address any barriers to their open engagement and wording of literature including exhibition material, event locations, event

planning, format and attendance, publicity and distribution of information.

Further information on the consultation events is provided below and in Appendix 1.

With regard to how we have consulted we have:

- Sent letters to statutory agencies and a range of stakeholder groups to inform and with a request for information
- Attended Ward Solution meetings to raise awareness of the plan, request information/issues that need to be addressed and to outline the opportunities to engage/become engaged in the process;
- Organised press briefings and published articles in 'The Shuttle';
- Included updated information on the Council's website;
- Organised a series of exhibitions and events at different stages in the plan preparation process;
- Mailed out information/invitations to consultation events;
- Provided feedback to all who have engaged either by attending events/providing written comments. The feedback has also included information on future stages/further opportunities for involvement/influencing the final version of the plan;
- Prepared a 'Statement of Consultation.' This statement outlines how the Council will use the comments received/how these will influence the final version document/how the Council will evidence/demonstrate how it has responded to feedback.

It is considered that this range of consultation opportunities and methods has afforded the widest possible group of people the chance to influence both the process and outcome of the consultation i.e. the plan.

Full details of the consultation opportunities/events completed to date are included in the attached Statement of Consultation. This statement is a public document.

The purpose of the statement is to set out all who have been invited to take part/comment at each stage of the plan preparation, summarise the comments received and Council response and outline how the comments have influenced and are reflected in the final version of the plan.

The statement will be available at the next stage of consultation alongside the latest draft of the plan. It will then be updated to include any further comment made. This updated version together with copies of any representations received at this latest stage of consultation will form part of a package of documentation to be forwarded to the Secretary of State and an independent examiner (Planning Inspector) for review in advance of the public examination and it will be a key document at the examination. Any comments made on the statement will be recorded and noted within future versions of the statement.

The stages of consultation/consultations undertaken are summarised on Appendix 1 attached to this screening. More detailed information is available in the statement.

Update November 2015

Since October 2013, as part of the subsequent stages of preparation of the plan, the Council has continued to consult with the community and stakeholders in line with statutory requirements and the principles/best practice and guidance referred to above.

From October 2013 to date the consultation and opportunity for public involvement in the plan making process have taken place at 3 distinct stages:-

1. Publication version of the draft local plan (27 January – 10 March 2014);
2. Hearing sessions/independent examination by a Planning Inspector (October – December 2014)
3. Proposed Main Modifications to the Submission version of the Local Plan (18 May – 29 June 2015)

Full details of the consultation activities, persons/organisations involved and the Council's approach to recording and feedback on the comments/representations received has been published on the Council's website as follows for each of the stages noted above:

1. Publication of the draft local plan (27 January – 10 March 2014):

<http://www.blackburn.gov.uk/Pages/Local-Plan-Part-2-submission-documents.aspx>

The commentary within the October 2013 EIA (penultimate paragraph within this section) makes reference to an updated Statement of Consultation. This is available via the above link, document reference 1.04a and 1.04b.

2. Independent examination/ hearing sessions held by a Planning Inspector (October – December 2014):

<http://www.blackburn.gov.uk/Pages/Local-Plan-2012-26-Examination.aspx>

3. Proposed Main Modifications to the Submission version of the Local Plan (18 May – 29 June 2015):

<http://www.blackburn.gov.uk/Pages/Local-Plan-2012-26-Examination.aspx> (refer to the EL6 series of documents).

An action identified within the Action Plan of the October 2013 EIA was the need to review/refresh the Council's adopted Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) prior to the next stage of consultation. In response the Council produced a '*Statement of Community Involvement Update Note dated January 2014*':

<http://www.blackburn.gov.uk/Pages/Local-Plan-Part-2-submission-documents.aspx> (document reference 4.04b). This note summarised the changes to the legislation and regulations that had occurred since the original SCI was adopted and the impacts for the preparation of the local plan.

A full review and new edition of the Statement of Community Involvement is due to be completed for adoption in 2016.

The Localism Act 2011 places a legal duty (duty to cooperate) on local planning authorities such as Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council and other identified bodies to cooperate with each other to address strategic cross boundary matters in the preparation of their development plan. The intention is that Councils engage constructively, actively and on an on-going basis throughout the preparation of their local plan/development plan documents and other matters. At Submission stage, the stage when the Council submits its draft plan to the Secretary of State/Planning Inspector for examination there is a need to provide a supporting statement to explain how the Council considers it has met the duty to cooperate. A copy of this statement – '*Statement of Compliance with the Duty to Cooperate (July 2014)*' has been published on the Council's website: <http://www.blackburn.gov.uk/New%20local%20plan%202/1.05%20Statement%20of%20Compliance%20with%20the%20Duty%20to%20Cooperate.pdf>

In carrying out the activities/actions linked to the duty to cooperate there are a number of overlaps with the topics and the bodies included in the consultation activities referred to above. For this reason the *Statement of Compliance with the Duty to Cooperate (July 2014)* should be read alongside the *Statement of Consultation*.

Altogether the Planning Inspector has confirmed that the Council has met the relevant legal requirements for consultation during the preparation of the Local Plan.

Who does the activity impact upon?*	Service users	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Indirectly	The local plan will provide a planning framework for the borough to 2026. It sets out potential development opportunities (site allocations) and the policies that will be used to inform development in the borough including decisions on planning applications. The framework has been structured to support the achievement of the Council's corporate agenda for economic and housing growth. As and when landowners, developers and other stakeholders are interested in developing sites further consultation as well as EIAs (as necessary) that are site specific will be carried out in accordance with the Council's planning procedures.
	Members of staff	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Indirectly	
	General public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Indirectly	
	Carers or families	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Indirectly	
	Partner organisations	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Indirectly	
					There may be a perception by some members of the community and/or partner organisations, particularly commercially driven organisations, that the plan gives advantage or preference to some sectors, for example, landowners and developers, over others. It is acknowledged that delivery of the plan including new housing/jobs/improvements to the town centres/infrastructure and local services will in the future be heavily dependent on private sector investment.
				The allocation of sites has been based on a robust, objectively based	

					<p>methodology, including a sustainability appraisal, which has considered a range of factors including community feedback, development viability, infrastructure requirements, highway capacity and location.</p> <p>However whilst acknowledging the reliance on private sector investment, the plan's main aim is to ensure that the delivery is undertaken within a framework (the development plan) that is based on the Council's intention to create opportunities/choice and an improved quality of life for all residents and stakeholders including all who are currently established in the borough and those who may move into the area in the future.</p> <p>The plan's policies will be applied equitably to all proposals and to all groups and do not differentiate or discriminate between any of the protected characteristic groups. The forthcoming review of the SCI is part of the Council's on-going activity to ensure that it is using the most effective means of engaging with its residents and communities.</p> <p>Update November 2015: Position is as noted/no change or update required.</p>		
<p>Does the activity impact positively or negatively on any of the protected characteristics as stated within the Equality Act (2010)?*</p> <p>The groups in blue are not protected characteristics (please refer to p. 3 of the guidance notes)</p>	Positive impact	<input type="checkbox"/> Age	<input type="checkbox"/> Disability	<input type="checkbox"/> Gender reassignment	<input type="checkbox"/> Marriage & Civil Partnership	<input type="checkbox"/> Pregnancy & maternity	<input type="checkbox"/> Vulnerable groups
		<input type="checkbox"/> Race	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion or belief	<input type="checkbox"/> Sex	<input type="checkbox"/> Sexual orientation	<input type="checkbox"/> Deprived communities	<input type="checkbox"/> Carers
	Negative impact	<input type="checkbox"/> Age	<input type="checkbox"/> Disability	<input type="checkbox"/> Gender reassignment	<input type="checkbox"/> Marriage & Civil Partnership	<input type="checkbox"/> Pregnancy & maternity	<input type="checkbox"/> Vulnerable groups
		<input type="checkbox"/> Race	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion or belief	<input type="checkbox"/> Sex	<input type="checkbox"/> Sexual orientation	<input type="checkbox"/> Deprived communities	<input type="checkbox"/> Carers
	Don't know	<input type="checkbox"/> Age	<input type="checkbox"/> Disability	<input type="checkbox"/> Gender reassignment	<input type="checkbox"/> Marriage & Civil Partnership	<input type="checkbox"/> Pregnancy & maternity	<input type="checkbox"/> Vulnerable groups
		<input type="checkbox"/> Race	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion or belief	<input type="checkbox"/> Sex	<input type="checkbox"/> Sexual orientation	<input type="checkbox"/> Deprived communities	<input type="checkbox"/> Carers

*If no impact is identified on any of the protected characteristics a full EIA may not be required. Please contact your departmental Corporate Equality & Diversity representative for further information.

Does the activity contribute towards meeting the Equality Act's general Public Sector Equality Duty? <i>Refer to p.3 of the guidance for more information</i> A public authority must have 'due regard' (i.e. consciously consider) to the following:	
DUTY	DOES THE ACTIVITY MEET THIS DUTY? EXPLAIN
Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act <i>(i.e. the activity removes or minimises disadvantages suffered by people due to their protected characteristic)</i>	<p>Yes: The local plan proposals and policies will apply equally to all persons and organisations that come forward with development proposals and/or are involved/considered as part of the consideration and decision making relating to planning applications.</p> <p>November 2015: Position is as noted/no change or update required.</p>
Advance equality of opportunity between those who share a protected characteristic and those who do not <i>(i.e. the activity takes steps to meet the needs of people from protected groups where these are different from the needs of other people)</i>	<p>Yes: The Local Plan supports the three principal dimensions of sustainable development: economic, social and environmental. It seeks to achieve net gains across all three for all persons.</p> <p>The Plan's proposals and policies are not prescriptive in relation to any identified group of people.</p> <p>The Local Plan's over-arching vision is to promote economic growth across the borough for the benefit of all established people/organisations and to encourage newcomers to establish and invest in the borough. The Plan sets the framework to achieve growth via the delivery of a neutral, complementary and viable choice of employment opportunities, housing mix (location/type/size and tenure), supporting infrastructure including school provision/attractive town and district centres and access to jobs and services. The Council considers that these improved choices will provide a greater range of prospects and promote an equality of opportunity for everyone.</p> <p>Whilst the plan does set the framework it is recognised that delivery is market driven. However the Council will monitor delivery outputs to ensure these align with the Local Plan's intentions and any emerging need within the borough.</p> <p>November 2015: Position is as noted/no change or update required.</p>
Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not <i>(i.e. the function encourages people from protected groups to participate in public life or in other activities where their participation is disproportionately low)</i>	<p>Yes: The process and inbuilt opportunities for participation/consultation and co-operation in the preparation and delivery of the Local Plan are detailed in the initial EIA assessment which is available on the Council's website at: http://www.blackburn.gov.uk/General%20EIA/RG13LocalPlan-Part2EIAv1.0.pdf</p> <p>The assessment references the Statement of Consultation which has been prepared to explain details of the events held and who was involved including the Council's approach to ensuring the participation of those groups whose involvement may otherwise be 'disproportionately low'.</p> <p>Since the Equality Impact Assessment was completed further consultation work on the Local Plan has been completed. This is reported in an addendum to the Statement of Consultation (Part 3 dated June 2014). The full Statement of Consultation is in 3 parts; all have been submitted to the independent Planning Inspector for examination as part of his scrutiny of the Local Plan and are available to view on the Council's website, reference documents 1.04a/1.04b and 1.04c at: http://www.blackburn.gov.uk/Pages/Local-Plan-Part-2-submission-documents.aspx</p> <p>November 2015: Position is as noted/no change or update required.</p>

ASSESSMENT	Is a full EIA required?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
<p>Please explain how you have reached your conclusion (<i>A lack of negative impacts must be justified with evidence and clear reasons, highlight how the activity negates or mitigates any possible negative impacts</i>)</p>			
<p>The emerging Local Plan Part 2 is a strategic planning document intended to guide and inform development and decision making on planning applications. The plan policies have been robustly prepared in consultation at various stages in plan preparation, prior to adoption, with a wide range of residents and organisations. Reference and a link to the Statement of Consultation which sets out full details of consultation during plan preparation is provided above.</p>			
<p>The plan policies will be applied equally and equitably to all development proposals and decision making on planning applications. As such the plan being recommended for adoption is not considered to impose any negative or adverse impacts on residents generally and/or those people with any of the nine protected characteristics set out in the Equality Act 2010.</p>			
<p>With regard to provisions for particular groups both in policy content and application. Overall the plan's policies promote the Council's requirements for sustainable, high quality development that meets the needs of all residents: both established residents including the business community and newcomers to the borough. The plan's policies equally act as safeguards to ensure that any possible negative impacts from development are mitigated or compensated for as far as is reasonable.</p>			
<p>The Plan has deliberately not included a requirement to meet any external 'industry' standards for identified user groups/types of development, for example 'Lifetime Homes' as based on our experience these requirements are very likely to change and/or be updated over the 15 year plan period.</p>			
<p>Plan Policy 11: Design does require development to give consideration to diversity and requires new buildings <i>'to be designed so as to be flexible and adaptable, and able to be easily converted or altered over time to suit different uses or occupant's needs.'</i></p>			
<p>The plan's policy on housing mix (Policy 18) notes that <i>'New housing development will be required to widen the choice of housing types available'</i> across the borough and that the Council is <i>'supportive of proposals which provide affordable, older people's and supported accommodation....'</i> The Council's preference is for this housing to be integrated, in appropriate circumstances, within a wider housing mix. The Core Strategy (Local Plan Part 1 – Policy CS8) sets out the Council's requirement that all new residential development is required to contribute toward meeting the identified need for affordable housing; the overall target is for 20% of new housing to be affordable.</p>			

ACTION PLAN

Action No.	What is the negative / adverse impact identified?	Actions required to reduce / mitigate / eliminate the negative impact	Resources required	Responsible officer(s)	Target completion date
	The SCI document that is being used for consultation will be reviewed as part of the Council's on-going activity to ensure that its means of engaging with residents are fit for purpose.	The SCI was refreshed in January 2014 to ensure that the on-going consultation at each stage of the consultation on the Local Plan was fit for purpose and inclusive. Going forward the SCI will be fully reviewed.	The identified actions will be completed using in-house resources currently in place	Gill Finlay	December 2016

MONITORING AND REVIEW

<p>The responsibility for establishing and maintaining the monitoring arrangements of the EIA action plan lies with the service completing the EIA. These arrangements should be built into the performance management framework.</p>	
<p>Monitoring arrangements for the completion of EIAs will be undertaken by the Corporate Equality & Diversity Group and the oversight of the action plans will be undertaken by the Management Accountability Framework.</p>	
<p>If applicable, where will the EIA Action Plan be monitored?</p>	<p><i>e.g. via Service Management Team; Service Leadership Team; Programme Area Meetings</i></p>
<p>How often will the EIA Action Plan be reviewed?</p>	<p>Quarterly</p>
<p>When will the EIA be reviewed?</p>	<p>November 2018</p>
<p>Who is responsible for carrying out this review?</p>	<p>Gill Finlay</p>

SIGNATURE OF EIA LEAD OFFICER		
DATE COMPLETED	19/11/2015	

SIGNATURE OF DEPARTMENTAL E&D LEAD		
DATE SIGNED	20/11/2015	
<i>This signature signifies the acceptance of the responsibility to publish the completed EIA as per the requirements of the Equality Act 2010</i>		

SIGNATURE OF HEAD OF SERVICE / DIRECTOR		
DATE SIGNED	19/11/2015	
<i>This signature signifies the acceptance of the responsibility and ownership of the EIA and the associated Action Plan (if applicable)</i>		