

Meeting of: The Cabinet

Date 20th November 2024

Time: 6.30pm

Venue: Council Chamber, The Business Centre, Futures Park, Bacup, OL13 0BB



The meeting will also be live streamed at the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCrLsMDOP7AYxik5pNP0gTIA/streams>

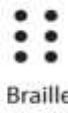
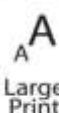
Supported by: Glenda Ashton, Committee and Member Services officer Tel: 01706 252423

Email: glendaashton@rossendalebc.gov.uk

ITEM	Lead Member/Contact Officer	
A.	BUSINESS MATTERS	
A1.	Apologies for Absence	<p>Clare Birtwistle, Monitoring Officer 01706 252438 clarebirtwistle@rossendalebc.gov.uk</p>
A2.	Minutes of the last meeting To approve and sign as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting held on 16 th October 2024.	
A3.	Urgent Items of Business To note any items which the Chair has agreed to add to the Agenda on the grounds of urgency.	
A4.	Declarations of Interest <i>Members are advised to contact the Monitoring Officer in advance of the meeting to seek advice on interest issues if necessary.</i> Members are requested to indicate at this stage, any items on the agenda in which they intend to declare an interest. Members are reminded that, in accordance with the Local Government Act 2000 and the Council's Code of Conduct, they must declare the nature of any personal interest and, if the interest is prejudicial, withdraw from the meeting during consideration of the item.	
B.	COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT	
B1.	Public Question Time Members of the public can register their question by contacting the Committee Officer. Groups with similar questions are advised to appoint and register a spokesperson. This is an opportunity to ask a question about an agenda matter which the Council may be	<p>Questions can be submitted in advance of the meeting to democracy@rossendalebc.gov.uk in line with the Cabinet speaking procedure</p>

The agenda and reports are also available for inspection on the Council's website <https://www.rossendale.gov.uk/>. Other formats are available on request. Tel 01706 217777 or contact Rosendale Borough Council, Futures Park, Bacup, OL13 0BB

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ITEM	Lead Member/Contact Officer	
	able to assist with. A time limit applies for each question and you are only able to address the meeting once. Please begin by giving your name and state whether you are speaking as an individual member of the public or as a representative of a group. (Question time normally lasts up to 30 minutes).	
C.	CHAIR'S UPDATE	
C1.	Update from the Overview & Scrutiny Committee	Councillor A Barnes
D.	KEY DECISIONS	
D1.	Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document	Councillor A Barnes/David Smurthwaite Director of Economic Development davidsmurthwaite@rossendalebc.gov.uk
D2.	Open Space and Sports Provision Supplementary Planning Document	Councillor A Barnes/David Smurthwaite Director of Economic Development davidsmurthwaite@rossendalebc.gov.uk
D3.	Authority Monitoring Report for 2023 to 2024	Councillor A Barnes/David Smurthwaite Director of Economic Development davidsmurthwaite@rossendalebc.gov.uk
D4.	Annual Air Quality Report 2024	Councillor Lythgoe/Andy Taylor Head of Environmental Services andrewtaylor@rossendalebc.gov.uk
D5.	Rossendale Sport and Physical Activity Strategy	Councillor McInnes/Rob Huntington Chief Executive robhuntington@rossendalebc.gov.uk
E.	PERFORMANCE MATTERS	
E1.	Financial Monitoring Report Quarter 2 2024/25	Councillor Walmsley/Chris Warren Director of Resources chriswarren@rossendalebc.gov.uk
E2.	Performance Management Report Quarter 2 2024/25	Councillor Lythgoe/Clare Law Head of People and Policy clarelaw@rossendalebc.gov.uk



Rob Huntington
Chief Executive

Date Published: 12th November 2024

MINUTES OF: THE CABINET

Date of Meeting: Wednesday 16th October 2024

**Present: Councillor A Barnes (Chair)
Councillors Harris, Lythgoe and Walmsley**

**Rob Huntington, Chief Executive
Chris Warren, Director of Resources, s151 Officer
Clare Birtwistle, Head of Legal, Monitoring Officer
David Smurthwaite, Director of Economic Development
Andy Taylor, Head of Environmental Services
Ian Walker, Service Assurance Team Leader**

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor McInnes.

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Resolved:

The minutes of the meeting held on 18th September 2024 were agreed as a correct record.

3. URGENT ITEMS OF BUSINESS

There were no urgent items.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no public questions.

6. UPDATE FROM THE CHAIR OF THE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The Overview & Scrutiny Committee had not met since the last meeting.

7. LOCAL HOUSING ALLOWANCE SAFEGUARDING POLICY

The Lead Member for Resources outlined the report which asked Cabinet to approve the policy and delegate minor amendments to the Lead Member and Head of Service.

Resolved:

1. Cabinet considered the recommendations from Overview and Scrutiny Committee and approved the Local Housing Allowance Policy.
2. Cabinet delegated any minor amendments to the policy to the Head of Customer Services and ICT in consultation with the Lead Member.

Reason for Decision:

Councils have a duty to ensure payments of Local Housing Allowance are made appropriately to safeguard tenancies. This policy sets out the Councils commitment to this as laid down by The Housing Benefit Regulations 2006.

Alternative Options Considered:

None.

8. **COUNCIL TAX, NON-DOMESTIC RATE & HOUSING BENEFIT OVERPAYMENT WRITE-OFFS**

The Lead Member for Resources outlined the report which asked Cabinet to approve the write-offs of irrecoverable Council Tax debts and Housing Benefit overpayments.

Cabinet were invited to comment on the report:

- A considerable amount of work goes into the recovery of debts.
- Further support to assist residents was being considered; residents struggling with debts should contact the Council.

Resolved:

1. Cabinet approved the write-off of £63,202.22 in respect of irrecoverable Council Tax debt. Direct cost to Rossendale BC is £8,437.50
2. Cabinet approved the write-off of £6,152.21 in respect of irrecoverable Housing Benefit Overpayments. Direct cost to Rossendale BC is nil.

Reason for Decision:

It is prudent practice to clear any debts from the ledgers which are now deemed to be irrecoverable.

Alternative Options Considered:

None.

9. **WATERFOOT REGENERATION (MASTERPLAN)**

The Leader of the Council outlined the report which asked Cabinet to approve the Masterplan and delegate procurement and project delivery to the Lead Member, Directors and Monitoring Officer.

Cabinet were invited to comment on the report:

- It was a realistic long-term plan which builds on what is already in the town.
- The Towns Board have been working on how the Council engages with young people.
- Implementation of the Masterplan, particularly at Tricketts Arcade, will show the Council's commitment to Waterfoot.
- The Boo have been doing lots of good work around young people, encouraging them to be active and creative.
- Pleased at the level of responses to the consultation by Waterfoot residents.

Resolved:

1. Cabinet approved the proposed Waterfoot Masterplan as a strategic document.
2. Cabinet delegated authority to the Director of Economic Development, Monitoring Officer and Director of Resources in conjunction with the Lead Member to carry out all procurement and securing of permissions to deliver the three projects as part of the UK SPF allocation.

Reason for Decision:

Accepting the Masterplan will be the catalyst for investment in Waterfoot and will be the first step to reaching the town's vision: ***"a place to relax and unwind, a place for adventure, a place for arts and culture to thrive, a place for all"***.

Alternative Options Considered:
None.

The meeting concluded at 7.03pm

_____ CHAIR _____ DATE

Subject:	Adoption of the Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)	Status:	For Publication
Report to:	Cabinet	Date:	20 November 2024
Report of:	Head of Planning	Lead Member:	Planning
Key Decision:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Forward Plan <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	General Exception <input type="checkbox"/>	Special Urgency <input type="checkbox"/>
Equality Impact Assessment:	Required: Yes	Attached:	Yes
Biodiversity Impact Assessment:	Required: No	Attached:	No
Contact Officer:	Anne Storah / Jacob Landers	Telephone:	01706 252418 / 252412
Email:	annestorah@rossendalebc.gov.uk ; jacoblanders@rossendalebc.gov.uk		

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1. To approve the Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) for use for Development Control purposes
- 1.2. Minor amendments to the Affordable Housing SPD, including formatting changes, and updates to the household income and price caps, in line with data produced by the Office for National Statistics (ONS), to be delegated to the Head of Planning and Lead Member prior to consultation.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Rossendale Borough Council adopted its Local Plan in December 2021. This contains policy HS3 to ensure the delivery of appropriate Affordable Housing within the borough.
- Policy HS3 of the adopted Local Plan commits the Council to preparing an SPD to provide further details and guidance on Affordable Housing, specifically in relation to different affordability tenures.
- Detail is provided in this SPD about Eligibility Criteria, Local Connection Tests and Affordable Home Ownership tenure Price Caps.
- This SPD has been consulted on with stakeholders prior to adoption as required by the relevant Regulations. In total 8 responses were received, with 3 recommending modifications or raising matters for consideration.
- It should be noted that the Government is proposing a number of changes to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), including some which relate to housing, but which are not expected to affect this SPD.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1. As part of the preparation of the Local Plan the Council commissioned Lichfields to conduct a Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) in 2016, with an update provided in 2019. The SHMA shaped the Local Plan policies on Affordable Housing requirements and tenures and identified a “significant affordable housing need in Rossendale”.
- 3.2. A specific need for Social / Affordable rental properties was identified by this study (with 70% of all Affordable Housing needs being for rental properties), hence Policy HS3 of the Local Plan seeks a higher rate of Social / Affordable rent tenures than Affordable Home Ownership. As such the Policy requires at least 20% of dwellings on new housing developments to be for social / affordable rent and, in line with current national policy, at least 10% of all dwellings to be built should be made available for Affordable Home Ownership.

- 3.3. This SPD is intended to provide further detail to accompany and support the implementation of Policy HS3: Affordable Housing of the Rossendale Local Plan 2019 to 2036. It provides the framework for the provision of Affordable Housing on new residential developments which is specific for Rossendale, for example, using a local figure rather than the default national figure on maximum affordable sales caps.
- 3.4. The SPD was taken to the Council’s Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 9 September, which approved the document for a 4-week consultation period and recommended adoption by Cabinet following this consultation exercise.

4. DETAILS

- 4.1. This SPD provides further detail to accompany and support the implementation of Policy HS3 of the adopted Local Plan. This detail should provide greater clarity to developers, Planning Agents, Planning Officers and the public as to what quantity and tenure type of Affordable Housing would be appropriate on a potential residential development site.
- 4.2. The SPD states Social and Affordable Rent dwellings should be the Council’s preferred form of long-term affordable housing provision, in line with Policy HS3 of the Local Plan which requires two thirds of the total Affordable Dwellings on-site to be Social or Affordable Rent. The other third of on-site Affordable Dwellings should be for Affordable Home Ownership.
- 4.3. Government policy introduced by the previous administration sets maximum caps on household income (£80,000) and house price (£250,000) for certain types of Affordable Home Ownership. These significantly exceed median household incomes (£42,007.50 using the calculation found within Appendix 2) and median house prices (£170,000 in Sep. 2023) in Rossendale. It is considered that reducing these figures is appropriate for discount market housing schemes to allow more people in affordable housing need in Rossendale to benefit.
- 4.4. The SPD sets out price caps to be applied to Discount Market Value homes. These price caps will be the maximum that these forms of affordable homes can be sold for, calculated using Office for National Statistics data¹ on median household incomes for Rossendale for 2023. The price cap will stand at £186,700 and the Affordable Home Ownership dwellings will only be available to those on a combined annual household income of no more than £56,010. These price caps are a reduction from the nationally set default price cap and give a more attainable maximum sale price for those seeking affordable homes in Rossendale.
- 4.5. Details about the Eligibility Criteria for the different affordable housing tenures are covered in this SPD. The Eligibility Criteria for a specific tenure of Affordable Housing must be met by any applicant for that dwelling to be considered eligible. This criteria will be used in drafting any s106 agreement involving the on-site delivery of Affordable Housing. Eligibility Criteria may consist of the following: applicants being in Housing Need for the applied for dwelling; falling within the annual combined household income restriction; and passing any Local Connection Test. The Eligibility Criteria can be seen in Appendix 1 of the SPD. The SPD allows for open sale, if the property has not been sold within a specified period of time.
- 4.6. The SPD also details how proposals for off-site Affordable Housing contributions will be considered. It sets out the process to be followed and any element of uplift that will need to be applied to any commuted sum payments to ensure a satisfactory amount of Affordable Housing contribution is achieved, taking account of factors specific to off-site payments.

¹ [House price to workplace-based earnings ratio](#) (March 2024)

- 4.7. Further guidance and legislation may be issued that may have a bearing, e.g. secondary legislation associated with the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act (2003). The Government has issued proposed changes to the NPPF, which include revising the standard method to calculate the housing requirement, and introducing 'grey belt' (brownfield land in the Green Belt and other parcels/areas that make a limited contribution to the Green Belt purposes).
- 4.8. Other changes being mooted may affect the delivery of affordable housing. In its consultation, the Government notes it wishes to boost housing that is available for social rent and expects local authorities will prioritise this tenure in line with local needs. Also, whilst acknowledging that home ownership should be boosted, the Government considers that the current system for 10% of all major housing schemes to be for affordable home ownership is too prescriptive. The consultation on the NPPF notes that First Homes should remain a type of affordable housing, but it proposes to remove the current requirement for at least 25% of all affordable housing units to be First Homes. The references to Starter Homes have been removed. The NPPF update is expected to be published late 2024/early 2025.
- 4.9. The draft Affordable Housing SPD was consulted internally (Planning, Legal, Housing, Economic Development) and with Homes England and Council's Viability Consultant. In the light of the proposed changes to the NPPF references First Homes have been removed.
- 4.10. The SPD was taken to the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 9 September which approved the statutory consultation, and recommended the final version to be considered for adoption by Cabinet following this consultation. The consultation was carried out 24 September to 22 October 2024. The SPD included a number of questions aligned with an online survey, to direct consultees' attention to key issues. In total 8 responses were received, of which 3 recommend modifications or raise matters for consideration, see below:

Consultee	Summary of Response	Action
National Highways	No specific comments	No
Natural England	No specific comments	No
The Coal Authority	No specific comments	No
Historic England	No specific comments	
RBC Strategic Housing	Q1 - Support for uplift methodology. Q5 - Support for Local Connection Test. Q7 - Agree with Price Cap methodology. Q8 - Strategic Housing have been involved with the drafting of the SPD	No
Growth Lancashire	Q8 - A number of assets in Rossendale are NDHAs and this should be taken into consideration regarding any conversion works	Noted
Ian Francis	Query about duplicated paragraph	Remove paragraph 4.3
NHS Property Services	Request consideration be given to AH for NHS staff	It is considered that NHS staff are provided for within the SPD due to the "essential local workers" (as defined in the NPPF) inclusion in para 2.1.2

- 4.11 As a result of the comments received the duplicated paragraph will be removed. We consider NHS Property Service's concerns are addressed in the SPD. We note Growth Lancashire's comments and consider residential conversions to be better considered elsewhere.

4.12 It should be noted that CPRE responded on 24 October, after the consultation ended. Their response has been included in the Consultation Statement. We note their concerns (e.g. on consultation, incorporating policies to address climate and sustainable development in relation to affordable housing, “its narrow focus on housing” so omitting biodiversity, beauty and heritage, and health and well-being and accessibility matters. As before we consider these issues to be better referenced in other specific policies and guidance.

5. RISK

5.1. This SPD is intended to help developers comply with local policy in the adopted Local Plan when providing affordable housing. It provides additional details and guidance on how to address local and national policy requirements; not having this SPD in place may result in the Council not delivering an appropriate level/form of Affordable Housing for Rossendale.

5.2. This SPD is open to challenge in the period immediately post adoption by the Council. Planning decisions that are made using this policy as a reason for refusal can be appealed and this SPD could be scrutinised by Planning Inspectors. Nevertheless, the risk associated is minimal and outweighed by the need to issue further guidance.

6. FINANCE

6.1 Approving the recommendations in this report does not create any additional financial implications for the Council. Amending the process to calculate affordable housing commuted sum payments will help to secure higher financial contributions to assist the Council deliver affordable housing.

7. LEGAL

7.1 Legal implications are covered in the body of the report. Statutory consultation will be required for a period of at least four weeks prior to adoption of the Supplementary Planning Document.

8. POLICY AND EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

8.1 No policy implications.

8.2 An Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken. This shows no adverse impacts.

8.3 A public consultation has been undertaken.

8.4 Any equality implications related to this report will be given consideration in a relevant and proportionate manner.

9. REASON FOR DECISION

9.1. Adopting the Affordable Housing SPD will enable the Council to ensure that new major residential developments that require planning permission will deliver an appropriate level and type of Affordable Housing that is appropriate to Rossendale.

Background Papers	
Document	Place of Inspection
Affordable Housing SPD (October 2024)	Attached
Draft Affordable Housing SPD (March 2024)	Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs), Masterplans and other guidance Rossendale Borough Council
Comments Received on Draft Affordable Housing SPD	Attached
Equalities Impact Assessment	Attached
Version Number:	1
Page:	4 of 5

Proposed reforms to the National Planning Policy Framework (July 2024)	Proposed reforms to the National Planning Policy Framework and other changes to the planning system - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
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ROSSENDALE
BOROUGH
COUNCIL



AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)
November 2024



If you have any queries regarding this SPD, please contact the Forward Planning Department using the below details.

E-mail:

forwardplanning@rossendalebc.gov.uk

Telephone:

01706 252418 / 252415 / 252412

Post to:

**Forward Planning Department,
Rosendale Borough Council,
The Business Centre,
Futures Park,
Bacup,
OL13 0BB**

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)

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Affordable Housing

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Rossendale Borough Council is committed to delivering a wide range of housing, including affordable housing, to meet identified need. The Council's Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) 2016 and subsequent update in 2019 demonstrate that there is a considerable demand for affordable housing in Rossendale and that the issue must be addressed to prevent the problem from worsening. There is a particular need to provide for the growing elderly population as well as those with disabilities.
- 1.2 Affordable Dwellings should meet the requirements of those deemed in need of affordable housing, including a house price / rent set at an achievable level within the context of Rossendale.
- 1.3 This Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) is intended to provide further detail to accompany and support the implementation of Policy HS3: Affordable Housing of the Rossendale Local Plan 2019 to 2036.
- 1.4 This document is a material planning consideration in the determination of planning applications and it should be utilised by potential applicants when proposing new residential developments of 10 or more dwellings (0.5 hectares or part thereof).



2. Context

2.1 National Policy Framework

- 2.1.1 The delivery of affordable housing is a key objective of the National Planning Policy Framework (December 2023) (NPPF). The NPPF states that where a need for affordable housing has been identified, '...planning policies should specify the type of affordable housing required, and expect it to be met on site...' (1). This is what Policy HS3 aims to achieve, and this SPD will facilitate the implementation of said policy.
- 2.1.2 The Council uses the Government's own definitions of Affordable Housing as set out in the NPPF, which defines Affordable Housing as "housing for sale or rent, for those whose needs are not met by the market (including housing that provides a subsidised route to home ownership and/or is for essential local workers); and which complies with one or more of the following definitions":

(1) NPPF December 2023 - Paragraph 64

2.1.3 Affordable Housing for Rent

“Affordable housing for rent meets all of the following conditions: (a) the rent is set in accordance with the Government’s rent policy for Social Rent or Affordable Rent, or is at least 20% below local market rents (5) (including service charges where applicable); (b) the landlord is a registered provider, except where it is included as part of a Build to Rent scheme (in which case the landlord need not be a registered provider); and (c) it includes provisions to remain at an affordable price for future eligible households, or for the subsidy to be recycled for alternative affordable housing provision. For Build to Rent schemes affordable housing for rent is expected to be the normal form of affordable housing provision (and, in this context, is known as Affordable Private Rent).”

2.1.4 Starter Homes

“Starter homes is as specified in Sections 2 and 3 of the Housing and Planning Act 2016 and any secondary legislation made under these sections. The definition of a starter home should reflect the meaning set out in statute and any such secondary legislation at the time of plan-preparation or decision-making. Where secondary legislation has the effect of limiting a household’s eligibility to purchase a starter home to those with a particular maximum level of household income, those restrictions should be used.”

2.1.5 Discounted Market Sales Housing

“Discounted market sales housing is that sold at a discount of at least 20% below local market value. Eligibility is determined with regard to local incomes and local house prices. Provisions should be in place to ensure housing remains at a discount for future eligible households.”

2.1.6 Other affordable routes to home ownership

“Other affordable routes to home ownership is housing provided for sale that provides a route to ownership for those who could not achieve home ownership through the market. It includes shared ownership, relevant equity loans and rent to buy (which includes a period of intermediate rent). Where public grant funding is provided, there should be provisions for the homes to remain at an affordable price for future eligible households, or for any receipts to be recycled for alternative affordable housing provision, or refunded to Government or the relevant authority specified in the funding agreement.”

2.2 Rossendale Local Plan 2019 - 2036

2.2.1 Within the Rossendale Local Plan 2019 to 2036 (herein referred to as “Local Plan”), a requirement of 30% onsite affordable housing will be sought by the Council on applicable market housing schemes, subject to site and development considerations, such as financial viability.

2.2.2 Of the total number of homes to be provided, at least 10% should be available for affordable home ownership as part of the overall affordable housing requirement. This is the case apart from when the proposal provides solely for Build to Rent, specialist accommodation to meet specific needs, is self-build, or is exclusively for affordable housing, entry level exception sites or rural exception sites.

2.2.3 The remaining Affordable Dwellings (20% of the total number of dwellings on-site) must be of an affordable rental tenure, with the Council having a specific preference for either Social or Affordable rent.

2.2.4 Despite the high need for affordable housing in Rossendale, the SHMA recognises that there is a need to balance the delivery of affordable housing against viability of delivery. The requirement in terms of tenure will be based on the housing need at the time of submission of the planning application. Further details will be provided within this Supplementary Planning Document.

Affordable Housing

2.3 Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA)

- 2.3.1 As part of the examination of the Local Plan the Council commissioned Lichfields to conduct a SHMA in 2016, with an update produced in 2019. This SHMA shaped the Local Plan policies on Affordable Housing requirements and tenures and identified a “significant affordable housing need in Rossendale”.
- 2.3.2 A specific need for Social / Affordable rental properties was identified (70% of Affordable Housing needs), hence why Policy HS3 of the Local Plan seeks a higher rate of Social / Affordable rent tenures than Affordable Home Ownership.

2.4 Housing Strategy

- 2.4.1 The primary aim of the Housing Strategy is to strengthen the housing framework in the Rossendale Borough. The strategy outlines how the Council is to get the best out of its resources and build on existing relationships, both internally and with partners. This will drive forward improvements in Rossendale’s housing market, and ultimately boost the options available to residents within the borough.

3. Affordable Housing provision in Rossendale

- 3.1 As illustrated above, Policy HS3 of the Local Plan sets out when Affordable Housing is required as part of new housing developments of 10 or more dwellings (0.5 ha or part thereof).
- 3.2 In an instance where the calculation of Affordable Housing provision results in a non-whole number the Council will always round-up the number and seek this number of Affordable Dwellings e.g. 30% of 21 homes is 6.3 homes, this should be rounded-up to 7 homes and this is what the Council will seek. In this example, if the Council were to round-down to 6 homes then Policy HS3 would not be satisfied and the onus would fall upon the applicant to demonstrate why rounding-up would not be feasible.
- 3.3 The majority of Affordable Housing in Rossendale is delivered via Planning Obligations as set out in section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act (1990) (as amended), known as “s106 agreements”. s106 agreements allow the Council greater control and security in regard to the stable delivery of Affordable Housing.

4. When on-site provision cannot be provided

- 4.1 Policy HS3 of the Local Plan states that “In exceptional circumstances, off-site provision or financial contributions of a broadly equivalent value instead of on-site provision, will be acceptable where the site or location is unsustainable for affordable housing”.
- 4.2 Where it is agreed between the Applicant and the Council that on-site provision of Affordable Housing cannot be realistically achieved then the Council will seek appropriate off-site provision / contributions to deliver Affordable Housing elsewhere. It should be noted that this approach will only be taken in exceptional circumstances where robust evidence is provided to demonstrate that on-site Affordable Housing provision is not possible. The Council will expect the applicant to evidence this and cover any reasonable costs incurred by the Council in scrutinising any such evidence.

Affordable Housing

- 4.3 If it is satisfactorily evidenced that the development cannot realistically deliver Affordable Housing then the Council will require that an Overage Clause is entered into with the Council expecting that any reasonable costs incurred in the preparation of this to be covered by the applicant. This will be decided on a case by case basis.
- 4.4 Where it is agreed that an off-site provision / contribution is acceptable, the methodology on the next page should be followed in order to calculate the level of appropriate contributions, including uplift:

1

The Council, in liaison with the developer, will determine what proportion of the different house types would be required to be affordable if the Council's affordable housing policy were to be met on-site. The key consideration will be meeting the overall provision of affordable units and the tenure split as set out in section 2(ii) above.

2

The applicant must provide details of the Open Market Value (OMV) of the identified affordable homes. This should be based on local evidence of similar schemes and be supported by a valuation prepared by a RICS Registered Valuer.

3

The applicant must submit evidence in the form of written communication from a Registered Provider (RP) active in Rossendale which sets out how much the RP would be prepared to pay for the Affordable Dwellings on the basis that they remain affordable in perpetuity. The applicant should calculate the 'cost to developer' if the Affordable Dwellings were to be provided on site. The cost should be equivalent to the difference between the OMV and the price that the RP would be prepared to pay. e.g. if a house is worth £200,000 on the OMV and a RP would purchase the property for £120,000 then the 'cost to developer' would be £80,000. In the absence of submitted evidence that has been endorsed by the RPs the Council will use its own evidence to determine the 'cost to developer'. This evidence is likely to be based on recent transactions across Rossendale.

4

Once the total 'cost to developer' is calculated for the scheme the Council will include uplift (see following) to the financial contribution to reflect the fact that if the affordable homes are provided off-site, the number of market homes on site increases.

Uplift

In calculating the uplift the Council will apply the following assumptions: **Total Scheme [TS] = Market Homes [MH] + Affordable Homes [AH]. $MH = 0.7 \times TS$.**

In a scheme where the Affordable Housing is provided on-site then TS is the known factor. E.g. in a scheme with 100 dwellings the following split between MH & AH will be required:

Total Dwellings = 100, No. of MH = 70 (0.7 (70%) of TS), No. of AH = 30 (0.3 (30%) of TS)

However, if the AH are to be provided off-site and the application site is wholly MH then the TS increases. Here the number of MH is the known factor. The formula: **$MH = 0.7 \times TS$ is re-written as $TS = MH / 0.7$.**

Therefore, in the same scheme as above the total scheme will increase as follows: **No. of MH = 100, Total Dwellings = 143 (100 / 0.7).** As we know: **$TS = MH + AH$.**

The number of Affordable Homes [AH] will therefore be the equivalent of 43 units (i.e. 30% of the total scheme). The financial contribution for off-site affordable housing will have to reflect this. This uplift calculation can be varied dependent on the number of Affordable Homes on site. If the applicant determines that the final financial contribution would make the scheme unviable they must demonstrate this via a viability statement to the satisfaction of the Local Planning Authority.

5. Affordable Housing for Rossendale

5.1 This section will provide more detail on the different types of Affordable Housing outlined in the NPPF and Planning Practice Guidance (PPG), how each will function within Rossendale and what the Council will seek when determining Planning Applications.

5.2 There are three main forms of Affordable Housing; Affordable Rental (including Social Rent & Affordable Rent), Affordable Home Ownership (including First Homes & Discount Market Value) and Intermediate Affordable Housing (including Shared Ownership).

5.3 Social Rent

5.3.1 Social Rent housing is owned and managed by Affordable Housing Providers and is for eligible households whose needs are not met by the open market, for which guideline target rents are determined through the national rent regime.

5.3.2 The Council is in partnership with B-with-us, this is Pennine Lancashire's method of allocating housing association properties for rent. More information on B-with-us, including how to use the service, can be found here: www.b-with-us.com.

5.3.3 Provision will be made, via s106 agreements, to ensure that Social Rent housing will remain as such in perpetuity. s106 agreements will also ensure the dwelling is available only for eligible persons as outlined above and that the property cannot be offered for sub-letting. Eligibility criteria for Social Rent dwellings can be found in [Appendix One](#).

5.3.4 The 2019 SHMA also identified a need within the Social Rented sector for wheelchair accessible homes (meeting Optional Standards M4(3) of the Building Regulations). Applicants will be encouraged to meet these standards on-site subject to site and development considerations.

5.3.5 Social and Affordable Rent dwellings are the Council's preferred form of Affordable Rental dwellings due to a specific need for these tenures (as demonstrated in the SHMA), their ability to provide long-term Affordable Housing provision, and the regulation that national government provides in terms of Registered Providers.

5.3.6 Government's policy statement on rents for social housing can be found [here](#).



5.4 Affordable Rent

- 5.4.1 Affordable Rented housing is owned and managed by Affordable Housing Providers and is for eligible households whose needs are not met by the open market. Affordable Rents must not exceed 80% of the local market rent, inclusive of service charges and must not exceed the Local Housing Allowance (LHA) for the relevant property type in the relevant location. This is to ensure that in high value areas the affordable homes can still be affordable to those on lower incomes and who may require financial assistance towards meeting the cost of their rent.
- 5.4.2 Affordable Rented housing should remain as such in perpetuity and this will be secured via s106 agreements.
- 5.4.3 Social and Affordable Rent dwellings are the Council's preferred form of Affordable Rental dwellings due to a specific need for these tenures (as demonstrated in the SHMA), their ability to provide long-term Affordable Housing provision, and the regulation that national government provides in terms of Registered Providers.

5.5 Build to Rent and Affordable Private Rent

- 5.5.1 Build to Rent schemes generally consist of 100% purpose built housing for rent. The NPPF states that Affordable Housing on such schemes should be provided by default in the form of Affordable Private Rent, a form of Affordable Housing which has been designed specifically for Build to Rent schemes. Both Affordable Private Rent and private market rent dwellings should be managed by a single Build to Rent landlord, this does not need to be a Registered Provider.
- 5.5.2 The PPG states that national affordable housing policy requires a minimum rent discount of 20% for Affordable Private Rent dwellings relative to local market rents. This discount should be calculated when a discounted home is rented out, or when the tenancy is renewed. The rent on the discounted homes should increase on the same basis as rent increases for longer-term (market) tenancies within the development.
- 5.5.3 Eligibility for occupying affordable private rented homes will be agreed between the Council and the scheme operator on a case by case basis.
- 5.5.4 The 2019 Strategic Housing Market Assessment stated that in Rossendale, it is likely that Build to Rent schemes could cater for needs in the private rented sector, particularly for those on low to middle incomes who may desire an alternative to traditional rental options. Research conducted as part of the 2019 SHMA concluded that there is expected to be a very modest growth in the number of young single person households (+339) and also the number of households with children (+347); suggesting that any Build to Rent schemes in Rossendale should be modest in scale, and should be split broadly equally between meeting the needs of families (i.e. larger housing) and also smaller housing suited to single person households.
- 5.5.5 However, as stated in the 2016 SHMA, Research published by EC Harris in November 2013 (Build to Rent – Pushing the Boundaries) identified Rossendale as an area whereby build to rent was not viable, even if delivery costs and unit sizes were reduced.
- 5.5.6 Social and Affordable Rent dwellings are preferred by the Council due to these tenures providing long-term Affordable Housing provision, and regulation that national government provides in terms of Registered Providers, something that Affordable Private Rent may not achieve. This, coupled with the identified un-viability of Build to Rent schemes within Rossendale, mean the Council will not actively pursue Build to Rent or Affordable Private Rent as an Affordable Housing tenure.

5.6 Starter Homes

- 5.6.1 Sections 2 & 3 of the **Housing and Planning Act 2016** specify what constitutes a Starter Home and reference to this is made within the NPPF.
- 5.6.2 However, the secondary legislation as mentioned within the NPPF has not been published and the Government no longer has a dedicated budget for the delivery of Starter Homes. As such, this form of Affordable Housing will not be actively pursued by the Council.
- 5.6.3 Given the lack of further guidance on Starter Homes and the more recent Ministerial Statement by the Government on First Homes, we consider the delivery of First Homes of a greater priority.

5.7 Discounted Market Sales Housing

- 5.7.1 As defined in the NPPF, Discounted Market Sales Housing, also known as Discount Market Value (DMV), are dwellings sold at a discount which is at least 20% below the identified local market value of that property agreed with the Council. Eligibility for this form of housing in Rossendale is determined with regard to local house prices, incomes, a local connection test and the suitability of the property based on the number of bedrooms and household size. Further information regarding the eligibility criteria for DMV homes can be found in **Appendix One**.
- 5.7.2 Provision will be made, via s106 agreements, to ensure that the dwelling remains at a discounted level for eligible persons in perpetuity. Additionally, via s106 agreements, the Council will seek to make sure that DMV Homes are the sole residence of any potential purchaser and are not offered for lease in the future.
- 5.7.3 DMV homes will only be available to purchasers with an annual combined household income of, at the most, £56,010. This is calculated using the median earning for Rossendale (2) and multiplying by 2 to arrive at a likely maximum household income for median earners. Further information regarding the eligibility criteria for Discount Market Value homes can be found in **Appendix One**.
- 5.7.4 DMV homes can also have a sale price cap lower than the national figure of £250,000. The house price cap for Rossendale is explained below. (2)
- 5.7.5 **DMV Price Cap**
A cap on the sale price of Discount Market Sales housing will be applied. Rossendale Borough Council will therefore set a cap on the price of a DMV dwelling lower than the national figure. This will be set to ensure that the sale price (with discount applied) is in reach of a typical household with median earnings in the Borough, as considered above. The cap is therefore set at £174,669 (for 2023-24), the amount (based on 2022 data) that the example median household could raise.
- 5.7.6 This level of discount and Affordable Housing tenure will be secured via a s106 agreement, as will ensuring that the discount remains in perpetuity.

(2) Data taken from the Office for National Statistics "House price to workplace based earnings ratio" dataset published in March 2024.

Affordable Housing

- 5.7.7 When someone wishes to sell a DMV house they must inform the Council and confirm the date they intend to begin marketing the property. The vendor is responsible for obtaining a market valuation of the property which will be used by the Council as the basis for the discounted sale calculation.
- 5.7.8 It is the responsibility of the vendor to market the property and ensure that the buyer they agree to sell with is one deemed eligible to purchase the property by the Council. We therefore encourage prompt application to avoid delays and unnecessary complications.
- 5.7.9 Anyone who inherits a DMV property should inform the Council of the new ownership.

5.8 Rent to Buy

- 5.8.1 Rent to Buy is an affordable route to home ownership mentioned within the NPPF, acting as a form of intermediate rent. Under this scheme, tenants are helped to save for a deposit by offering dwellings at a discount, usually 20% below market rent. More information can be found at: www.gov.uk/rent-to-buy.
- 5.8.2 In order to be eligible for Rent to Buy applicants must be:
- in full or part time employment;
 - a first-time buyer (3); and
 - able to pay rent & save for a house deposit simultaneously.
- 5.8.3 Applicants can apply to rent a dwelling under this scheme, and if deemed eligible, the dwelling may be offered to the applicant. The initial tenancy will be for up to 2 years, however, if more time is required to save for a house deposit then the landlord may agree to extend the tenancy. Applicants can buy a dwelling, including those under an Affordable Home Ownership scheme, as soon as an adequate house deposit has been saved and a mortgage can be secured.
- 5.8.4 The Council does not have a preference for Rent to Buy and will not actively pursue such schemes over other affordable rent options, specifically Social and Affordable Rent. However, anyone interested in the scheme can still search for relevant dwellings here: [Search for a Rent to Buy home in the north](#).

5.9 Shared Ownership

- 5.9.1 Shared Ownership is a form of Intermediate Housing which allows people who cannot afford all of a house deposit and mortgage payment for a dwelling which meets their needs to buy said dwelling.
- 5.9.2 A share (between 10% & 75%) of a dwelling is bought by a prospective purchaser and rent is also paid to a landlord on the remaining shares. A deposit (usually 5 - 10%) is also needed for the share being purchased.
- 5.9.3 The Council will consider this form of intermediate housing when making up the affordable housing make-up of a scheme as Intermediate Housing is not only a way of assisting in meeting affordable housing needs, it is also an effective way of helping people who are able to afford private market rent but cannot afford a dwelling to meet their needs get on the housing ladder.
- 5.9.4 More information regarding Shared Ownership is contained on the Government website: www.gov.uk/shared-ownership-scheme.

(3) Applicants may be eligible for Rent to Buy if returning to home ownership following a relationship breakdown.

5.10 Rural Affordable Housing

5.10.1 PPG stresses the importance of housing supply and affordability issues in rural areas, and the SHMA highlights that a strong demand exists for rural housing within the borough. Local Plan Policy HS11: Rural Affordable Housing – Rural Exception Sites aims to satisfy these demands by allowing a limited number of dwellings that exclusively meet local needs for affordable housing adjoining the built form of existing settlements. So long as; a) there is no suitable site available within the Urban Boundary, and b) the scale and nature of the development would be in character with the existing settlement.

5.11 Specialist Housing/Older Persons Housing

5.11.1 There is an identified need for specialist supported housing in Rossendale, including a strong demand for housing for older people and those with mental health needs. The SHMA identified that the number of residents aged over 65 in Rossendale is projected to increase by 6,336 by 2034. Given the substantial projected increase in residents over 65, and the current insufficient supply of specialist housing for older people, it is a priority to increase the supply of good quality accommodation tailored specifically to this demographic. Policy HS5 of the Local Plan provides guidance on how to achieve appropriate housing standards and information on Optional Standards M4(2) of the Building Regulations. In line with Policy HS5, new housing developments of 5 or more dwellings will be required to provide at least 20% of dwellings which are specifically tailored to meet the needs of elderly or disabled residents, or be easily adaptable in line with the Optional Standards M4(2).

5.11.2 Local Plan Policy HS15: Specialist Housing seeks to address this issue by supporting proposals for specialist housing (including retirement, extra care and supported accommodation) provided that:

- The development is well located so that shops, public transport, community facilities and other infrastructure and services are accessible to those without a car, as appropriate to the needs and level of mobility of potential residents, as well as visitors and staff;
- The development contains appropriate external amenity space of an acceptable quantity and quality;
- Adequate provision is made for refuse and storage and disposal facilities;
- It would not have an unacceptable impact on the character of the area or the amenity of the occupiers of neighbouring properties; and
- The design and layout of the accommodation and its relation to its specific broader context fully meets the requirements of the residents of the specific type of accommodation proposed.



Affordable Housing

5.11.3 The Local Plan allocates three sites specifically for specialist accommodation:

- H19 – Former Bacup Health Centre
- H48 – Former Waterfoot Primary School
- H61 – Land behind Buxton Street, Whitworth

5.11.4 All three of the sites were built out as of 31st March 2022, collectively contributing 60 additional units to the existing stock of specialist accommodation in Rossendale.

5.12 Self-Build Housing

5.12.1 The Government is committed to increasing the supply of self-build and custom build homes. Evidence from the SHMA indicates that the level of demand for plots is low in Rossendale, and the Council's Self-build Register supports this evidence, with only 47 people being on the register as of the 31st March 2023.

5.12.2 Nevertheless, Local Plan Policy HS16: Self Build and Custom Built Homes is designed to support those who are interested in this form of housing. The Council will support said people by encouraging developers of schemes comprising 50 or more dwellings to make at least 10% of plots available for sale to small builders or individuals / groups who wish to custom build their own homes, where possible. This will be subject to the Council's self-build register and site viability.

5.12.3 Additionally, the Local Plan identifies three sites specifically for self-build and custom build housing:

- H5 – Land South of 1293 Burnley Road, Loveclough (5 dwellings)
- H53 – Land off Lea Bank (9 dwellings)
- H56 – Hareholme, Staghills (9 dwellings)

5.12.4 Self and custom-build housing can be delivered as Affordable Housing. Where this is possible the affordability parameters, occupancy and re-sale conditions will be controlled via a s106 agreement. Where on-site affordable housing is not feasible on an applicable self-build housing scheme then off-site provision/contribution will be sought.

6. Other

6.1 Other Applications

6.1.1 It will be necessary to agree in principle the delivery of Affordable Housing at the Outline Application stage, if applicable. This will then be applied to any Reserved Matters Application received.

6.2 Larger Homes (the 0.5 hectare rule)

6.2.1 Where a Planning Application is submitted for nine or fewer dwellings but is on a site which is 0.5 hectares, Policy HS3 still applies and a requirement of at least 30% affordable dwellings will be sought. Such sites may not viably be able to provide on-site affordable dwellings, as such, off-site provision or a monetary contribution may be acceptable.

Affordable Housing

6.2.2 It is advised that prior to Planning Applications being submitted for said developments the developer should engage in Pre-Application discussions with both the Local Planning Authority and the Strategic Housing Team. This would allow the early determination of what off-site provision or monetary contribution should be provided. This can be achieved by utilising the Local Planning Authority's Pre-Application Advice & Guidance service.

6.3 Vacant Building Credit

6.3.1 The Government's PPG provides an incentive for the development of brownfield sites which contain vacant buildings in the form of 'vacant building credits'. These credits can be applied to developments where a vacant building is brought back into lawful use, or is demolished in order to make way for a new building.

6.3.2 Where the development proposes an increase in the amount of overall floorspace, the Council will calculate the amount of affordable housing contributions required in line with the existing policy in the Local Plan. However, a Vacant Building Credit should then be applied which is equivalent to the gross amount of floorspace being brought back into use or created via a new building.

6.3.3 For example:

- A proposal is submitted to demolish a small vacant mill building which has a gross floorspace of 1000sqm and replace it with a new apartment building with a gross floorspace of 2000sqm and 40 apartments contained within.
- As the new gross floorspace is twice as much as the old gross floorspace, the affordable housing contribution should be half as much as what is asked for in the Local Plan after the Vacant Building Credit has been applied.
- This means that of the 40 apartments, the Council will only ask for an Affordable Housing contribution of 15%, equating to 6 affordable dwellings.

6.3.4 Vacant Building Credits do not apply where the building has been abandoned or been made vacant for the sole purpose of re-developing the site. Each proposal will be assessed on a case by case basis. In instances where buildings are demolished or removed on health and safety grounds it will be at the discretion of the Council whether or not to apply vacant building credit.

6.3.5 The Council's current policy is to protect and enhance existing employment sites. More information regarding this can be found in the Re-use and Re-development of Employment Land SPD.

6.4 Layout and Design

6.4.1 Policy HS3 of the Local Plan states that "Within larger housing developments, the affordable housing will be evenly distributed throughout the development". The concentration of all Affordable Dwellings in one section of a development will not be considered acceptable by the Council. Below is a simplified site layout demonstrating appropriate and inappropriate Affordable Dwelling distribution (purple representing the Affordable Units).



Appendix One - Eligibility Criteria

7.1 Detailed below is the eligibility criteria that applicants must meet to be able to fulfil in order to be considered for the type of affordable housing that they are applying for. These eligibility criteria should be used within the drafting of s106 agreements for applicable sites.

7.2 Social /Affordable Rent

7.2.1 An Approved Person must meet the following Eligibility Criteria for the Social / Affordable Rented Units:

- Applicants must be deemed to be in Housing Need;
- Applicants must be able to demonstrate a housing need for a property type;
- Applicants must have a local connection with the area in which they are seeking to live. For the avoidance of doubt please see the section below detailing the Local Connection Test for Social / Affordable Rented dwellings; and
- The Social / Affordable Rented Units must be the applicant's sole or principle home.
- Provided Always that notwithstanding the above the Council and Affordable Housing Provider may agree between themselves any amendment to the Eligibility Criteria where the Council shall deem it reasonable to do so and provided further that after such amendments are applied the applicant is able to demonstrate a housing need for a property type.
- Upon allocation of the Social / Affordable Rented Units for first lets and all subsequent lets the Affordable Housing Provider will confirm the details of each successful applicant detailing the criteria by which they qualify and the property address allocated to them and send this information to the Council.

7.3 Shared Ownership / Discount Market Value

7.3.1 In order to be eligible for Shared Ownership / Discount Market Value dwellings applicants must:

- Be deemed to be in need of financial assistance to purchase a property on the open market;
- Be able to demonstrate a housing need for a property type;
- Pass the Local Connection Test with the area in which they are seeking to live. For the avoidance of doubt please see the section below detailing the Local Connection Test for Affordable Home Ownership; and
- The Affordable Housing Unit must be the applicant's sole or principal home.
- Applicants will only be authorised to proceed with the tenancy / lease (as applicable) after meeting the criteria above. Applicants will normally only be permitted to occupy Affordable Housing Units with an excess of one bedroom for their current housing need, however discretion may be showed where it is reasonable to expect a household's need increase.
- Provided Always that notwithstanding the above the Council and Affordable Housing Provider may agree between themselves any amendment to the eligibility criteria set out in this Schedule where the Council shall deem it reasonable to do so and provided further that after such amendments are applied the applicant is able to demonstrate a housing need for a property type. The applicants must use the accommodation as their main and principal residence.
- If after the Affordable Housing Units have been marketed for 6 months there is no interest from applicants who comply with paragraphs 1 and 2 applicants who are ordinarily resident within the Borough can be considered as well as applicants who can demonstrate a need for affordable housing.

7.3.2 In order to be eligible for Shared Ownership applicants must:

- Not have a household income over £80,000 a year;
- Not be able to afford all of a house deposit and mortgage payments for a dwelling which meets their needs; and
- One of the following must be true:
 - o you are a first-time buyer
 - o you used to be a homeowner but can no longer afford to buy a new one
 - o you are forming a new household (e.g. following relationship breakdowns)
 - o you are an existing shared owner and wish to move
 - o you are a homeowner but can't afford a new home that meets your current needs

7.4 Local Connection Test

7.4.1 A Local Connection Test is something that an applicant for some forms of Affordable Housing needs to pass in order to be deemed eligible for said housing. The Council will make use of one of two different Local Connection Tests dependent upon whether the Affordable Housing is for Affordable Rent or Affordable Home Ownership. Additionally, given their unique circumstances Armed Forces personnel, veterans and their spouses / civil partners are not required to comply with the following Local Connection Test so long as they can evidence that they meet the definition of an "Armed Forces Member".(4)

7.4.2 The parameters of the Local Connection Test that need to be met to be deemed eligible for Social / Affordable Rental dwellings are detailed below:

- Applicants who, for a period of 6 months immediately prior to proposed occupation of an affordable dwelling, or 3 years out of the last 5, had their only or principal home in the Council's administrative area; or
- Applicants who, for a period of 12 months immediately prior to proposed occupation of an affordable dwelling, have had their only or principal place of employment within the Council's administrative area; or
- Applicants who have, immediately prior to the proposed occupation of an affordable dwelling, had a Close Supporting Family Connection, living within the Council's administrative area for a continuous period of 5 years.

7.4.3 The parameters of the Local Connection Test that need to be met to be deemed eligible for Affordable Home Ownership dwellings are detailed below.

7.4.4 First preference shall be given to applicants who:

- For a period of 12 months immediately prior to proposed occupation of an affordable dwelling, or 3 years out of the last 5, had their only or principal home within the same ward as the application site; or
- For a period of 12 months immediately prior to proposed occupation of an affordable dwelling, have had their only or principal place of employment within the same ward as the application site; or
- Have, immediately prior to the proposed occupation of an affordable dwelling, had a Close Family Connection, living within the same ward as the application site for a continuous period of 5 years.

(4) "Armed Forces Member": a member of the Royal Navy, Royal Marines, British Army or Royal Air Force or a former member who was a member within the five years prior to the purchase of the Affordable Dwelling, a divorced or separated spouse or civil partner of a member or a spouse or civil partner of a deceased member or former member whose death was caused wholly or partly by their service

Affordable Housing

7.4.5 If no person qualifies under paragraph 1 above, second preference shall be given to applicants who:

- For a period of 12 months immediately prior to proposed occupation of an affordable dwelling, or 3 years out of the last 5, had their only or principal home within a bordering ward to the ward the application site is within; or
- For a period of 12 months immediately prior to proposed occupation of an affordable dwelling, have had their only or principal place of employment within a bordering ward (within the Council's administrative area) to the ward the application site is within; or
- Have, immediately prior to the proposed occupation of an affordable dwelling, had a Close Family Connection, living within a bordering ward to the ward the application site is within for a continuous period of 5 years.

7.4.6 If no person qualifies under paragraph 2 above, third preference shall be given to persons who:

- For a period of 12 months immediately prior to proposed occupation of an affordable dwelling, or 3 years out of the last 5, had their only or principal home within the Council's administrative area; or
- For a period of 12 months immediately prior to proposed occupation of an affordable dwelling, have had their only or principal place of employment within the Council's administrative area; or
- Have, immediately prior to the proposed occupation of an affordable dwelling, had a Close Family Connection, living within the Council's administrative area for a continuous period of 5 years.

7.4.7 Before Qualifying Persons as described in paragraph 3 above shall become eligible for occupation, the Affordable Unit shall have been marketed for sale subject to the above categories 1 and 2 above for a period of at least 12 weeks, evidence of which shall be provided to the Council.

7.5 Close Family Connection

7.5.1 For the avoidance of doubt, the Council defines a Close Family Connection as one of following: spouse, civil partner, parent / guardian, children and siblings. We will also allow family associations through marriage and civil partnership e.g. stepparents, children. Other forms of Close Family Connection may be considered on a case by case basis.

7.6 Household Size

7.6.1 Households who will fully occupy the discounted sale property, or have a defined housing need, will be given priority. If a suitably sized household cannot be found, then households who will under-occupy will become eligible, starting with those who would only under occupy by one room and going beyond that if no applications are received within a specified time frame.



Appendix Two - Price Cap Calculations

8.1 In order to calculate the Price Caps for both First Homes and Discount Market Value dwellings, the following methodology has been utilised. Using data from the Office for National Statistics also allows the Council the opportunity to annually update these figures.

Median annual earning in Rossendale	£28,005
Median annual earning p/ household in Rossendale	$£28,005 \times 1.5 =$ £42,007.50
Mortgage Multiplier	$£42,007.50 \times 4 =$ £168,030
+10%	$£168,030 \times (10/9) =$ £186,700
Total price that could be raised by a median household in Rossendale.	£186,700

Median house price in Rossendale is £170,000, lower than what can be raised by a median household in Rossendale using the above methodology.

The data used in this methodology was taken from the Office for National Statistics “**House price to workplace-based earnings ratio**” dataset published in March 2024.





www.rossendale.gov.uk

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ROSSENDALE
BOROUGH
COUNCIL



AFFORDABLE HOUSING

SPD Consultation 24/09/2024 - 22/10/2024
All Responses Received



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Introduction

Rossendale Borough Council consulted on the Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) between Tuesday 24th September 2024 and Tuesday 22nd October 2024.

The [Rossendale Local Plan 2019 to 2036](#) contains policy HS3 to ensure the delivery of appropriate Affordable Housing within the borough. This policy commits the Council to preparing a SPD to provide further details and guidance on Affordable Housing within the borough, specifically in relation to different affordability tenures. Detail is provided in the new SPD about Eligibility Criteria, Local Connection Tests and Affordable Home Ownership tenure Price Caps.

During the public consultation, 8 comments have been submitted from 7 statutory consultees and 1 resident. 4 consultees had no comments, 1 supported the SPD in particular regarding the uplift methodology, local connection test and price cap methodology.

3 consultees recommended modifications to the document or raised matters for consideration. One comment was received after the consultation period concluded.

All comments received during the consultation period are enclosed in this document.

The Forward Planning Team

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the above SPD for Rossendale Affordable Housing.

National Highways have no specific comments to make on this document at this time, as it does not affect the strategic road network.

Kind Regards

Lindsay

**Lindsay Alder, PGCE,
Pronounced: Lind-say AI-der
Pronouns :She/Her/Hers
Spatial Planner
Network Development & Planning Team
OD EDI Lead
Equality Diversity and Inclusion NW Champion**
Please note new email address. Please update your address book to include this; [REDACTED]

National Highways | [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Web: <https://nationalhighways.co.uk/>

[REDACTED]



For information and guidance on on planning and the Strategic Road Network in England please visit:

<https://nationalhighways.co.uk/our-work/planning-and-the-strategic-road-network-in-england/>

Date: 10 October 2024
Our ref: 489039



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BY EMAIL ONLY

T [REDACTED]

Dear Sir/Madam

Planning consultation: Rossendale Local Plan - Open Space, Playing Pitch and Indoor Sports Facilities Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) & Affordable Housing SPD

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated and received by Natural England 24 September 2024.

Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

Natural England have reviewed the Open Space, Playing Pitch and Indoor Sports Facilities SPD and the Affordable Housing SPD and have the following comments to make:

Open Space, Playing Pitch and Indoor Sports Facilities SPD

Natural England welcome the reference to the Green Infrastructure Framework of Principles and Standards as part of the aim to provide design guidelines for new open spaces.

Q2: Yes, NE would support the provision of amenity greenspace on similar development. As stated, this can contribute to Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) requirements in line with the mitigation and biodiversity hierarchies which incentivise onsite BNG.

Q5: Natural England are in agreement with the proposals specified in Step 4. We particularly welcome reference to urban greenspace provision and incorporation of rain gardens and wetlands.

Q9 and Q10: Yes, Natural England encourage the use of a voluntary Urban Greening Factor for new developments and are willing to provide advice and support where relevant.

Affordable Housing SPD

Natural England has no comments to make on the Affordable Housing SPD.

Should the proposal change, please consult us again.

If you have any queries relating to the advice in this letter please contact [REDACTED] quoting the reference 489039.

Yours sincerely

Nicholas Armstrong
Sustainable Development Higher Officer



The Coal
Authority

[Redacted]

W: www.gov.uk/coalauthority

For the attention of: Forward Planning Team

Rossendale Borough Council

[By email: forwardplanning@rossendalebc.gov.uk]

14th October 2024

Dear Forward Planning Team

Re: Rossendale Borough Council - Open Space, Playing Pitch and Indoor Sports Facilities SPD and Affordable Housing SPD

Thank you for your notification of the 24th September 2024 seeking the views of the Coal Authority on the above.

The Coal Authority is a non-departmental public body sponsored by the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero. As a statutory consultee, the Coal Authority has a duty to respond to planning applications and development plans in order to protect the public and the environment in mining areas.

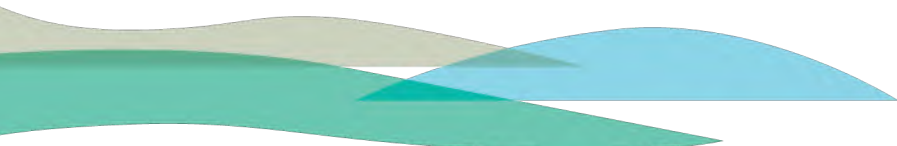
Our records indicate that within the Rossendale area there are recorded coal mining features present at surface and shallow depth including; mine entries, coal workings and reported surface hazards. These features may pose a potential risk to surface stability and public safety.

It is noted that this current consultation relates to SPDs on Affordable Housing and Open Space and Sports Facilities and I can confirm that the Planning team at the Coal Authority have no specific comments to make on these documents.

Yours faithfully

[Redacted Signature]

Melanie Lindsley BA (Hons), DipEH, DipURP, MA, PGCertUD, PGCertSP, MRTPI
Principal Planning & Development Manager





Forward Planning
Rossendale Borough Council
Forward Planning Team
Futures Park
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[REDACTED]
Our ref: PL00797037

16 October 2024

Dear Sir/Madam

Rossendale Council - Affordable Housing SPD

Historic England is the Government's statutory adviser on all matters relating to the historic environment in England. We are a non-departmental public body established under the National Heritage Act 1983 and sponsored by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS). We champion and protect England's historic places, providing expert advice to local planning authorities, developers, owners and communities to help ensure our historic environment is properly understood, enjoyed and cared for.

Thank you for your email notifying Historic England of the intention to prepare an affordable housing SPD. Historic England is the Government's statutory adviser on all matters relating to the historic environment in England. We are a non-departmental public body established under the National Heritage Act 1983 and sponsored by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS). We champion and protect England's historic places, providing expert advice to local planning authorities, developers, owners and communities to help ensure our historic environment is properly understood, enjoyed and cared for.

Yours sincerely,

Emily Hrycan
Historic Environment Planning Adviser (North West)



SUITES 3.3 AND 3.4 CANADA HOUSE 3 CHEPSTOW STREET MANCHESTER M1 5FW

[REDACTED]
HistoricEngland.org.uk

Historic England is subject to both the Freedom of Information Act (2000) and Environmental Information Regulations (2004). Any Information held by the organisation can be requested for release under this legislation.

Affordable Housing SPD Consultation

Response

Please provide your contact details:

First name and Surname

Megan
Eastwood

Address or Postcode

Futures
Park

Email address (if you would like to be added to the Planning Policy database and be informed of the adoption of the document)

-

If you would like to be added to the Planning Policy database and be informed of the adoption of the document please read and confirm you have read the privacy notice:

I confirm that I have read and understood the privacy notice

Please select the statement that best applies to you:

Statutory Consultee

Q1. Do you have any comments to make regarding the proposed uplift calculations for off-site contributions?

These are in line with other areas and encourage developer to deliver on site.

Q2. Do you agree with the DMV Price Cap? If not, please explain why e.g. too low / high, should a different methodology be used?

Yes

Q3. Do you think that anything should be amended / removed / added to the Social / Affordable Rent Eligibility Criteria?

No Response

Q4. Do you think that anything should be amended / removed / added to the Shared Ownership / DMV Eligibility Criteria?

No Response

Q5. Do you think that the Local Connection Test is appropriate for Rossendale? Is there anything that you would change?

Yes

Q6. Is there any other relationship you think should be classed as a "Close Family Connection"?

No Response

Q7. Do you agree with this methodology?

Yes

Q8. If there are any more comments you would like to make you can do so below. Please clearly state which part of the document you are referring to by using the document headings / page numbers / paragraph numbers.

Strategic Housing has been involved and consulted on through the development of this SPD. The methodology has been considered in detail and the approach to calculating off site contributions, which aim to incentivise developers to deliver much needed affordable housing on the site.

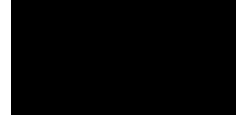
Response 2

Please provide your contact details:

First name and Surname

Olivia Birks

Address or Postcode



Email address (if you would like to be added to the Planning Policy database and be informed of the adoption of the document)

If you would like to be added to the Planning Policy database and be informed of the adoption of the document please read and confirm you have read the privacy notice:

I confirm that I have read and understood the privacy notice

Please select the statement that best applies to you:

Statutory Consultee

Q1. Do you have any comments to make regarding the proposed uplift calculations for off-site contributions?

N/A

Q2. Do you agree with the DMV Price Cap? If not, please explain why e.g. too low / high, should a different methodology be used?

Comment:
N/A

Q3. Do you think that anything should be amended / removed / added to the Social / Affordable Rent Eligibility Criteria?

N/A

Q4. Do you think that anything should be amended / removed / added to the Shared Ownership / DMV Eligibility Criteria?

N/A

Q5. Do you think that the Local Connection Test is appropriate for Rossendale? Is there anything that you would change?

Comment:
N/A

Q6. Is there any other relationship you think should be classed as a "Close Family Connection"?

N/A

Q7. Do you agree with this methodology?

Comment:
N/A

Q8. If there are any more comments you would like to make you can do so below. Please clearly state which part of the document you are referring to by using the document headings / page numbers / paragraph numbers.

5.12 Specialist Housing/Older Persons Housing

5.12.3 The Local Plan allocates three sites specifically for specialist accommodation:

H19 – Former Bacup Health Centre

H48 – Former Waterfoot Primary School

H61 – Land behind Buxton Street, Whitworth

The former Waterfoot Primary School can be considered a NDHA - this should be taken into account if any development of the site is to take place.

6.3 Vacant Building Credit

6.3.2 Where the development proposes an increase in the amount of overall floorspace, the Council will calculate the amount of affordable housing contributions required in line with the existing policy in the Local Plan.

However, a

Vacant Building Credit should then be applied which is equivalent to the gross amount of floorspace brought

brought back into use or created via a new building.

6.3.3 For example:

A proposal is submitted to demolish a small vacant mill building which has a gross floorspace of 1000sqm

and replace it with a new apartment building with a gross floorspace of 2000sqm and 40 apartments contained within.

Rossendale has many mills which are considered to be NDHAs - again, this should be taken into account if any development of a mill site is to take place.

Good day.

Paragraphs 4.2 and 4.3 in the subject document are identical. Is this intentional?

Regards

Ian Francis

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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Sent with GMX Mail app

Rossendale Borough Council
Planning Team
Business Centre
Futures Park
Bacup OL13 OBB
forwardplanning@rossendalebc.gov.uk

NHS Property Services Ltd
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
www.property.nhs.uk

22nd October 2024

BY EMAIL ONLY

RE: Consultation on Rossendale Draft Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the above document. The following representations are submitted by NHS Property Services (NHSPS).

NHS Property Services

NHS Property Services (NHSPS) manages, maintains and improves NHS properties and facilities, working in partnership with NHS organisations to create safe, efficient, sustainable and modern healthcare environments. We partner with local NHS Integrated Care Boards (ICBs) and wider NHS organisations to help them plan and manage their estates to unlock greater value and ensure every patient can get the care they need in the right place and space for them. NHSPS is part of the NHS and is wholly owned by the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) – all surplus funds are reinvested directly into the NHS to tackle the biggest estates challenges including space utilisation, quality, and access with the core objective to enable excellent patient care.

Draft Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document

As part of preparing the delivery of this Supplementary Planning Document (SPD), we suggest the Council consider the need for affordable housing for NHS staff and those employed by other health and care providers in the local authority area. The SPD references national policy in paragraph 2.1.2 which supports affordable housing for '*essential local workers*'. NHSPS suggests that this is reflected within the affordable housing provision of the SPD and wider development plans. The sustainability of the NHS is largely dependent on the recruitment and retention of its workforce. Most NHS staff need to be anchored at a specific workplace or within a specific geography to carry out their role. When staff cannot afford to rent or purchase suitable accommodation within reasonable proximity to their workplace, this has an impact on the ability of the NHS to recruit and retain staff.

Housing affordability and availability can play a significant role in determining people's choices about where they work, and even the career paths they choose to follow. As the population grows in areas of new housing development, additional health services are required, meaning the NHS must grow its workforce to adequately serve population growth. Ensuring that NHS staff have access to suitable housing at an affordable price within reasonable commuting distance of the communities they serve

is an important factor in supporting the delivery of high-quality local healthcare services. We recommend that the Council:

- Engage with local NHS partners such as the local Integrated Care Board (ICB), NHS Trusts and other relevant Integrated Care System (ICS) partners.
- Ensure that the local need for affordable housing for NHS staff is factored into housing needs assessments, and any other relevant evidence base studies that inform the local plan (for example employment or other economic policies).
- Consider site selection and site allocation policies in relation to any identified need for affordable housing for NHS staff, particularly where sites are near large healthcare employers.

Conclusion

NHSPS thank Rossendale Borough Council for the opportunity to comment on the draft Affordable Housing SPD. We trust our comments will be taken into consideration. Should you have any queries or require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

NHSPS would be grateful to be kept informed of the progression of the SPD and any future consultations via our dedicated email address, [REDACTED]

Yours faithfully,

Daniel Fleet
Town Planner

E: [REDACTED]

For and on behalf of NHS Property Services Ltd

Responses received after the consultation concluded

Emailed to: forwardplanning@rossendalebc.gov.uk

22nd October 2024

www.cprelancashire.org.uk

Dear Rossendale Planning Department

Group President

Nick Thompson

Group Chair

AFFORDABLE HOUSING SPD CONSULTATION

1. I am writing a response to the consultation on the Affordable Housing SPD on behalf of the CPRE, The Countryside Charity in Lancashire, Liverpool City Region and Greater Manchester.
2. CPRE focuses on six key tests when planning for rural places, which are relevant to all spatial levels. Below, I set out overarching comments concerning the six tests (promoted by the Better Planning Coalition).

(1) Local Democracy and Community Engagement

The SPD demonstrates some commitment to community engagement by including questions for public feedback and directing people to an online survey. This suggests an effort to gather community input on specific aspects of affordable housing policy. The document also mentions the need to meet "local needs" when considering housing development, particularly for specialised housing in rural areas. This demonstrates an awareness of the importance of local context in shaping affordable housing provision (pp. 1, 2). However, the document falls short of providing a comprehensive plan for community engagement. It doesn't outline specific mechanisms for how this feedback will be integrated into decision-making processes beyond the provided questions. Additionally, it doesn't specify how the council plans to ensure ongoing community involvement beyond the initial consultation phase (p, 3). This could be improved by including more details on how the council plans to facilitate meaningful and ongoing engagement with the community throughout planning and implementation stages.

(2) Affordable Housing and Developer Contributions

The SPD demonstrates a strong commitment to delivering affordable housing and establishing a clear framework for developer contributions. It provides a detailed explanation of the different types of affordable housing recognised by the council, including social rent, affordable rent, shared ownership, and discount market sales housing (pp. 10, 11, 12, 13). The document emphasises the use of Section 106 agreements to secure affordable housing provision, ensuring long-term affordability for residents (pp. 14, 15, 16, 17). It outlines specific requirements for developers, including the target of 30% affordable housing on applicable market housing schemes (p. 18). Additionally, the SPD includes a detailed methodology for calculating contributions when on-site provision is not feasible, adopting an "uplift" to

compensate for the increased number of market-rate units in such cases. This approach ensures that the financial contributions reflect the value of the affordable housing that would have been provided on-site (pp. 19, 20, 21, 22). Overall, the SPD's approach to affordable housing provision and developer contributions strongly aligns with the principles of Test 2, aiming for a transparent, effective, and equitable system for delivering affordable homes.

(3) Climate and Sustainable Development

The SPD primarily focuses on the provision of affordable housing and does not adequately address climate change mitigation or broader sustainability goals. Whilst it briefly mentions encouraging brownfield development through "vacant building credits," this incentive alone does not constitute a comprehensive strategy for sustainable development (pp. 10, 26). The document lacks any mention of energy efficiency standards for affordable homes, strategies to reduce the carbon footprint of housing developments, or the integration of renewable energy sources. It also does not address the importance of promoting green infrastructure within developments. The lack of attention to these critical aspects of sustainable development results in the SPD not meeting this test. To improve, the SPD should be revised to incorporate specific policies and measures that promote environmentally responsible and climate-resilient affordable housing.

(4) Biodiversity and Nature's Recovery

The SPD's narrow focus on housing provision leads to an absence of considerations related to biodiversity. The document lacks any mention of measures to protect or enhance biodiversity within or around housing developments. It doesn't address the importance of incorporating green spaces, protecting existing habitats, or promoting biodiversity net gain. The absence of any provisions for biodiversity conservation results in the SPD not meeting this test. To address this deficiency, the SPD should be revised to include policies that promote nature-friendly development and contribute to the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity.

(5) Beauty and Heritage

The SPD marginally touches upon aspects related to beauty and heritage. It highlights the even distribution of affordable housing units throughout larger developments, aiming to prevent the concentration of affordable homes in one area (p. 36). The document also mentions ensuring that specialist housing developments are well-located with appropriate external amenity space, suggesting a degree of consideration for the surrounding environment (p. 2). However, the SPD lacks a robust discussion of design principles, architectural quality, or the integration of new developments with the existing built environment and character of the area (pp. 2, 36). It does not mention any specific measures to protect or enhance existing heritage assets, or how new developments will be designed to respect and complement local character. The limited attention to design considerations, particularly the lack of reference to heritage protection, results in the SPD not meeting this test and the SPD should address this.

(6) Health Wellbeing, and Access to Natural Green Space

The SPD acknowledges the importance of housing for health and wellbeing and includes some provisions that indirectly support these goals. For instance, it encourages wheelchair-accessible homes within the social rented sector and recognises the need to accommodate

the needs of various demographics, including the elderly and those with disabilities (pp. 2, 15). The document also references the need for accessible amenities in specialised housing developments, further demonstrating consideration for the well-being of residents (p.2). However, the SPD's primary focus remains on meeting housing needs rather than promoting broader health outcomes. It lacks specific provisions for promoting active travel, access to quality green spaces, or addressing potential health impacts associated with development which should be addressed.

3. If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me

Yours sincerely



Edward Taylor MRTPI, BA (Hons), MCD, Master Urban Design
Planning Director, Planning Manager for CPRE Lancashire, Liverpool City Region, Greater Manchester

Equality Impact Assessment

The council carry out Equality Impact Assessments (EIA) to analyse the effects of our decisions, policies or practices.

Throughout this document, policy refers to any policy, strategy, project, procedure, function, decision or delivery or service.

The EIA should be undertaken/started at the beginning of the policy development process before any decisions are made.

Policies are developed and reviewed using a consultative approach involving relevant internal and external stakeholders. Officers must consider what action needs to be taken to help overcome or minimise any disadvantages that people who share a protected characteristic will experience in compliance with the Equality Act 2010.

Name of policy:	Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document
Lead officer name	Jacob Landers
Job title	Senior Planning Officer (Forward Planning)
Service area	Planning
Telephone contact	01706 252412
Email contact	jacoblanders@rossendalebc.gov.uk
Date Assessment commenced	20/11/23
Date assessment completed	17/05/24

The main aims/objectives of this policy are:

The Affordable Housing SPD provides further detail to accompany and support the implementation of Policy HS3 of the adopted Local Plan. This detail should provide greater clarity to developers, Planning Agents, Planning Officers and the public as to what quantity and tenure type of Affordable Housing would be appropriate on a potential residential development site.

The SPD sets out the Council's preferred form of long-term affordable housing provision tenures, price and income caps for certain forms of affordable house ownership, uplift mechanisms and eligibility criteria for the different affordable dwelling tenures.

Indicate the status of the policy or decision

New/proposed Modified/adapted Existing

Indicate protected characteristics have been assessed

Age	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Disability	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Gender reassignment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Religion/belief	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sexual orientation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sex	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Pregnancy/maternity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Race	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Marriage or civil partnership	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

1. State any positive or negative impact on the protected characteristic(s) (added additional rows if needed)

Protected characteristic	Positive/Negative	How does it impact?
Age	Neutral	The benefits of the document would be equal as they apply to the public generally
Disability	Neutral	The benefits of the document would be equal as they apply to the public generally.
Religion/belief	Neutral	The benefits of the document would be equal as they apply to the public generally.
Race	Neutral	The benefits of the document would be equal as they apply to the public generally.
Pregnancy/maternity	Neutral	The benefits of the document would be equal as they apply to the public generally.
Sexual orientation	Neutral	The benefits of the document would be equal as they apply to the public generally.
Gender reassignment	Neutral	The benefits of the document would be equal as they apply to the public generally.
Sex	Neutral	The benefits of the document would be equal as they apply to the public generally.
Marriage or civil partnership	Neutral	The benefits of the document would be equal as they apply to the public generally.

2. Explain and give examples of any evidence/data used (add additional rows if needed)

Evidence	How does this have an impact on the protected characteristic?
Office for National Statistics "House price to workplace-based earnings ratio" dataset (March 2023)	N/A

3. Outcome of EIA

What course of action does this EIA suggest you take?	Please indicate
Outcome 1- The EIA has not identified any potential for negative impact on the protected characteristics. Progress to EIA approval – section 5	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Outcome 2- The EIA has identified a possibility for negative impact on the protected characteristics. An EIA Action Plan must be completed to mitigate the negative impact – section 4 before approval section 5	<input type="checkbox"/>

4. EIA action plan

Based on the above impact assessment, findings/evidence and outcomes identified, please complete the Action Plan below. The action plan should address:

- Any gaps in findings/evidence research including any consultation or engagement regarding the policy and its actual/potential impacts
- How you will address any gaps
- What practical changes/action that will help reduce any negative impacts identified
- What practical changes/action that will help enhance any positive contributions to equality

Negative impact identified	Action required	Lead officer	To be completed

Monitoring and reviewing the effect of the policy

Please state how you will monitor the impact and effect of this policy

The Affordable Housing SPD will be monitored for effectiveness as part of the annual Authority Monitoring Report (AMR), this will cover how many affordable dwellings have been approved / delivered in the monitoring period and what tenure they are.

The need for a review of the policy will be determined as part of the AMR process and also any future Local Plan review.

5. EIA approval (to be completed by the relevant Head of Service/Director)

- Outcome of EIA agreed/approved by Management Team: (date)
- Published on council website: (date)

Signed: (Head of Service/Director) (date)

Subject:	Adoption of the Open Space and Sports Provision Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)	Status:	For Publication
Report to:	Cabinet	Date:	20 November 2024
Report of:	Head of Planning	Lead Member:	Planning
Key Decision:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Forward Plan <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	General Exception <input type="checkbox"/>	Special Urgency <input type="checkbox"/>
Equality Impact Assessment:	Required: Yes	Attached:	Yes
Biodiversity Impact Assessment:	Required: No	Attached:	No
Contact Officer:	Anne Storah / Nat Davies	Telephone:	01706 252418 / 252415
Email:	annestorah@rossendalebc.gov.uk ; nathaeledavies@rossendalebc.gov.uk		

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 To approve the Adoption of the Open Space and Sports Provision SPD (SPD) for Development Control purposes
- 1.2 Minor amendments, including formatting changes, to the SPD and updates to ensure contributions remain in line with inflation to be delegated to the Head of Planning and Lead Member.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 The Council adopted the Open Space and Play Equipment Contributions SPD in September 2008. This includes contributions to playing pitches and is used to calculate developer contributions, with costs updated annually in line with inflation.
- 2.2 Policy HS6 of the adopted Local Plan commits the Council to updating this SPD, in line with the recommendations of the most recent Open Space Study to “establish a mechanism for calculating site specific open space requirements (on and off-site including maintenance) and open space design principles”. Similarly Policy HS7 requires contributions to improve existing playing pitches and provision of an all-weather pitch “where there is an identified local need or Borough wide importance”. Policy LT1 notes the Council’s intention to produce an Indoor Sports Strategy to ensure “any future decision on the provision of all sports facilities are based on robust and up-to-date evidence base”.
- 2.3 The Council commissioned consultants to undertake a number of studies. The Open Space Study was required by the Local Plan Inspectors. The Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Study (approved by 2022) and the Indoor and Built Sports Facilities (published in September 2024) were undertaken alongside the Open Space Study. All these studies inform this SPD.
- 2.4 This SPD proposes a new approach to set out planning requirements for major residential schemes to provide or contribute to the provision of open space and sports facilities in the Borough;
 - For open spaces, a site by site approach is proposed based on local quantity, accessibility and quality information using the [Open Space Study \(2021\)](#), rather than the current Borough-wide approach).
 - New requirements for indoor and built sport facilities are proposed to be introduced;
 - To calculate contributions towards sport facilities the use of Sport England’s calculators is proposed.

- 2.5 The Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting of 9 September agreed consultation to be undertaken on the Draft SPD in line with the Regulations. The consultation started on 24 September, ending on 22 October. In total 7 responses were received, two supporting the SPD and an additional two recommending modifications, plus one response that was received after the consultation closed.
- 2.6 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee raised a number of queries, which are addressed later in this Report. They also noted the contents of the Indoor and Built Sports Facilities Assessment and Strategy, undertaken by KKP, for publication.

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Council adopted the Open Space and Play Equipment Contributions SPD in 2008. This also includes contributions to playing pitches. It is still used to calculate developer contributions, albeit costs have been updated in line with inflation. During the Local Plan Examination, the Planning Inspectors requested additional evidence specifically regarding the Borough's open space, playing pitches and indoor built sport facilities provision.
- 3.2 The Council commissioned Knight Kavanagh and Page (KKP) to undertake these studies. The Open Space Study was prioritised to inform the site allocations and published as part of the Local Plan examination library 8. Sport England noted to the Planning Inspectors that the other two studies were proceeding well and "will be robust documents that inform and help deliver Local Plan policies". Please note these were based on the old ward boundaries and it is not possible to update the Reports at this stage.
- 3.3 A statement of common ground between Sport England and Rossendale Borough Council (EL8.017.1), acknowledges a need to prepare an assessment of indoor built sports facilities but not to delay the progress of the Local Plan. At Sport England's request wording was added to Policy LT1 for the Council to produce an Indoor Sports Strategy to ensure "any future decision on the provision of all sports facilities are based on robust and up-to-date evidence base". As a result the Local Plan Examination continued without finalising these studies.
- 3.4 The Playing Pitch Study was adopted and published on the Council's website in 2022. Publication of the study focussing on indoor built sport facilities was delayed until September 2024 in order to accompany the Draft SPD and explain how deficiencies would be addressed. It is now available on the Council's website. The gaps in provision identified in the study and the importance of maintaining existing facilities justifies the introduction of indoor recreation facilities in the updated SPD.
- 3.5 Policies HS6 and HS7 of the Local Plan commit the Council to update a supplementary planning document to set out the requirements for open space and playing pitch provision in the Borough. Policy SD3 sets out that, where developments will create additional pressure on services or facilities such as sports and recreation facilities, the Council may seek a contribution to address this. It is intended to update the existing Open Space and Play Equipment Contributions SPD (2008) using the findings and recommendations from these studies. As Sport England advises not to use local quantity standards for identifying the requirement for playing pitches and recreation facilities, the SPD proposes to use the Sport England calculators to estimate the additional pressure on these facilities from a proposed development and then to calculate developer contributions to ease this by either maintaining or improving existing facilities or to pool resources to provide new facilities. A Stage E assessment is currently underway covering pitch sports, which will update the calculator.
- 3.6 The SPD proposes to rely on the use of local quantity standards from the Open Space Study as well as on information regarding the quality and accessibility to these open spaces to

calculate local planning requirements. There is an option to set out different standards upon which to base planning requirements (for example the Fields In Trust national guidance), however, a different approach would need to be justified. The SPD also sets out a methodology to seek either new provision on-site (e.g. amenity greenspace) or a financial contribution to maintain and improve existing spaces or to pool resources towards the creation of a new open space (e.g. allotments), depending on the scale of the development.

4 DETAILS

- 4.1 The SPD aims to update the earlier document, adopted in 2008, in order to incorporate the findings of the recent studies undertaken which assessed the provision for open space, playing pitches and indoor and built sport facilities in the Borough.
- 4.2 The SPD proposes a new methodology to calculate **open space requirements** for major residential schemes (10 dwellings or more) where:
- there is an existing quantity shortfall in the local area (based on local quantity standards derived from the Open Space Study),
 - or if the development is located outside of an accessibility catchment,
 - or there are poor quality open spaces within the accessibility catchment.
- 4.3 The local quantity standards for each category of open space (e.g. amenity green space, children play area, allotments, natural & semi natural space) are expressed in surface area per 1,000 inhabitants. To calculate the amount of open space needed for a new development, the quantity standards will be expressed in surface area per the extra population generated by the development (using average 2.3 person per household in Rossendale).
- 4.3 If the type of open space cannot be provided on-site, a planning contribution will be sought, to improve or maintain open space in the catchment/local area or to pool resources to create a new open space. The financial off-site contribution is calculated applying average costs for the creation or improvement of existing open spaces based on various sources described in Appendix 4 of the SPD.
- 4.4 Regarding **playing pitches and indoor sport facilities planning requirements**, in accordance with Sport England's advice, the SPD will not use local quantity standards but instead the contributions will be calculated using the Sport England calculators, which will be populated with the latest information on the number of sports teams in Rossendale.
- 4.5 The SPD introduces the voluntary Urban Greening Factor index developed by Natural England to encourage green covering in urban areas. An Urban Greening Factor of 0.4 is recommended for residential areas and of 0.3 for commercial sites.

Internal Consultation

- 4.6 The Draft SPD was shared with officers from the Planning, Green Spaces and Communities teams. To facilitate the consultation questions were embedded within the document. The comments received in general agreed with this approach to calculate planning requirements and contributions for open space and sports facilities from new major residential schemes.
- 4.7 There were mixed views over the different options regarding the setting of local quantity standards for open spaces using either the Open Space study (Option A), the Fields In Trust Guidance (Option B) or the highest of the two (Option C). As these local quantity standards need to be fully justified, it is considered to use the standards developed by the recent Open Space Study, therefore, only Option A was retained for the wider external consultation.

- 4.8 This SPD was considered by the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee (on 9 September 2024). They sought clarification on a number of matters, explained below:
- The Playing Pitch Calculator helps local authorities estimate the demand that may be generated for the use of playing pitches by a new population. It requires data to be entered from the Borough's local assessment of need (identified through the Playing Pitch needs assessments) to generate results.
 - The Sports Facility Calculator can also help quantify the additional demand for key community sports facilities. It is designed to estimate the demand for sports facilities created by a new community as part of a residential development and the costs to meet new demand. The SFC uses information on who uses facilities and applies this to the population profile of the local area. This ensures that the calculations are sensitive to the needs of the people who live there.
 - Links have been inserted to Sport England publications relating to accessibility and safe and secure use for all, and the Make Space for Girls website. [Active Design | Sport England](#); <https://www.makespaceforgirls.co.uk/what-does-better-look-like>; and [Accessible and inclusive sports facilities - Part A Essential reading](#)
 - The Report refers to 4 pools at two sites with each having 1x 4-lane swimming pool and 1 x learner/teaching pool. This was the position at the time of writing. It is important to ensure that these studies and assessments are kept up-to-date and inform strategies. This will be fed back to the officer group looking at leisure facilities.

External consultation

- 4.9 In line with the Regulations for preparing SPDs, consultation must be undertaken with statutory consultees and other stakeholders. This consultation was undertaken alongside the Affordable Housing SPD and was advertised on the Council's website, social media and to everyone listed on the Local Plan Consultation Database which comprises local residents, developers and landowners and others with an interest in planning policy in Rossendale.
- 4.10 Comments were received from 7 consultees, plus one that arrived after the consultation closed. In the main, the draft was well received with support expressed from Natural England and the Environment Agency, which proposed minor additions, which will be taken on board, such as referencing rain gardens. National Highways, the Coal Authority and Historic England had no comments to make.
- 4.11 United Utilities requested expanding the reference to water management in line with Local Plan Policy ENV9 and provided proposed wording, which will be inserted into the SPD:

“Choosing the location and detailed design of open space, is a critical consideration of any layout. Open spaces have an important role in surface water management which should be considered early in the design process as required by Policy ENV9. We request that the layout of proposals, including the location of open space, is informed by a hydrological assessment of a site which considers (amongst other things) site topography, naturally occurring flow paths, exceedance paths from existing and proposed drainage systems, ephemeral watercourses and any low-lying areas where water naturally accumulates. The resultant layout and location of open space must take account of such circumstances to ensure that water is most appropriately managed and integrated as part of a multi-functional approach to open space and sustainable drainage. Any changes in levels, landscaping or biodiversity mitigation / enhancement will also need to be considered alongside any restrictions associated with existing utility services.”

- 4.12 The comments are listed below together with proposed actions:

Sport England Comment	RBC response
-----------------------	--------------

Sports Facility Demand: The SPD should signpost to the studies not summarise.	Change made
Playing Field Protection: The SPD could set out that its requirements in terms of the demand for sports facilities 'is in addition to' any requirements to meet the Exceptions of the Playing Field Policy and the NPPF	Change made
The document title is misleading, it is not a Playing Pitch Strategy, nor a Built Facilities Strategy	Renamed <i>the Open Space and Sports Provision Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)</i>
Paragraph 3.3 is premature as there is a current Stage E PPOSS assessment/review being undertaken.	Amended
Current BSF (2018) is not an up-to-date assessment of any future population requirements. Any evidence from this document should be signposted instead of summarised.	Undertaken
Appendix 1 and 2 should be removed.	Appendices removed
Design: if new or improved sports facilities are proposed they should be fit for purpose and design according to Sport England guidance notes: http://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/tools-guidance/design-and-cost-guidance/	(This echoes O&S committee comments – see above) Add reference in the Design Principles and Stewardship section.
Q1 - No, Sport England does not support the use of standards approach for the provision of playing pitches and sports facilities	Make it clearer that the standards approach is only applied to open space provision and not to playing pitches and sports facilities provision
Q2 - Sport England would encourage the application of the principles of Active Design in public open space and children's play space	(This echoes O&S committee comments – see above) Refer to the Active Design Tool in the Design Principles and Stewardship
Q3 -No comment if only relating to POS. Separate diagram to be provided for sports facilities	Make it clearer the current diagram only applies to public open space and not to sports facilities. Create a separate diagram for sports facilities.
Q4 - Same as above	See above
Q5 -Encourage application of Active Design guidance	See Q2
Q6 - No question posed (same as Q5)	No action
Q7 - Yes but Sport England would support a rounded up ONS average household size of 2.4	No action
Q8 - Yes. Sport England also provide calculation for tennis and bowls. Would support a rounded up ONS average household size of 2.4	No action
Q9 - Opportunity to introduce reference to Sport England's Active Design Guidance	Refer to the Active Design Tool in the Design Principles and Stewardship
Q10 - As above	Refer to the Active Design Tool in the Design Principles and Stewardship

4.13 One response was received after the consultation closed from the Campaign for the Rural Protection of England (CPRE). No changes are being proposed as a result of this response. It is considered that many of the issues raised are or would be addressed in other planning policies or guidance.

Viability

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4.14 The Local Plan economic viability assessment update (2021) considered the open space and playing pitch contributions based on a cost of £1,800 per dwelling for open space and £750 per dwelling for playing pitches (a total of £2,550). The draft SPD suggests a cost of £1,277 per dwelling where the development falls within a historic ward with a deficiency in the quantity of all categories of open space or where it is located outside of all catchment areas for open spaces or if the open spaces within the catchment are of poor quality. In addition, a contribution for playing pitches will be sought (£803 per dwelling in March 2024 as well as for indoor and built sport facilities (e.g. £504 for swimming pool contributions as of March 2024 and £460 for sports halls provision as of March 2024). As such the maximum amount that could be requested would be £3,044 which is slightly above the costs tested in the viability assessment of £2,550 and the current commuted sum payments being sought of £2,414 per dwelling¹ (based on the 2008 SPD index-linked costs).

4.15 In their report on the Local Plan Examination, the Inspectors note that Policy HS6 was sufficiently flexible as it made clear that “any planning obligations will take account of development viability”. This SPD is thus considered to provide reasonable and viable planning requirements to reduce pressure from new developments on open spaces and sport facilities.

5. RISK

5.1 By not approving the SPD, the Council could miss out on opportunities to justify and seek developer contributions or to prioritise investment for indoor sports facilities in the Borough.

6. FINANCE

6.1 Approving the recommendations in this report does not create any additional financial implications for the Council and will help to secure financial contributions to assist the Council deliver open space and sports provision and maintenance in the Borough.

7 LEGAL

7.1 Legal implications are covered in the body of the report. Statutory consultation was required for a period of at least four weeks prior to adoption of the SPD.

8 POLICY AND EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

8.1 No policy implications.

8.2 An Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken. This shows no adverse impacts.

8.2 A public consultation was undertaken on the draft SPD, with all responses published.

8.3 Any equality implications related to this report will be given consideration in a relevant and proportionate manner.

9 REASON FOR DECISION

9.1 This will enable the Council in the justification of planning contributions from developers to enhance existing provision or create new provision meet the needs of the local community.

9.2 Approval of the Open Space and Sports Provision SPD will enable the Council to request specific planning requirements for open spaces based on the context of the local area for major residential schemes in the Borough. Also, the SPD will allow the Council to seek planning obligations for indoor sport facilities in addition to contributions for playing pitches and other outdoor sports facilities.

¹ Note on Commuted Sum Payments for Open Space and Playing Pitch Planning Contributions (April 2024). Available at: <https://www.rossendale.gov.uk/downloads/file/18021/note-on-updated-commuted-sum-payments-for-open-space-and-playing-pitch-planning-contributions-april-2024->

Background Papers	
Document	Place of Inspection
Open Space and Sports Provision Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)	Attached
Draft Open Space, Playing Pitch and Indoor Sport Facilities Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) (including questions for public consultation)	Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs), Masterplans and other guidance Rossendale Borough Council
Comments received on the draft SPD	Attached
Open Space and Play Equipment Contributions SPD (2008)	Open Space and Play Equipment Contributions Rossendale Borough Council
Open Space Study (2021)	
Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport Strategy – Assessment and Action Plan (March 2022)	
Indoor & Built Sports Facilities - Needs Assessment	Indoor & Built Sports Facilities Rossendale Borough Council
Indoor & Built Sports Facilities - Strategy	
Equality Impact Assessment	Attached

OPEN SPACE AND SPORTS PROVISION

Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)
November 2024



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OPEN SPACE AND SPORTS PROVISION

Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 The provision of good quality and easily accessible open space, children's play facilities, outdoor and indoor sport facilities is paramount to the establishment of sustainable communities. Such spaces and facilities contribute to a good quality of life, enhancing the health and well-being of the local community by providing opportunities to be physically active and socialise. Open spaces in particular, can also enhance the quality of the natural environment, including biodiversity, and are important for a place to adapt to and mitigate further climate change. In addition, open spaces also have an important role in the character of a place, providing a setting to the built environment and in particular heritage assets.
- 1.2 New housing development can generate additional need for open spaces, outdoors and indoor sports facilities in the borough. The planning system has tools to enable those additional needs to be met by requesting additional provision on development site or by securing planning contributions to deliver new provision off-site or to improve the quality of existing spaces or facilities.
- 1.3 This document aims to:
- Introduce the national and local planning policy context for open space and sports provision;
 - Signpost to findings in terms of open space and outdoor and indoor sport facilities supply and demand in the Borough from three evidence base studies: the **Open Space Assessment Report (2021)**, the **Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy Assessment Report (2020)**, followed by the **Strategy and Action Plan(2021)** and the **Indoor & Built Sport Facilities Assessment (2020)** and **Strategy (2020)**;
 - Set out a methodology for the implementation of policies HS6 (open spaces provision), HS7 (playing pitches provision) and SD3 (sports and recreational facilities provision) of the **Rossendale Local Plan 2019 - 2036**, including the calculation of planning contributions;
 - Provide design guidelines for new or improved open spaces and sports provision.



2. Policy and Legal Context

2.1 This section outlines the national and local policy context at the time of writing, including the current framework for seeking planning contributions.

2.2 National Policy

2.2.1 The National Planning Policy Framework (December 2023) (NPPF) states in paragraph 96 that Local Planning Authorities should make policies and decisions that encourage and contribute to healthy lifestyles. This includes the provision of green infrastructure such as open spaces, as well as recreational and sport facilities.

2.2.2 Provision of such infrastructure is important to meet the social and recreational needs of local communities and therefore contribute to the retention and creation of sustainable places and communities, as outlined in paragraph 97. In addition, paragraph 102 expands on the importance of open spaces, not only in terms of the benefit to health and well-being, but also for the positive impacts on nature, and to help adapt to climate change and mitigate future worsening of climate change.

2.2.3 Existing open spaces and sports facilities (including playing pitches) are protected from being built on as set out in paragraph 103 of December 2023 NPPF. In addition, any development affecting playing fields will be assessed against **Sport England's Playing fields policy and guidance**. This is separate from the framework to provide open space and sports provision arising from new developments.

2.3 Local Policies in Rossendale

2.3.1 Our Place, Our Plan

The Council Valley Plan 2021-2025 (Our Place, Our Plan) for Rossendale Borough Council identifies four strategic priority areas:



Thriving Local Economy
Our Future



High Quality Environment
Our Valley



Healthy and Proud Communities
Our People



Effective and Efficient Council
Our Hearts

2.3.2 The Plan sets out that the delivery of a high quality environment includes outcomes such as ensuring clean and attractive green spaces, creating a new Rossendale Forest and improving parks that local people are proud to visit. In addition, achieving healthy and proud communities will be delivered by providing better access to and encouraging the take-up of health and wellbeing activities including improving leisure facilities.

2.3.3 Rossendale Local Plan 2019 - 2036

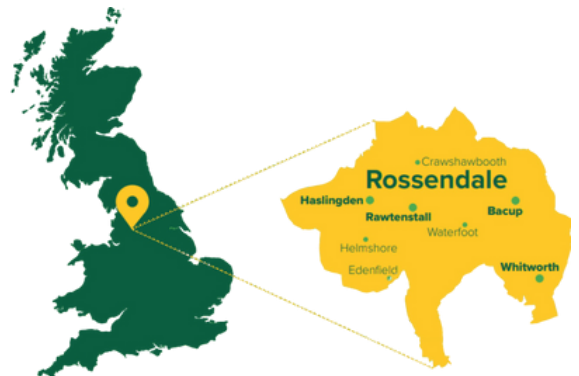
The Rossendale Local Plan 2019 to 2036 adopted in December 2021 designates land and buildings for future uses to meet the Borough's needs and sets out how new development should look like and how it should fit with its surrounding. Policy SD3 in particular, outlines the need for planning obligations/contributions where developments will create additional demand for infrastructure or will exacerbate shortfalls in existing provision. Such contributions may include public open space, sports and recreation facilities and should be sought in accordance with the Community Infrastructure Levy 2010 regulations (as amended) or any updated regulations.

2.3.4 In addition, Policy HS6 and Policy HS7 set out the requirement for new residential developments to ensure an appropriate level of open space and playing pitch provision in the Borough. This apply to housing developments of 10 or more dwellings (0.5 hectare or part thereof) that should provide or contribute to the provision of new open spaces and playing pitches or that should contribute to the improvement of existing ones. In particular, on-site open space provision will be required where there is a local deficiency in the quantity of open space and/or where a proposed residential scheme has not good access to existing open spaces, unless it is demonstrated that it is not appropriate or feasible to do so. In those instances, financial compensation will be sought for either a new open-space off-site or to improve the quality of existing open spaces nearby.

2.3.5 Evidence on the quantity of open spaces, as well as on their quality and accessibility is provided in the **Open Space Study (2021)**. Likewise, the **Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport Assessment Report, Strategy and Action Plan (approved in 2022)** draw findings on the current outdoor sports provision, identify any gaps in meeting current and future demand and set out specific recommendations. Also, the **Indoor & Built Sports Facilities Needs Assessment Report and Strategy** (prepared in 2020) provide key facts on the current provision of such facilities in the Borough. The findings of these studies are signpost in section 3 and have informed the process to require additional provision or contributions to new or existing provision set out in this document.

2.3.6 Our Place, Our Facilities, Our Plan

This **strategy** agreed during the Council's meeting of December 2022 sets out a long term vision to have three enhanced local activity hubs: Marl Pits in Rawtenstall, the Adrenaline Centre at Haslingden and another hub in the east of the Borough. This strategy is currently being reviewed and therefore could change in the near future.



2.3.7 Our Place, Our Wellbeing, Our Plan

Prepared by Rossendale Connected, a partnership of community groups and health partners, this **strategy** identifies “physical activity and healthy weight” as a priority for the Borough.

2.3.8 Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations 2010 (as amended)

Regulation 122(2) of the Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations 2010 (as amended) sets out limitations on the use of planning obligations that can be sought when a planning permission is being granted. These limitations are that planning obligations should be:

- “(a) necessary to make the development acceptable in planning terms”; If the proposed development is likely to create additional demand for open spaces, outdoor or indoor sport facilities or exacerbate existing deficiencies then it is considered reasonable to request planning obligations to compensate for these impacts on the local community.

- “(b) directly related to the development; and”; Planning contributions will be sought if future residents of the new development will not have access to an appropriate amount and quality of open spaces, outdoor and indoor sport facilities as identified in the most recent evidence base studies.
- “(c) fairly and reasonably related in scale and kind to the development”; Planning contributions will be sought for major residential developments and the amount required will be based on the number of dwellings proposed. It will therefore be proportionate to the scale of development.

3. Evidence Base of Open Space and Sports Provision in Rossendale

3.1 In this section, the findings of the latest studies at the time of writing will be drawn upon, including information about the level and quality of existing provision, any deficiencies in meeting current demand and likely shortfalls in meeting future demand based on the housing growth in the Local Plan.

3.2 Open Space Study

3.2.1 The 2021 Open Space Study (OSS) assessed the quantity, quality and accessibility of public open spaces within the Borough. The study categorised open spaces into eight typologies:

Parks and gardens - Urban parks and formal gardens open to the public;

Natural and semi-natural greenspaces - Local Nature Reserve and other sites supporting wildlife or environmental education including expansive sites and reservoirs;

Urban greenspaces - Amenity grassland as well as urban woodland areas;

Provision for children and young people - Local Area of Play (LAP), Locally Equipped Area of Play (LEAP), Neighbourly Equipped Area of Play (NEAP), Multi-Use Games Areas (MUGAs), skate parks;

Allotments - Areas to grow vegetables and fruits;

Cemeteries, churchyards and other burial grounds - Which also provides a place of quiet contemplation and supports biodiversity;

Civic space - Civic and market square and other spaces which provides a setting to buildings and place for public gatherings and community events;

Green corridors - Routes providing walking, cycling or horse riding opportunities which can also provide corridors for wildlife in the urban environment.

3.2.2 Based on these typologies, the study provided an assessment of the existing provision across the Borough, per analysis area and to some extent for each ward. In a first instance, the quantity assessment (i.e. the surface area of public open spaces available per 1,000 inhabitants) enables the identification of the current level of provision across the borough, and feeds into the setting of local standards. Once the local standard are set, this enables the identification of areas where deficiencies or surpluses exist. In a second instance, the quality assessment of the spaces, including their value for the local community, enables the identification of those sites that are in need of further investment. And in a third instance, gaps identification in terms of accessibility to green spaces, using maps showing areas not located within standard accessible distances defined in guidance from the Field in Trust or Natural England, can assist in the planning decision-making process. It is to be noted that a local area might have a sufficient quantity of public open spaces per population, but if all are concentrated in one or few locations then there could still be accessibility gaps where a new residential development is being proposed.

3.2.3 In total, 260 open spaces were assessed covering 580 ha, most of these are categorised as natural or semi-natural greenspace (368 ha). The study also revealed that 51% of the sites achieved a high quality score, with 84% achieving a good value score reflecting their importance for the local community.

3.2.4 The study defines local standards in terms of quantity, quality and accessibility for public open spaces in the Borough (reported in Table 1). This is the baseline against which requirements for open space provision from new residential developments will be assessed. Please note that the requirements for sports provision (playing pitches and indoor sports facilities) will be assessed differently using Sport England’s calculators (see further sections 3.3, 4.3, 3.4, and 4.4).

Table 1 - Rossendale Local Standards for Public Open Space taken from Open Space Study (2020) and comparison with Field in Trust Quantity Standard. *Quality local standards open spaces per dwelling are based on 2.3 people per household in Rossendale (Census 2021 Household Size Data).

Open Spaces	Quantity Local Standards (hectares per 1,000 population)	Quantity Local Standards (square meters per dwelling)	Accessibility Local Standards	Quantity Local Standards	Field in Trust guidance (hectares per 1,000 population)
Parks and Garden	0.44	10	710m (9 min walk)	High	0.8
Natural and Semi-Natural	5.19	120	Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard (please see paragraph 3.2.5)	High	1.8
Urban Greenspace	2.10	48	480m (6 min walk)	High	0.6
Provision for children and young people	0.07	2	LAP - 100m (1 min walk) LEAP - 400m (5 min walk) NEAP - 1,000m (12 1/2 min walk) Other provision (MUGA, Skate Park - 400m 9min walk)	High	0.25
Allotments	0.06	1	N/A	High	National Allotment Society: 20 plots (of 250sqm) or 0.5

3.2.5 The Natural England’s Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard used in the study are defined as follows:

- An accessible natural greenspace of at least two hectares in size, no more than 300 metres (5 min walk) from home;
- At least one accessible 20 hectare site within two kilometres from home;
- One accessible 100 hectare site within five kilometres of home;
- One accessible 500 hectare site within ten kilometres of home

3.2.6 In addition, the provision for children and young people has been assessed in more details looking at:

Local Area of Play (LAP)

Usually a small landscaped area designed for young children;

Locally Equipped Area of Play (LEAP)

Designed for unsupervised play and a wider age range of users, with various equipment types;

Neighbourhood Equipped Area of Play (NEAP)

Caters for all age group and can include MUGA, skate parks, pump track etc.

3.2.7 In 2020, the study identified the provision in open spaces in six analysis areas of the Borough which is reported below.

Bacup and Stacksteads area

Significant shortfall of natural and semi-natural spaces and some accessibility gaps for parks and gardens to the east. The majority of urban greenspaces have a low quality value. The study recommends the area to focus on improving the quality of parks, urban greenspace and play provision with the potential to rationalise some poor quality provision of urban greenspaces in areas of sufficient coverage.

Eden area

Significant shortfall in parks and gardens but a sufficient level of accessibility and quality. It is the only area without any allotments provision. The study recommends to focus on enhancing the quality of natural and urban greenspaces in this area.

Haslingden area

There is a shortfall in urban greenspace and to a lesser extent in parks and gardens. There are no major gaps in accessibility except in the south east for access to parks and gardens. The focus of the area should be on enhancing the quality of urban greenspaces and play provision.

Rawtenstall area

There is a significant shortfall in urban greenspaces. There are also some gaps in terms of accessibility to urban greenspaces and parks and gardens. The area should focus on enhancing the quality of urban greenspaces and play provision. The rationalisation of some poor urban greenspace provision in areas with a good coverage could be explored.

Waterfoot area

There is a shortfall in natural and semi-natural spaces. There is also an accessibility gap to parks and gardens, natural and semi-natural greenspaces and play provision. To some extent urban greenspaces can help fill these gaps but many are of low quality. The focus should be on enhancing the quality of urban greenspaces, exploring opportunities for enhancement so that they can help meet gaps in other types of provision.

Whitworth area

There is a shortfall in natural and semi-natural spaces as well as in parks and gardens. There are also gaps in accessibility for parks and gardens, natural and semi-natural greenspaces and play provision. Opportunities to enhance urban greenspaces so that they can help meet shortfall and accessibility gaps in other types of provision should be explored.

3.2.8 Finally, the open space study makes three recommendations.

- **Recommendation 1** - Sites that help or have the potential to help meet accessibility gaps for other types of provision should be prioritised for enhancement. The study identifies 57 such sites. (See Table 12.5.1 of the Open Space Study)
- **Recommendation 2** - Low quality/value sites that can help meet gaps in accessibility should be prioritised for enhancement. The study identified 33 such sites. (See Table 12.5.2 of the Open Space Study)
- **Recommendation 3** - Recognise low quality and value sites and explore how they can meet other needs.

3.3 Playing pitch and Outdoor Sport Strategy, Assessment and Action Plan

3.3.1 The latest Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport Assessment at the time of writing was prepared in 2020 and approved by the Council in early 2022. The assessment reports shortfalls in football grass pitches for adult in the eastern part of the Borough and for youth in the western part of the Borough. In addition, it identifies shortfalls in the provision of third generation artificial football pitches in the western and eastern areas of the Borough, with provision in the central area at capacity. A shortfall in terms of senior rugby union facilities in the central area of the Borough is also identified. The quantitative headline findings are provided in Table 1.2 of the [Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport Strategy & Action Plan](#) (page 9-10).

3.3.2 The [Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport Action Plan](#) sets out recommended actions for a number of sites. The ones that have been attributed a high priority are summarised in the 'Rossendale High Priority Sport Recommendation' (page 49-50) of the report.

3.3.3 The last stage of the Playing Pitch Strategy and Guidance (Stage E - Deliver the strategy and keep it robust and up to date) is currently being undertaken for football playing fields at the time of writing this SPD.



3.4 Indoor and Built Sport Facilities Assessment and Strategy

3.4.1 The latest Indoor & Built Sports Facilities Needs Assessment Report and Strategy undertaken provide key facts on the level of provision for village and community halls, sports halls, swimming pools, health and fitness suites, ski facilities, gymnastics, indoor bowls and squash in the Borough. The study assessed the supply and demand for these facilities and also undertook an audit of the facilities.

3.4.2 In 2020, it reports that two thirds of the population live further away than 800m from a village hall. Also, there is a lack of provision for sports hall in Bacup and a shortfall of a six-lane 25m swimming pool in the Borough. The study notes the principal challenge for Rossendale "is to ensure that its stock of facilities continues to be fit for the future and viable". It should also continue to cater for its core market of people already undertaking activities but should expend to attract a more diverse and ageing population, including people living in areas of high deprivation. People living in rural areas and the east of the Borough should also be able to access sports facilities.



3.4.3 The study proposes the following vision for Rossendale: “To create and maintain high quality, sustainable leisure and sports facilities which meet community need, increase participation, help tackle health and age issues and provide accessible, inclusive activities for Rossendale residents as part of an active lifestyle”.

4. Determining Open Space and Sports Provision from New Residential Development

4.1 In this section the process to assess whether provision for open space, playing pitches and/or indoor built sport facilities should be required for the proposed development is set out. This could take the form of providing or contributing to new provision (either on the development site or off-site) or contributing to the maintenance/improvement of existing sites/facilities.

4.2 Open Space Study

4.2.1 The approach to determine the requirement for open space from new major residential development comprises 5 steps and is set out below. Please note that the approach to determine outdoor and indoor sports provision requirement is different and is set out in Section 4.3 and 4.4.

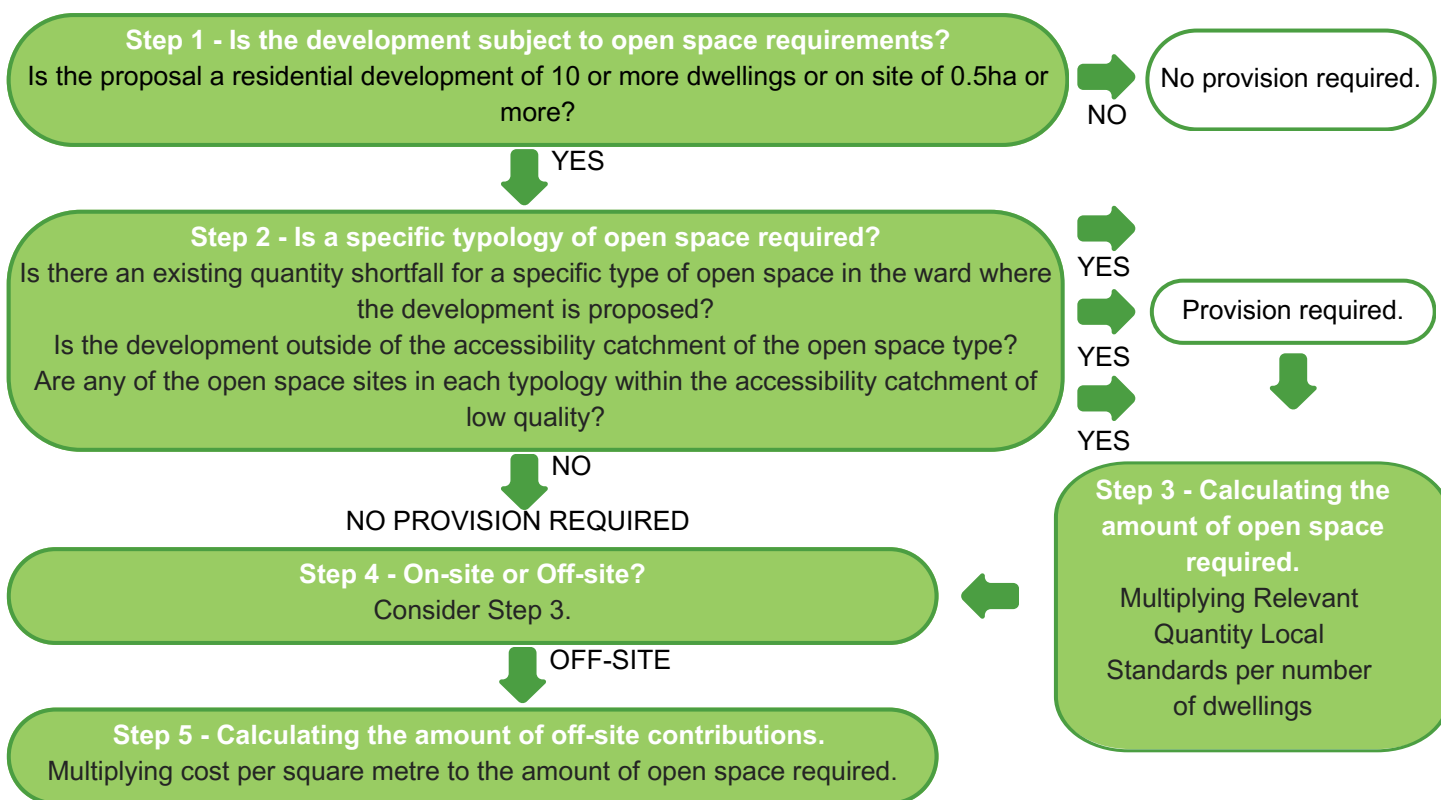


Figure 1 - Flow chart to Assess the Need and Determine the Level of Open Space Provision.

4.2.2 Step 1 - Is the provision required?

The Rossendale Local Plan 2019 to 2036 requires development of 10 dwellings or more (0.50 hectares or part there of) to provide open space provision for new residential development. This is set out in Policy HS6. Private gardens provided as part of new housing developments will not count towards the provision of public open space as these spaces will not be accessible to the public.

4.2.3 However, the Council encourages new residential development of less than 10 dwellings to provide amenity land within the red edge of the development according to the local standard of 48 sqm per dwelling. Such green space may also be able to contribute to the 10% biodiversity net gain requirement if managed as species-rich grassland, wetland or if planted with native tree species (including fruit tree) or shrub species.

4.2.4 Step 2 - What type of open space is required?

The type of open space required will be assessed on a site specific basis based on:

- Existing quantity provision at the ward level; the Open Space Study assessed the current provision in open spaces against local standards for parks and gardens, natural and semi-natural spaces, urban greenspaces, allotments and play provision. The findings are provided in **Appendix 1**. Where there are existing shortfalls in quantity provision or when the future demand from the development will create a shortfall, open spaces provision will be required.
- Any gaps in accessibility according to the standards in Table 1 and; the Open Space Study has mapped the standard accessibility distance or catchment around existing open spaces. Where a development proposal falls within an existing gap, open space provision will be required.
- The quality of existing provision within the accessibility catchment; the Open Space study assessed the quality of each open space against a set of criteria and provided a scoring for the value of the space to the local community. If the proposal is within an accepted distance from an existing open space, contributions to maintain or improve the quality of existing spaces (in particular those of low quality) will be sought.

4.2.5 Step 3 - Calculating the amount of open space required.

The additional pressure on open spaces arising from demand from new development will be calculated according to the local quantity standards.

The amount of open space required for each typology should be calculated based on the local quantity standards (set out in Table 1):

Quantity local standard of the open space typology (square meters per dwelling) x no. of dwellings = amount of open space needed

For example, a development of 40 dwellings can require up to:

10 x 40 = 400 sqm of parks and gardens;

120 x 40 = 4,800 sqm of natural and semi-natural space;

48 x 40 = 1,920 sqm of urban greenspace;

2 x 40 = 80 sqm of provision for children and young people; and

1 x 40 = 40 sqm of allotments

4.2.6 Step 4 - On-site or Off-site?

The Council's requirements for children and young people provision on new residential development is set out in Table 2. These have been inspired from the Fields in Trust recommended quantity benchmark for equipped and designated play space but tailored to the local context based on the Rossendale Local Plan 2019 to 2036 and guidance from its evidence base studies.

Open Space and Sports Provision

Scale of Development	Local Area for Play (LAP)	Locally Equipped Area for Play (LEAP)	Neighbourhood Equipped Area for Play (NEAP), including Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA)
10-200 dwellings	On-site	On-site or Contribution	Contribution
201-500 dwellings	On-site	On-site	Contribution
501+ dwellings	On-site	On-site	Contribution

Table 2 - Rossendale Guidelines inspired from Fields in Trust for Equipped/Designated Play Space Requirements.

4.2.7 In terms of informal outdoor space, urban greenspace/amenity grassland will be required on-site for major residential development (based on the local standard of 48 sqm per dwelling). Urban greenspaces can include Sustainable Urban Drainage System such as rain gardens.

4.2.8 The Council will also seek planning contributions for other types of open spaces that are difficult to deliver on-site such as parks and gardens, natural and semi-natural spaces (e.g. wooded areas, wetlands) and allotments where necessary.

4.2.9 Development schemes for the elderly can be exempted from providing children play areas. However, contribution to other category of open spaces can be requested.

4.2.10 Step 5 - Calculating the amount of off-site contributions

It is considered that on-site provision of certain category of open space such as new parks and gardens or allotments is unlikely to be appropriate for most proposed residential schemes in Rossendale. For example, based on the local quantity standard for allotments, 1 sqm of such space is required per dwelling. This means that the need for a new allotment of 10 plots would arise from a 1,250 dwellings development (based on 125 sqm size allotment plot). As such any requirement for these typologies will be sought via planning contributions in order to maintain and improve the quality of existing provisions or to pool funding to create new provision. Please note that contributions for allotments in Rossendale are based on plots of 125 sqm.

4.2.11 In order to calculate off-site provision, average costs for each open space category have been provided per dwellings in Table 3. These costs are based on various sources including the costs of new children's provision built in Rossendale in the recent years, information from the Council's Capital Programme 2022/23– 2026/27 and Capital Strategy 2023/24, a Woodland Management Item at the Cabinet meeting on 18th October 2023. Further information about costs are set out in [Appendix 2](#).

4.2.12 These costs will be updated annually based on an inflation index.

Open Space Technology	Average cost per sqm	Cost per dwelling
Parks and Garden	£1.65	£16
Natural and Semi-Natural	£1.20	£144
Urban Greenspaces (based on a biodiverse modified grassland management for 30 years.)	£14	£672
Provision for Children and Young People	£214	LEAP: £476 NEAP: £380 Average: £428
Allotments	£16	£16
Total Open Space	£243.45	£1,277

Table 3 - Planning Contributions for Open Spaces

4.3 Playing Pitches

4.3.1 This draft SPD proposes the use of Sport England Playing Pitch Calculator to calculate planning contributions for playing pitches in accordance with Policy HS7 of the Local Plan. The calculator estimates the demand arising from a proposed development and calculates the costs of providing the required amount of pitches to meet the demand. It considers demand for football, rugby, hockey and cricket but excludes demand for tennis court and bowling greens. Using the data from the Playing Pitch Strategy (2020), the calculator estimates capital cost for grass and artificial pitches, lifecycle cost and ancillary facilities costs such as changing rooms. This would be a simpler approach which harvests the findings from the assessment report built onto the calculator and would not need to be reviewed yearly based on inflation due to the calculator being updated by Sport England based on their facility cost guidance.

Once a planning application is received, the demand based on the number of dwellings proposed will be entered into the calculator to estimate the level of contributions.

4.3.2 The new population arising from the proposed development will be estimated based on the number of dwellings proposed multiplied by the average of 2.3 person per dwelling.

4.3.3 For information, in March 2024, the calculator reported an average cost of £803 per dwelling (please see Table 4 for further information). There will be no need to review annually this figure for inflation as the calculator considers facility costs which are updated every quarter by Sport England.

Sport England Playing Pitch Calculator	Number of dwellings proposed	Estimated new population (2.3 per dwelling)	Total costs (grass and artificial pitches, lifecycle costs, changing rooms)	Total cost per dwelling
Example 1	10	23	£8,043	£804.30
Example 2	20	46	£15,993	£799.65
Example 3	30	69	£24,122	£804.07
Example 4	40	92	£32,115	£802.88
Example 5	50	115	£40,158	£803.16
Example 6	100	230	£80,334	£803.34
Average				£803

Table 4 - Example of Sport England Pitch Calculator (March 2024)

4.4 Indoor and Built Sports Facilities

4.4.1 The Sport England Built Sport Facilities Calculator will be used to calculate development contributions to either combined resources for the provision of a new swimming pool, or for the maintenance or improvements of existing facilities in the Borough. In addition, within Bacup and Britannia & Lee Mill wards the Sport England Calculator can also be used to calculate contributions for the improvements/maintenance of existing facilities in those wards or towards a new sports hall facility.

4.4.2 As for the Playing Pitch Calculator above, once a planning application is received, the new demand based on the number of dwellings proposed will be entered onto the calculator to estimate the contributions.

Open Space and Sports Provision

4.4.3 The new population is estimated based on the number of dwellings proposed multiplied by the average of 2.3 person per dwelling. As for the Playing Pitch Calculator, there will be no need to review annually this figure for inflation as the calculator considers facility costs which are updated every quarter by SportEngland.

4.4.4 For information, in March 2024, the calculator reported an average cost of £504 per dwelling for swimming pool contributions across the Borough (please see Table 5).

Sport England Built Sports and Facilities Calculator	Number of dwellings proposed	Estimated new population (2.3 per dwelling)	Swimming pool contributions	Total cost per dwelling
Example 1	10	23	£5,040	£504
Example 2	20	46	£10,080	£504
Example 3	30	69	£15,120	£504
Example 4	40	92	£20,160	£504
Example 5	50	115	£25,199	£504
Example 6	100	230	£50,399	£504
Average				£504

Table 5 - Sport England Built Sport Facilities for Swimming Pool (March 2024)

4.4.5 Within Bacup and Britannia & Lee Mill wards, an additional contribution will be sought to limit the exacerbation of the current shortfall in sports hall provision in this area. In March 2024, the estimated contribution for Sport Halls was an additional £460 per dwelling (Table 6). As such within those wards, the total contributions for indoor and built sport facilities amount to £964.

Sport England Built Sports and Facilities Calculator	Number of dwellings proposed	Estimated new population (2.3 per dwelling)	Sports Halls Cost	Total cost per dwelling
Example 1	10	23	£4,598	£460
Example 2	20	46	£9,195	£460
Example 3	30	69	£13,793	£460
Example 4	40	92	£18,391	£460
Example 5	50	115	£22,988	£460
Example 6	100	230	£45,977	£460
Average				£460

Table 6 - Sport England Sport Facilities Calculator for Sport Halls (March 2024)



5. Design Principles and Stewardship

5.1 Designing Places for Nature

5.1.1 The **National Design Guide** provides useful guidance on well-designed natural environment and public spaces. For example, it sets out that well-designed places for nature:

- Integrate existing, and incorporate new natural features into a multifunctional network that supports quality of place, biodiversity and water management, and addresses climate change mitigation and resilience;
- Prioritise nature so that diverse ecosystems can flourish to ensure a healthy natural environment that supports and enhances biodiversity;
- Provide attractive open spaces in locations that are easy to access, with activities for all to enjoy, such as play, food production, recreation and sport, so as to encourage physical activity and promote health, well-being and social inclusion.

5.1.2 Natural England Green Infrastructure Framework includes a **Green Infrastructure Planning and Design Guide** with guidance on the building block of Green Infrastructure including green spaces and how to design these spaces to derive multiple functions or benefits and on how to apply the Green Infrastructure standards in various area types.

5.1.3 In addition, an Urban Greening Factor has also been developed by Natural England. This is a voluntary tool which aims to enhance the delivery of green infrastructure and improve the amount of greening in towns. The tool sets out a target score for a minimum proportion of greening for a particular site. In general a factor of 0.4 is recommended for residential sites and a factor of 0.3 is advised for commercial sites. The calculation attributes different weights to different types of surface cover.

5.1.4 **The UGF User Manual** provides further information on the description of certain types of surface cover and weight to be assigned to each one. The use of the UGF to demonstrate that a proposed development can achieve a factor of 0.4 (for major residential schemes) or a factor of 0.3 (for major commercial development) is supported by the Council.

$$\frac{\text{Urban Green Factor Score} = \text{Sum of each Service Area type (m}^2\text{)}}{\text{Total Site Area (m}^2\text{)}} \\ \text{Surface Area A * Factor A + Surface Area B * Factor B, etc)}$$

5.1.5 In terms of water management, development proposals will be required to incorporate sustainable drainage systems and consider surface water management early in the design process. Applicants will need to consider what contribution landscaping proposals (hard and soft) can make to reducing surface water discharge. Development proposals will be expected to maximise the use of permeable surfaces / areas of soft landscaping, and the use of Green Infrastructure as potential sources of storage for surface water run-off. The proposed drainage measures should fully integrate with the design of the development and priority should be given to multi-functional sustainable drainage systems SuDS (as opposed to underground tanked storage systems), which contribute to amenity, biodiversity and water quality, as well as overall climate change mitigation

5.1.5 Choosing the location and detailed design of open space, is a critical consideration of any layout. Open spaces have an important role in surface water management which should be considered early in the design process as required by Policy ENV9. We request that the layout of proposals, including the location of open space, is informed by a hydrological assessment of a site which considers (amongst other things) site topography, naturally occurring flow paths, exceedance paths from existing and proposed drainage systems, ephemeral watercourses and any low-lying areas where water naturally accumulates. The resultant layout and location of open space must take account of such circumstances to ensure that water is most appropriately managed and integrated as part of a multi-functional approach to open space and sustainable drainage. Any changes in levels, landscaping or biodiversity mitigation / enhancement will also need to be considered alongside any restrictions associated with existing utility services

5.2 Designing Places for People

5.2.1 The National Design Guide sets out that well-designated public spaces:

- Include well-located public spaces that support a wide variety of activities and encourage social interaction, to promote health, well-being, social and civic inclusion;
- Have a hierarchy of spaces that range from large and strategic to small and local spaces, including parks, squares, greens and pocket parks;
- Have public spaces that feel safe, secure and attractive for all to use; and
- Have trees and other planting within public spaces for people to enjoy, whilst also providing shading, and air quality and climate change mitigation.

5.2.2 Design guidelines available on the **Make Space For Girls** website should also be taken into consideration to design open spaces and parks that are attractive and feel safe for teenage girls.

5.2.3 In order to encourage an active lifestyle, Sport England has published an **Active Design Guidance** for the built and natural environment centred around 10 principles. The Foundational Principle being “Activity for All” around which 9 other principles are grouped in 3 themes: “Supporting Active Travel”, “Active, High-Quality Places & Spaces” and “Creating & Maintaining Activity”. New development should have regards to this guidance to plan for and deliver active environments. In addition, **the Accessible and inclusive sports facilities (AISF)** guide from Sport England should be considered to create or maintain accessible and inclusive sports facilities and to help remove any barriers hindering access to sports.

5.3 Stewardship

5.3.1 New open spaces provided onsite should be maintained throughout their lifetime. The entity who will be maintaining the assets and its revenue sources should be identified at the earliest stage and agreed through a S106 Agreement. The Council will not be able to take on the maintenance of any new open spaces created. Long term maintenance and management plan can be requested where required as part of the planning application or alongside a S106 Agreement.

6. Monitoring

6.1 The monitoring of new open space and playing pitches provision and the financial contributions to existing open spaces and outdoor sports provision will be reported in the Infrastructure Funding Statements and Authority Monitoring Reports.

Appendix 1 – Current open space provision against local standards

Location (Wards within Analysis Area)	Parks and gardens		Natural & Semi-natural		Urban greenspace		Allotments		Play	
	Rossendale Local Standards (Hectares per 1000 population)									
	0.44		5.19		2.1		0.06		0.07	
	Current provision	Surplus or shortfall against local standard (0.44)	Current provision	Surplus or shortfall against local standard (5.19)	Current provision	Surplus or shortfall against local standard (2.1)	Current provision	Surplus or shortfall against local standard (0.06)	Current provision	Surplus or shortfall against local standard (0.07)
Greensclough	1.51	1.07	0	-5.19	2.48	0.38	0.09	0.03	0.24	0.17
Irwell	0.01	-0.43	0.65	-4.54	1.99	-0.11	-	-0.06	0.04	-0.03
Stacksteads	0.19	-0.25	10.76	5.57	2.81	0.71	0.02	-0.04	0.06	-0.01
Bacup and Stacksteads		+		-		+		-		+
Eden	-	-0.44	28.84	23.65	2.06	-0.04	-	-0.06	0.12	0.05
Greenfield	0.77	0.33	-	-5.19	0.79	-1.31	-	-0.06	0.11	0.04
Helmshore	-	-0.44	21.25	16.06	3.22	1.12	0.15	0.09	0.02	-0.05
Worsley	0.13	-0.31	4.71	-0.48	1.21	-0.89	0.1	0.04	0.03	-0.04
Haslingden		-		+		-		+		-
Cribden	-	-0.44	-	-5.19	1.09	-1.01	0.04	-0.02	0.01	-0.06
Goodshaw	-	-0.44	-	-5.19	1.11	-0.99	0.13	0.07	0.12	0.05
Longholme	1.37	0.93	-	-5.19	0.53	-1.57	0.01	-0.05	0.05	-0.02
Rawtenstall		+		-		-		Level		-
Whitewell	0.78	0.34	6.67	1.54	1.64	-0.46	0.24	0.18	0.1	0.03
Hareholme	0.29	-0.15	-	-5.19	5.81	3.71	0.02	-0.04	0.04	-0.03
Waterfoot		+		-		+		+		Level

Appendix 2 - Schedule of Costs

Open Space Typology	Average Costs	Cost	Source
Children's Play Area	£116,042	£214 per sqm	Children's Play Areas improvements delivered in recent years (Green Spaces Team)
Allotments	£60,000 for 30 plots (plots of 125sqm)	£16 per sqm	Central Lancashire Authorities
Urban Greenspace (creation and maintenance of a biodiverse modified grassland for 30 years)		£14 per sqm	Biodiversity Net Gain Study (2024)
Park and Gardens (improvements)	£97,500	£1.65 per sqm	Parks Improvements in Council's Capital Programme
Natural & semi-natural (woodland management for 30 years)	£1,200,000	£1.2 per sqm	Woodland Management Item to 18th October Cabinet 2023

www.rossendale.gov.uk

Rosendale Borough Council,
The Business Centre,
Futures Park, Bacup,
OL13 0BB.



OPEN SPACE AND SPORTS PROVISION

Previously "Open Space, Playing Pitch
and Indoor Sport Facilities"

Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)

Responses Received during the Consultation from 24 September 2024 to 22 October 2024



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INTRODUCTION

Rossendale Borough Council consulted on the Open Space, Playing Pitch and Indoor Sport Facilities Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) between Tuesday 24th September 2024 and Tuesday 22nd October 2024.

This SPD once adopted will replace the existing Open Space and Play Equipment Contributions SPD which was adopted in 2008. The new SPD draws on the findings of studies which have been undertaken to inform the Local Plan such as the Open Space, Playing Pitch & Outdoor Sports and Built & Indoor Sports Facilities studies. It aims to provide a framework to assess requirements for such spaces and facilities arising from new major residential development in the Borough. It also sets out how financial contributions will be calculated and sought for off-site open space, outdoor and indoor sports facilities.

During the public consultation, 7 comments have been submitted from 7 statutory consultees. 3 consultees had no comments, 2 supported the SPD in particular regarding the provision of amenity greenspace to support biodiversity (including rain gardens) and the voluntary use of the Urban Green Factor for new developments and 2 consultees recommended modifications to the document. One comment was received after the consultation period concluded.

All comments received are enclosed in this document.

COMMENTS RECEIVED

From: Lindsay Alder <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 25 September 2024 09:12
To: Forward Planning
Subject: FW: Rossendale Open Space, Playing Pitch and Indoor Sports Facilities SPD - ID: NH/24/08068 - Reply by 22.10.2024

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

The Forward Planning Team

Thank you for consulting National Highways on the above consultation.

As this does not directly affect the Strategic Road Network, National Highways has no specific comments to make at this time.

Kind Regards

Lindsay

Lindsay Alder, PGCE,
Pronounced: Lind-say AI-der
Pronouns :She/Her/Hers
Spatial Planner
Network Development & Planning Team
OD EDI Lead
Equality Diversity and Inclusion NW Champion

Please note new email address. Please update your address book to include this;

National Highways | Piccadilly Gate | Store Street | Manchester | M1 2WD

Tel: [REDACTED] | **Mobile:** [REDACTED]

Web: <https://nationalhighways.co.uk/>

GTN: 0300 470 5117



For information and guidance on on planning and the Strategic Road Network in England please visit:

<https://nationalhighways.co.uk/our-work/planning-and-the-strategic-road-network-in-england/>

Date: 10 October 2024
Our ref: 489039



Forward Planning Team
Rossendale Borough Council
Business Centre
Futures Park
OL13 0BB

Hornbeam House
Crewe Business Park
Electra Way
Crewe
Cheshire
CW1 6GJ

BY EMAIL ONLY

T [REDACTED]

Dear Sir/Madam

Planning consultation: Rossendale Local Plan - Open Space, Playing Pitch and Indoor Sports Facilities Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) & Affordable Housing SPD

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated and received by Natural England 24 September 2024.

Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

Natural England have reviewed the Open Space, Playing Pitch and Indoor Sports Facilities SPD and the Affordable Housing SPD and have the following comments to make:

Open Space, Playing Pitch and Indoor Sports Facilities SPD

Natural England welcome the reference to the Green Infrastructure Framework of Principles and Standards as part of the aim to provide design guidelines for new open spaces.

Q2: Yes, NE would support the provision of amenity greenspace on similar development. As stated, this can contribute to Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) requirements in line with the mitigation and biodiversity hierarchies which incentivise onsite BNG.

Q5: Natural England are in agreement with the proposals specified in Step 4. We particularly welcome reference to urban greenspace provision and incorporation of rain gardens and wetlands.

Q9 and Q10: Yes, Natural England encourage the use of a voluntary Urban Greening Factor for new developments and are willing to provide advice and support where relevant.

Affordable Housing SPD

Natural England has no comments to make on the Affordable Housing SPD.

Should the proposal change, please consult us again.

If you have any queries relating to the advice in this letter please contact [mailto:\[REDACTED\]](mailto:[REDACTED]) quoting the reference 489039.

Yours sincerely

Nicholas Armstrong
Sustainable Development Higher Officer



200 Lichfield Lane
Mansfield
Nottinghamshire
NG18 4RG

T: [REDACTED] (Planning Enquiries)

E: [REDACTED]

W: www.gov.uk/coalauthority

For the attention of: Forward Planning Team

Rossendale Borough Council

[By email: forwardplanning@rossendalebc.gov.uk]

14th October 2024

Dear Forward Planning Team

Re: Rossendale Borough Council - Open Space, Playing Pitch and Indoor Sports Facilities SPD and Affordable Housing SPD

Thank you for your notification of the 24th September 2024 seeking the views of the Coal Authority on the above.

The Coal Authority is a non-departmental public body sponsored by the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero. As a statutory consultee, the Coal Authority has a duty to respond to planning applications and development plans in order to protect the public and the environment in mining areas.

Our records indicate that within the Rossendale area there are recorded coal mining features present at surface and shallow depth including; mine entries, coal workings and reported surface hazards. These features may pose a potential risk to surface stability and public safety.

It is noted that this current consultation relates to SPDs on Affordable Housing and Open Space and Sports Facilities and I can confirm that the Planning team at the Coal Authority have no specific comments to make on these documents.

Yours faithfully

Melanie Lindsley

Melanie Lindsley BA (Hons), DipEH, DipURP, MA, PGCertUD, PGCertSP, MRTPI
Principal Planning & Development Manager





Forward Planning
Rossendale Borough Council
Forward Planning Team
Futures Park
OL13 0BB

Direct Dial: [REDACTED]

Our ref: PL00797038

16 October 2024

Dear Sir/Madam

Rossendale Council - Open Space, Playing Pitch and Indoor Sports Facilities SPD

Historic England is the Government's statutory adviser on all matters relating to the historic environment in England. We are a non-departmental public body established under the National Heritage Act 1983 and sponsored by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS). We champion and protect England's historic places, providing expert advice to local planning authorities, developers, owners and communities to help ensure our historic environment is properly understood, enjoyed and cared for.

Thank you for your email notifying Historic England of the intention to prepare an Open Space, Playing Pitch and Indoor Sports Facilities SPD. Historic England is the Government's statutory adviser on all matters relating to the historic environment in England. We are a non-departmental public body established under the National Heritage Act 1983 and sponsored by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS). We champion and protect England's historic places, providing expert advice to local planning authorities, developers, owners and communities to help ensure our historic environment is properly understood, enjoyed and cared for.

Yours sincerely,

Emily Hrycan
Historic Environment Planning Adviser (North West)



SUITES 3.3 AND 3.4 CANADA HOUSE 3 CHEPSTOW STREET MANCHESTER M1 5FW

Telephone 0161 242 1416
HistoricEngland.org.uk



Historic England



SUITES 3.3 AND 3.4 CANADA HOUSE 3 CHEPSTOW STREET MANCHESTER M1 5FW

Telephone 0161 242 1416
HistoricEngland.org.uk

Historic England is subject to both the Freedom of Information Act (2000) and Environmental Information Regulations (2004). Any Information held by the organisation can be requested for release under this legislation.

Open Space, Playing Pitch and Indoor Sports Facilities Supplementary Planning Document Consultation

Please provide your contact information:

Firstname and Surname

Dana Binns

Address or Postcode

Lutra House, Dodd Way Off Seedlee Road,
Walton Summit Centre, Bamber Bridge,
Preston PR5 8BX

Email address (if you would like to be added to the Planning Policy database and be informed of the adoption of the document)

██████████@environment-agency.gov.uk

If you would like to be added to the Planning Policy database and be informed of the adoption of the document please read and confirm you have read the privacy notice:

I confirm that I have read and understood the privacy notice

Please select the statement that best applies to you:

Statutory Consultee / Sport Governing Body

Q1. Do you agree on the use of local standards from the Open Space Study to set out requirements for open space provision?

Comment:
No comment

Q2. Policy HS6 only requires open space provision for site of 10 or more new dwellings (0.5 hectares of part thereof). Do you think it is suitable to encourage developers to provide amenity greenspace on smaller development? This could also contribute to the biodiversity net gain requirement if that green space is managed to enhance biodiversity.

Yes

Comment:
Any development that represents an opportunity that would contribute to the provision of biodiversity net gain, would be of benefit for the environment.

Q3. Do you have any comments on Step 2 of the approach to determine open space requirement?

No (please explain why below)

Q4. Do you have any comments on Step 3 of the approach to determine open space requirements? Some authorities have different requirements based on the number of bedrooms per new dwellings, do you think there is a need for this approach in Rossendale?

No (please expand below)

Q5. Do you agree with Table 2 (guidelines for on-site versus off-site provision)?

Comment:
No comment

Q6. Do you agree with Step 4 of the approach to determine open space requirements?

Comment:
No comment

Q7. Do you agree with the use of Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator to estimate contributions for playing pitches?

If no, please explain why:
No comment

Q8. Do you agree with the use of Sport England's Sport Facility Calculator to estimate contributions for sport halls and swimming pools?

Comment:
No comment

Q9. Do you support the voluntary use of the Urban Greening Factor for new developments?

Yes

Q10. Do you have any comments regarding the stewardship for the maintenance of new public open space?

No (Please expand below)

Comment:
No comment

Q11. Do you agree with Appendix 4 (draft schedule of costs)?

Comment:
No comment

Q12. If there are any more comments you would like to make you can do so below. Please clearly state which part of the document you are referring to by using the document headings / page numbers / paragraph numbers.

No Response

Thank you for consulting Sport England on the Rossendale Open Space, Playing Pitch and Indoor Sport Facilities SPD, our comments are set out below:-

OVERVIEW:

Government planning policy, within the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), identifies how the planning system can play an important role in facilitating social interaction and creating healthy, inclusive communities. Encouraging communities to become more physically active through walking, cycling, informal recreation and formal sport plays an important part in this process. Providing enough sports facilities of the right quality and type in the right places is vital to achieving this aim. This means that positive planning for sport, protection from the unnecessary loss of sports facilities, along with an integrated approach to providing new housing and employment land with community facilities is important.

Sport England provides guidance on developing planning policy for sport and further information can be found via the link below. Vital to the development and implementation of planning policy is the evidence base on which it is founded.

https://www.sportengland.org/how-we-can-help/facilities-and-planning/planning-for-sport#planning_applications

The following offers advice in general terms in addition to direct response to the questions set out in the document.

GENERAL COMMENT:

Sports Facility Demand:

Any new housing developments will generate additional demand for sport. If existing sports facilities do not have the capacity to absorb the additional demand, then planning policies should look to ensure that new sports facilities, or improvements to existing sports facilities, are secured and delivered. Proposed actions to meet the demand should accord with any approved local plan or neighbourhood plan policy for social infrastructure, along with priorities resulting from any assessment of need, or set out in any playing pitch or other indoor and/or outdoor sports facility strategy that the local authority has in place. Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculators and sports facility planning tools are available to assist with this process and access can be provided on request. Sport England supports the general aim of the SPD in requiring appropriate levels of contributions from new development to provide for sports facilities.

- The first aim of the document should be to act as a 'signpost' to the Council's evidence base for sports facilities rather than attempt to summarise as this is likely to produce conflicting data.

Playing Field Protection:

The SPD does not refer to the loss of any existing provision, however it is essential that the SPD reflects and complies with national planning policy for sport as set out in the NPPF with particular reference to Pars 102 and 103. It is also important to be aware of Sport England's statutory consultee role in protecting playing fields and the presumption against the loss of playing field land. Sport England's playing fields policy is set out in our Playing Fields Policy and Guidance document.

https://www.sportengland.org/how-we-can-help/facilities-and-planning/planning-for-sport#playing_fields_policy

- The SPD could set out that its requirements in terms of the demand for sports facilities 'is in addition to' any requirement to meet the Exceptions of the Playing Field Policy and the NPPF.

Evidence Base:

Sport England works with local authorities to ensure their Local Plan is underpinned by robust and up to date evidence. In line with Paras 96 and 102 of the NPPF, this takes the form of assessments of need and strategies for indoor and outdoor sports facilities. It is noted that the document refers to this.

However it is considered that the document title is somewhat misleading – this is not a Playing Pitch Strategy, nor a Built Facilities Strategy.

- Sport England suggests that its status as a ‘signpost’ document to the Council’s evidence base should be defined better at 1.3.
- 3.3 is premature as there is a current Stage E PPOSS assessment/review being undertaken.
- 3.4 Sport England that the current BSF (2018) is not up to date as an assessment of any future population requirements. Again, as with the PPOSS, the BFS exists as a stand-alone evidence base document and the summary in this SPD, as it is out of date, would not stand up as evidence with the same weight as the BSF. It is suggested that this is omitted and ‘sign posted’ only.
- Appendix 1 – the PPOSS is a stand-alone piece of evidence base which conclusions are drawn from a specific methodology and assessment. The replication of the Action Plan ‘highlights’ is misplaced in this document. It is suggested that this is omitted and ‘sign posted’ only.
- Appendix 2 - Sport England is currently undertaking a Stage E engagement with RBC which has only just begun therefore the column showing a ‘2024 RBC Update’ is premature at best. It is advisable that Appendix 2 is removed from this SPD.

Design:

If new or improved sports facilities are proposed Sport England recommend you ensure they are fit for purpose and designed in accordance with our design guidance notes.

<http://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/tools-guidance/design-and-cost-guidance/>

Active Design:

In line with the Government’s NPPF (including Section 8) and its Planning Practice Guidance (Health and wellbeing section), links below, consideration should also be given to how any new development, especially for new housing, will provide opportunities for people to lead healthy lifestyles and create healthy communities. Sport England’s Active Design guidance can be used to help with this when developing existing and proposed open space and sports facilities.

Active Design, which includes a model planning policy, provides ten principles to help ensure the design and layout of development encourages and promotes participation in sport and physical activity. The guidance, and its accompanying checklist, can be used in the document to inform the design and layout of any provision with the aim of enabling people to lead active lifestyles.

<https://www.sportengland.org/guidance-and-support/facilities-and-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/active-design#activedesignguidancedraftconsultation-19692>

- Sport England suggest that an additional aim of the document should be to encourage active lifestyles and Active Design is a tool by which that can be achieved in new and existing open spaces and sports facilities.

QUESTION RESPONSES:

Q1 – No – Sport England does not support the use of a standards approach for the provision of playing pitches and sports facilities.

Q2 – Sport England does not comment on POS and children’s play space but would encourage the application of the principles of Active Design in any provision. HS6 does not refer to the provision of sports facilities.

Q3 – No comment, if only relating to POS. 4.2.1 Step 2/3 is unclear as to how sports facilities fit into this as it is using the generic ‘open space’ terminology and refers to a standards/ward based approach. This step diagram should specifically reference both playing pitches and sports facilities as separate from open space. Alternatively a separate diagram for sports facilities should be created.

Q4 - No comment, if only relating to POS. 4.2.1 Step 2/3 is unclear as to how sports facilities fit into this as it is using the generic ‘open space’ terminology and refers to a standards/ward based approach.

This step diagram should specifically reference both playing pitches and sports facilities as separate from open space. Alternatively a separate diagram for sports facilities should be created.

Q5 - Sport England does not comment on POS and children's play space but would encourage the application of the principles of Active Design in any provision. HS6 does not refer to the provision of sports facilities.

Q6 – *No question posed. 2 posed for Q5.*

Q7 – **Yes** – It should be noted that demand based on Sport England's calculators may require the need for 'new' sports pitches or facilities. HS7 refers only to existing playing pitches and new all-weather pitches. Sport England supports the use of the methodology in general terms as outlined at 4.3.2 but would use a rounded up ONS average household size of 2.4.

Q8 - **Yes** - Sport England will also provide a calculation for tennis and bowls (4.3.1). Sport England supports the use of the methodology in general terms as outlined at 4.4.3 but would use a rounded up ONS average household size of 2.4.

Q9 – Although Sport England does not comment on Urban Green Factor Scores such as that proposed, this is an ideal opportunity to introduce our reference to our Active Design Guidance. Active Design would be a welcome addition to this document to provide some added context and ambition in encouraging active lives and in particular to inform the SPD's aim to 'Provide design guidelines for new open spaces provision..'.
Q10 – As above.

HELPFUL LINKS:

NPPF Section 8: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-planning-policy-framework/8-promoting-healthy-communities>

PPG Health and wellbeing section: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/health-and-wellbeing>

Get Active: a strategy for the future of sport and physical activity

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/get-active-a-strategy-for-the-future-of-sport-and-physical-activity/get-active-a-strategy-for-the-future-of-sport-and-physical-activity>

Sport England's Active Design Guidance: <https://www.sportengland.org/activedesign>

(Please note: this response relates to Sport England's planning function only. It is not associated with our funding role or any grant application/award that may relate to the site.)

I hope the above is of assistance, I would be happy to discuss any matters arising from these comments if it is helpful. If you need any further advice, please do not hesitate to contact Sport England via planning.north@sportengland.org

Kind Regards

Pauline Shearer MSc BA Hons MRTPI

Planning Manager

From: Leyssens, Andrew
Sent: 22 October 2024 17:00
To: Anne Storah
Subject: Open Spaces SPD Consultation

Hi Anne

I hope you are well.

I have reviewed the two Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) that are currently out to consultation. I have one very minor observation on the draft Open Space, Playing Pitch and Indoor Sport Facilities SPD.

I note Section 5 of the Open Space SPD, which includes Design Principles and Stewardship. Within this section we note the references to water management in paragraph 5.1.1, which states:

'Integrate existing, and incorporate new natural features into a multifunctional network that supports quality of place, biodiversity and water management, and addresses climate change mitigation and resilience;'

UWU would like to suggest that the reference to water management is expanded and strengthened to cross reference Policy ENV9 of the adopted local plan. This includes the following paragraph:

'Development proposals will be required to incorporate sustainable drainage systems and consider surface water management early in the design process. Applicants will need to consider what contribution landscaping proposals (hard and soft) can make to reducing surface water discharge. Development proposals will be expected to maximise the use of permeable surfaces / areas of soft landscaping, and the use of Green Infrastructure as potential sources of storage for surface water run-off. The proposed drainage measures should fully integrate with the design of the development and priority should be given to multi-functional sustainable drainage systems SuDS (as opposed to underground tanked storage systems), which contribute to amenity, biodiversity and water quality, as well as overall climate change mitigation.'

We suggest the following additional paragraph to strengthen the reference to water management in the SPD:

'Choosing the location and detailed design of open space, is a critical consideration of any layout. Open spaces have an important role in surface water management which should be considered early in the design process as required by Policy ENV9. We request that the layout of proposals, including the location of open space, is informed by a hydrological assessment of a site which considers (amongst other things) site topography, naturally occurring flow paths, exceedance paths from existing and proposed drainage systems, ephemeral watercourses and any low-lying areas where water naturally accumulates. The resultant layout and location of open space must take account of such circumstances to ensure that water is most appropriately managed and integrated as part of a multi-functional approach to open space and sustainable drainage. Any changes in levels, landscaping or biodiversity mitigation / enhancement will also need to be considered alongside any restrictions associated with existing utility services.'

Do let me know if you wish to discuss further.

Kind regards – Andrew



Andrew Leyssens MRTPI
Planning Manager
Planning, Landscape and Ecology
Asset Management
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22nd October 2024

Dear Rossendale Planning Department

Group President
Nick Thompson
Group Chair
Debbie McConnell

OPEN SPACE, PLAYING PITCH AND INDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES SPD CONSULTATION

1. I am writing a response to the consultation on the Affordable Housing SPD on behalf of the CPRE, The Countryside Charity in Lancashire, Liverpool City Region and Greater Manchester.
2. CPRE focuses on six key tests when planning for rural places, which are relevant to all spatial levels. Below, I set out overarching comments concerning the six tests (promoted by the Better Planning Coalition).

1. Local Democracy and Community Engagement

While the document emphasises community well-being as a driving force behind open space planning (pp. 1,2), it doesn't explicitly detail community engagement processes beyond referencing existing local plans and strategies (pp. 3,6). There is mention of public access to spaces (p.7) and considering community value in quality assessments (pp. 8,9), but specific routes for community input throughout the planning process are not outlined. While the SPD reflects initial consultation, it lacks a clear framework for continuous community engagement, monitoring, and accountability post-approval which falls short of the standard of ongoing democratic participation which we expect in modern planning practices.

2. Affordable Housing and Developer Contributions

The document extensively addresses developer contributions for open space provision. It outlines a clear methodology for calculating contributions based on dwelling numbers and open space types (pp. 4, 10, 11, 12). It also proposes using Sport England calculators for playing pitches and indoor facilities, ensuring contributions reflect actual costs (pp. 13, 14, 15). This aligns with Test 2's focus on a transparent and effective system for developer contributions.

3. Climate and Sustainable Development

The document acknowledges the role of open spaces in climate change mitigation and adaptation (pp.1, 16). It encourages the use of the Urban Greening Factor (UGF) to promote green infrastructure in developments (pp. 17, 18), supporting a move towards sustainable design. However, it lacks specific details on how it will ensure developments meet broader sustainability goals beyond green space provision. While the SPD promotes sustainable development through green infrastructure, it does not address carbon reduction or climate adaptation with the rigor we would expect. Stronger commitments, such as zero-carbon standards, are needed to align with national climate goals.

4. Biodiversity and Nature's Recovery

The SPD robustly addresses biodiversity and nature recovery, aligning well with the expectations of the Six Tests by ensuring that developments contribute to both protecting and enhancing natural ecosystems. The document strongly emphasises the importance of open spaces for biodiversity and nature recovery (p.1). It encourages amenity land even in smaller developments to contribute to biodiversity net gain (p.19). It promotes natural and semi-natural green spaces (pp. 20, 21) and suggests enhancing existing low-quality sites for biodiversity (p.22).

5. Beauty and Heritage

While the document references the National Design Guide and promotes design principles for attractive and functional open spaces (pp. 23, 24), it doesn't directly address heritage conservation. The focus is primarily on the design of new spaces rather than protecting existing heritage assets. Although the SPD promotes good design, it lacks a detailed focus on heritage preservation and aesthetic quality.

6. Health Wellbeing, and Access to Natural Green Space

The SPD clearly aligns with the sixth test by prioritising health, wellbeing, and access to natural green spaces, making this a key strength of the SPD. The document consistently highlights the importance of open spaces for community health, well-being, and social interaction (pp. 1, 25). It sets accessibility standards for different open space types, ensuring equitable access for residents (pp. 8, 9, 26).

3. If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me

Yours sincerely

Edward Taylor MRTPI, BA (Hons), MCD, Master Urban Design
Planning Director, Planning Manager for CPRE Lancashire, Liverpool City Region, Greater Manchester

INITIAL EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Name of Policy, Decision, Strategy, Service or Function, Other: (please indicate)	Draft Open Space, Playing Pitch and Indoor Sport Facilities Supplementary Planning Document	
Lead Officer Name(s) & Job Title(s) :	Anne Storaah – Principal Planning Officer Nat Davies – Senior Planning Officer	
Department/Service Area:	Planning	
Telephone & E-mail Contact:	01706 252418 and 01706 252415	
Date Assessment:	Commenced: 22/01/2024	Completed: 21/05/2024

We carry out Equality Impact Assessments (EIAs) to analyse the effects of our decisions, policies or practices. The EIA should be undertaken/started at the beginning of the policy development process – before any decisions are made.

1. Overview

The main aims/objectives of this policy¹ are:
Setting out planning requirements for the provision of open space, playing pitches and indoor & built sport facilities to meet the demand generated from new major residential schemes or alleviate pressure on existing facilities. There is an existing Open Space & Playing Equipment supplementary planning document (SPD) adopted in 2008. A new approach is proposed to calculate the nature and amount of provision required using findings from the Open Space, Playing Pitch and Indoor & Built Sport Facility studies.

(Refer to **EIA Guidance** for details)

Is the policy or decision under review (please tick)

New/proposed

Modified/adapted

Existing

INTERNAL ONLY

MANAGEMENT ACTION REQUIRED (to be completed by the relevant Head of Service following review by Management Team / Programme Board)

- Outcome of EIA agreed/approved by Management Team / Programme Board:
Yes No
- Is a full EIA required Yes No
- Referred back to Assessor for amendment : (date)
- Published/made publicly available on: (date)

Signed:..... (Head of Service / Director) Date:

Date of Review²:

[To be completed by Lead Officer]

¹ Policy refers to any policy, strategy, project, procedure, function, decision or delivery of service.

² This date will be set on an annual basis as default for review unless otherwise specified by you.

Responsible Section/Team		Version	
Responsible Author		Due for review	
Date last amended		Page 1 of 3	

2. Equality Impact

Using the table below please indicate whether the policy/strategy/decision has a positive, negative or no impact **from an equalities perspective** on any of the protected equality groups listed below. **Please also give consideration to wider equality of opportunity and community cohesion impacts within and between the groups identified. If you have identified any negative impact and mitigating actions are not sufficient, you will need to complete a Full Equality Impact Assessment.**

Equality		Positive Impact (It could benefit)	Negative Impact (It could disadvantage)	Reason and any mitigating actions already in place (to reduce any adverse /negative impacts <u>or</u> reasons why it will be of positive benefit or contribution)	No Impact
Age	Older people	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The policy aims to improve the provision of open space and sports activities within the Borough which could benefit older people.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Younger people and children	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The policy aims to improve the provision of open space and sports activities within the Borough which can benefit younger people and children.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Disability	Physical/learning/mental health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The policy aims to improve the provision of open space and sports activities within the Borough.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gender Reassignment	Transsexual people	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The policy is not considered to have any impact on transsexual people.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Pregnancy and Maternity		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The policy aims to improve the provision of open space which could benefit the physical and mental health of pregnant women.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Race (Ethnicity or Nationality)	Asian or Asian British people	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The policy is not considered to affect this protected characteristic.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Black or black British people	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The policy is not considered to affect this protected characteristic.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Irish people	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The policy is not considered to affect this protected characteristic.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	White British	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The policy is not considered to affect this protected characteristic.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Chinese people	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The policy is not considered to affect this protected characteristic.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Gypsies & Travellers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The policy is not considered to affect this protected characteristic.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Other minority communities not listed above (please state)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The policy is not considered to affect this protected characteristic.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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Equality		Positive Impact (It could benefit)	Negative Impact (It could disadvantage)	Reason and any mitigating actions already in place (to reduce any adverse /negative impacts or reasons why it will be of positive benefit or contribution)	No Impact
Belief or Religion		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The policy is not considered to affect this protected characteristic.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Sex	Women	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The policy is not considered to have any impacts on women in particular.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Men	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The policy is not considered to have any impacts on women in particular.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Sexual Orientation	Gay men, gay women / lesbians and bisexual people	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The policy is not considered to have any impacts on people of a particular sexual orientation.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Marriage and Civil Partnership (employment only)		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The policy is not considered to have any impacts on this protected characteristic.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Contribution to equality of opportunity		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The policy aims to meet the demand for open space and sport facilities across the Borough.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Contribution to fostering good relations between different groups (people getting on well together – valuing one another, respect and understanding)		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The policy aims to provide good quality open spaces and sports facilities where people from different groups can meet and interact.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Human Rights http://intranet/site/scripts/documents_info.php?categoryID=86&documentID=251		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The policy is not considered to have any impacts on human rights.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Responsible Section/Team		Version	
Responsible Author		Due for review	
Date last amended		Page 3 of 3	

Subject:	Authority Monitoring Report for 2023 to 2024, showing implementation of the Local Plan policies and progress on plan-making	Status:	For Publication
Report to:	Cabinet	Date:	20 November 2024
Report of:	Head of Planning	Lead Member:	Planning
Key Decision:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Forward Plan <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	General Exception	<input type="checkbox"/> Special Urgency <input type="checkbox"/>
Equality Impact Assessment:	Required: No	Attached:	No
Biodiversity Impact Assessment:	Required: No	Attached:	No
Contact Officer:	Anne Storah	Telephone:	01706 252418
Email:	annestorah@rossendalebc.gov.uk;		

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 To note the contents of the Rossendale Authority Monitoring Report (AMR) for 2023-24, which reports on planning data from the adoption of the Local Plan in 2021, and specifically for the period 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024. Progress on supplementary planning documents is recorded, and context given on the Government's plan-making reforms.
- 1.2 If particular to note over the past year: the high number of housing completions (201), and on brownfield land (64%), with 59 affordable homes delivered. However, approvals for new houses were particularly low (66 dwellings) and the Council can no longer demonstrate it is meeting the Self Build duty. Childhood Obesity levels have improved for the former wards of Helmshore and Goodshaw, with the restrictive policy remaining in place for the other wards. Several appeals have been upheld by Inspectors on design grounds so work will progress on updating the Design Guidance and the Local List.
- 1.3 To agree the Local Development Scheme, which provides a timetable for additional guidance including Supplementary Planning Documents under the current system of plan-making
- 1.4 Minor changes to the Authority Monitoring Report, including the incorporated Local Development Scheme, to be delegated to the Lead Member and the Head of Planning.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- This is the third AMR to report on the Rossendale Local Plan 2019-2036 and the progress being made to deliver the policies.
- This AMR considers initial trends to establish if any intervention is required.
- For monitoring planning applications it covers the period from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024, where the information is available. For other updates, such as consultations on planning documents, the AMR aims to provide the latest information.
- Ward boundaries changed on 1 August 2023, which may affect some monitoring data.

The Forward Planning team prepared or were involved in the following planning documents:

- In line with last year's AMR the [Re-use and Re-development of Employment Land](#) was adopted in July 2023 and [the Statement of Community Involvement](#) refreshed, adopted in March 2024. A policy note was issued explaining how [ward-level childhood obesity rates](#) inform the policy on Hot Food takeaways. A **masterplan** prepared by developers for the housing allocation at Edenfield (H66) was adopted by Cabinet on 18 September 2024, as was the [Validations Checklist](#) for planning applications, which was updated.
- We have consulted on two SPDs: [the Affordable Housing Draft SPD](#); and the [Open Spaces, Playing Pitches and Indoor Sport Facilities Draft SPD](#). Both were taken to

Overview & Scrutiny Committee on 9 September 2024, prior to consultation, and are recommended to be adopted by Cabinet at this meeting (20 November 2024).

- In its statutory role as a supporting authority, the Council is assisting Lancashire County Council with the [Lancashire Local Nature Recovery Strategy](#)
- The [Edenfield Neighbourhood Plan](#) was consulted on and is currently at examination.

Key Monitoring information is noted for the period 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024:

- Childhood obesity rates improved in the former wards of Helmshore and Goodshaw. But rates remain higher than the figure set out in Policy R5¹ for all other wards, where no new hot food take-aways will be approved until this figure drops, as explained in the policy note issued in [November 2023](#)
- Housing delivery surpassed the requirement for 2023/24, delivering 201 dwellings against an annual requirement of 185.
- 64% of housing delivery occurred on brownfield land and 82% of approvals for new dwellings.
- 59 affordable dwellings were delivered, accounting for 42% of all completions on major sites.
- Over this period 66 dwellings were approved, lower than previous years.
- 4 consents for self-build plots were granted in 2023/24. The Council has not met its duty to grant enough consents to match the number of entries on the register for the base period 19/20. (The Council has 3 years from the base period to grant enough approvals).
- There was a net loss of employment land delivered (including offices, research and development as well as light industrial) of 0.06ha in 23/24. Most of the losses related to the change of use of offices into other uses, occurring mainly outside of employment allocations.
- There has been a net loss of retail and other town centre uses floorspace of 783sqm in the same period, mainly to housing. Most of this loss occurred outside of town centres.
- Level of vacancies in Rawtenstall, Haslingden and Bacup town centre has decreased slightly.
- New renewable energy projects included an air source heat pump and solar panels that could deliver up to 40kW. Also, four applications for solar panels, an air source heat pump and a ground source heat pump, which could generate approximately 27kW were approved.
- Planning permissions secured biodiversity net gain (BNG) for three major applications

The report identifies trends over the previous three monitoring periods (2021/22 – 2023/24):

- Housing delivery has improved, increasing from 137 in 21/22 to 191 in 22/23 to 201 in 23/24.
- Consistently the number of units approved has been lower than the housing requirement. In 2023/24 66 dwellings received consent, 179 dwellings in 22/23 and 108 in 21/22.
- Housing delivery on previously developed land remained consistent at 64%.
- Average affordable housing completions equalled 45%, exceeding the 30% policy requirement, though this includes some sites that delivered wholly affordable housing.
- Employment land delivery has worsened, decreasing from a provision of 0.91ha in 21/22 to 0.01ha in 22/23 to 0.06ha in 23/24. The target of securing employment land provision by 1.8ha per annum has not been achieved in any of the previous three monitoring periods.
- The percentage of approvals for town centre uses in town centres has gradually worsened.
- There has been an increase in the number of vacant ground floor units in Haslingden and Bacup town centres, while vacancies in Rawtenstall town centre have decreased slightly.

There have been several updates from government relating to Plan-making Reform:

- The [Levelling Up and Regeneration Act](#) (LURA) was published on 26 October 2023 and we are awaiting secondary legislation and further guidance.

¹ i.e. in wards where more than 15% of year 6 pupils or 10% of reception class age are recorded as obese

- The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was amended in [December 2023](#) by the previous Government. [Further changes](#) were proposed by the new Government; we expect the final version to be issued at the end of 2024/early 2025.
- Developers have been required to deliver 10% “[Biodiversity Net Gain](#)” since February 2024 when building major new housing, industrial or commercial developments, and from April 2024 for small developments.
- As a result it is now expected that the Rossendale Local Plan review will be undertaken under the new plan-making regime, in accordance with the new version of NPPF.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 It is a requirement to publish the Authority Monitoring Report (AMR) annually to assess implementation of the policies contained in the Rossendale Local Plan and to provide an update on timescales for the preparation of key planning documents.
- 3.2 Local Planning Authorities must consider a review of their Local Plans within five years of adoption (before December 2026 for Rossendale). The AMR will help in this. The Levelling Up and Regeneration Act (LURA) was enacted on 26 October 2023 under the previous Conservative Government and requires secondary legislation and other guidance to implement the LURA, such as changes to the local plan-making process, infrastructure funding (and s106s), design coding, and national development management policies. Changes to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) were introduced in December 2023. Following the election in July 2024 of the new Government further amendments to the NPPF have been proposed; these are expected to be published later this year or early 2025. Of particular note is the introduction of ‘grey-belt’ and changes to the standardised methodology for calculating housing requirements.
- 3.3 Key information in the AMR includes details of housing approvals and housing completions which inform the Housing Delivery Test (HDT) and the Council's 5-year housing land supply calculation. It also provides an analysis of the levels of employment land approved and completed. The AMR is supported by other documents including the annual 5-year Housing Land Supply (for the period to 31 March 2023, published on the Council’s website), and the annual Infrastructure Funding Statement (IFS) and the Brownfield Register, both of which will be updated later this year.
- 3.4 The AMR has been prepared to echo the chapters in the Local Plan, with policies having targets, and triggers to implement contingencies should the policy not be performing as expected:
- Spatial Strategy
 - Housing
 - Employment
 - Retail
 - Environment
 - Leisure and Tourism
 - Transport

4. DETAILS

- 4.1 The Local Plan was adopted three years ago, in December 2021. This AMR covers the period from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024 and compares data from the start of the plan period (2021/22). All targets set out in the adopted Local Plan are identified and where possible data provided showing how the policy has been implemented. It should be noted that there may be some gaps, some trends have not been assessed and some data sources are no longer available.

Planning Application Data

- 4.2 For context, planning application statistics have been reported. Between 1st April 2023 and 31st March 2024 the Council received 593 applications and determined 561. This includes all types of application including full applications (148 determined), outline applications, reserved matters, listed buildings, works to trees, prior approvals and pavement licences etc. As usual, the greatest number of applications determined were for householder applications (164). In addition the Council received 24 Pre-Applications between January and December 2023.

Year	No. of applications determined	No. of applications submitted
2023-2024	558	593
2022-2023	553	657
2021-2022	692	896
2020-2021	619	787
2019-2020	573	719

Adoption of More Detailed Planning Guidance

- 4.3 The Rossendale Local Plan was adopted in December 2021. Still only about 35% of local planning authorities have an up-to-date adopted local plan. The Local Plan contains both strategic and non-strategic policies, including development management policies. It also allocates land for new employment, protects existing employment sites and identifies sites suitable for new housing over the plan period up to 2036. These allocations, together with designations such as Green Belt land, areas of Green Infrastructure etc. are shown on the Policies Map. Planning legislation requires that planning applications are to be determined in accordance with the Local Plan unless other material considerations indicate otherwise.
- 4.4 The Local Plan allows for the production of more detailed policies on specific matters, such as Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs). Guidance has been issued in the **Re-use and Re-development of Employment Land SPD**; this focuses on information required for applications to change the use of employment land, marketing arrangements and viability. Consultation finished on 22 October 2024 on two SPDs covering **Affordable Housing** as well as **Open Space, Playing Pitch and Indoor Built Sports Facilities**. These SPDs are recommended for adoption at this meeting of Cabinet. This is in line with last year's AMR.
- 4.5 The Government's Obesity Profile data for the period 20/21 to 22/23 shows that the former Goodshaw and Helmsore wards have obesity prevalence rates below the threshold in policy R5 for both reception and Year 6 children. In all other wards the restrictions set out in [Local Plan Policy R5](#) remain in place and no new hot food takeaways will be approved in these wards. (The data for the period 23/24 will be released in November 2024, based on the new ward boundaries).

The Statement of Community Involvement

- 4.6 The Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) sets out how and when the community, businesses and other stakeholders can engage in plan-making and development management decision-making. The preparation of an SCI is a requirement of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended), re-emphasised in the Localism Act 2011. A light touch refresh of the SCI was undertaken and adopted by Council [on 20 March 2024](#). This should be reviewed every 5-years. We expect further information to be issued by MHCLG in particular on the reforms to plan-making and the duty to co-operate, so a review might be necessary sooner.

Neighbourhood Plans

- 4.7 **Edenfield Neighbourhood Community Forum** (ENCF) is progressing a [Neighbourhood Plan](#), which is currently being independently examined. Having consulted on an initial

(Regulation 14) draft, incorporating a Design Code, which finished on Monday 17 April 2023, the ECNF prepared their pre-submission draft which was consulted on by the Council from 17 June to 30 July 2024 and then submitted for examination. Andrew Freeman of Intelligent Plans and examinations (IPe) has been appointed as the Examiner.

- 4.8 **Bacup and Stacksteads** also has a Neighbourhood Forum, which was designated on 16 April 2020; this will require re-designation next year. It had been included in the Government's Design Code Pathfinder Programme but, as reported in last year's AMR, had to withdraw from this. No further timelines are available.

Plan-making Reform

- 4.9 We are awaiting guidance on the plan-making reforms that were introduced by the previous Government, involving gateway reviews and a 30-month deadline for Local Plan preparation and adoption. It is expected that secondary legislation enabling the introduction of the new plan-making system will be published in summer/autumn 2025. It is anticipated that generic national development management policies will be introduced leaving Local Plans to set out development requirements and allocate sufficient sites, and designating land for protection. A further change is that Supplementary Planning Documents will be replaced by Supplementary Plans, which will be required to undergo formal independent examination.
- 4.10 The new Government published amendments to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), which are likely to be introduced later this year or early 2025, with an emphasis on delivering new housing and amending the standard methodology which, if implemented, will increase the annual housing requirement from 185 (as set out in the adopted Local Plan) to 361. The proposals seek to use existing dwelling stock (rather than population projections) and increase the weighting given to affordability. In addition "grey-belt" has been proposed, defined as "Previously Developed Land and any other parcels and/or areas of Green Belt land that make a limited contribution to the five Green Belt purposes"
- 4.11 Rossendale's Local Plan was adopted on 15 December 2021 and we must complete a review of the Local Plan 'five years from the date of adoption' (The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended)). Given the direction of the draft NPPF (July 2024), and the emphasis on delivering more homes, a review is likely to be necessary.
- 4.12 The AMR contains the Local Development Scheme, a timetable showing likely progress of the other Supplementary Planning Documents. As explained above this timetable will need updating as and when more guidance is issued about the new plan-making system and when it will commence. The Council has not committed to producing a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) which would seek mandatory developer contributions. We expect further Government guidance with regard to CIL and section 106 developer contributions.
- 4.13 It is anticipated that work can commence on the Evidence Base with specialist studies commissioned. Assuming the new system is introduced next summer/autumn it is expected the replacement Plan will be prepared under the new system which proposes Gateway Assessments with Planning Inspectors. Although still subject to Council approval and the introduction of the relevant legislation, commencement (Gateway 1) could be underway next autumn, with Gateway 3 and the formal submission to PINS, about two years (24 months) later in autumn 2027.

Monitoring Local Plan policies

4.14 Strategic policies

The Local Plan contains strategic planning policies and this year's AMR considers trends over the past 3-years since the adoption of the Local Plan.

- SD1** Almost 50% of housing approvals and completions have taken place in the Key Service Centres, albeit 22/23 saw a steep drop. Completions, some of which were approved prior to the adoption of the Local Plan have been steadily increasing, with almost 60% occurring within Rawtenstall, Bacup, Haslingden and Whitworth.
- SD2** The Spatial Strategy seeks to ensure development takes place within the Urban Boundary, avoiding the Green Belt. Over the past 3 years 86% of all dwellings approved were located in the Urban Boundary and just 2% in the Green Belt. Completed dwelling figures were even higher with 90% in the Urban Boundary. Similarly most commercial development was approved and completed in the Urban Boundary (more than 90% approved, and just short of 100% of completions). The past year (2023/24) saw a rise in approvals in the Green Belt, with 11% of floor space approved. However, as this relates to approvals for a change of use, and a tea room on a farm, it is not considered to be a concern. The majority of Class B2 and B8 approvals (for employment development) were approved in the Urban Boundary but there is a significant percentage approved in the Green Belt; this will be monitored.
- SD3** The Council continues to agree s106 obligations with developers. The AMR lists the applications where financial contributions were received and those which were spent over the past 3-years. This includes contributions to Lancashire County Council towards education provision. Further detail is provided in the annual [Infrastructure Funding Statement](#) (IFS), and the next IFS will be published on the Council's website in December.

Housing

- 4.15 This year 201 dwellings were completed, exceeding the Local Plan requirement (185), showing a year-on-year increase since 2019. Cumulatively though, the number of completions since the start of the plan period is below that required. Furthermore, the number of dwellings being approved is declining and, since the start of the plan period, not matching the annual completions required. This may be due to the pandemic, economic slow-down, and delays to signing s106 agreements outside the control of all parties, but nevertheless should be flagged.
- 4.16 Delivery of housing on brownfield land has been consistently good, with 82% of dwellings approved on previously developed land last year and 64% of all housing completions. Dwelling types are monitored. For 2023/24 there was an even mix across all types for completions, though significantly fewer terraced and semi-detached properties were approved, compared to detached and apartments. Dwelling sizes, based on number of bedrooms, are also recorded. Last year, out of all the house sizes approved, 1-bedroom properties featured the most (24 dwellings out of 63 in total). Over the past 3-years 2 and 3 bed were the most popular. In terms of completions over the 3-year period 3-bed feature the most, then 2 and 4-bed properties. Housing suitable to meet [the accessible M4\(2\) standard](#) has started coming forward, in line with the new Local Plan policy.
- 4.17 There has been a year-on-year reduction in the number of long-term empty properties, with 164 classed as unoccupied for more than 2 years.
- 4.18 It is important to monitor the delivery of allocated sites. This past year showed a reduction in the number of completions on site allocations, with just 54% of dwellings on allocated sites. However as the table shows most of the housing completed on unallocated windfall sites was on brownfield land, or through a change of use.

- 4.19 Affordable housing completions are on track and overall exceed the 30% affordable housing requirement. But some of these are on fully affordable housing schemes. Of concern is that during 2023/24 there were no major residential applications approved which were eligible for s106 contributions. This also means that no contributions towards education, open space or playing pitches were made, nor any open space delivered on site.
- 4.20 The supply of Gypsy and Traveller sites is unchanged although the number of illegal encampments has been increasing (7 in 23/24) and the Council still has to deliver the Negotiated Stopping Policy referred to in Strategic Policy HS14.
- 4.21 For the first time since the Act² came into force, the Council has not met its duty to provide enough self or custom build dwellings to match the number of people listed on the Self Build register. We will need to explain the measures the Council will take. However, as self-build plots are not subject to biodiversity net gain we expect more single plots to be recorded as self-build.

Employment

- 4.22 The Council has not been meeting the annual target of 1.8 ha of new employment land per annum over the past 3-years. In 2023/24 almost 1 ha (approx. 3500 sqm floorspace) was granted approval, mainly on brownfield land, for E(g) (offices, research and development or light industrial), B2 (general industrial) and B8 (storage and distribution). Completions data shows a gain of 507 sqm for B8 (storage and distribution) but with a similar loss of class E(g) (offices, research and development or light industrial) for 2023/24. For example the Slingo site at Station Rd in Whitworth was granted permission for 37 affordable houses. As there has been a net loss of employment floorspace in 2022/23 and again in 2023/24 (albeit just 2 sqm) the trigger has been met. In addition completions also fell in 2022/23. The Local Plan does allocate new employment sites which are inevitably taking time to come forward, but we expect some to come forward for planning consent in 2025/26, and will monitor and assist with this. Progress is recorded on the new employment allocations. Futures Park (EMP6) still has 0.84 ha available, although a new manufacturing unit and a nursery have come forward.
- 4.23 Monitoring of commercial uses has also been reported and shows an overall gain in approvals, mainly related to E(c) – financial, professional service and E(e) medical services, with losses of shops, and food and drink. There has been an overall loss in terms of completions data, as for approvals, again mainly relating to shops and food and drink. Gains were seen for E(c) and E(f) nursery. Sites allocated for employment uses showed approvals for B2 and B8 uses (light industrial and storage/distribution), though there has been a loss of E(g) – offices and light industrial. There were no completions on allocated sites in 23/24, in fact a loss of 78sqm.
- 4.24 The SPD on Employment Land has now been adopted. Government data shows that the number of employees has fallen to 20,000 from 22,000 the previous year.

Retail

- 4.25 Albeit 35 permissions were granted for ‘main town centre uses’ in 23/24, of these 70% were outside of the Borough’s town centres, showing the situation to be worsening. However, there was a greater loss of floorspace for these ‘town centre uses’ outside of the defined town centres than within it. Most of the town centre losses within the centres related to change of use to residential. Similarly, of the 21 completions just over half were outside the town centres. No applications were approved that resulted in the change of use from a shop but completions data shows a loss of retail in the centres (219 sqm) and 334 sqm outside of centres. However, it should be noted that it is now possible to change within use Class E (commercial, business

² [Self-build and Custom Housebuilding Act 2015 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://www.legislation.gov.uk)

and service) without needing planning permission. This includes shops, financial and professional offices, restaurants as well as non-residential institutions and assembly and leisure.

- 4.26 Compared to proviso years there has been an increase in the number of vacant units in Haslingden (19) and Bacup (16), whereas Rawtenstall has shown a small improvement with 4 fewer vacant units. The next full Health Check of the centres is scheduled to take place next year.
- 4.27 No hot food takeaways were approved or completed within 400 m of a secondary school that is outside of a defined town or district centre. All wards previously demonstrated that children either in Year 6 had a prevalence for obesity above the Local Plan threshold of 15% and / or a prevalence in Reception of more than 10%. Data now shows that Helmshore and Goodshaw wards have a prevalence below the Local Plan threshold and so planning applications can be considered in these wards. For all other wards, the position remains and planning applications are being refused. Please note that this data is based on the old ward boundaries. The new ward boundaries will be used for the data likely to be published next month
- 4.28 Of the six shop front applications approved across the Conservation Areas in Haslingden, Rawtenstall and Bacup, all were commented on by the Council's heritage adviser, with appropriate conditions attached.

Environment

- 4.29 Design – No applications were received for 100 + dwellings so no masterplans were required. In 2023/24 just over a quarter of all appeals were allowed (lost by the Council) where design was discussed. This has increased year on year and the trigger has been met, as more than 25% of appeals have been lost on design grounds. It is necessary to consider these appeal decisions in full and how the Council can address this. A review of the Alterations and Extensions SPD may be needed for example, or undertaking a Borough-wide Design Code.
- 4.30 Heritage Assets – there has been no change in the number of entries on the Heritage at Risk Register. The Bacup High St Heritage Action Zone has been completed. Still ongoing are the schemes in Haslingden (the Big Lamp project and Haslingden Connected) and Rossendale Heritage Futures.
- 4.31 The state of the Borough's SSSIs has worsened due to the Lower Red Lees site declining from 'unfavourable recovering' to 'unfavourable no change' since last year. Discussions with Natural England and LCC's ecology team may be necessary to see how we can address the SSSIs which are described as being in unfavourable conditions. Mandatory 10% Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) is now in place, introduced in February for eligible major schemes and April for small sites. As a result 3 major applications include a biodiversity gain requirement. Parts of Rossendale are within 7 km of the South Pennine Special Protection Area and Special Area of Conservation (SPA and SAC). Natural England has undertaken a study looking at the 'Recreation use of the South Pennine Moors and implications for strategic housing growth'. The report completed in March 2024 provides an analysis of visitor surveys undertaken at 10 locations within the South Pennine Moors in winter 2023. The study shows that 75% of visits made by people coming directly from home lived within 24.4km of the South Pennine Moors. Rossendale residents accounted for less than 1% of people surveyed. The Local Plan allows for an SPD to be prepared in due course to address ecological networks. However, for the time being it is proposed to issue guidance on BNG rather than an SPD. There were 30 applications granted that could result in a loss of green infrastructure. The conditions attached require biodiversity enhancement and management of invasive species.

- 4.32 Air quality – there is now one AQMA in the Borough declared at Grane Rd as the AQMAs at Rawtenstall and Haslingden were revoked in 2022.
- 4.33 Renewable energy – Please note not all new renewable energy projects require planning consent. No new wind turbines have been approved or completed since 2021. The new Government removed the de-facto ban on onshore wind within days of being elected and this may result in more applications being submitted. Four applications were approved that included an air source heat pump, a ground source heat pump and solar panels, which could generate 27kW of energy. Completions have resulted in delivering 39.7 KW.
- 4.34 Flooding – 8 new dwellings have been approved where the access road and landscaped area are in Flood Zone 2, and an additional new flat created in an existing property. 4 approvals were granted for non-residential development which require a final surface water sustainable drainage strategy and verification report. No planning applications were approved contrary to the advice of the Environment Agency.
- 4.35 Trees – only one Arboricultural Implications Assessment was required. In addition 31 trees subject to a TPO were lost, whilst 40 replacement trees were required.

Tourism and Leisure

- 4.36 Based on the latest STEAM data, issued for 2022, Rossendale still records the lowest figures for tourism of all the Lancashire districts. Although visitor numbers are increasing and returning to pre-Covid levels, they still represent just 2% of the county's total. The latest STEAM data for bed spaces relating to overnight tourism accommodation is from 2021. However, it does show a trend towards non-serviced accommodation, rather than hotels, which is reflected by the planning approvals being granted for glamping pods etc.

Transport

- 4.37 This section of the AMR refers to implementation of the transport projects set out in the Council's Infrastructure Delivery Plan, which was prepared for the Local Plan. This notes that the Levelling-Up Fund is being used for some works, including the improvements to the Gyratory, which are just commencing. Many of the projects identified are still under review although some of the issues identified in the IDP may be addressed via a number of planning applications, such as the Grane Rd/Holcombe Rd junction and the roundabout at Edenfield. The Council assisted LCC in preparing the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP), which is looking at how the various active travel schemes identified can be delivered. Some investment is being made in the identified routes via planning approvals, such as access through the former Slingco site in Whitworth to provide a more direct route to the Valley of Stone project. .

4.38 Summary

As noted, this is the third AMR to be produced that reports on the policies in the adopted Local Plan. It identifies where more in-depth analysis is required to ensure planning policies are delivering the type, scale and good quality design of development that is needed. The Report also highlights the progress made on the preparation of neighbourhood plans and supplementary planning documents, and explains the expected changes to plan-making.

5. RISK

- 5.1 There are no specific risk issues for members to consider arising from this report. However, regular monitoring will continue and another Report brought back to members next year covering the period to 2024/25, and highlight actions undertaken over the period 2024/25. This will assess how planning policies are being implemented and if the contingencies for any

policies need to be addressed. This may result in review of certain policies. By next year there should be more certainty about the changes being considered for plan-making.

6. FINANCE

6.1 Given the decline in funding from central government over the last decade, greater than 90% of the income the council receives is derived from local taxation in the form of either Council Tax or Non-Domestic Rates. The impact of planning decisions will directly affect positively or negatively as each decision dictates the taxation and resulting income and will affect the ability of the Council to continue to fund local services.

7. LEGAL

7.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report

8. POLICY AND EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

8.1 There are no policy or equality issues arising from this Report.

9. REASON FOR DECISION

9.1 Some trends have been identified, which will require more monitoring or consideration of their impact. Work will continue with colleagues particularly in Economic Development to ensure delivery of the Spatial Vision and to inform any replacement Plan.

9.2 The Forward Planning team will continue to progress the related documents and additional policy guidance as set out in this Report and consider the implications of the forthcoming changes in national planning policy.

9.3 The AMR for 2024/25 will be brought back to be considered by members next year.

9.4 The Local Development Scheme will be kept under review, in light of the changes proposed by MHCLG, and will be reviewed accordingly in time and brought back for member approval.

Background Papers	
Document	Place of Inspection
Rossendale Authority Monitoring Report 2023-24	Attached
Previous annual Authority Monitoring Reports	Authority Monitoring Reports Rossendale Borough Council
Re-use and re-development of employment land	Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs), Masterplans and other guidance Rossendale Borough Council
Policy Statements on Hot Food Takeaways Rossendale Borough Council	Policy Statements on Hot Food Takeaways Rossendale Borough Council
Validation Checklist 2024	validation checklist (rossendale.gov.uk)
Edenfield Neighbourhood Plan Draft	Edenfield Community Neighbourhood Forum Neighbourhood Plans Rossendale Borough Council



Authority Monitoring Report (AMR) – 2023/24

Produced by Forward Planning – October 2024

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Introduction

Welcome to the Authority Monitoring Report (AMR). This AMR focuses on the period from 1st April 2023 up to 31st March 2024 but also includes data from 2021/2022 & 2022/2023 to allow data trends to be illustrated. Analysing data over the previous three monitoring periods will allow the Council to understand how various policies in the Rossendale Local Plan 2019 to 2036 are performing and highlight where additional investigation into effectiveness may be required.

The Rossendale Local Plan 2019 to 2036, which this document monitors, was formally adopted by the Council on the 15th December 2021. The adopted Local Plan contains targets and indicators for each Policy, in order to provide users of this document with as much information as possible and to provide a baseline for future monitoring we have structured this document in line with the Local Plan targets.

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information; however, due to the changes in monitoring procedures some figures may have been rounded up or down or may not be available at this time.

Feedback on the structure and how the information is set out is appreciated. Please send any comments to Forward Planning at forwardplanning@rossendalebc.gov.uk or ring 01706 252412 / 252415 / 252418.

Executive Summary

This document includes information on implementation of the Rossendale Local Plan 2019 to 2036 for the period 2023/2024.

This AMR covers the 12-month period starting 1 April 2023 but also includes comparative data from 2021/2022 & 2022/2023.

Increasing pressures on local government have made it more difficult to maintain accurate data records. This has been the case both at County and District level. At County level in particular the monitoring accessibility and Public Rights of Way data has greatly reduced or disappeared completely.

The report identifies a number of key points in 23/24:

- Housing delivery surpassed the requirement for 23/24, delivering 201 houses against an annual requirement of 185.
- 64% of housing delivery occurred on previously developed land. 82% of approvals for new dwellings were located on previously developed land.
- 59 affordable dwellings were delivered within the borough in 23/24, accounting for 42% of all dwelling completions on major sites.
- There were 4 permissions for self-build plots granted between 31 October 2022 and 30 October 2023. The Council has not met its duty to grant enough permissions to match the number of entries onto the register for the base period 2019/2020. (The Council has 3 years from the base period to grant enough approvals).
- There was a net loss of employment land delivered (including offices, research and development as well as light industrial) of 0.06ha in 23/24. Most of the losses related to the change of use of offices into other uses which occurred mainly outside of employment allocations.
- The Nomis website reported a decrease in the number of employees in full and part-time jobs in Rossendale between 2021 and 2022.
- There has been a net loss of retail and other town centre uses floorspace of 783sqm in the same period. Most of this loss occurred outside of town centres.
- The level of vacancies in Rawtenstall, Haslingden and Bacup town centres has decreased slightly.
- New renewable energy projects were delivered in the Borough including an air source heat pump and solar panels that could deliver up to 40kW. Also, four applications for solar panels, air source heat pump and ground source heat pump which could generate approximately 27kW were approved.
- Planning permissions have secured biodiversity net gain (BNG) on and/or near development sites for three major applications as follows:
 - 2021/0275 – Section 106 agreement signed with biodiversity requirements
 - 2023/0103 – BNG estimated at 132% (11.67 biodiversity units)
 - 2023/0108 – Biodiversity improvements secured via conditions (hedgerow planting)

The report also identifies a number of trends over the previous three monitoring periods (2021/22 – 2023/24):

- Housing delivery has improved, increasing from 137 in 21/22 to 191 in 22/23 to 201 in 23/24.
- Housing delivery on previously developed land remained consistent at ~64%.
- Average Affordable Housing completions equalled ~45%, far exceeding the 30% policy requirement.
- Employment land delivery has worsened, decreasing from a provision of 0.91ha in 21/22 to -0.01ha in 22/23 to -0.06ha in 23/24. The target of increasing employment land provision by 1.8ha per annum has not been achieved in any of the previous three monitoring periods.
- The percentage of planning approvals for town centre uses approved within town centres has gradually worsened.
- There has been an increase in the number of vacant ground floor units in Haslingden and Bacup town centres, while the level of vacancies in Rawtenstall town centre has decreased slightly.

The Council will update its Brownfield Land Register which is published annually on its website at https://www.rossendale.gov.uk/downloads/download/10897/brownfield_land_register and on the data.gov.uk website.

The Council also maintains a database of people who are interested in self-build and custom build housing, in line with current statutory requirements. This is to identify the level of demand for self-build/custom build within Rossendale. As of 31st March 2024 there were 49 individuals and no associations listed on the Self-Build and Custom House-building Register.

The Housing Delivery Test (HDT) has been introduced by the Government to monitor the completions of new dwellings in each Local Planning Authority against their housing need. The HDT results published for 2022 show that Rossendale delivered 63% of its housing requirement therefore the presumption in favour of sustainable development applies. This figure was 57% in the 2021 HDT and 64% in 2020. We expect the new figures to be published soon.

In terms of housing completions during 2023/2024 Rossendale Borough Council delivered more dwellings than its annual requirement (108% or 201 dwellings delivered against a requirement of 185 dwellings). This has improved since 22/23 where 191 dwellings were built, which itself was an improvement from 21/22 where 137 dwellings were completed.

Planning Applications Overview

Between 1st April 2023 and 31st March 2024 – 558 planning applications were determined for a whole range of different types of development. This included 148 Full Applications, 74 Applications in relation to Planning Conditions, 44 Lawful Development Certificates and 47 applications for works to trees subject to Tree Preservation Orders or within a Conservation Area.

Year	No. of applications determined	No. of applications submitted
2023-2024	558	593
2022-2023	553	657
2021-2022	692	896
2020-2021	619	787
2019-2020	573	719

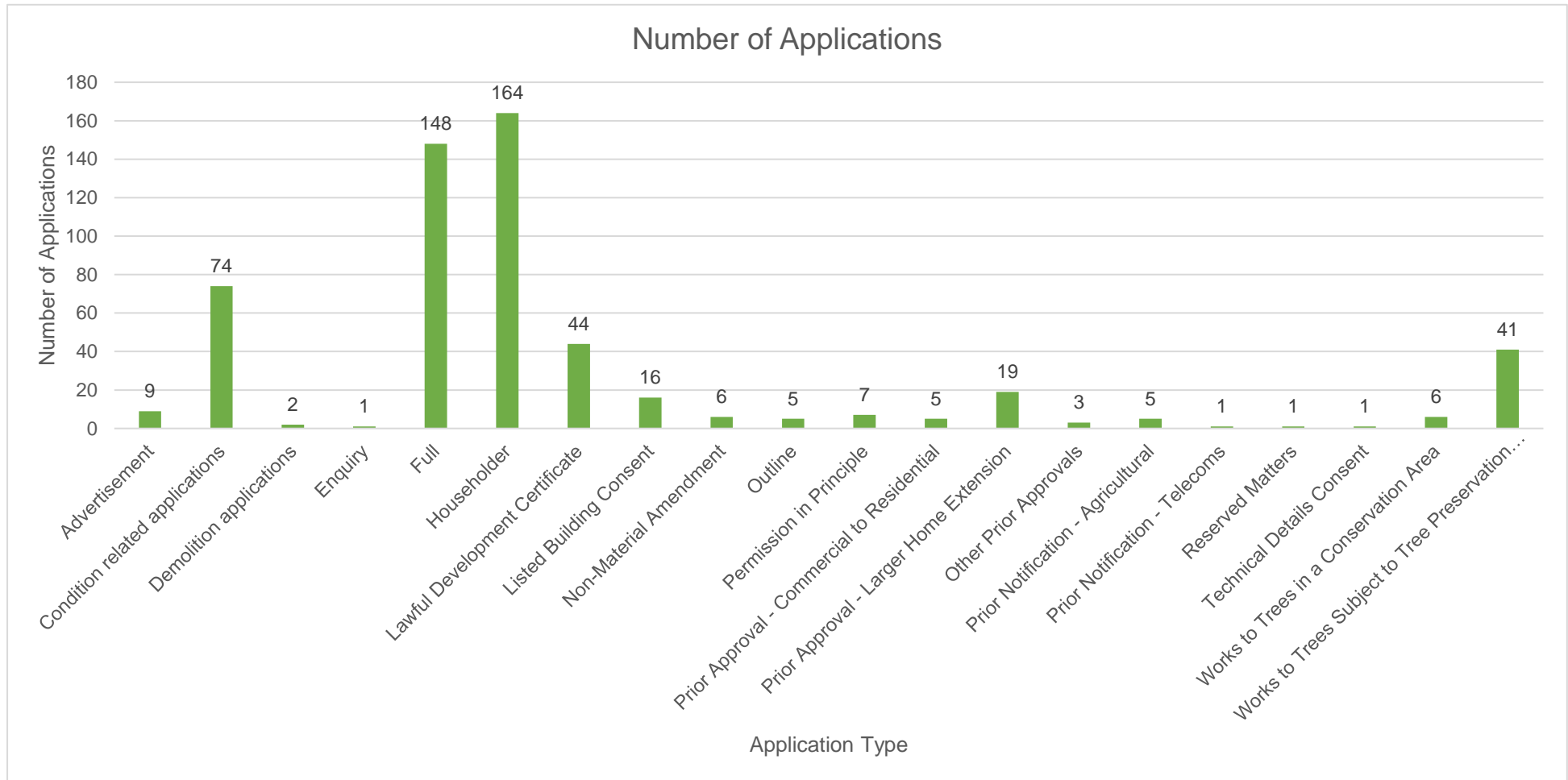
In 23/24 the Council received 593 applications. This includes all types of applications including full applications, outline applications, listed buildings, works to trees, prior approvals and pavement licences etc. For the period 2022 to 2023 the Council determined 657 Planning Applications. 692 applications were determined in 2021/22, 619 applications were determined in 2020/21 and 573 applications were determined in 2019/20.

The most frequently determined applications were for Householder Planning Consent with 164 applications being decided in 23/24.

There were also 24 Pre-Applications submitted to the Council between January and December 2023.

The bar chart on the next page illustrates the proportion of applications determined for each of the types of planning permission:

Figure 1: Planning Application Analysis



Source: Idox Planning System

Definition of Types of Applications

Advertisements	Shop signs and other advertisements large enough to need planning consent
Certificate of Lawful Development	Confirmation that existing or proposed developed is lawful and does not require planning permission
Change of Use	Change from one planning use class to another e.g. shop to an office, house to shop etc.
Discharge of Conditions	Conditions are often attached to planning permissions that need further details to be submitted and approved by the council at certain stages – the process is called ‘discharge of conditions’
Householder Developments	Works or Extension to a Dwelling i.e. proposals to alter or enlarge a single house, including works within the curtilage (boundary/garden) of a house. For example, extensions to houses, conservatories, loft conversions etc.
Listed Building Consent	An application required to alter or extend a listed building in a way that affects its character or appearance as a building of special architectural or historic interest, or demolish it
Major Dwellings	10 houses or more or sites of 0.5 hectares or more (if the number of dwellings is not known)
Major Other	Where the floor space to be built is 1,000 square metres or more, or where the site area is 1 hectare or more
Minor Dwellings	Less than 10 houses
Minor Industrial	Industrial development of less than 1000 square metres
Minor Office	Office development of less than 1000 square metres
Minor Other	Extensions to non-residential properties, minor engineering works etc.
Minor Retail	Retail development of less than 1000 square metres
Neighbouring Authority	Consultation with a neighbouring local authority or Lancashire County Council
Non-material Amendment	An application for a small change to an existing permission – for example, that does not vary significantly from what was described on the planning permission and that does not conflict with any conditions or planning policy
Other Developments	Any type of development not covered in the other categories
Other Major Development	Any development over 1000 square metres that would not be classed as industrial, office or retail i.e. Theatre, car show room etc.

Permission in Principle	An alternative way of obtaining permission for housing-led development which separates the consideration of matters of principle for proposed development from the technical detail of the development
Pre-Applications	Advice given before a planning application is submitted
Prior Approval / Notifications	Notification of works that do not require planning permission i.e. Agricultural buildings or demolitions, telecoms etc.
Reserved Matters	An application for the outstanding reserved matters from an outline permission i.e. the information excluded from the initial outline planning application
Screening Opinion	Advises whether an Environmental Impact Assessment is required to be submitted with a planning application
Technical Details Consent	Following a grant of permission in principle, the site must receive a grant of technical details consent before development can proceed
Variation of condition	An application to vary a condition(s) previously imposed on a planning permission

Chapter 1: Progress According to the Adopted Planning Policy Timetable (LDS)

Local Development Scheme

A Local Development Scheme is required under [section 15 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004](#) (as amended).

The latest Local Plan timetable was agreed at the Council meeting held on [Monday 23rd December 2019](#) and is available to view [here](#).

Figure 2: Tables of the Local Development Scheme as published in December 2019

Table 1: Rossendale Local Plan (2019-2034), Preparation Stages and alignment with Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (effective from 24 December 2019)

<i>Draft Plan (Reg 18)</i>	<i>Publication (Reg 19)</i>	<i>Submission to Planning Inspectorate (Reg 22)</i>	<i>Examination in Public (Regs 23 and 24)</i>	<i>Inspector's Report (Reg 25)</i>	<i>Adoption by Council (Reg 26)</i>	<i>Next Draft Plan</i>
July 2017	August 2018	March 2019	Hearings held September to October 2019 Gypsy & Traveller Hearing held June 2020 Main Modifications consultation held August 2021	November 2020 November 2021	December 2020 December 2021	Continue to prepare the AMR and resolve by December 2026 at the latest if the Local Plan should be reviewed Produce further planning guidance (e.g. SPDs). The plan-making system is undergoing reform, and we await secondary legislation. Also changes to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) are proposed. These changes will make it likely that a review will be required and

						timelines may change as a result. Please see text later.
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Stages in grey text have already taken place.

The Council has an up-to-date Local Plan in place, adopted in 2021. The new Government is keen that development plans remain up-to-date, with national coverage. Current legislation requires every authority to have a local plan in place. The adopted Rossendale Local Plan 2019-2036 should be reviewed to assess whether it needs to be updated at least once every five years (so no later than December 2026), taking into account changing circumstances affecting the area, or any relevant changes in national policy¹. This is looking extremely likely given the proposed changes to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

We are still awaiting further guidance on the plan-making reforms that were brought forward by the previous Government but it is expected a system will be introduced involving gateway reviews and setting a 30 month deadline for Local Plan preparation and adoption. It is anticipated that generic national development management policies will be introduced leaving Local Plans to set out Borough-wide development requirements and allocate sufficient sites to meet these requirements, whilst also designating land for protection. A further change is that Supplementary Planning Documents will be replaced by Supplementary Plans, which will need to undergo formal independent examination. There had been a proposal to change s.106 contributions and replace with a mandatory national infrastructure Levy, but it appears that this Government would prefer to amend the current system rather than replace it. Similarly it is looking as though Borough-wide Design codes will no longer be mandatory, although can be produced if the Council considers one to be useful.

To date, it is expected that the new planning system will be introduced to start in the summer/autumn of 2025. Any plans prepared under the existing system would have to be submitted for examination by no later than December 2026.

Amendments to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) have been proposed and this is expected to be finalised late 2024/early 2025.

Reforms to the plan-making system are being considered². The Levelling Up and Regeneration Act was published in 2023 but we are still awaiting secondary legislation and further guidance. If these proposals are implemented it is expected that the commitment to reviewing Local Plans at least

¹ [The Town and Country Planning \(Local Planning\) \(England\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2017 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://www.legislation.gov.uk)

² [Plan-making reforms: consultation on implementation - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

every five years will remain. The intention of the reform is to ensure that new local plans are simpler, shorter and more visual to encourage engagement whilst reducing the time and resources needed for preparation. The new system is expected to commence in autumn 2025. Hence, it is likely that Rossendale’s Local Plan review would be prepared and examined under the new system.

The Forward Planning team’s priorities are to take forward the SPDs which are listed in the Local Plan, and to commence updates to the existing Evidence Base, where possible. Progress is reported in Table 3 below.

Community Infrastructure Levy for Rossendale³

Table 2: Potential CIL timetable and alignment with the Community Infrastructure Regulations 2010 as amended

<i>Consultation on Preliminary Draft Charging Schedule & other documentation (Reg 15)</i>	<i>Consultation on draft Charging Schedule & other documentation (Reg 16)</i>	<i>Submission to Planning Inspectorate (Reg 19)</i>	<i>Examination in Public (Reg 20)</i>	<i>Inspector's Report (Reg 23)</i>	<i>Adoption by Council</i>
TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC

The previous Government had proposed introducing a mandatory infrastructure levy as a replacement for the community infrastructure levy and section 106 agreements, charged as a percentage of the value of the property at completion. This is to improve effectiveness and transparency. However, feedback is that these changes will add complexity and be more resource-intensive than the current system, and will not necessarily increase revenue, nor help the delivery of affordable housing. The new Government appears to prefer to amend the current system of planning obligations, rather than replace it. We await further guidance from MHCLG.

Table 3: Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) and other guidance

The Council has adopted two SPDs: [the Climate Change SPD](#) (December 2022) and [the Re-use and Re-development of Employment Land](#) (consulted on in February/March 2023 and adopted in July 2023). In addition, more detailed guidance was issued on potential [Compensation](#)

³ A decision has not yet been taken by the Council in respect to the Community Infrastructure Levy. If it is decided to proceed, documentation will include information on Infrastructure requirements, viability and other funding sources for infrastructure as well as the Charging Schedule.

[Measures for Green Belt Release](#) in January 2023. The updated Childhood Obesity data shows that new hot food takeaways should still not be approved in accordance with [Local Plan Policy R5](#), other than in the former wards of Helmshore and Goodshaw. We await A guidance note was issued on [Local Standards for Accessibility and Adaptability of New Housing](#) in November 2022, in accordance with Local Plan policy HS5 on Housing Standards. The publication of this year's figures later this month, which will be based on the new ward boundaries

Work is ongoing currently in preparing the Affordable Housing SPD and the Open Space and Playing Pitch SPD, with consultation taking place in September - October 2024. Biodiversity Net Gain became mandatory in February 2024 and a Guidance Note to Planning Applicants will be published soon which includes further information about ecological networks. Lancashire County Council is currently drafting the Lancashire Local Nature Recovery Strategy with a public consultation expected in winter 2024 prior to a final consultation in March 2025. This strategy will define priorities for nature recovery in Lancashire, map the most valuable existing areas for nature and map opportunity areas for creating and improving habitat for nature and wider environment goals. As a supporting authority, the Council is required to assist LCC with this work, and this may have implications for developments in Rossendale and future planning policies.

Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)	Related policy in adopted Local Plan	New or update to existing?	Likely content	Progress
Adopted Climate Change	ENV1 / ENV9	New	The Climate Change SPD focuses on 4 principles: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reducing the dominance of fossil-fuelled vehicles via encouraging sustainable and more active transport; • Improving energy efficiency and promoting renewables in the Borough; • Water interventions; • Biodiversity and Green Infrastructure 	Consultation took place July / August 2022. The SPD was adopted by Cabinet in December 2022
Adopted The Re-use and Re-development of Employment Land	EMP3	New	Further guidance on the criteria, including marketing and viability assessment, which proposals for the change of use / redevelopment from employment to another use will be assessed against.	Consultation took place February / March 2023. The SPD was adopted by Cabinet in July 2023.
Affordable Housing	HS3	New	Introduction of a cap to the price of affordable homes considering the affordability ratio and incomes in Rossendale and setting out eligibility criteria.	Drafting commenced in 2023 Consultation took place September and October 2024

Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)	Related policy in adopted Local Plan	New or update to existing?	Likely content	Progress
				Adoption expected November 2024
Open Space, Playing Pitches and Indoor Spots Facilities	HS6 / HS7	Update to take account of new policy and evidence	Requirements for developers in relation to amount and size of open space to be provided or expected financial contributions / Local playing pitch standards and expected financial contributions. Informed by the Playing Pitch Strategy and any updates	Drafting commenced summer 2023. Consultation took place September and October 2024 Adoption expected November 2024
Update on Alterations and Extensions to Residential Properties	HS9	Refresh to take account of new policy/guidance	General principles and guidelines that the Council will use to assess proposals for domestic extensions. Update in relation to permitted development right changes which have taken place since existing guidance was published.	Drafting may commence in 2025 with approval in 2025/26
Update on Conversion and Re-Use of Rural Buildings in the Countryside	HS12	Refresh to take account of new policy	Advice for those converting an existing building in the countryside to another use; general principles and more detailed design guidance used to assess development proposals.	Drafting may commence in 2025 with approval in 2025/26
Viability and Vitality of Town Centres	R1	New – if considered necessary	Further guidance on assessing retail and other uses in centres, particularly in relation to effect of proposed development on the viability and vitality of centres.	Consider if necessary - 2024/25
Hot Food Takeaways Amended Guidance Note	R5	Refresh to take account of any new policy /guidance	Further detailed guidance on the criteria in the policy such as location, design, effect on public health and amenity – with particular regard to tackling obesity and avoiding over-concentration in certain areas. The Council has updated guidance on the website in light of the recorded Childhood Obesity figures. The Local Plan Policy R5 is being implemented to refuse Hot Food Takeaway applications. Updated figures are due imminently.	Consider if necessary - 2024/25

Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)	Related policy in adopted Local Plan	New or update to existing?	Likely content	Progress
Update SPD on Shopfront Design	R6	Refresh if necessary	Further guidance on good practice in the design of new shopfronts and the improvement of existing frontages. This may be replaced by a Borough-wide Design Code	Consider if necessary - 2024/25
Biodiversity, Geodiversity and Ecological Networks	ENV4	New	Further details on Rossendale's ecological network to supplement the existing map.	It is now proposed to be included in a Biodiversity Net Gain Guidance to Planning Applicants, which is expected to be published soon
Gypsy and Traveller - Negotiated Stopping Places Policy and GTAA	HS14	New	A Negotiated Stopping Policy to proactively help Gypsy and Traveller communities find suitable places to stop.	Ongoing. Drafting commenced Spring 2023
Design Guide	ENV1	New	Design briefs or design codes will be required for major development and other sites as appropriate to help deliver high quality proposals. The Council will work with developers to address the nature and scope of these documents. It may be that this work is incorporated in the SPDs on Design: the Update on Alterations and Extensions to Residential Properties and the Update on Conversion and Re-Use of Rural Buildings in the Countryside and the Shopfront Design Guide	Consider if necessary - 2024/25
Amended Green Belt Compensation Note	SD4	New	Guidance on Green Belt Compensation Measures and the highlighting of several schemes which could be funded via Green Belt Compensation Payments.	Published Spring 2023
Edenfield Masterplan	H66	New	This Masterplan has been prepared by the landowners for this allocated housing site.	Adopted in September 2024

Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)	Related policy in adopted Local Plan	New or update to existing?	Likely content	Progress
The Rossendale Local List	ENV2	New	This will identify non-designated heritage assets	Work has already started on this, working with Growth Lancashire. The next step will be to undertake consultation, especially with the owners. To be progressed with adoption in 2025/2026
The Edenfield Neighbourhood Plan	N/A	New	This is currently being independently examined. Should it be found sound, a Referendum will be necessary and if more than 50% of those voting support its adoption, it will be adopted by Council and used for Development Management decisions, alongside the Local Plan	Currently a examination. Examiners Report expected late November/early December with Referendum in the New Year and adoption in the spring.

Statement of Community Involvement

The SCI explains how the Council will engage with communities and others in preparing planning policy documents, such as the Local Plan and in dealing with planning applications. The Council is required to review the SCI every 5 years from the date of adoption according to Regulation 10A of the Town and Country (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012, as amended. The SCI was refreshed in 2023/24 to reflect changes in legislation as well as in national policies and guidance and adopted on 20 March 2024.

It should be noted that the Government is proposing changes to plan-making reform. These were set out in the White Paper “Planning For The Future” published in August 2020 and then in the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill 2023 (LURB) which was then enacted in October 2023 (LURA). This may have implications for consultation going forward, as the plan-making system may change, including the current Duty to Co-operate with other stakeholders, including neighbouring authorities.

Neighbourhood Plans Progress

[Two Neighbourhood Forums](#) have been established in Rossendale with Neighbourhood Planning Areas established for both Edenfield and Bacup and Stacksteads. Preparing Neighbourhood Plans must be undertaken in line with the relevant legislation as once adopted they will form part of the Development Plan for Rossendale, along with the adopted Local Plan.

Following formal designation, the Forum (as the Qualifying Body) has 5 years to prepare the Neighbourhood Plan. No other Forums can be designated for the same Neighbourhood Area until that designation is withdrawn or expires. The Forum drafts proposals and prepares documents including the basic conditions statement. It then undertakes pre-submission publicity and consultation, and considers the responses received before submitting the Neighbourhood Plan to the Local Planning Authority, which checks that the document complies with the relevant legislation. If the Neighbourhood Plan does meet the legal requirements the LPA must publicise it for at least 6 weeks and invite representations. It must appoint an independent examiner, who will examine the documents, issuing a report for publication then to the LPA and Neighbourhood Forum. The LPA then decides if the Neighbourhood Plan should be sent to referendum. If so, following suitable notice, polling will take place within the Neighbourhood Planning area. For the plan to come into force as part of the statutory development plan for the area, more than 50% of those voting must be in favour.

The Edenfield Neighbourhood Community Forum was originally designated on 22 April 2018 to prepare the Neighbourhood Plan for Edenfield, shown on the Map of the Area. As 5 years was due to elapse, under the Regulations, the Forum had to apply for re-designation. This was approved by the Council, following a 6-week consultation which ended 1 March 2023. Edenfield Community Neighbourhood Forum has now been re-designated for the Edenfield Neighbourhood Area for a further period of 5 years; this will end on 18 April 2028.

The Forum progressed the Neighbourhood Plan and Design Code and consulted formally on the Regulation 14 version for 6-weeks in early 2023, finishing on 17 April 2023. The Council led a consultation on the draft Neighbourhood Plan from 17th June to 30th July 2024 (Regulation 16). As of October 2024 the draft Neighbourhood Plan had been submitted for independent examination (Regulation 17).

Further information is available at [Edenfield Community Neighbourhood Forum \(edenfieldcommunityforum.uk\)](http://edenfieldcommunityforum.uk)

The Bacup and Stacksteads Neighbourhood Forum was designated on 16 April 2020. The Forum had been preparing a Design Code, having been awarded £30,000 from MHCLG in March 2022. However, unfortunately the Forum has had to withdraw from the pathfinder programme. No timescales for consultation are yet known. Further information is available at www.bsnf.org.uk.

Chapter 2: Spatial Strategy

This section reports on the progress made over the three previous monitoring periods (21/22, 22/23 & 23/24) in working towards achieving the objectives of the spatial strategy. These are assessed against targets which are established within the Local Plan.

Each policy is dealt with in turn and will set out what progress has been made towards achieving each of the relevant targets set out in the Local Plan and what has happened over the past monitoring period.

This report will enable members of the public and organisations to monitor and assess how the area is developing as a whole, looking at all the relevant factors that could affect the delivery of the policy and the Local Plan.

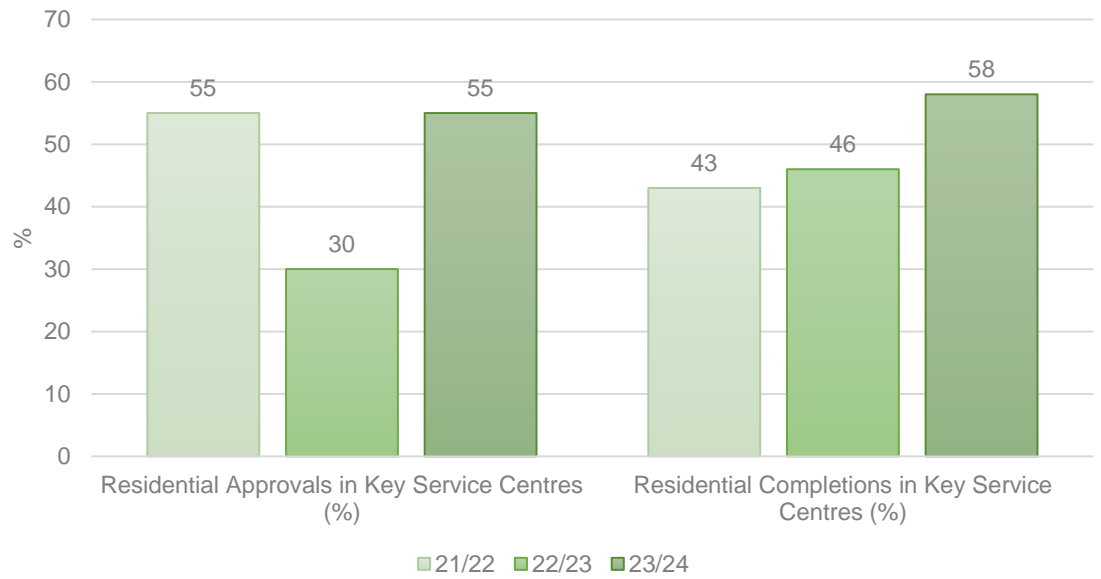
Strategic Policy SS: Spatial Strategy

This is the overarching policy which runs through the Local Plan. This policy sets out the main principles applicable to development in Rossendale and sets out in general terms where development should be located.

“To focus growth and investment in Key Service Centres, on major sites and on well-located brownfield sites, whilst protecting landscape, character and rural areas. Encourage appropriate scale of growth and investment in Local Service Centres.”

Target	Majority of growth to occur in Key Service Centres, with proportionate growth in the other Centres						
Progress towards Target	Number / proportion of permissions and completions for residential development:						
	Settlement Hierarchy	21/22 Approvals (no. of units)	21/22 Completions (no. of units)	22/23 Approvals (no. of units)	22/23 Completions (no. of units)	23/24 Approvals (no. of units)	23/24 Completions (no. of units)
	Key Service Centres (Rawtenstall, Bacup, Haslingden, Whitworth)	84	59	46	87	36	118
	Urban Local Service Centres (Waterfoot, Edenfield, Stacksteads, Crawshawbooth, Helmshore)	16	48	47	76	14	20
	Rural Local Service Centres (Loveclough / Goodshaw, Water, Weir, Whitewell Bottom, Broadley / Tonacliffe, Facit, Britannia, Stubbins, Newchurch, Rising Bridge, Shawforth)	0	10	36	18	9	57
	Other areas (smaller villages and substantially built-up frontages) (Acre, Chatterton, Cowpe, Ewood Bridge, Irwell Vale, Turn, Sharneyford, Lumb)	30	0	0	0	0	0
	Other areas (countryside, Green Belt)	22	20	23	10	7	8

Residential Approvals & Completions in Key Service Areas (21/22 - 23/24)



Percentage of approvals in Key Service Centres (3 year avg.) = 47%

Percentage of completions in Key Service Centres (3 year avg.) = 49%

Trigger to Implement Contingencies

1. More development occurring outside of the Key Service Centres than inside
2. Disproportionate amount of growth in the smallest centres or outside of centres

Trigger Met

Over the previous three monitoring periods 47% of approvals for dwellings were on land within Key Service Centres, therefore the trigger has been met for approvals. The main drivers behind this are significant Planning Permissions for Housing Allocations within Key Service Centres having a resolution to grant subject to a s106 agreement, with said agreement not yet being reached as well as approvals on Housing Allocations outside of Key Service Centres. It should also be noted that in both 21/22 and 23/24 the majority of approvals took place on sites within Key Service Centres, however the low figure in 22/23 has lowered this average.

Over the previous three monitoring periods 49% of completions for dwellings were on land within Key Service Centres, therefore the trigger has been met for completions. The trigger has only been met by a small margin and there is a marked upwards trend across the previous three monitoring periods.

Contingencies

Ensure that the majority of approvals are taking place within Key Service Centres or on Housing Allocations. If the majority of approvals begin to take place outside of these areas, or there is a trend of approvals moving in this direction, then it may be necessary to revise the data on the distribution / location of housing need and demand.

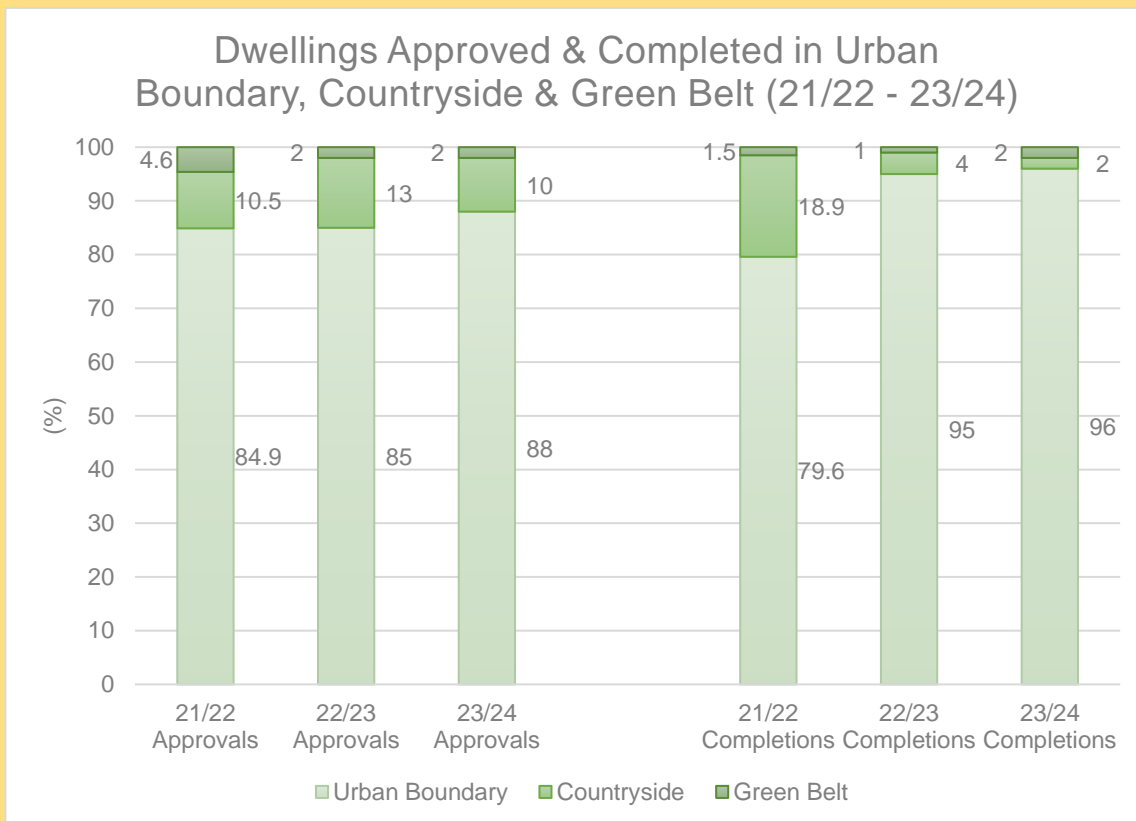
Policy SD2: Urban Boundary and Green Belt

“To direct the majority of growth to land within the Urban Boundary; to ensure countryside development is only allowed where a countryside location is essential.”

Target	No applications granted permission which are contrary to national policy in relation to the Green Belt			
Progress towards Target	Number / % of dwellings approved on sites within the Urban Boundary (UB) / Countryside not designated as Green Belt (CS) / Green Belt (GB):			
	Year	Urban Boundary	Countryside	Green Belt
	21/22	129 / 84.9%	16 / 10.5%	7 / 4.6%
	22/23	129 / 85%	20 / 13%	3 / 2%
	23/24	59 / 88%	7 / 10%	1 / 2%
	3yr avg.	86%	12%	2%

Number / % of dwellings completed on sites within UB / CS / GB:

Year	Urban Boundary	Countryside	Green Belt
21/22	109 / 79.6%	26 / 18.9%	2 / 1.5%
22/23	181 / 95%	8 / 4%	2 / 1%
23/24	195 / 96%	5 / 2%	3 / 2%
3yr avg.	90%	8%	2%



In 23/24 there were three dwellings (2022/0461, 2019/0382 & 2020/0367) recorded as being built on Green Belt land, amounting to 0.56ha of development in the Green Belt. One on Previously Developed Land (0.31ha) and the other two being for the conversion of agricultural barns to dwellings (2019/0382 being a Class Q Prior Approval) (0.25ha).

In 23/24 1 dwelling was approved on Green Belt land (2023/0420) on a brownfield site, amounting to 0.15ha of development in the Green Belt.

Number / % of commercial development (Class E) approved on sites within UB / CS / GB

Year	Urban Boundary	Countryside Not Designated as Green Belt	Green Belt
2021/22	21 / 95%	0 / 0%	1 / 5%
2022/23	24 / 100%	0 / 0%	0 / 0%
2023/24	16 / 84%	1 / 5%	2 / 11%

The two approvals related to commercial, business and services development (Class E) granted in the Green Belt in 2023/24 were for a change of use of a property from a restaurant to a children and parent facility (2023/0237) and for a new Valley View Tea Room on a farm (2022/0615). Both amount to about 0.23 ha of development in the Green Belt on previously developed land.

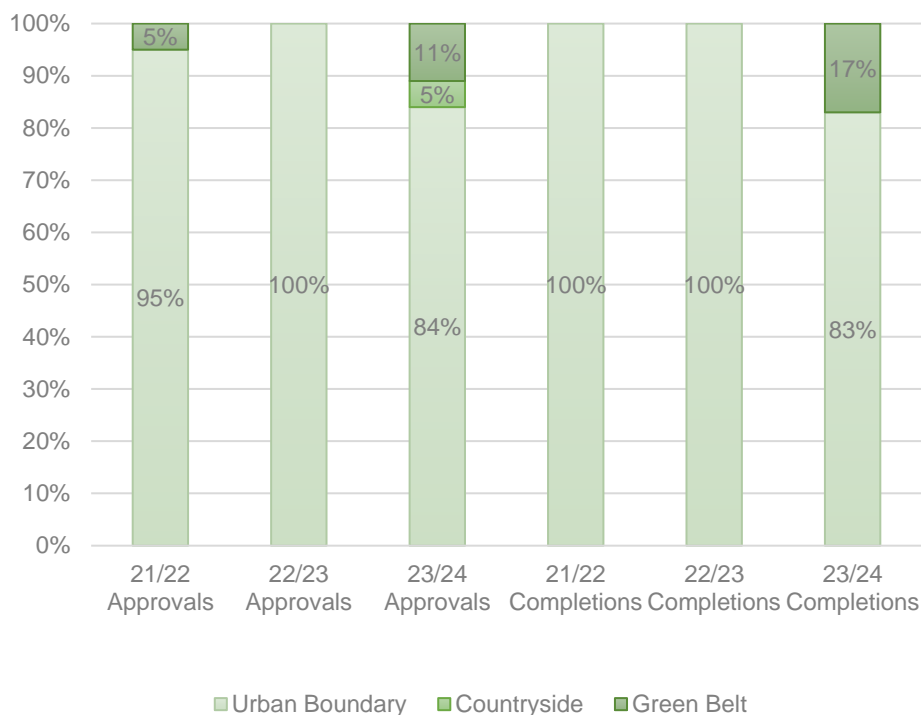
Over the last 3 years, the majority of commercial, business and services development (Class E) approvals were located in the Urban Boundary.

Number / % of commercial development (Class E) completed on sites within UB / CS / GB

Year	Urban Boundary	Countryside Not Designated as Green Belt	Green Belt
2021/22	10 / 100%	0 / 0%	0 / 0%
2022/23	9 / 100%	0 / 0%	0 / 0%
2023/24	15 / 83%	0 / 0%	3 / 17%

In 2023/24, most completions related to Class E were located within the Urban Boundary with 3 completions delivered in the Green Belt (2022/0226; 2022/0615 and 2023/0237). In terms of site gross area, these 3 completions add up to 0.24 ha of development in the Green Belt, one of them on greenfield land (2022/0226 – 0.01ha to change the use of a back garden to an area to consume food and drinks bought from existing shop).

Commercial, Business and Services Development (Class E) Approved & Completed in Urban Boundary, Countryside & Green Belt (21/22 - 23/24)



Number / % of employment development (Class B2 and B8) approved on sites within UB / CS / GB

Year	Urban Boundary	Countryside Not Designated as Green Belt	Green Belt
2021/22	3 / 60%	0 / 0%	2 / 40%
2022/23	6 / 75%	1 / 12.5%	1 / 12.5%
2023/24	6 / 60%	3 / 30%	1 / 10%

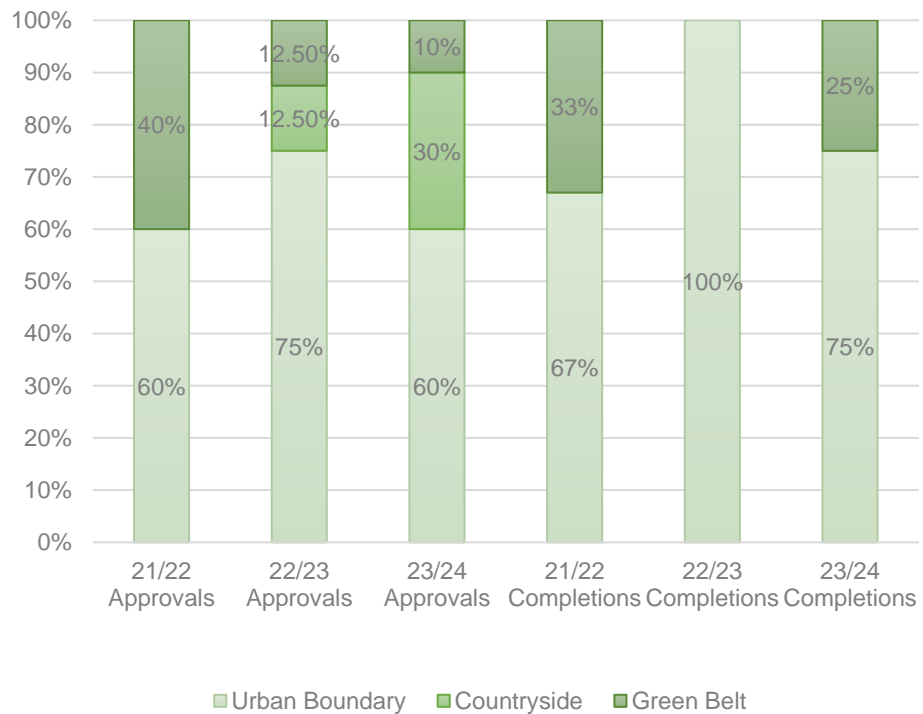
In 2023/24, the majority of applications related to general industrial (B2) or storage and distribution (B8) were approved within the Urban Boundary. In the Green Belt, a change of use from a residential and vacant industrial land to a fully residential use was approved (2022/0504). This permission amounts to 0.08 ha of Green Belt land granted permission. And in the countryside, two applications were approved to change the use of workshop (2023/0236) and to convert a store (2023/0206) into dwellings.

Number / % of employment development (Class B2 and B8 only) completed on sites within UB / CS / GB

Year	Urban Boundary	Countryside Not Designated as Green Belt	Green Belt
2021/22	2 / 67%	0 / 0%	1 / 33%
2022/23	10 / 100%	0 / 0%	0 / 0%
2023/24	3 / 75%	0 / 0%	1 / 25%

In 2023/24, the majority of completions involving the gain or loss of a Class B2 (general industrial) or B8 (storage and distribution), took place within the Urban Boundary. The application granted in the Green Belt as discussed above (2022/0504) was completed amounting to 0.08 ha of Green Belt land used as garden and parking space for a dwelling.

General Industrial (Class B2) and Storage & Distribution (Class B8) Approved & Completed in Urban Boundary, Countryside & Green Belt (21/22 - 23/24)



Trigger to Implement Contingencies

One or more applications granted contrary to national policy in relation to the Green Belt.

Trigger Met

In 2023/24, 1 application for residential development was approved on Green Belt land on a part Previously Developed Land part Greenfield site (2023/0420). Also, 2 applications were granted for a change of use to a children and parent facility (2023/0237) and for a new Valley View Tea Room on a farm (2022/0615) in the Green

	Belt. In addition, one permission for a change of use from a residential and vacant industrial land to a fully residential use was approved (2022/0504) in the Green Belt. These approved developments were all in accordance with national policy.
Contingencies	The trigger is not considered to have been met. New Green Belt boundaries have been adopted as part of the Local Plan in December 2021 drawing on information from Borough wide Green Belt Review undertaken in 2016.

Policy SD3: Planning Obligations

“To ensure new development contributes to infrastructure provision, where the development increases need.”

Target	Secure planning obligations on all applicable planning permissions			
Progress towards Target	In 2023 / 2024 s106 agreements were signed for 2 major developments:			
	2020/0008 - Land at Laneside Cottages, Todmorden Old Road			
	2021/0275 - Replacement Aqueduct for Haweswater Aqueduct			
	Financial s106 contributions were received for:			
	Planning Reference	Address	Type	Money
	2003/451	Scout Moor (Wind farm)	Scout Moor Habitat Rehabilitation Fund	£14,418
	2018/0039	Former Horse & Jockey, Edenfield	Education	£56,746
	2021/0271	Land at Station Road, Whitworth	Public Open Space (Knowsley Play Area)	£22,300
	2015/0517	Johnny Barn Close, Newchurch	Equipped Play Space	£7,160
	2015/0517	Johnny Barn Close, Newchurch	Playing Pitch	£7,490
2020/0436	Rear of 85 Grane Road, Haslingden	Public Open Space (Victoria Park & Greenfield Gardens)	£21,859	
2020/0363	Aldi, Henrietta Street, Bacup	Steps & Way Marker Improvements	£13,449	
2003/451	Scout Moor (Wind farm)	Scout Moor Habitat Rehabilitation Fund	£16,352	

Financial s106 contributions were spent on:

Planning Reference	Address	Type	Money
2003/451	Scout Moor (Wind farm)	Scout Moor Habitat Rehabilitation Fund	£6,392
2004/401	Douglas Rd / Tong Lane Bacup	Landscaped Area Maintenance	£10,000
2010/0667	Land at Orama Mill, Whitworth	Transport	£4,664
2012/0044	Springfield Court, Bacup	Traffic Regulation Order	£2,500
2014/0384	New Hall Hey, Rawtenstall	Pedestrian linkage between retail park, train station and town centre	£3,508
2014/0522	Land at Market St, Whitworth	Traffic Regulation Order & bus shelter upgrade	£10,000
2015/0334	Land off Oaklands Drive & Lower Cribden Avenue, Rawtenstall	Affordable Housing	£161,174
2015/0334	Land off Oaklands Drive & Lower Cribden Avenue, Rawtenstall	Affordable Housing	£162,894
2015/0358	Land north of Greensnook Lane, Bacup	Traffic Regulation Order - restrict parking and waiting	£2,000
2015/0358	Land north of Greensnook Lane, Bacup	Bus Shelter	£5,451
2015/0454	Kearns Mill, Cowpe	Traffic Regulation Order & Pathways	£10,367
2016/0010	Swan Hotel	TRO - restrict parking	£1,500
2016/0267	Land at Reedsholme Works, Rawtenstall	Public Open Space	£1,500
2018/0039	Horse and Jockey, 85 Market St, Edenfield	Traffic Regulation Order	£1,500
2018/0039	Horse & Jockey. 85 Market St, Edenfield	Local recreational/play facilities	£416
2021/0271	Land at Station Road, Whitworth	Public Open Space (Knowsley Play Area)	£10,004

Trigger to Implement Contingencies

1. Not meeting policy requirements for contributions.
2. Limited / no annual payments received

Trigger Met

No.

Contingencies

Continue to work proactively to secure developer contributions and allocate funds accordingly. More detail will be provided in the Council's Infrastructure Funding Statement.

Chapter 3: Housing

This section will report on the progress made over the plan period (2019-2036) in working towards achieving the aim of each of the housing policies. These policies are assessed against targets which are established in the Local Plan. Each policy is dealt with in turn and will set out what progress has been made towards achieving each of the relevant targets set out in the Local Plan and what has happened over the past 12 months.

This report will enable members of the public and organisations to monitor and assess how the area is developing as a whole, looking at all the relevant factors that could affect the delivery of the policy and the Local Plan as a whole.

Strategic Policy HS1: Meeting Rossendale’s Housing Requirement

“To address housing need and meet delivery targets and to provide an appropriate range of sizes and types of dwellings across the Borough.”

Target	208 dwellings delivered per annum years 2018/19 and 2019/20 and 185dpa years 2020/21 to 2035/36 (including 20% buffer); 3,191 dwellings to be delivered over Plan period 2019-36																				
Progress towards Target	<table border="1" style="margin-bottom: 10px;"> <thead> <tr> <th>Monitoring Period</th> <th>Net dwelling completions</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2019/2020</td> <td>94</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2020/2021</td> <td>77</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2021/2022</td> <td>137</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2022/2023</td> <td>191</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2023/2024 (last financial year)</td> <td>201</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The net dwelling completions in 23/24 equated to 201, surpassing the Local Plan target of 185 by 16 dwellings. This illustrates a continuous increase in dwellings built over the previous three monitoring periods.</p> <table border="1" style="margin-bottom: 10px;"> <thead> <tr> <th>Monitoring Period</th> <th>Net dwelling approved</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2021/2022</td> <td>108</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2022/2023</td> <td>179</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2023/2024 (last financial year)</td> <td>66</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The number of new dwellings being approved has not matched the annual number of approvals required to satisfy the Local Plan annual housing requirement since the adoption of the Local Plan.</p> <p>In accordance with paragraph 76 of the National Planning Policy Framework (December 2023) (NPPF) the Council is not required to identify and update annually a supply of specific deliverable sites sufficient to provide a minimum of five years’</p>	Monitoring Period	Net dwelling completions	2019/2020	94	2020/2021	77	2021/2022	137	2022/2023	191	2023/2024 (last financial year)	201	Monitoring Period	Net dwelling approved	2021/2022	108	2022/2023	179	2023/2024 (last financial year)	66
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2023/2024 (last financial year)	66																				

	worth of housing. As such, the Council will not be monitoring this target for the 2023/24 period.
Trigger to Implement Contingencies	Shortfall in 5-year supply greater than 1 year.
Trigger Met	N/A; the Council is not required to identify and update annually a supply of specific deliverable sites sufficient to provide a minimum of five years' worth of housing.
Contingencies	N/A

Target **30% of dwellings to be delivered on Previously Developed Land (PDL)**

Progress towards Target	Net no. dwellings approved on PDL from 2021/2022 to 2023/2024			
	PDL / GF / Mixed	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024
	PDL	91 (60%)	80 (53%)	55 (82%)
	GF	61 (40%)	31 (20%)	12 (18%)
	Mixed (PDL & GF Land)	0 (0%)	41 (27%)	0 (0%)
	Net no. dwellings completed on PDL from 2021/2022 to 2023/2024			
	PDL / GF / Mixed	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024
	PDL	88 (64%)	124 (65%)	128 (64%)
	GF	49 (36%)	67 (35%)	8 (4%)
	Mixed (PDL & GF Land)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	65 (32%)

Trigger to Implement Contingencies	Less than 30% of dwellings delivered on PDL
Trigger Met	No, more than 30% of dwellings delivered were on PDL.
Contingencies	Continue to update and publicise the Brownfield Register in order to encourage the re-use of Previously Developed Land.

Indicator **Number of detached / semi-detached / terrace / apartment approved / completed**

Results	Number approved over the latest three monitoring periods:			
	House type	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
	Detached	30	29	25
	Semi	7	59	7
	Apartment	35	42	30

Terrace	41	37	3
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Number completed over the latest three monitoring periods:

House type	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Detached	45	50	48
Semi	55	79	59
Apartment	36	33	36
Terrace	3	31	58

The total number of approvals / completions reported per house type may not reflect the total number of approvals / completions reported elsewhere due to losses of dwellings not being incorporated into the results for this section and unavailable data for select sites.

Indicator **Number of 1 / 2 / 3 / 4 / 5+ bed dwellings approved / completed**

Results

Number approved over the latest three monitoring periods:

Number of bedrooms in dwelling	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
1	36	36	24
2	8	56	13
3	48	68	8
4	13	6	13
5+	11	1	5

Number completed over the latest three monitoring periods:

Number of bedrooms in dwelling	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
1	27	21	22
2	26	41	33
3	54	95	116
4	24	34	26
5+	9	3	7

	The total number of approvals / completions reported per bedroom number may not reflect the total number of approvals / completions reported elsewhere due to losses of dwellings not being incorporated into the results for this section and unavailable data for select sites.						
Indicator	No. of dwellings approved/completed specifically for; Older people, People with disabilities, Private rented sector, Self-build and custom build, and Student housing						
Results	Category	21/22 Approvals	21/22 Comps.	22/23 Apps.	22/23 Comps.	23/24 Apps.	23/24 Comps.
	People with disabilities (M4(2))*	0	0	4	0	3 “accessible rooms”	4
	Elder Care Facilities	0	22 bed care facility	0	0	0	0
	Private rented sector	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
	Self-build and custom build	2 (31/10/20 – 30/10/21)**	2	5 (31/10/21 – 30/10/22) **	3	2	3
	Student housing	0	0	0	0	0	0
	*This relates to Optional Standards M4(2) of the Building Regulations						
	**This information will be updated as part of the annual return to DLUHC, you can find more information on this here						
Target	456 dwellings to be delivered in Edenfield Community Neighbourhood Plan (NP) Area						
Progress towards Target	No dwellings have been delivered on any of the Edenfield Housing Allocations (H65 / H66 / H67) over the latest three monitoring periods. 0 dwellings in 21/22, 1 dwelling in 22/23 and 8 dwellings in 23/24 were recorded as being delivered within the Edenfield NP area.						
Trigger to Implement Contingencies	None of the housing allocations within the Edenfield NP have full planning permission by Year 5 (23/24) of the Plan.						
Trigger Met	Yes						

Contingencies	Work on finalising a Masterplan & Design Code across allocation H66 is currently at an advanced stage, with work still progressing with landowners and developers towards obtaining planning permission across the various housing allocations in the Edenfield NP area.									
Target	Reduction in no. of homes that have been empty for more than 2 years									
Progress towards Target	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Number of properties classed as vacant (unoccupied & unfurnished) (2 years+)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2021/2022</td> <td>173</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2022/2023</td> <td>171</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2023/2024</td> <td>164</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	Number of properties classed as vacant (unoccupied & unfurnished) (2 years+)	2021/2022	173	2022/2023	171	2023/2024	164	
Year	Number of properties classed as vacant (unoccupied & unfurnished) (2 years+)									
2021/2022	173									
2022/2023	171									
2023/2024	164									
Trigger to Implement Contingencies	There is a rise in the number of empty properties.									
Trigger Met	No, the number of properties in Rossendale classed as vacant (unoccupied and unfurnished) (2 years+) has reduced year on year from 2021 to 2024.									
Contingencies	Identify problems and causes of vacancy and work with key partners to assist in bringing dwellings back into use targeting persistent long-term vacancies.									

Policy HS2: Housing Site Allocations

“To direct housing development to appropriate locations and to maximised the re-development of brownfield land for housing.”

Target	75% of development to take place on allocated sites							
Progress towards Target	No. of completions on allocated sites, split by PDL and greenfield							
	Year	Completions on allocated sites			Completions on unallocated sites			
		PDL	GF	Total	PDL	GF	Mixed	Total
	2021/2022	66	25	91 (66%)	22	24	0	46 (34%)
	2022/2023	88	53	141 (74%)	36	14	0	50 (26%)
2023/2024	52	56	108 (54%)	76	9	8	93 (46%)	
In 21/22, 22/23 & 23/24 more than 25% of housing development took place on unallocated sites.								

Trigger to Implement Contingencies	More than 25% of development on unallocated sites
Trigger Met	Yes. In 23/24 the percent of completions on unallocated sites has risen from 26% to 46% of total completions. This is due to a number of minor change of use developments and a larger major residential scheme on unallocated PDL being completed in 23/24.
Contingencies	Identify problems and potential causes of variants and identify measures to address them.

Target	70% of sites on the brownfield register brought back into use
Progress towards Target	<p>On the 2021 Brownfield Register there were 21 sites identified with a capacity to deliver approximately 356 dwellings. As of 31/03/2022 there had been no further completions on any of these 21 sites.</p> <p>On the 2022 Brownfield Register there were 24 sites identified with a capacity to deliver approximately 391 dwellings. As of 31/03/2023 there had been 13 completions on one site on the register (85 Grane Road – 2020/0436).</p> <p>On the 2023 Brownfield Register (last updated December 2023) there were 24 sites identified with a capacity to deliver approximately 382 dwellings. As of 31/03/2024 there had been no further completions on any of these 24 sites, however, there are also numerous permissions granted on the sites and some are marked as under construction.</p> <p>You can find more details on the 2023 Brownfield Register here.</p>
Trigger to Implement Contingencies	Less than 70% of sites on the brownfield register brought back into use over the Plan period.
Trigger Met	No
Contingencies	Continue to update and publicise the Brownfield Register to encourage the re-use of Previously Developed Land.

Target	All applications of 50 or more dwellings accompanied by a masterplan
Progress towards Target	No applications were approved for 50 or more dwellings over the previous three monitoring periods.
Trigger to Implement Contingencies	Anything less than 100%
Trigger Met	No.
Contingencies	Require a masterplan to accompany any applications for 50 or more dwellings.

Policy HS3: Affordable Housing

“To ensure provision of appropriate levels of affordable housing to meet identified needs.”

Target	75% of new housing completions on major sites meeting adopted policy on affordable housing
Progress towards Target	<p>In 2021/2022 there were 71 completions on major sites (permissions with 10 or more dwellings). 34 (48%) of which were affordable dwellings.</p> <p>In 2022/2023 there were 146 completions on major sites. 67 (46%) of which were affordable dwellings.</p> <p>In 2023/2024 there were 142 completions on major sites. 59 (42%) of which were affordable dwellings. Further details below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2020/0039 (H55) – Land at Johnny Barn CI, Cloughfold – 3 shared ownership • 2021/0158 (H18) – Land adj. Reed St, Bacup – 19 rent to buy • 2021/0271 – Fmr. Slingco Ltd. site, Whitworth – 37 affordable rent <p>In 2021/2022 there were 2 major residential applications approved which were eligible for s106 contributions (2019/0405 & 2020/0436). Of the 2 major applications there were 43 dwellings approved, 9 of which were affordable, equating to a 21% affordable dwelling contribution.</p> <p>In 2022/2023 there were 2 major residential applications approved which were eligible for s106 contributions (2021/0271 & 2021/0500). Of the 2 major applications there are 78 dwellings approved, 43 of which are affordable, equating to a 55% average affordable dwelling contribution.</p> <p>In 2023/2024 no major residential applications were approved which were eligible for s106 contributions.</p>
Trigger to Implement Contingencies	More than 25% of new housing completions not meeting the adopted policy on affordable housing
Trigger Met	No. Policy HS3: Affordable Housing details a requirement for major developments to provide 30% on-site affordable housing subject to site and development considerations.
Contingencies	Liaise with developers to understand why targets are not being met and identify barriers and potential ways of addressing the situation.
Indicator	Amount of commuted sum payments toward affordable housing
Results	No s106 contributions were received in 21/22 and 22/23 for off-site affordable housing.
Indicator	Reasons to justify non provision of affordable housing
Results	In 2023/2024 no major residential applications were approved which were eligible for s106 contributions.

Indicator	No. of affordable dwellings delivered in rural areas
Results	No affordable dwellings were delivered in 21/22, 22/23 or 23/24 in Countryside areas.
Indicator	No. of affordable / market dwellings completed that meet specific needs i.e. purpose-built accommodation for the elderly, housing suitable for disabled people
Results	In 21/22 a 22 bedroom care facility for adults and the elderly with learning difficulties was constructed (2017/0590). In 22/23 4 dwellings were approved to M4(2) standards. In 23/24 3 rooms as part of application 2023/0395 were approved as “accessible rooms”.

Policy HS4: Housing Density

“To ensure the most efficient use of land and contribute to sustainable development.”

Target	Town centre locations to achieve at least 40dph												
Progress towards Target	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Number of dwellings</th> <th>Density (Dwellings p/ ha)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2021/22</td> <td>2</td> <td>66.7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2022/23</td> <td>13</td> <td>80.8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2023/24</td> <td>22</td> <td>174</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	Number of dwellings	Density (Dwellings p/ ha)	2021/22	2	66.7	2022/23	13	80.8	2023/24	22	174
Year	Number of dwellings	Density (Dwellings p/ ha)											
2021/22	2	66.7											
2022/23	13	80.8											
2023/24	22	174											
Trigger to Implement Contingencies	10% of town centre completions being less than 40dph												
Trigger Met	No, 100% of town centre completions exceeded 40dph.												
Contingencies	Continue to monitor and, if necessary, identify problems and potential causes of variants and identify measures to address them.												

Policy HS5: Housing Standards

“To ensure high quality design and meet the needs of specific groups.”

Indicator	Number / % of dwellings approved/completed and built to M4 (2) Standards
Results	<p>0 dwellings were approved to M4(2) standards in 21/22, 4 in 22/23 and 3 rooms as part of application 2023/0395 were approved as “accessible rooms” in 23/24.</p> <p>We expect this figure to rise in subsequent monitoring periods where it is estimated that an increased number of major applications will be determined.</p>
Indicator	Quality of new housing approved/completed - according to building for healthy life assessments
Results	No new dwellings were approved or completed according to building for healthy life assessments over the past three monitoring periods.
Indicator	Number / % dwellings approved/completed specifically for older people
Results	In 21/22 a 22 bedroom care facility for adults and the elderly with learning difficulties was constructed (2017/0590 / H19). No new dwellings were approved or completed for older people in 22/23 or 23/24.

Policy HS6: Open Space Requirements in New Housing Developments

“To ensure the provision of / contribution towards an appropriate level of open space in new developments and to contribute to amenity, health and wellbeing.”

Target	All major housing developments approved in areas of deficiency to provide appropriate contribution towards open space
Progress towards Target	<p>Of the 2 major housing applications where associated s106 agreements were signed in 21/22, both provided financial open space contributions:</p> <p>2020/0436 - Rear of 85 Grane Road - £17,758</p> <p>2019/0405 - Irwell Vale Mill, Aitken Lane - £40,980</p> <p>Of the 2 major housing applications where associated s106 agreements were applicable in 22/23, both provided financial open space contributions:</p> <p>2021/0271 - Former Slingco Ltd site, Station Road - £20,000 for Knowsley Play Area</p> <p>2021/0500 - Land at Blackwood Road – Provision of on-site Open Space, with an associated management and maintenance plan.</p> <p>No applicable major housing developments were approved in 23/24.</p>

Trigger to Implement Contingencies	Any major housing development in area of open space deficiency not providing appropriate contribution
Trigger Met	No, 100% of the applicable major housing development approvals over the past three monitoring periods have associated s106 agreements including contributions to open space.
Contingencies	Work is progressing on an update to the Council's Open Space and Playing Pitch Supplementary Planning Document.
Indicator	Hectares of new open space approved/created through development
Result	No on-site open space was agreed via a s106 agreement in 21/22. 0.07ha (747sqm) of open space was agreed via a s106 agreement related to application 2021/0500 in 22/23. No applicable major housing developments were approved in 23/24.
Target	75% of major housing development approved in all areas to provide appropriate contribution towards open space
Progress towards Target	Of the 2 major housing applications where associated s106 agreements were signed in 21/22, both provided financial open space contributions: 2020/0436 - Rear of 85 Grane Road - £17,758 2019/0405 - Irwell Vale Mill Aitken Lane - £40,980 Of the 2 major housing applications where associated s106 agreements were applicable in 22/23, both provided financial open space contributions: 2021/0271 - Former Slingco Ltd site, Station Road - £20,000 for Knowsley Play Area 2021/0500 - Land at Blackwood Road – Provision of on-site Open Space, with an associated management and maintenance plan. No applicable major housing developments were approved in 23/24.
Trigger to Implement Contingencies	25% of all major development not providing appropriate open space provision
Trigger Met	No, 100% of the applicable major housing applications approved in the previous three monitoring periods supplied financial open space contributions.
Contingencies	Work is progressing on an update to the Council's Open Space and Playing Pitch Supplementary Planning Document.
Indicator	Reasons cited for not providing open space
Results	None were given in 21/22 and 22/23. No applicable major housing developments were approved in 23/24.

Policy HS7: Playing Pitch Requirements in New Housing Developments

“To ensure the provision of / contribution to playing pitches.”

Target	All major housing developments approved in areas of deficiency to provide appropriate contribution
Progress towards Target	No major housing developments approved over the last three monitoring periods provided a contribution towards playing pitches.
Trigger to Implement Contingencies	Any major housing development in area of deficiency not providing appropriate contribution
Trigger Met	N/A.
Contingencies	The Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport Strategy Assessment Report and Action Plan were approved in March 2022. The Council is also to produce a SPD to establish that, where there is a local need for playing pitches based on the Playing Pitch Strategy, appropriate financial contributions will be sought from new residential developments.
Target	75% of major housing development approved in all areas to provide appropriate contribution
Progress towards Target	No major housing developments approved in 22/23 provided a contribution towards playing pitches.
Trigger to Implement Contingencies	25% of all major development not providing appropriate provision
Trigger Met	Yes, more than 25% of all major developments did not provide a contribution towards playing pitches.
Contingencies	The Council is to produce a SPD to establish that, where there is a local need for playing pitches based on the Playing Pitch Strategy, appropriate financial contributions will be sought from new residential developments.

Policy HS11: Rural Affordable Housing – Rural Exception Sites

“To contribute to meeting the need for affordable housing in rural areas.”

Indicator	Number of permissions relating specifically to "rural exception" sites; percentage of affordable housing provided on these sites
Results	No rural exception sites were approved or completed over the latest three monitoring periods.

Policy HS14: Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople

“To meet the identified needs for these groups.”

Target	To meet the level of identified need (particularly for a transit site of up to 4 pitches and new pitches within existing sites)
Progress towards Target	The 2016 Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Showperson Accommodation Assessment reported that there were two permanent authorised pitches within Rossendale. There have been no recorded approvals or completions of new permanent of transit pitches or extensions to existing pitches over the latest three monitoring periods.
Trigger to Implement Contingencies	A reduction in available supply of pitches below 50% of need
Trigger Met	No, the supply of pitches has not changed in 23/24.
Contingencies	Bring forward Gypsy and Traveller site allocations in line with the identified need.
Target	To minimise the number of illegal encampments and the need for enforcement action carried out
Progress towards Target	Rossendale Borough Council keeps a record of encampments on Futures Park, Bacup and Rossendale Borough Council owned land. In 21/22 there were 3 illegal encampments. 1 of these required a Court Order for removal. In 22/23 there were 6 illegal encampments. 5 of these required a Court Order for removal. In 23/24 there were 7 illegal encampments. 3 of these required a Court Order for removal.
Trigger to Implement Contingencies	Significant increase in illegal encampments or need for enforcement action.
Trigger Met	Yes, this figure has continued to increase over the latest three monitoring periods.
Contingencies	Work is ongoing to create a Negotiated Stopping Policy that the Council can facilitate in future engagements.

Policy HS15: Specialist Housing

“To provide for specialist housing need and increase the range of housing types.”

Target	To meet need for specialist accommodation identified in the SHMA / other housing need evidence
Progress towards Target	In 21/22 a 22 bedroom care facility for adults and the elderly with learning difficulties was constructed (2017/0590 / H19). No specialist accommodation was approved / completed in 22/23 or 23/24.
Trigger to Implement Contingencies	No new specialist accommodation provided / proposed in the Borough despite identified need.
Trigger Met	Yes, no new specialist accommodation was approved / constructed in 22/23 or 23/24.
Contingencies	Work with specialist providers to identify barriers and solutions.

Policy HS16: Self-Build and Custom-Built Houses

“To provide for self-build and custom-built housing need and increased the rand of housing types.”

Target	Providing self-build/ custom-build opportunities on major housing sites														
Progress towards Target	<p>No self-build dwellings were approved or delivered on sites of 50 dwellings or more over the latest three monitoring periods.</p> <p>The number of self-build approved and completed on smaller sites over the last three monitoring periods is reported below:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Self / Custom-Build Approved</th> <th>Self / Custom-Build Completed</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2021/22</td> <td>6 (2021/0076; 2020/0406; 2021/0136; 2021/0367; 2021/0443; 2021/0455)</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2022/23</td> <td>4 (2022/0165; 2022/0285; 2022/0313; 2022/0342 later re-submitted as 2022/0626)</td> <td>3 (2018/0171; 2020/0074; 2020/0262)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2023/24</td> <td>5 (2022/0566; 2023/0189; 2023/0241; 2023/0344; 2023/0420)</td> <td>3 (2017/0325; 2018/0577; 2022/0566)</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Year	Self / Custom-Build Approved	Self / Custom-Build Completed	2021/22	6 (2021/0076; 2020/0406; 2021/0136; 2021/0367; 2021/0443; 2021/0455)	2	2022/23	4 (2022/0165; 2022/0285; 2022/0313; 2022/0342 later re-submitted as 2022/0626)	3 (2018/0171; 2020/0074; 2020/0262)	2023/24	5 (2022/0566; 2023/0189; 2023/0241; 2023/0344; 2023/0420)	3 (2017/0325; 2018/0577; 2022/0566)
Year	Self / Custom-Build Approved	Self / Custom-Build Completed													
2021/22	6 (2021/0076; 2020/0406; 2021/0136; 2021/0367; 2021/0443; 2021/0455)	2													
2022/23	4 (2022/0165; 2022/0285; 2022/0313; 2022/0342 later re-submitted as 2022/0626)	3 (2018/0171; 2020/0074; 2020/0262)													
2023/24	5 (2022/0566; 2023/0189; 2023/0241; 2023/0344; 2023/0420)	3 (2017/0325; 2018/0577; 2022/0566)													
Trigger to Implement Contingencies	25% of relevant applications for housing not providing custom or self-build opportunities														
Trigger Met	No, as no applications for 50 or more dwellings were approved in 2022/23.														

Contingencies	Consider the availability of land, identify any potential land e.g. on housing allocations, in Council ownership etc.
Indicator	No of individuals/groups on the self-build register
Results	As of the 31 st March 2022 there were 44 individuals on the self-build register and no groups. As of the 31 st March 2023 there were 47 individuals on the self-build register and no groups. As of the 31 st March 2024 there were 49 individuals on the self-build register and no groups.
Target	To meet the requirements identified by the Self Build Register
Progress towards Target	The Local Planning Authority has 3 years to meet the demand on the register. As of 30 th October 2023, the Local Planning Authority had not granted enough residential consent on plots of land to meet the demand on the register for the period 2019/20. Between Oct. 2019 and 2020 9 people signed up to the register and within the 3 following years 4 additional permissions were granted for self / custom-build dwellings. Using one over-supply from previous years, this leaves an under-supply of 4 plots. More information is available at https://www.rossendale.gov.uk/info/210144/planning_and_building_control/10637/more/3 .
Trigger to Implement Contingencies	Not meeting the number of approvals over the rolling year period.
Trigger Met	Yes, in October 2023, the Council was not meeting the demand as identified on the Council's Self-Build Register in 2019/20. There were 4 permissions for self-build plots granted between 31 October 2022 and 30 October 2023. Unfortunately, the Council does not meet its duty to grant enough permissions for self-build or custom plots to match the number of entries onto the register for the base period 2019/2020 (the Council has 3 years from the base period to grant enough approvals).
Contingencies	Consider the availability of land, identify any potential land e.g. on housing allocations, in Council ownership etc.

Chapter 4: Employment Growth and Employment

Strategic Policy EMP1: Provision for Employment

“To ensure enough land is provided to meet economic growth.”

Indicator	No. of approvals /completions or area (ha of new land provision or sqm of new employment floorspace) for B1/ E(g), B2 and B8 land use class, split by greenfield/ previously developed land																													
Target	27 ha of new employment land provision over the Plan period. Or approximately 1.8ha of new employment land provision per annum.																													
Progress towards Target	<p>Please note that permitted development rights exist within Class E which means that it is possible to change a use from E(g) to another Class E use without submitting a planning application. The monitoring below is based on planning applications (including prior approvals) being granted.</p> <p>19 permissions were granted in 2023/24 in relation to E(g) (offices, research and development or light industrial), B2 (general industrial) and B8 (storage and distribution) uses, amounting to a gain of approximately 1ha of employment land (or 3,488 sqm of employment floorspace). Most permissions were granted on brownfield land, except for 11 industrial starter units within Knowsley Road Industrial Estate, in Haslingden, on a grassland site (2023/0108).</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Net employment floorspace/area approved</th> <th>E(g) (sqm)</th> <th>B2 (sqm)</th> <th>B8 (sqm)</th> <th>Overall (sqm)</th> <th>Overall (ha)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2021/22</td> <td>-1,210</td> <td>2,321</td> <td>2,110</td> <td>3,221</td> <td>0.25</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2022/23</td> <td>333</td> <td>-2,123</td> <td>518</td> <td>-1272</td> <td>-0.54</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2023/24</td> <td>-3370</td> <td>1172</td> <td>5686</td> <td>3488</td> <td>1.17</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>During the same year, 10 permissions were completed resulting in a gain of about 507 sqm in B8 (storage and distribution) and a loss of about 509 sqm of E(g) (offices, research and development or light industrial). There have been no changes in terms of B2 (general industrial use). In terms of gross site area, the works amount to a net loss of approximately 0.1 ha of land from E(g), B2 and B8 into other uses. All completions took place on previously developed land.</p>						Net employment floorspace/area approved	E(g) (sqm)	B2 (sqm)	B8 (sqm)	Overall (sqm)	Overall (ha)	2021/22	-1,210	2,321	2,110	3,221	0.25	2022/23	333	-2,123	518	-1272	-0.54	2023/24	-3370	1172	5686	3488	1.17
Net employment floorspace/area approved	E(g) (sqm)	B2 (sqm)	B8 (sqm)	Overall (sqm)	Overall (ha)																									
2021/22	-1,210	2,321	2,110	3,221	0.25																									
2022/23	333	-2,123	518	-1272	-0.54																									
2023/24	-3370	1172	5686	3488	1.17																									

Net employment floorspace/ area completed	E(g) (sqm)	B2 (sqm)	B8 (sqm)	Overall (sqm)	Overall (ha)
2021/22	181	12,881	299	13,361	0.91
2022/23	-1082	-644	667	-1059	-0.01
2023/24	-509	0	507	-2	-0.06

The list of approvals related to town centre uses and employment floorspace can be found in Appendix 2 with the completions in Appendix 3.

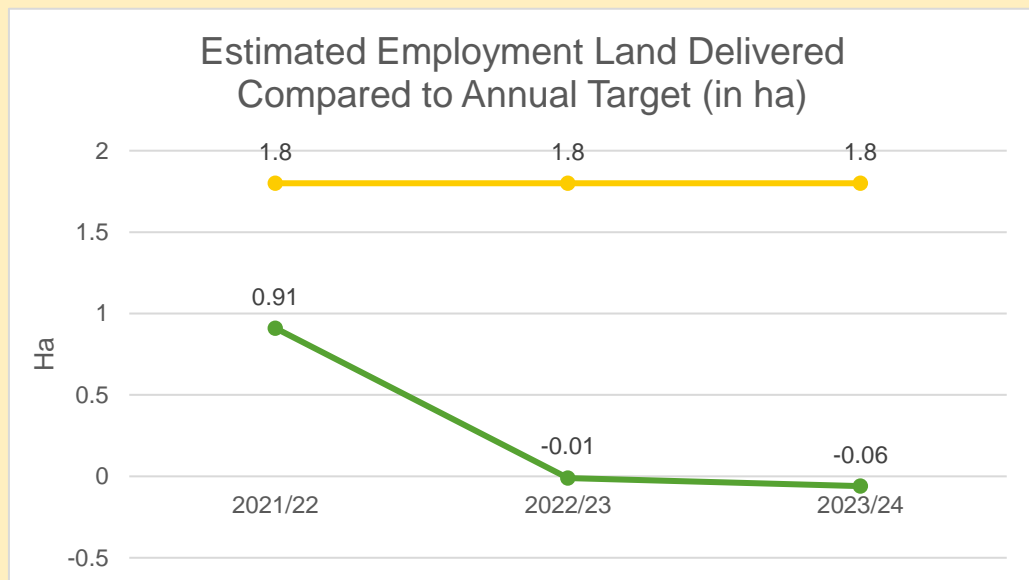
Trigger to Implement Contingencies

Not meeting the annual requirement during a 3 year period

Trigger Met

The annual target of providing 1.8ha of employment land has not be reached within the past 3 years.

Annual employment land target (E(g), B2 and B8)	2021/2022 completions	2022/2023 completions	2023/2024 completions
1.8ha	0.91ha	-0.01ha	-0.06ha



Contingencies

A supplementary document requiring marketing and viability assessment exercises to be carried out prior to applying for a change of use from employment into other uses has been adopted in July 2023. We will continue to monitor new employment land provision in the future.

Indicator Total no. of employee jobs, part time /full time

Results The number of employee jobs has been obtained from the nomis website for the year 2022 (as of 20th August 2024). The figures provided by the website are rounded up estimates and show a decrease in the number of employees in Rossendale between 2021 and 2022 both in full-time and part-time employment.

	2019	2020	2021	2022
Employees	20,000	19,000	22,000	20,000
Full-time employees (working more than 30 hours a week)	13,000	13,000	15,000	14,000
Part-time employees (working 30 hours a week or less)	6,000	6,000	7,000	6,000

<https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/query/construct/summary.asp?mode=construct&version=0&dataset=189>

Policy EMP2: Employment Site Allocations

“To provide sufficient new employment land in appropriate locations and protect existing employment land.”

Indicator	No of approval/completions of employment land or floorspace provision on allocated employment sites				
Target	Net reduction in vacancy rates on identified employment sites				
Progress Towards Target	Six planning permissions involving the loss or gain of employment land were approved on allocated employment sites in 2023/24 which if implemented can result in an overall gain of 3,802sqm of employment floorspace.				
	Planning Application	Allocated Sites	Gain(+) or Loss(-) E(g) (sqm)	Gain(+) or Loss(-) B2 (sqm)	Gain(+) or Loss(-) B8 (sqm)
	2023/0108	EE18 – Knowsley Road Industrial Estate	0	1188	0
	2023/0330	EE16 – Carrs Industrial Estate	-2820	0	4760
	2023/0117	EE35 – Broad clough	0	-16	0
	2023/0400	EE31 – Atherton Holme Works	-86	0	0
	2023/0104	EE3 – The Sidings	0	0	776
	2023/0505	EE16 – Carrs Industrial Estate	0	0 (demolition and reconstruction)	0
	Total	3802	-2906	1172	5536

Progress Towards Target	<p>In terms of completions, 2 developments were completed on allocated sites in 2023/24:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Change of use to motor vehicle service, repairs & MOT testing centre on allocation EE16 – Carrs Industrial Estate, Haslingden (planning application 2022/0621) - Conversion of vacant office (Class E) to dwellinghouse (Class C3) within allocation EE49 – Bridge End Mills, Whitworth (planning application 2022/0606) <p>None of these allocated sites had any vacancy level identified in the Local Plan.</p>																				
Trigger to Implement Contingencies	<p>Land remains vacant for over 3 years</p>																				
Trigger met	<p>The four employment allocated sites with a remaining net developable area identified in the Local Plan are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EE12 - Large Site at Hud Hey, Haslingden (1.7 ha) • EE23 – Rossendale Motor Sales, Bury Road (0.06 ha) • EE43 - Warth Mill (0.08 ha) • EE47- Station Road, Facit (0.28 ha) <p>The allocated site EE47 can be excluded as it is now a residential site. Of the remaining 3 sites, the large site at Hud Hey provides the largest opportunities for new employment land provision.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Existing Employment Sites with remaining net developable area</th> <th>2021/22</th> <th>2022/23</th> <th>2023/24</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>EE12 - Large Site at Hud Hey, Haslingden</td> <td>N/A</td> <td>N/A</td> <td>N/A</td> </tr> <tr> <td>EE23 – Rossendale Motor Sales, Bury Road</td> <td>N/A</td> <td>N/A</td> <td>N/A</td> </tr> <tr> <td>EE43 - Warth Mill</td> <td>N/A</td> <td>N/A</td> <td>N/A</td> </tr> <tr> <td>EE47- Station Road, Facit</td> <td>N/A</td> <td>2021/0271 permission to change use to residential</td> <td>37 affordable dwellings completed</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Existing Employment Sites with remaining net developable area	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	EE12 - Large Site at Hud Hey, Haslingden	N/A	N/A	N/A	EE23 – Rossendale Motor Sales, Bury Road	N/A	N/A	N/A	EE43 - Warth Mill	N/A	N/A	N/A	EE47- Station Road, Facit	N/A	2021/0271 permission to change use to residential	37 affordable dwellings completed
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EE47- Station Road, Facit	N/A	2021/0271 permission to change use to residential	37 affordable dwellings completed																		
Contingencies	<p>Continue to monitor the economic value of employment sites in relation to occupation and vacancy levels. Where sites are not performing well, consideration could be given to alternative uses in accordance with national planning policy.</p>																				

Indicator	No of masterplans/development briefs approved for permissions on sites requiring one
Target	All applications to include a masterplan or development brief where required
Progress Towards Target	None of the permissions granted in 2023/24 were located in an allocated employment sites or mixed-use requiring a masterplan or development brief.

Policy EMP3: Employment Site and Premises

“To protect existing employment land but allow for suitable redevelopment where appropriate.”

Indicator	Sqm of employment floorspace lost to other uses (per type of use approved / completed) - total and on allocated sites				
Target	No net loss of employment floorspace				
Progress Towards Target	The table below reports losses in employment floorspace (but not any gains) for both approvals and completions in 2023/24.				
	2023/24	Approvals		Completions	
	Floorspace lost to other uses (sqm) from:	Allocated Sites	Total	Allocated Sites	Total
	E(g) Offices, Research and Development and Light Industrial Process	-2906	-3859	-78	-725
	B2 General Industrial	-16	-16	0	0
	B8 Storage and Distribution	0	-111	0	0
	<p>Once the gains in employment floorspace are factored in, the approvals results in a net gain of employment floorspace (E(g), B2 and B8) of 3,488sqm and the completions to a net loss of 2sqm in 2023/24.</p> <p>The list of approvals related to town centre uses and employment floorspace can be found in Appendix 2 with the completions in Appendix 3.</p>				
Trigger to Implement Contingencies	Net loss of employment floorspace over more than one year running				

Trigger met

In the previous two years, there has been a net loss of employment floorspace delivered of 1,059sqm in 2022/23 and 2sqm in 2023/24, therefore the trigger has been met.

Net employment floorspace/ area completed	E(g) (sqm)	B2 (sqm)	B8 (sqm)	Overall (sqm)	Overall (ha)
2021/22	181	12,881	299	13,361	0.91
2022/23	-1082	-644	667	-1059	-0.01
2023/24	-509	0	507	-2	-0.06

Contingencies

The Re-use and Re-development of Employment Land Supplementary Planning Document adopted by the Council came into force on 31st July 2023. This SPD aims to require appropriate evidence to inform the decision-making process for applications involving the loss of general industrial (B2) or storage and distribution sites (B8). The effect of this SPD will be monitored in the years to come via this indicator.

Policy EMP4: Development Criteria for Employment Generating Development

“To support wider economic growth and increase jobs.”

Indicator	No. or floorspace (in sqm) approved/completed of non- employment land use class providing jobs, by use class type																																			
<p>Results</p> <p>The approvals and completions of uses under Class E (Commercial, Businesses and Services) except E(g) (Offices, Research and Development and Light Industrial) are reported here to assess the provision of other land uses generating employment.</p> <p>During 2023/24, 9 applications were approved related to Class E (except E(g)), leading to a net gain in floorspace of 645sqm. Over the past 3 years, there has been a fluctuation in the amount of floorspace approved for Class E use (not considering E(g)).</p>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Approvals (sqm)</th> <th>2021/22</th> <th>2022/23</th> <th>2023/24</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>E(a) -shops</td> <td>1,818</td> <td>-606</td> <td>-72</td> </tr> <tr> <td>E(b) – food and drink served on premises</td> <td>3</td> <td>359</td> <td>-274</td> </tr> <tr> <td>E(c) – financial, professional services (other than medical services) or other services appropriate in commercial, business or service locality</td> <td>-148</td> <td>-242</td> <td>855</td> </tr> <tr> <td>E(d) – indoor sport and recreation</td> <td>0</td> <td>372</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>E(e) – medical services</td> <td>0</td> <td>-154</td> <td>136</td> </tr> <tr> <td>E(f) – crèche, day centre, nursery</td> <td>287</td> <td>86</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>1906 *</td> <td>-185**</td> <td>645</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Approvals (sqm)	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	E(a) -shops	1,818	-606	-72	E(b) – food and drink served on premises	3	359	-274	E(c) – financial, professional services (other than medical services) or other services appropriate in commercial, business or service locality	-148	-242	855	E(d) – indoor sport and recreation	0	372	0	E(e) – medical services	0	-154	136	E(f) – crèche, day centre, nursery	287	86	0	Total	1906 *	-185**	645	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
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<p>*1,805sqm was reported in 2021/22 because it wrongly included the loss of a public house (application 2021/0248)</p>																																				
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In terms of completions in 2023/24, the Borough has seen a net loss of 401 sqm in floorspace for commercial, businesses and services activities (not including offices, research and development and light industrial). This is the first year since the adoption of the Plan where a reduction in the amount of floorspace delivered for commercial, business and services activities is seen.

Completions (sqm)	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
E(a) -shops	-5	542	-524
E(b) – food and drink served on premises	216	52	-50
E(c) – financial, professional services (other than medical services) or other services appropriate in commercial, business or service locality	325	0	87
E(d) – indoor sport and recreation	0	372	0
E(e) – medical services	0	0	0
E(f) – crèche, day centre, nursery	0	0	86
Total	536*	966	-401

*436sqm was reported in 2021/22 as it included the loss of a bar (not to be counted within Class E)

The list of approvals related to town centre uses and employment floorspace can be found in Appendix 2 with the completions in Appendix 3.

Policy EMP5: Employment Development in non-allocated employment areas

“To support wider economic growth and provide a range of employment opportunities.”

Indicator	Number of applications / sqm of new employment floorspace approved / completed outside allocated employment sites																																																						
Results	<p>Policy EMP5 supports the development of small scale employment development (Use Classes E(g), B2, B8 and E(c) the latter limited to under 100sqm) outside of employment areas, where it will not detriment the amenity of the local area, in order to support small businesses.</p> <p>The table below lists the planning applications approved and completed within and outside allocated employment sites in 2023/24.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th colspan="3">Approvals 2023/24</th> <th colspan="3">Completions 2023/24</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Net Employment Floorspace provision (sqm) (gains and losses)</th> <th>Outside Allocated Sites</th> <th>Allocated Sites</th> <th>Total</th> <th>Outside Allocated Sites</th> <th>Allocated Sites</th> <th>Total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>E(c) Financial, professional services (other than medical services) or other services appropriate in commercial, business or service locality (under 100 sqm)</td> <td>N/A</td> <td>N/A</td> <td>N/A</td> <td>N/A</td> <td>N/A</td> <td>N/A</td> </tr> <tr> <td>E(g) Offices, Research and Development and Light Industrial Process</td> <td>-464</td> <td>-2906</td> <td>-3370</td> <td>-431</td> <td>-78</td> <td>-509</td> </tr> <tr> <td>B2 General Industrial</td> <td>0</td> <td>1172</td> <td>1172</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>B8 Storage and Distribution</td> <td>150</td> <td>5536</td> <td>5686</td> <td>507</td> <td>0</td> <td>507</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>-314</td> <td>7604</td> <td>3488</td> <td>76</td> <td>-78</td> <td>-2</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>							Approvals 2023/24			Completions 2023/24			Net Employment Floorspace provision (sqm) (gains and losses)	Outside Allocated Sites	Allocated Sites	Total	Outside Allocated Sites	Allocated Sites	Total	E(c) Financial, professional services (other than medical services) or other services appropriate in commercial, business or service locality (under 100 sqm)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	E(g) Offices, Research and Development and Light Industrial Process	-464	-2906	-3370	-431	-78	-509	B2 General Industrial	0	1172	1172	0	0	0	B8 Storage and Distribution	150	5536	5686	507	0	507	Total	-314	7604	3488	76	-78	-2
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	<p>In 2023/24, a small proportion of new B8 floorspace was approved outside of allocated employment sites with the bulk of the new B8 floorspace was granted within allocated employment site. All B2 approvals were located within existing employment sites. There is a net loss of E(g) floorspace approved both within allocated sites and outside.</p> <p>During the same period all the B8 completions occurred outside of allocated sites. Whilst the majority of offices floorspace loss occurred outside allocated sites.</p>																																																						

Results (Cont.)	Over the last 3 years, most approvals for employment floorspace (small and large) occurred within allocated sites, except in 2021/22. However, in terms of completions, the only year which delivered more gains in employment floorspace in allocated sites (rather than outside) is 2021/22.						
		Approvals			Completions		
	Total net employment floorspace provision (E(g), B2 and B8)	Outside Allocated Sites	Allocated Sites	Total	Outside Allocated Sites	Allocated Sites	Total
	2021/22	2776	445	3221	480	12,881	13,361
	2022/23	-492	-780	-1272	-1045	-14	-1059
2023/24	-208	3802	6394	76	-78	-2	

Policy EMP6: Futures Park

“To support economic growth and ensure well-designed, co-ordinated development.”

Indicator	No. apps / Sqm of employment floorspace approved/completed by use class type at Futures Park and production of a masterplan
Target	Site completed with appropriate mix of uses by 2034. Masterplan addresses issues outlined in policy.
Progress Towards Target	No applications were approved or completed at Futures Park in 2023/24 and 2 plots of land of approximately 0.84 ha remain available for development on this site. A masterplan was produced and can be seen in the document EL8.015 Action 15.1 and 15.3 to 15.5 Mixed Use Sites (page 16) on the Council’s website.
Trigger to Implement Contingencies	Lack of progress with development of site. Absence of masterplan or masterplan does not address identified issues.
Trigger Met	A new manufacturing unit and nursery have been approved and completed on the site in previous years demonstrating some progress towards the development of the site. A masterplan has been produced and can be seen in the document EL8.015 Action 15.1 and 15.3 to 15.5 Mixed Use Sites (page 16) on the Council’s website.
Contingencies	Review policy and site allocation

Policy EMP7: New Hall Hey

“To support economic growth and ensure well-designed, co-ordinated development.”

Indicator	No. apps / Sqm of employment floorspace approved/completed by use class type at New Hall Hey and production of a masterplan
Target	Site completed with appropriate mix of uses by 2036. Masterplan addresses issues outlined in policy.
Progress Towards Target	No applications for E(g), B2 or B8 uses were submitted, approved or completed on the new employment site allocation NE4 at New Hall Hey in 2023/24 and no masterplan was produced.
Trigger	Lack of progress with development of site at 3, 5, 10 year periods. Absence of masterplan or masterplan does not address identified issues.
Trigger Met	The trigger has been met, however it is to be noted that the planning application for works and use of replacement section for the Haweswater Aqueduct has been granted in November 2023 which will impact the allocation site.
Contingencies	Review policy and site allocation

Chapter 5: Retail

Strategic Policy R1: Retail and Other Town Centre Uses

“To support the role and function of town and other centres.”

Indicator	No. of applications or floorspace (in sqm) approved or completed for town centre uses including Class E (Commercial, Business and Service), Sui Generis, F1 (Learning and Non-residential institution), F2 (c-d) (Local Community Uses) in centres, Primary Shopping Areas (PSA) and non-centres																														
Target	Majority of town centre uses to be located in the identified centres																														
Progress towards target	<p>In 2023/24, 35 permissions were granted in relation to town centre uses. The majority (70%) were on land or premises located outside of town centres.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Approvals</th> <th>Centres (outside PSA)</th> <th>Centres (inside PSA)</th> <th>Outside of Centres</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Number of town centre uses applications approved</td> <td>7 / 21%</td> <td>3 / 9%</td> <td>23 / 70%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>During the same period, 21 permissions were completed. The majority of them outside of town centres (52%).</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Completions</th> <th>Centres (outside PSA)</th> <th>Centres (inside PSA)</th> <th>Outside of Centres</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Number of town centre uses completed</td> <td>5 / 24%</td> <td>5 / 24%</td> <td>11 / 52%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Target</th> <th>2021/22</th> <th>2022/23</th> <th>2023/24</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>More than 50% of town centre uses approved in identified centres</td> <td>42%</td> <td>36%</td> <td>30%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>More than 50% of town centre uses completed in identified centres</td> <td>53%</td> <td>47%</td> <td>48%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Approvals	Centres (outside PSA)	Centres (inside PSA)	Outside of Centres	Number of town centre uses applications approved	7 / 21%	3 / 9%	23 / 70%	Completions	Centres (outside PSA)	Centres (inside PSA)	Outside of Centres	Number of town centre uses completed	5 / 24%	5 / 24%	11 / 52%	Target	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	More than 50% of town centre uses approved in identified centres	42%	36%	30%	More than 50% of town centre uses completed in identified centres	53%	47%	48%
Approvals	Centres (outside PSA)	Centres (inside PSA)	Outside of Centres																												
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	<p>The permissions approved in 2023/24 amount to a net gain of 2,845sqm of town centre use floorspace (259sqm (net) was approved within town centres and 2,586sqm was approved outside of centres). Please see table below for a breakdown of floorspace gained and lost per use class and location.</p>																														

The large amount of town centre uses approved outside of centres was largely in part due to the approval of an application for 2820sqm gain of use class E(g) (2023/0330), however, it should be noted that this application was approved in existing employment allocation EE16 which specifically encourages use classes E(g), B2 and B8.

Floorspace (sqm) Approved	Centres (outside PSA)	Centres (inside PSA)	Out of Centres	Total
Class E (Commercial, Business, Services)	273	-260	3104	3117
Sui Generis (Pubs and other Drinking Establishments)	64	110	-147	27
F1 (Learning and Non-residential Institution)	0	0	-489	-489
F2 (Local Community Uses)	0	72	118	190
Total	337	-78	2586	2845

In terms of completion, the net amount of floorspace lost for town centre uses in 2023/24 is 783sqm. A net loss of 250sqm (32% of the floorspace lost) occurred within town centres (the majority outside of the primary shopping areas) and a further loss of 533sqm (68%) of town centre uses took place outside of centres. Most losses of town centre uses floorspace were due to conversion of properties into residential use.

Floorspace (sqm) Built Out	Centres (outside PSA)	Centres (inside PSA)	Out of Centres	Total
Class E	-401	-10	-499	-910
Sui Generis	269	-180	-140	-51
F1	0	0	106	106
F2	0	72	0	72
Total	-132	-118	-533	-783

The list of approvals related to town centre uses and employment floorspace can be found in Appendix 2 and the completions in Appendix 3.

Trigger	Disproportionate amount of town centre uses approved / completed outside identified centres
Trigger met	Yes, the amount of approvals outside of centres was greater than the approvals within centres. However, there was a greater loss of town centre use floorspace outside of centres than within.

	<p>During the monitoring period the majority of planning permission granted (70%) were for premises or land situated outside of town centres. This figure has worsened over the previous three monitoring periods.</p> <p>The majority of permissions implemented were located outside town centres (52%), this has remained relatively stable over the previous three monitoring periods but is still above the trigger point.</p>
Contingencies	<p>Monitoring the health of the defined centres within the hierarchy to ensure vitality and viability. Where there are challenges to this, consider where interventions are appropriate to boost vitality and viability.</p> <p>Periodic health checks will be undertaken by the Council to monitor the viability and vitality of centres and further guidance will be provided, if required, in an SPD.</p>

Indicator	Sqm of retail lost to other uses in centres, primary shopping areas and other areas (broken down by type of use for approved / completed)																													
Target	N/A																													
Progress towards target	<p>No applications were approved involving the change of use from shops (Class E(a)) into other uses in 2023/24.</p> <p>During the same period, 3 permissions were implemented in town centres leading to approximately 219 sqm of retail floorspace lost (2022/0117, 2022/0531 and 2022/0586) and 553 sqm overall.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Centres (outside PSA)</th> <th>Centres (inside PSA)</th> <th>Out of Centres</th> <th>Total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Retail (E(a)) floorspace lost Implemented (sqm)</td> <td>-219 / 40%</td> <td>0 / 0%</td> <td>-334 / 60%</td> <td>-553 / 100%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>This is the first year since the adoption of the Plan in which no approvals for the loss of retail was granted.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>2021/22</th> <th>2022/23</th> <th>2023/24</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Retail (E(a)) floorspace lost Approved (sqm)</td> <td>-664</td> <td>-720</td> <td>0</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>In terms of completions, there has been a loss of retail throughout the previous three years.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>2021/22</th> <th>2022/23</th> <th>2023/24</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Retail (E(a)) floorspace lost Implemented (sqm)</td> <td>-489</td> <td>-190</td> <td>-553</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>					Centres (outside PSA)	Centres (inside PSA)	Out of Centres	Total	Retail (E(a)) floorspace lost Implemented (sqm)	-219 / 40%	0 / 0%	-334 / 60%	-553 / 100%		2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	Retail (E(a)) floorspace lost Approved (sqm)	-664	-720	0		2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	Retail (E(a)) floorspace lost Implemented (sqm)	-489	-190	-553
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	Further information about the implemented permissions is provided below.
Trigger	Net loss of retail in identified centres
Trigger met	<p>Overall, there was no net loss of retail floorspace approved in identified centres. In terms of completions, 533sqm of retail floorspace was lost to other uses. The trigger has been met.</p> <p>It is to be noted however that it is possible to change use within Class E without the need to apply for a planning permission. Therefore, the Local Plan has no control on the change of use from retail to other uses within Class E if no external alterations are proposed.</p>
Contingencies	<p>Monitoring the health of the defined centres within the hierarchy to ensure vitality and viability. Where there are challenges to this, consider where interventions are appropriate to boost vitality and viability.</p> <p>Periodic health checks will be undertaken by the Council to monitor the viability and vitality of centres and further guidance will be provided, if required, in an SPD.</p>

The five permissions built out resulting in a loss of retail E(a) use are shown in the table below:

Application Number	Proposal	Use Class Existing	Use Class Proposed	E(a) (sqm)	E(b) ((sqm)	E(c) (sqm)	E(d) (sqm)	E€ (sqm)	E(f) (sqm)	E(g) (sqm)	SG (sqm)	F1 (sqm)	F2 (sqm)	Retail Location
2022/0531	Change of use from shop to sui generis drinking establishment with food offering.	E(a)	SG	-87	0	0	0	0	0	0	87	0	0	Centre not PSA
2022/0117	Prior notification (Class MA): Proposed change of use from ground floor retail use with living accommodation above to a dwellinghouse.	E(a)	C3	-55	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Centre not PSA
2022/0586	Change of use of ground floor from commercial use to 1 dwelling.	E(a)	C3	-77	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Centre not PSA
2022/0482	Prior Approval - Conversion of former baker/shop to house	E(a)	C3	-54	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Not Centre
2022/0361	Demolition of buildings and the formation of an extended and reconfigured car park	C3, E, SG	Car Parking	-280	0	0	0	0	0	0	-140	0	0	Not Centre

Indicator	No. of vacant retail frontages / sqm of vacant floorspace in retail centres
Target	Net reduction in vacancy rates
Progress towards Target	The number of vacant ground floor units was assessed during town centres surveys carried out by the Council's Town Centre Regeneration Officers for the 2024 monitoring period. The findings of this assessment are compared in the table below with the level of vacancies in 2022 and 2023.

	There has been a sharp increase in the number of vacant units in Haslingden and Bacup. In Rawtenstall the number of vacant units has decreased slightly.
Trigger	Sites / buildings continue to remain vacant for over 3 years
Trigger Met	No specific sites or buildings have been assessed. The trigger should be revisited after a period of 3 years following the adoption of the Local Plan.
Contingencies	<p>Monitoring the health of the defined centres within the hierarchy to ensure vitality and viability. Where there are challenges to this, consider where interventions are appropriate to boost vitality and viability.</p> <p>Periodic health checks will be undertaken by the Council to monitor the viability and vitality of centres and further guidance will be provided, if required, in an SPD.</p>

The number of vacant retail frontages within town centres is provided in the table below.

Retail Hierarchy	Location	No. of Ground Floor Vacant Units in Centres (2022)	No. of Ground Floor Vacant Units in Centres (2023)	No. of Ground Floor Vacant Units in Centres (2024)	Changes in vacant units over the last three monitoring periods
Town Centre	Rawtenstall	12	9	8	Decrease (-4)
District Centres	Bacup	22	37	38	Increase (+16)
	Haslingden	22	42	41	Increase (+19)
Local Centres	Crawshawbooth	6	Not recorded		
	Waterfoot	15	24	Not recorded	Increase (+9)
	Whitworth	2	Not recorded		
Neighbourhood Parades	Edenfield	2	Not recorded		
	Helmshore	0	Not recorded		
	Stacksteads	5	Not recorded		
	Facit	0	Not recorded		

Indicator	Town Centre Health checks including Vacancy Rates
Target	Net reduction in vacancy rates
Progress towards Target	Please see the information below.
Trigger	N/A
Trigger Met	N/A
Contingencies	<p>Monitoring the health of the defined centres within the hierarchy to ensure vitality and viability. Where there are challenges to this, consider where interventions are appropriate to boost vitality and viability.</p> <p>Periodic health checks will be undertaken by the Council to monitor the viability and vitality of centres and further guidance will be provided, if required, in an SPD.</p>

The table below shows the 2022 vacancy rates for all the defined centres and 2023 & 2024 vacancy rates for Rawtenstall, Bacup & Haslingden. Town Centre Health Checks for all the retail centres is to be conducted every 3 years, the next being in 2025, however, the Council employment of Town Centre Regeneration Officers for Rawtenstall, Bacup & Haslingden has allowed annual monitoring of these three centres.

Retail Hierarchy	Location	Vacancy Rate per number of units (2022)	Vacancy Rate per number of units (2023)	Vacancy Rate per number of units (2024)	Health Check
Town Centre	Rawtenstall	4.4%	4%	3.5%	<p>The vacancy rate has slightly decreased in Rawtenstall Town Centre between 2022 and 2024, with the number of vacant premises decreasing by 4 (to 8 vacant premises) and the overall vacancy rate decreasing by 0.9% (to a 3.5% overall vacancy rate).</p> <p>The Town Centre offers a wide range of services to the local and nearby communities including a good level of independent shops. It includes 3 large convenience supermarkets (Asda, Tesco and Lidl) and a large comparison retailer (B&M). A varied provision of retail and other financial services are also provided, mainly along Bank Street. It has a number of</p>

Retail Hierarchy	Location	Vacancy Rate per number of units (2022)	Vacancy Rate per number of units (2023)	Vacancy Rate per number of units (2024)	Health Check
					<p>leisure services including restaurants, cafés and bars as well as hot food takeaways. Health provision includes a pharmacy and dental clinics. The health centre, however, is situated just outside of the Town Centre boundary. The centre is easily accessible with a bus station present at its core, ongoing improvements to active travel links and several car parks available within the centre. The quality of the environment is pleasant and the historic character has been preserved as most of the centre is within a conservation area.</p>
District Centres	Bacup	12.2%	16.3%	16.1%	<p>The vacancy rate worsened between 2022 and 2024, with the number of vacant premises increasing by 16 (to 38 vacant premises) and the overall vacancy rate increasing by 3.9% (16.1% of the centre is vacant).</p> <p>Still, the centre offers a wide range of services with a large supermarket and other smaller convenience stores, several comparison shops, retail services (hairdressers, optician, tailors etc.) as well as other financial and professional services (estate agents, solicitors etc.) and health provision (health centre and pharmacy). The leisure services include an escape room, pubs, a restaurant and cafés as well as hot food takeaways. The quality of the buildings and shopfronts has benefitted and continues to benefit from the Bacup High Street Heritage Action Zone. The centre is easily accessible by bus and offers car parking spaces within the</p>

Retail Hierarchy	Location	Vacancy Rate per number of units (2022)	Vacancy Rate per number of units (2023)	Vacancy Rate per number of units (2024)	Health Check
					centre, at the local supermarket and also just adjoining its boundary near the health centre.
	Haslingden	10.4%	22.5%	19.2%	<p>The vacancy rate has worsened significantly in Haslingden with the number of vacant premises increasing by 19 (to 41 vacant premises) and the overall vacancy rate increasing by 8.8% (19.2% of the centre is vacant).</p> <p>There are a multitude of drivers behind this increase in vacancies, including likely issues with the current “cost of living crisis” and rising utility bills. It has also been reported that high rental costs and a limited footfall in Haslingden has given rise to the closure of several businesses and a reluctance in new businesses starting. It should however be noted that vacancy rates decreased between 2023 and 2024.</p> <p>The district centre provides a wide range of convenience and comparison shops (mainly bargain shops and charity shops) as well as retail and other professional services. Its weaknesses are its high level of vacancies and large amount of hot food takeaways (14 units) which impact on the vitality of the centre as most of the takeaway units are closed during the day. Some of the vacant units are in a poor state of repairs. However, restoration works have been carried out for some premises including the former Royal British Legion which has a positive impact on the quality of the environment. The National Lottery Heritage Fund – Big Lamp project is to provide</p>

Retail Hierarchy	Location	Vacancy Rate per number of units (2022)	Vacancy Rate per number of units (2023)	Vacancy Rate per number of units (2024)	Health Check
					grants for up to 19 priority buildings on Higher Deardengate (more information can be found at ENV2). The centre is easily accessible by bus and offers car parking spaces at different locations (e.g. behind the library and at the Co-operative supermarket).
Local Centres	Crawshawbooth	11.8%	N/A (to be monitored in 2025)		
	Waterfoot	13.5%	27.6%	N/A (to be monitored in 2025)	The vacancy rate worsened between 2022 and 2023, with the number of vacant premises increasing by 9 (to 24 vacant premises) and the overall vacancy rate increasing by 14.1% (27.6% of the centre is vacant).
	Whitworth	5.4%	N/A (to be monitored in 2025)		
Neighbourhood Parades	Edenfield	5.3%	N/A (to be monitored in 2025)		
	Helmshore	0%	N/A (to be monitored in 2025)		
	Stacksteads	7%	N/A (to be monitored in 2025)		
	Facit	0%	N/A (to be monitored in 2025)		

Table 1 Vacancy rates in designated centres and neighbourhood parades

Policy R2: Rawtenstall Town Centre Extension

“To support the redevelopment of this key town centre site.”

Target	<p>Site completed with appropriate mix of uses by 2036</p> <p>In June 2023, the Council approved a Levelling Up Outline Execution Plan to deliver several projects including the Rawtenstall gyratory, Rawtenstall Market, Bacup Market, the Bridge and Rawtenstall Connected. A Vision Statement was created, supported by 5 Vision objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A Welcoming Town; 2. Re-stitching the Town;
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3. **Safe and Vibrant Streets and Spaces;**
4. **Bringing Communities Together;**
5. **Re-connect the Town with Nature.**

To find out more information follow this link: [Rawtenstall Masterplan](#)

Phase 1 of Spinning Point for the re-development of the town square into a new bus station including retail / café units, associated car parking and landscaping is complete.

Policy R3: Development and Change of Use in District and Local Centres

“To support the role and function of centres.”

Indicator	No. of applications / sq.m. (E(a, b, c) SG) approved / completed within identified centres					
Results In 2023/24, there were 5 applications approved for the gain or loss of shops (E(a)), restaurants/ cafes (E(b)), financial, professional and other services appropriate in a town centre location (E(c)) and drinking establishments or pubs (Sui Generis) in town centres. These applications, if implemented, would amount to a net gain of 621sqm.	In 2023/24, there were 5 applications approved for the gain or loss of shops (E(a)), restaurants/ cafes (E(b)), financial, professional and other services appropriate in a town centre location (E(c)) and drinking establishments or pubs (Sui Generis) in town centres. These applications, if implemented, would amount to a net gain of 621sqm.					
	Identified Centres	Number of Applications Approved	E(a) - Shops	E(b) – Restaurants/cafes	E(c) – Financial, professional and other services appropriate in town centres	Sui Generis (SG) (pubs and drinking establishments)
	Net Floorspace Approved (sqm)					
	Rawtenstall	0	0	0	0	0
	Bacup	3	0	0	620	-72
	Haslingden	0	0	0	0	0
	Crawshawbooth	1	0	0	-182	182
	Waterfoot	1	0	0	0	64
	Whitworth	0	0	0	0	0
	Edenfield	0	0	0	0	0
	Helmshore	0	0	0	0	0
	Stacksteads	0	0	0	0	0
	Facit	0	0	0	0	0
Total	5	0	0	447	174	

In 2023/24, 7 developments for shops, restaurants / cafes, financial, professional and other services appropriate in town centres or for pubs / drinking establishments (Sui Generis) were completed in identified centres, resulting in a net loss of 21sqm.

Identified Centres	Number of Applications Completed	E(a) - Shops	E(b) – Restaurants/cafes	E(c) – Financial, professional and other services appropriate in town centres	Sui Generis (SG) (pubs and drinking establishments)
		Net Floorspace Completed (sqm)			
Rawtenstall	1	0	307	0	0
Bacup	2	0 (no net change)	0	0	-72
Haslingden	2	0	0	-148	-108
Crawshawbooth	1	0	0	-182	182
Waterfoot	1	-87	0	0	87
Whitworth	0	0	0	0	0
Edenfield	0	0	0	0	0
Helmshore	0	0	0	0	0
Stacksteads	2	-132	0	0	0
Facit	0	0	0	0	0
Total	7	-87	307	-330	89

Policy R4: Existing Local Shops

“To protect local shops where they provide a valuable community resource.”

Indicator	Sqm of approved/completions involving loss of E(a) or F2(a) retail to other uses outside identified centres .
Results	<p>No floorspace for retail E(a) or F2(a) was lost to other uses outside of identified centres in 2021/22.</p> <p>390sqm of retail E(a) was approved to be lost to other uses outside of identified centres in 2022/23.</p> <p>72sqm of retail E(a) was approved to be lost to other uses outside of identified centres and 334sqm of retail E(a) was lost due to the implementation of permissions in 2023/24.</p>

Policy R5: Hot Food Takeaways

“To improve health and protect amenity.”

Target	Reduction in childhood obesity levels
Progress towards Target	<p>Hot food takeaways approved / completed within 400m of a secondary school that is outside a designated town or district centre</p> <p>No hot food takeaways were approved or completed within 400m of a secondary school located outside of designed centres in 2021/22, 2022/23 or 2023/24.</p> <p>Of these permissions, how many have conditions restricting the opening hours to outside lunchtime/school closing time</p> <p>Not applicable.</p> <p>Approvals or completions in wards where more than 15% of year 6 pupils or 10% of reception pupils are classed as obese by the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities</p> <p>For the period 2019/20 to 2021/22, all wards within Rossendale had a prevalence of obesity in Year 6 children above the Local Plan policy R5 threshold of 15%. In addition, 9 wards also had a prevalence of obesity in reception year children above the threshold of 10%. One permissions was submitted and subsequently refused in 2021/22 for hot food takeaways (reference 2022/0032).</p> <p>For the period 2020/21 to 2022/23 11 wards within Rossendale had a prevalence of obesity in Year 6 children above the Local Plan policy R5 threshold of 15%, this is 3 fewer wards than the 2019/20 – 2021/22 period. In addition, 6 wards also had a prevalence of obesity in reception year children above the threshold of 10%, this is 3 fewer wards than the 2019/20 – 2021/22 period.</p> <p>Goodshaw and Helmshore wards both now have obesity prevalence rates below the threshold in policy R5 for both reception and Year 6 children.</p>
Trigger to Implement Contingencies	<p>Increase in approvals for takeaways in identified wards</p> <p>No reduction in childhood obesity levels in identified wards</p>
Trigger Met	<p>No new hot food takeaways were approved in 23/24.</p> <p>The Obesity Profile data from the Government for the period 2023/24 will be released on 5 November 2024.</p>
Contingencies	Produce a Supplementary Planning Document to provide additional guidance on Sui Generis uses and planning for health

Policy R6: Shopfronts

“To enhance amenity and ensure good design.”

Indicator	No. of applications in conservation areas involving change to shop fronts Of these, how many involved consideration of design / quality of shopfront?
Results	<p>In 2023/24, there were 6 applications approved in conservation areas for alterations to shopfronts. 4 applications were approved in Haslingden Conservation Area (2023/0052; 2023/0053; 2023/0165; 2023/0193), 1 in Rawtenstall Town Centre Conservation Area (2023/0265) and 1 in Bacup Town Centre Conservation Area (2023/0375).</p> <p>The design and quality of the proposed shopfronts were a material consideration for all 6 applications. Indeed, comments from the heritage advisor (Growth Lancashire) were sought on all 6 applications and their recommendations informed the conditions associated to the grant of permission.</p>
Contingencies	Update Supplementary Document on Shopfront design

Chapter 6: Environment

Strategic Policy ENV1: High Quality Development in the Borough

“Ensure high quality design throughout the Borough.”

Indicator	No. of applications for major development accompanied by an appropriate Development Brief, Design Code, Health Impact Assessment or that used the Building by Design methodology to ensure good quality design			
Target	All large scale developments (100+ dwellings) to be accompanied by appropriate Design Brief / Code and/or Health Impact Assessment			
Progress towards Target	No applications for 100 or more dwellings were validated in 2023/24.			
		2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
	No. of major residential applications (100+ dwellings) accompanied by Design Brief/Code and/or Health Impact Assessment	0 out of 1	1 out of 1 (2022/0451)	N/A
Trigger to Implement Contingencies	50% of large scale development not being accompanied by appropriate briefs / assessments			
Trigger Met	Not in 2023/24 as there was no large residential scale development (100+ dwellings) validated. The application 2021/0623 (Grane Road Mill) submitted without a Design Brief/ Code and HIA was done so prior to the adoption of the Local Plan and was subsequently refused.			
Contingencies	The Council is considering undertaking a Design Code SPD, with the aims of implementing this SPD to achieve high levels of design across the borough.			
Indicator	Development receiving design awards (Civic Trust awards, BURA awards, RTPI awards or CABE awards)			
Target	Approval of at least one design awards or referrals achieved			
Progress towards Target	No development received a design award or referral from the Civic Trust awards, BURA awards, RTPI awards or CABE awards in 2023/24.			
		2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
	No. of developments receiving design awards	0	0	0
Trigger to Implement Contingencies	Failure to deliver design award targets over five year intervals.			

Trigger Met	Not yet as only two and a half years have been monitored since the Local Plan was adopted.										
Contingencies	Work with developers to seek opportunities to improve the quality of design.										
Indicator	No. of appeal decisions determined on design grounds										
Target	100% of appeal decisions won on design grounds										
Progress towards Target	<p>Of the 26 appeals decided by the Planning Inspectorate in Rossendale in 23/24, 10 were allowed (38%). 7 of those discussed design matters, especially the impact of the proposed development on the character and appearance of the local area.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>2021/22</th> <th>2022/23</th> <th>2023/24</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>% of appeals allowed (lost) on design grounds</td> <td>21%</td> <td>23.9%</td> <td>26.9%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Over a three year period, there has been an increased in the percentage of appeals lost on design grounds.</p>				2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	% of appeals allowed (lost) on design grounds	21%	23.9%	26.9%
	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24								
% of appeals allowed (lost) on design grounds	21%	23.9%	26.9%								
Trigger to Implement Contingencies	25% of appeals lost on design grounds										
Trigger Met	Yes, 26.9% of appeals were lost on design grounds (7 out of 26 appeals).										
Contingencies	As part of the Local Plan review, consider amending relevant policies to encourage better design. For example, one Inspector mentioned the fact that policy HS9 (housing extensions) did not refer to well-designed and beautiful places.										
Indicator	No. of dwellings completed above required building standards for energy sufficiency										
Target	Approval of at least one exemplar energy scheme										
Progress towards Target	<p>There were no major applications approved for residential scheme and nor for 'Passivhaus' type dwelling in 2023/24.</p> <p>All 37 dwellings approved under the application 2021/0271 with a lower carbon dioxide emission compared to the standards required by the Building Regulations were built in 2023/24.</p> <p>The Passivhaus approved last year (2022/0342 and then 2022/0626 for the same site) has not yet been completed in 2023/24.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>2021/22</th> <th>2022/23</th> <th>2023/24</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>No. of dwellings approved above energy efficiency standards (major applications or Passivhaus)</td> <td>0</td> <td>79 (2021/0500, 2021/0271 and 2022/0626)</td> <td>0</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>				2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	No. of dwellings approved above energy efficiency standards (major applications or Passivhaus)	0	79 (2021/0500, 2021/0271 and 2022/0626)	0
	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24								
No. of dwellings approved above energy efficiency standards (major applications or Passivhaus)	0	79 (2021/0500, 2021/0271 and 2022/0626)	0								

	No. of dwellings built above energy efficiency standards (major applications or Passivhaus)	0	0	37
Trigger to Implement Contingencies	Failure to deliver energy and design award targets over five year intervals			
Trigger Met	No, 37 dwellings have been built out above standards for energy efficiency.			
Contingencies	The Written Ministerial Statement of 13 December 2023 ⁴ states that the Government is not expecting local authorities to set local energy efficiency standards for buildings. This is because the introduction of the 2021 uplift to minimum energy efficiency in Building Regulations (Part L) and further energy efficiency building regulations planned in 2025 are considered more appropriate to provide clarity and consistency than local standards. As such it is possible but it requires robust evidence for a Local Planning Authority to increase energy efficiency above national standards.			

Strategic Policy ENV2: Heritage Assets

“To conserve and enhance the historic environment.”

Indicator	No. of heritage assets on national Heritage at Risk (HAR) Register
Target	Removal of assets from Heritage at Risk (HAR) Register, or progress made in addressing issues with them
Progress towards Target	As of the 31 st of March 2024 there were 7 entries within Rossendale on the 2023 HAR Register: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bacup Town Centre – Condition: Very bad (improving) • Rawtenstall Town Centre – Condition: Poor (deteriorating) • Church of St Thomas, Haslingden – Condition: Poor (no change since last year) • Church of St Bartholomew, Whitworth – Condition: Poor (no change) • Church of St James, Haslingden – Condition: Poor (no change) • Church of St John the Evangelist, Crawshawbooth – Condition: Very bad (no change) • Grane Mill, Haslingden – Condition: Poor (no change)
Trigger to Implement Contingencies	No change in numbers of heritage assets on the HAR Register
Trigger Met	Yes, there has been no change in the number of entries on the HAR Register from the previous year.
Contingencies	Continue supporting the Bacup 2040 vision and Rawtenstall Masterplan projects and engage with relevant landowners to protect and improve those assets listed on the HAR Register.

⁴ Planning: Local Energy Efficiency Standards Written Ministerial Statement (Wednesday 13 December 2023). Available at: <https://hansard.parliament.uk/Commons/2023-12-13/debates/23121331000011/PlanningLocalEnergyEfficiencyStandards>

Indicator	No. of listed buildings on the local Buildings at Risk Register
Target	Removal of listed buildings from local Buildings at Risk Register
Progress towards Target	This information is not available.
Trigger to Implement Contingencies	No change in numbers of listed buildings on the local Buildings at Risk Register
Trigger Met	Unknown
Contingencies	Continue supporting the Bacup & Haslingden 2040 visions, Rawtenstall Masterplan and National Lottery Heritage Fund Big Lamp, Haslingden projects and engage with relevant landowners to protect and improve those assets listed on the HAR Register.
Indicator	No. of heritage-led regeneration projects managed by the Council (operating or applied for)
Results	<p>One project has been completed (Bacup High Street Heritage Action Zone) and 3 are ongoing.</p> <p>Bacup High Street Heritage Action Zone</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Named one of the best performing HS HAZ projects • 14 buildings restored and repaired • 3 buildings brought back from dereliction • Transformation of Hempstead Memorial Gardens • Development plans for Union Street public realm works • Feasibility Studies on 4 buildings – 3 of which proceeded with full planning applications by the owners • Review & update of the Bacup Conservation Area Management Plan with recommendations • 31 Community engagement events • Engagement events attracted over 500 attendees • Over 2000 followers on social media • Continued support of the business community • The successful delivery of events by the Bacup Cultural Consortium. <p>National Lottery Heritage Fund Big Lamp, Haslingden</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 buildings received grants and have had significant restoration works undertaken • The public realm improvement are due to start early in 2025 – creating a dedicated events space for the local community and a more accessible and pedestrian friendly town centre • Lots of brilliant and exciting community engagement activity including a mural within the town centre, lime pointing training and awarding micro grants to community groups to be able to undertake their won project. <p>Haslingden Connected</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a £10,000 grant form Historic England has been received to prepare a public realm strategy to enhance public spaces in Haslingden by March 2025.

- the strategy will aim to guide the design, management and transformation of public spaces that are inclusive, vibrant and sustainable based on Haslingden’s heritage and the needs of the community.

Rossendale Heritage Futures

- a three year project funded by Historic England with the grant secured by Valley Heritage Building Preservation Trust and a contribution from Rossendale Borough Council
- a steering group is being formed who will prioritise the list of heritage assets across the valley (including 5 conservation areas)
- several key priority buildings have been identified (Stubbylee for example) that are in the most at risk position
- the project will secure grant funding from the Architectural Heritage Fund to develop and produce feasibility studies
- an additional aim of the project is to formalise the partnership between Valley Heritage and the Council and maximise our respective areas of expertise and opportunities.

Policy ENV3: Landscape Character and Quality

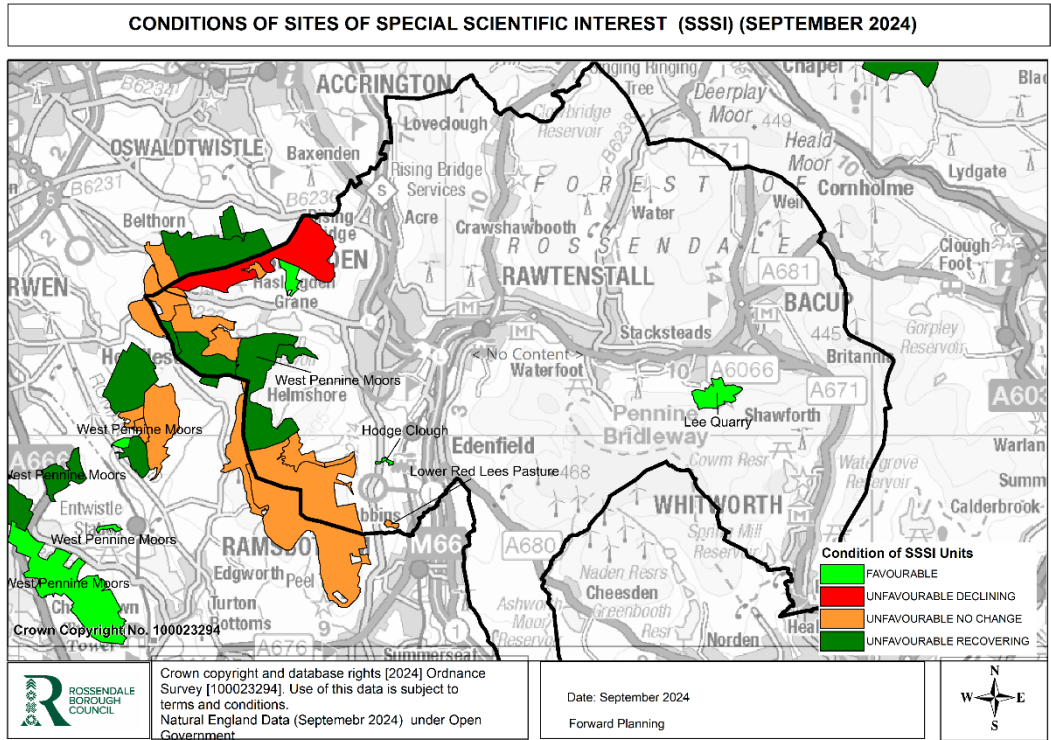
“To protect the distinctive landscape character of the Borough, and to conserve and enhance the natural and built environment.”

Indicator	Area of land protected from development for their intrinsic landscape character or visual amenity value and any loss of such area
Target	No net loss of landscape character or visual amenity
Progress towards Target	Rossendale does not have any areas designated for their landscape value. The Borough forms part of the Southern Pennines National Character Area and it was involved in the South Pennines Park partnership which closed in December 2023. There were no major housing applications approved within the enclosed uplands or moorland landscape character types in the Borough in 2023/24.
Trigger to Implement Contingencies	Any loss of landscape character or visual amenity
Trigger Met	The trigger it not considered to have been met.
Contingencies	Where necessary, identify the problems and measures to address them.

Policy ENV4: Biodiversity, Geodiversity and Ecological Networks

“To protect biodiversity, geodiversity and ecological networks and to achieve net gain in biodiversity.”

Indicator	No. of SSSIs within or partly within the Borough
Target	Maintain number of SSSIs within the district
Progress towards Target	There are 4 Site of Special Scientific Interest located within (or partly within) the Borough: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lower Red Lees Pasture; - Lee Quarry; - Hodge Clough; and - West Pennine Moors
Trigger to Implement Contingencies	Year on year reduction in the number of SSSIs
Trigger Met	The number of SSSI within or partly within the Borough has remained stable.
Contingencies	Not applicable
Indicator	% of SSSIs units assessed as being in favourable or unfavourable condition
Target	Improve % of SSSIs recorded as being in favourable condition
Progress towards Target	The Magic Map website reported the following information on the status of the SSSI as of September 2024: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lower Red Lees Pasture – unfavourable no change - Lee Quarry – favourable condition - Hodge Clough – favourable condition - West Pennine Moors – 1 unit in favourable condition, 4 units within or partly within the Borough in unfavourable condition recovering, 8 units in unfavourable conditions with no change and 1 unit in unfavourable condition declining. <p>Overall, almost 18% of the SSSI units within (or partly within) the Borough are in favourable conditions and 82% are in unfavourable conditions. Please see the map below for further information. The status of Lower Red Lees Pasture site has declined from ‘unfavourable recovering’ to ‘unfavourable no change’ since last year.</p>



Trigger to Implement Contingencies	Year on year reduction in the condition of SSSIs
Trigger Met	Yes, the status of Lower Red Lees Pasture site has declined from 'unfavourable recovering' to 'unfavourable no change' since last year.
Contingencies	Unsure development proposed within the impact zones from the SSSIs are adequately assessed and Natural England consulted on the proposals as necessary.
Indicator	No. of development proposals which result in the loss (and extent/ % of loss) of areas recognised as being part of the ecological corridors/networks and natural features which provide local distinctiveness
Target	No net loss of land within ecological networks
Progress towards Target	In 2023/24, 56 applications were granted within the grassland and/or woodland ecological networks, but only 27 comprised new buildings or structures which could result in the loss of areas in an ecological network. Amongst those 27 applications, 10 were located within a woodland 'stepping stone habitat' and 2 within a grassland 'stepping stone habitat'. The reminder 15 were granted within 'corridors' of the identified networks.

		2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
	No. of development proposals resulting in loss of grassland network	N/A	12	9
	No. of development proposals resulting in loss of woodland network	N/A	11	18
	Total no. of development proposals resulting in loss of ecological networks	N/A	23	27
Trigger to Implement Contingencies	Year on year reduction in the condition and extent of ecological corridors / networks			
Trigger Met	There has been a few permissions granted for home extensions or new buildings/structures affecting ecological networks.			
Contingencies	Policy ENV4 aims to retain the function of ecological networks and therefore mitigation measures are often ask to compensate for any loss. These mitigations ties in with other biodiversity enhancement measures (biodiversity net gain, bat and bird boxes, mammal pathways).			
Indicators	<p>Creation of areas designated for their intrinsic environmental value including sites of international, national, regional or local significance (hectares or other appropriate measure)</p> <p>Loss of areas designated for their intrinsic environmental value including sites of international, national, regional or local significance (hectares or other appropriate measure)</p>			
Target	No net loss of designated areas for their environmental value			
Progress towards Target	No new areas were designated for their environmental value in 2023/24 in the Borough, and no areas designated for their environmental value were un-designated in 2023/24.			
Trigger to Implement Contingencies	Any loss of land of biodiversity importance			
Trigger Met	The trigger has not been met.			
Contingencies	The Council will work with Natural England, Lancashire Wildlife Trust and other partners to address problems.			
Indicators	<p>Hectares of land (or other appropriate measure) of other environmental / biodiversity value enhanced or lost</p> <p>Amount of net gain/loss of biodiversity in the Borough (using appropriate measure)</p>			
Target	Net gains in biodiversity			

Progress towards Target

Hectares of land (or other appropriate measure) of other environmental / biodiversity value enhanced or lost

There were no major applications received between 12 February 2024 and 31st March 2024 so no applications are subject to the mandatory Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) framework in this monitoring period.

However, between 1st April 2023 and 31st March 2024, 4 major applications were granted and 75% include a biodiversity gain requirement:

- 2021/0275 – Section 106 Agreement signed with biodiversity gain requirements
- 2023/0103 – Biodiversity net gain estimated at 132 % (11.67 biodiversity units)
- 2023/0108 – Biodiversity improvements secured via condition (hedgerow planting)

	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Biodiversity requirements subject to Mandatory BNG	N/A	N/A	0
Biodiversity requirements pre-mandatory BNG	0	2021/0271 (new acid grassland and native hedgerow) 2021/0500 (£5,500 for habitat enhancement)	2021/0275 (biodiversity impact assessment and offsite scheme if needed) 2023/0103 (gain of 11.67 biodiversity units) 2023/0108 (condition to secure biodiversity improvements)

Amount of net gain/loss of biodiversity in the Borough (% of biodiversity units change)

Amongst the major planning applications approved in 2023/24, two provide information on the percentage of biodiversity loss or gain following development:

- 2021/0275 – Loss of 12.76% (habitat), gain of 13.12% (hedgerow) and loss of 1.82% (river). However, a Section 106 Agreement was signed to request an updated Biodiversity Impact Assessment and a biodiversity offsetting scheme should any loss be identified
- 2023/0103 – Biodiversity net gain estimated at 132.60 % (habitat)

Average % biodiversity units change for major applications granted	2021/22	2022/2	2023/24
		3	

	<table border="1"> <tbody> <tr> <td>Habitat</td> <td>N/A</td> <td>N/A</td> <td>59.92%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hedgerow</td> <td>N/A</td> <td>N/A</td> <td>13.12%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>River</td> <td>N/A</td> <td>N/A</td> <td>-1.82%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Habitat	N/A	N/A	59.92%	Hedgerow	N/A	N/A	13.12%	River	N/A	N/A	-1.82%
Habitat	N/A	N/A	59.92%										
Hedgerow	N/A	N/A	13.12%										
River	N/A	N/A	-1.82%										
Trigger to Implement Contingencies	Any loss of land of biodiversity importance Year on year reduction in mature trees, ancient woodland, hedgerows and ponds												
Trigger Met	A loss of river biodiversity unit has been identified.												
Contingencies	A Section 106 Agreement has been signed to request an updated Biodiversity Impact Assessment and a biodiversity offsite scheme to compensate for any loss if needed (2021/0275).												
Indicator	Progress towards visitor management plan for South Pennines SPA												
Results	Natural England shared findings of a study which looked at the 'Recreation use of the South Pennine Moors and implications for strategic housing growth'. The report completed in March 2024 provides an analysis of visitor surveys undertaken at 10 different locations within the South Pennine Moors in winter 2023. The study shows that 75% coming directly from home lived within 24.4km of the South Pennine Moors. Rossendale residents amounted to less than 1% of people surveyed.												
Indicator	Hectares of new greenspace habitats created as part of new development proposals												
Results	No major housing developments were approved in 2023/24. <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>2021/2 2</th> <th>2022/23</th> <th>2023/2 4</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Hectares of new greenspaces agreed via Section 106 Agreements</td> <td>N/A</td> <td>0.07 (2021/0500)</td> <td>N/A</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		2021/2 2	2022/23	2023/2 4	Hectares of new greenspaces agreed via Section 106 Agreements	N/A	0.07 (2021/0500)	N/A				
	2021/2 2	2022/23	2023/2 4										
Hectares of new greenspaces agreed via Section 106 Agreements	N/A	0.07 (2021/0500)	N/A										

Policy ENV5: Green Infrastructure networks

“To protect green infrastructure networks and to achieve net gain in biodiversity.”

Indicators	Addition (hectares) of green infrastructure networks (per approvals/ completions) Loss (hectares) of green infrastructure networks (per approvals/ completions)																			
Target	No net loss of green infrastructure																			
Progress towards Target	<p>The green infrastructure comprised the ecological networks mentions in the previous section with the addition of ‘greenlands’.</p> <p>No. of applications granted that could result in the loss of green infrastructure</p> <p>On top of the 27 applications granted that could result in the loss of ecological networks, an additional 21 applications were also granted on former ‘greenlands’ within the green infrastructure but only 3 of them could result in the loss of green infrastructure.</p> <p>There has been no change to the extent of the green infrastructure area designated on the Policies Map.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>2021/22</th> <th>2022/23</th> <th>2023/24</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>No. applications granted that could results in the loss of ecological networks</td> <td>N/A</td> <td>23</td> <td>27</td> </tr> <tr> <td>No. applications granted that could results in the loss of ‘greenlands’</td> <td>N/A</td> <td>3</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total no. applications granted that could results in the loss of green infrastructure</td> <td>N/A</td> <td>26</td> <td>30</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>					2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	No. applications granted that could results in the loss of ecological networks	N/A	23	27	No. applications granted that could results in the loss of ‘greenlands’	N/A	3	3	Total no. applications granted that could results in the loss of green infrastructure	N/A	26	30
	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24																	
No. applications granted that could results in the loss of ecological networks	N/A	23	27																	
No. applications granted that could results in the loss of ‘greenlands’	N/A	3	3																	
Total no. applications granted that could results in the loss of green infrastructure	N/A	26	30																	
Trigger to Implement Contingencies	Net loss of land of green infrastructure importance within the district																			
Trigger Met	Some permissions have been granted which could result in the loss of green infrastructure																			
Contingencies	Mitigation measures in line with Policy ENV5 are sought as part of the planning application process to retain the function and connectivity of the green infrastructure in new developments.																			
Indicator	Mitigation measures adopted																			
Results	Examples of conditions on planning permissions include the requirement of Biodiversity Enhancement Measures (2022/0444), management of invasive species and implementation of proposed Biodiversity Enhancements Measures (2023/0177).																			

Policy ENV6: Environmental Protection

“To prevent, reduce or mitigate against pollution or land instability.”

Target	Improvements in air quality levels								
Progress towards Target	<p>Current air quality level:</p> <p>The 2023 Air Quality Annual Status Report for Rossendale dated September 2023 states that the main local air quality issue “continues to be Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂), caused by road traffic vehicle”. There have been improvement at two Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) which were therefore revoked in 2022 at Rawtenstall (Bacup Road) and Haslingden (Manchester Road near Syke Side). However, a new AQMA incorporating 13 residential properties has been declared on one side of the road at Grane Road in Haslingden.</p>								
Trigger to Implement Contingencies	Year on year worsening of air quality levels								
Trigger Met	The trigger has not been met as there has been an improvement in two AQMAs in 2022.								
Contingencies	Where necessary, work with relevant agencies and partners to address potential problems.								
Target	Removal of Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA’s)								
Progress towards Target	<p>No. of AQMA</p> <p>The two AQMAs at Rawtenstall and Haslingden have been revoked in 2022 following air quality improvements for 3 consecutive years.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>2021/22</th> <th>2022/23</th> <th>2023/24</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>No. of AQMA</td> <td>2</td> <td>2</td> <td>1</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	No. of AQMA	2	2	1
	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24						
No. of AQMA	2	2	1						
Trigger to Implement Contingencies	Year on year worsening of air quality levels								
Trigger Met	The trigger has not been met as a decrease in NO ₂ has resulted in two AQMAs being revoked, however one AQMA has been declared at Grane Road, Haslingden. Overall there has not been a worsening of the situation.								
Contingencies	Where necessary, work with relevant agencies and partners to address potential problems.								

Policy ENV7: Wind Turbines

“To support renewable energy whilst protecting valuable assets.”

Indicator	Amount of wind energy capability approved / generated			
Results	No new wind turbines applications were approved or implemented in 2023/24. For information, on 8 July 2024 the Government published a policy paper removing the ‘de facto’ ban on onshore wind in England. This change in national planning policy might encourage the submission of new planning applications for wind energy in the future.			
		2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
	Estimated wind energy capability approved (kW)	0	0	0
	Estimated wind energy capability delivered (kW)	0	0	0

Policy ENV8: Other forms of Energy Generation

“To support renewable energy provision.”

Indicator	Amount of other renewable energy capability approved / generated			
Results	In 2023/24, there was one application approved for an air source heat pump and solar panels (2023/0185), two for solar panels (2023/0103 and 2023/0420) and one for a ground source heat pump (2023/0467). Overall these schemes could produce/generate an equivalent 27kW of energy. Please note that some renewable energy project can be undertaken under permitted development rights without the need of applying for planning permission.			
	Solar panels (2022/0440, 2022/0544) and an air source heat pump (2023/0185) have been installed in 2023/24 which could generate an equivalent of 39.7kW.			
		2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
	Estimated renewable energy capability approved (kW)	Not available	78	27.4
Estimated renewable energy capability delivered (kW)	147	12	39.7	

Policy ENV9: Surface Water Run-Off, Flood Risk, Sustainable Drainage and Water Quality

“To avoid flooding, surface water or drainage issues.”

Target	Reduction in homes built in Flood Zone 2															
Progress towards Target	<p>No. of dwellings approved in areas at risk of flooding:</p> <p>Based on a GIS analysis, 9 new dwellings were approved on sites within flood zone 2 in 2023/24 (2023/0426 – 8 dwellings with only access road and landscape area within zones at risk of flooding and 2023/0525 – existing property with new flat at ground floor).</p>															
Trigger to Implement Contingencies	Increased incidents of major flood events															
Trigger Met	No major flood incidents have been recorded in 2023/24.															
Contingencies	Continue to work with partners to manage flood risk.															
Target	Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) provided where necessary for development															
Progress towards Target	<p>In 2023/24, no major residential applications were approved. However, 4 major applications were granted for non-residential developments with conditions added to submit a final surface water sustainable drainage strategy to the Local Planning Authority and a verification report demonstrating that the system has been adequately constructed (2023/0108; 2023/0505; 2021/0275 and 2023/0103).</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Sustainable Drainage Systems Required</th> <th>2021/22</th> <th>2022/23</th> <th>2023/24</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Major residential applications approved</td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Major non-residential applications approved</td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> <td>4</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>				Sustainable Drainage Systems Required	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	Major residential applications approved	1	2	0	Major non-residential applications approved	1	1	4
Sustainable Drainage Systems Required	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24													
Major residential applications approved	1	2	0													
Major non-residential applications approved	1	1	4													
Trigger to Implement Contingencies	Reduction in SuDS provision.															
Trigger Met	The trigger has not been met.															
Contingencies	Continue to monitor the provision of SuDS															
Indicator	No of planning permissions granted contrary to EA advice on flooding and water quality grounds															

Results	3 comments from the Environment Agency were received in 2023/24 ⁵ for the following applications:		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> objection to 2022/0532 - householder application refused, although not on flood risk grounds and appeal dismissed; no objection to 2023/0484 - partial demolition approved with conditions subject to works undertaken in accordance with the flood risk assessment; 2023/0520 - outline application for a dwelling refused, one of the reasons being no information regarding the management of flood risk. 		
	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
No. of Planning permissions granted contrary to EA advice	1 (2021/0487 – access road to an existing dwelling)	0	0

Policy ENV10: Trees and Hedgerows

“To protect trees and woodland and ensure provision of new planting.”

Indicator	No. of Arboricultural Implications Assessments (AIA) submitted for development involving the loss of trees or woodland		
Results	The major application approved in 23/24 (2023/0103 – All Saints RC Language College, Haslingden Road, Rawtenstall) was accompanied by an Arboricultural Impact assessment.		
	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
No. of AIA submitted on major applications	3	2	1
Indicator	No. of trees subject to a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) lost		
Results	The felling of 31 trees protected by a TPO was permitted in 23/24 and 40 replacement trees were required as part of these approvals.		
	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
No. of trees subject to a TPO lost	36 (and 4 groups)	20	31
No. of replacement trees required	16	20	40

Chapter 7: Leisure and Tourism

⁵ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/environment-agency-objections-to-planning-on-the-basis-of-flood-risk>

Policy LT1: Protection of Playing Pitches, Existing Open Space, Sport and Recreation Facilities

“To protect existing playing pitches, open space, sport and recreation to support the role they play in health, well-being and amenity.”

Indicator	Number of approvals for cultural and leisure facilities (per type of proposals)		
Results	23/24:		
	Planning Ref	Description of Development	Address
	2023/0359	Erection of a timber chalet-type building at the Whitaker	Whitaker Museum, Haslingden Road, Rawtenstall
	2023/0158	Demolition of former cinema and bingo hall and erection of a building providing 5 commercial units	Former Regal Cinema, Bacup
	2023/0231	Partial demolish existing club house and rebuild increasing footprint	Bacup FC Sports Club, West View Football Ground, Cowtoot Lane, Bacup
	2023/0351	Installation of 2 meter fencing around parts of Bowling Green	Whitworth Bowling Green, Market Street, Whitworth
	2023/0228	Shipping container for storage of maintenance tools and machinery for the pitch	Leavengreave Sports Pitch, Oak Street, Shawforth

Target	Increase in provision of open space, recreation and sports facilities where a deficit or need has been identified		
Progress towards Target	No major housing applications were approved on existing open space, recreation or sports land over the three previous monitoring periods.		
	Planning Ref	Description of Development	Address
	2023/0103	Demolition of the main school building and language centre, erection of replacement education facility... and outdoor recreation facilities.	All Saints RC Language College, Haslingden Road, Rawtenstall

Trigger to Implement Contingencies	Year on year reduction in open space, recreation, leisure and sports facilities
Trigger Met	There has been no reduction in provision.
Contingencies	Should community facilities, which are demonstrably valuable to the communities they serve, be lost, then consideration should be given as to whether further protection is necessary in the Local Plan process.

Policy LT2: Community Facilities

“To protect valued facilities and ensure continued sustainability of communities.”

Target	No loss in community facilities			
Progress towards Target	No. of approvals / completions of new community facilities 23/24:			
	Application Ref	Description of Development	Address	Status
	2022/0474	Redevelopment of community sports club to provide a replacement artificial pitch, an extension to the clubhouse, additional training pitch, additional parking, spectator stand, portable changing facilities and additional flood lighting	St Marys RC Football Club, South Shore Street, Haslingden	Unimplemented
	2023/0028	Change of use of former Police Office to Community Led Youth Hub	5 Union Street, Bacup	Completed
	2023/0287	Siting an additional steel storage container... in order to provide storage for tents and other equipment used for scouting activities	Community Centre, Hill Street, Crawshawbooth	Completed
	2023/0383	Installation of a secure shipping container for storage of tools and gardening equipment for the use of Friends of Whitaker Park	Whitaker Park, Haslingden Road, Rawtenstall	Completed

No. of approvals / completions involving the loss of existing community facilities

23/24:

Application Ref	Description of Development	Address	Status
2022/0526	Conversion of former church to a Business Centre	Christ Church, Beech Street, Bacup	Unimplemented
2023/0285	Change of use of Public House and residential to form 4 1 bedroom flats	Jolly Sailor Inn, Booth Road, Waterfoot	Under Construction
2023/0395	Change of use to hostel for homeless people	Commercial Hotel, 1 Manchester Road, Haslingden	Unimplemented
2023/0425	Change of Use of land to residential garden curtilage	Dearden Wood Campsite, Michael Wife Lane, Edenfield	Completed
2023/0566	Former amenity block to residential	Dearden Wood Campsite, Michael Wife Lane, Edenfield	Completed

Trigger to Implement Contingencies

Year on year reduction in reported community facilities

Trigger Met

There was a loss of a community facility in Edenfield, however there was a gain in Bacup as well as facilitation works to other existing community uses in Whitaker Park and Crawshawbooth. Any further losses will need to be monitored in future years to assess if there is a trend and assess potential deficits for local communities.

Contingencies

Ongoing monitoring

Policy LT3: Tourism

“To support the economic benefits gained from tourism.”

Indicator	Levels of Visitor Numbers attracted to the District					
Results	Data relating to Rossendale’s Visitor Economy was last published by Marketing Lancashire for 2022 , based on STEAM data, which is a tourism specific economic impact model. This shows the effect that Covid-19 has had on visitor numbers and on the economy. Unfortunately information is not yet available for 2023/2024.					
		2018	2020	2021	2022	2018 vs 2022
	Total Visitor Numbers (millions)	1.44	0.37	0.95	1.26	-12.5%
	Day Visitors (millions)	1.30	0.31	0.86	1.12	-13.8%
	Staying Visitors (millions)	0.14	0.06	0.09	0.14	0%
	Total Visitor Days (millions)	1.65	0.47	1.09	1.48	-10.3%
	Visitor Days – staying visitors (millions)	0.35	0.15	0.23	0.36	2.9%
<p>Prior to the pandemic Lancashire was experiencing steady growth in its visitor economy sector. Although Rossendale is still experiencing fewer visitor numbers than prior to the pandemic, numbers are increasing, and the total number of visitors for 2022 were 1.26 million, exceeding 2021’s figures of 0.95 million. The number of visitors staying overnight at 0.14m visits is now back at re-Covid levels, generating 0.36 m nights in accommodation across Rossendale.</p> <p>Of all the 14 districts in Lancashire, Rossendale still records the lowest figures in terms of key statistics relating to tourism. The 1.26 million tourism visits represent 2% of all tourism visits to Lancashire, similar to previous years.</p> <p>STEAM data records that £66m was generated within the local economy through visitor and tourism expenditure. In 2022 the economic impact exceeded that of 2018 (£65.92m compared to £63.56m) for the first time since the pandemic. However, when adjusted for inflation economic impact was down by 10% between 201 and 2022. Also at £65.9m Rossendale continues to contribute 1% towards the county’s economic impact.</p> <p>Employment is measured in full-time equivalent jobs; 699 FTE jobs were recorded in 2022, a loss of 117 jobs since 2018, but higher than the jobs recorded in 2021. For 2022 this represents 1% of all people employed in this sector in Lancashire.</p> <p>The Council’s Economic Development team reported that there were approximately 39,128 visitors to The Whitaker in 2022.</p>						
Target	Increase in tourism related facilities, in line with the Tourism Strategy					

Progress towards Target	No approvals for tourist-specific facilities were granted over the previous three monitoring periods. Please see details of other approvals relating to community or leisure facilities, which are recorded in this section of the AMR.
Trigger to Implement Contingencies	No or net loss of tourist facilities
Trigger Met	N/A
Contingencies	N/A

Policy LT4: Overnight Visitor Accommodation

“To improve the tourism offer.”

Target	Increase in high quality visitor accommodation in appropriate areas																																																
Progress towards Target	<p>No. / location of approval / completions of overnight tourism accommodation</p> <p>Unfortunately there has been no update since STEAM 2021 about specific overnight accommodation in Rossendale. The table below was reported in last year’s AMR (2022-23) which showed year on year increases in non-serviced accommodation (e.g. holiday lets), and a decline in the serviced accommodation stock (e.g. hotels). This has resulted in an overall loss of bed spaces in the Borough, which was already experiencing lower levels of overnight accommodation than surrounding areas.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>2018</th> <th>2020</th> <th>2021</th> <th>2018-2021</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Accommodation Stock (bed spaces)</td> <td>267</td> <td>245</td> <td>252</td> <td>-5.6%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Serviced Accommodation Stock</td> <td>179</td> <td>145</td> <td>148</td> <td>-17.0 %</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Non-serviced accommodation stock</td> <td>88</td> <td>100</td> <td>104</td> <td>+18.0%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Steam data relating to Rossendale’s Visitor Economy for 2022 reports staying visitors generated a total economic impact of £20 million for the businesses and communities of Rossendale. As the table bellows there has been improvement between 2021 and 2022 data. This is unsurprising given that the country was still experiencing the impact of the pandemic in 2021. The number of staying visitors, and the number of visitor days for staying visitors in 2022 has returned to pre-Covid levels and the economic impact of these staying visitors is now almost 20% greater than in 2018.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>2018</th> <th>2020</th> <th>2021</th> <th>2022</th> <th>Variance year on year 2021 v 2022</th> <th>Pre-Covid Variance 2018 v 2022</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Staying Visitors (millions)</td> <td>0.14</td> <td>0.06</td> <td>0.09</td> <td>0.14</td> <td>55.6%</td> <td>0%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Visitor Days - Staying Visitors (millions)</td> <td>0.35</td> <td>0.15</td> <td>0.23</td> <td>0.36</td> <td>56.5</td> <td>2.9%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Economic Impact - Staying Visitors (£millions)</td> <td>16.79</td> <td>7.49</td> <td>11.58</td> <td>19.67</td> <td>69.9</td> <td>17.2</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		2018	2020	2021	2018-2021	Accommodation Stock (bed spaces)	267	245	252	-5.6%	Serviced Accommodation Stock	179	145	148	-17.0 %	Non-serviced accommodation stock	88	100	104	+18.0%		2018	2020	2021	2022	Variance year on year 2021 v 2022	Pre-Covid Variance 2018 v 2022	Staying Visitors (millions)	0.14	0.06	0.09	0.14	55.6%	0%	Visitor Days - Staying Visitors (millions)	0.35	0.15	0.23	0.36	56.5	2.9%	Economic Impact - Staying Visitors (£millions)	16.79	7.49	11.58	19.67	69.9	17.2
	2018	2020	2021	2018-2021																																													
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Economic Impact - Staying Visitors (£millions)	16.79	7.49	11.58	19.67	69.9	17.2																																											

Given the planning applications approved in 2023/24 were for non-serviced accommodation (glamping pods and camping), as shown below, it is reasonable to assume that the trend for non-serviced accommodation is continuing.

Application Ref	Description of Development	Address	Status
2018/0409	Construction of mezzanine floor to provide bunk house accommodation for 4 people	Drop Off Café, Rear Off 38-42 Market Street, Edenfield	Under construction
2020/0458	... the construction of a new stand-alone one-bedroom apartment for use as a holiday let.	St John The Evangelist, Burnley Road, Bacup	Unimplemented
2020/0590	Change of land from agricultural land to glamping camp site including demolition of existing dwelling, erection of one 1.5 storey holiday lodge, four glamping pods...	Hawthorne Farmhouse Also Use Of Building At Lower Whams, Burnley Road East, Waterfoot	Under construction
2021/0281	Proposed change of use from an annexe to a holiday let	208 Burnley Road, Bacup	Unimplemented
2021/0396	Change of Use of land to accommodate 2no. glamping huts...	Gindles Lodge, Sales Lane, Ramsbottom	Unimplemented
2021/0449	Construction of 5 no. glamping pods	Hey Meadow Farm, Coal Pit Lane, Whitewell Bottom	Unimplemented
2024/0070	Temporary camp site	Plunge Farm, Plunge Road, Edenfield	Unimplemented
2023/0232	...glamping pods	7 Law Head Farm, Blackwood Road, Stacksteads	Unimplemented

Trigger to Implement Contingencies	No increase or net loss of visitor accommodation
Trigger Met	Although we have no update from STEAM data for 2022 about the number of bed spaces, overall in respect of planning applications and approvals there has been an increase.
Contingencies	Work with Economic Development / other bodies to address issues.

Chapter 8: Transport

Strategic Policy TR1: Strategic Transport

“To enhance connectivity, support economic growth while improving air quality and tackling climate change.”

Target	Delivery of infrastructure as described in the Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP)						
Progress towards Target	Implementation of necessary transport infrastructure as identified in IDP						
	This will be provided in the Infrastructure Funding Statement 2023 to 2024 which will be available on the Council's website at: www.rossendale.gov.uk/info/210144/planning_and_building_control/10637/more/4 by the end of the year.						
	Infrastructure Delivery Plan 2019 update Rossendale Borough Council						
	Ref	Location	Scheme	Priority (H/M/L)	Lead Delivery Agency	Potential Delivery Mechanism	Stats Update – Mar. 2024
	T1	Junctions identified in T2-T7	Monitoring	H	LCC	LCC/RBC	Ongoing
	T2	A681 Corridor Rawtenstall to Bacup (and other locations as identified)	Corridor improvements (including potential improvement schemes identified at Waterfoot roundabout improvements and Toll Bar Roundabout, Stacksteads, Tup Bridge Rawtenstall, Staggered crossroads on Burnley Road Booth Fold, St James Square, Bacup)	M	LCC	LCC/RBC/s106	Successful LUF bid for funding to target some key locations. Works expected to begin 24/25.
	T3	Rawtenstall	Gyratory Improvements	M	LCC	LCC, DfT, Local Prosperity Fund, HIF (or replacement, s106)	Successful LUF bid. Works expected to begin 25/6.
	T4	Haslingden	Haslingden Roundabout / Tesco Roundabout	M	LCC / RBC	As above	Under review
	T5	Rising Bridge	A56 Roundabout	M	HE / LCC / RBC	As above	Under review
	T6	Haslingden	Grane Road / Holcombe Road Junction	M	LCC / RBC	As above	Planning approval identifies measures
T7	Haslingden	Grane Road / A56 junctions	M	LCC / RBC	As above	Under review	
T8	Edenfield	Rochdale Road / Market St Roundabout	M	LCC / RBC	As above	Under review, being considered as part of development	

						of housing allocation H66
T9	X41 / X43 Bus services	Reliability and journey time improvements	L	Unknown	Unknown	Under review
T10	Strategic Road Network A682 / A56 SB	A682 / A56 SB Merge	L	HE - now National Highways	Dft RIS 04 (2030 onwards)	Under review
T11	NCR6 Valley of Stone to NCR6 link	NCR6 Complementary route	L	LCC / HE	RIS 02	Under review through the LCWIP (Local Cycling Walking Infrastructure Plan), now published by LCC.
T12	NCR6 to Haslingden town centre	NCR6 Complementary route	L	LCC	Unknown	
T13	NCR6 Valley of Stone to Bacup town centre	NCR6 Complementary route	L	LCC	Unknown	
T14	NCR6 Rawtenstall railway station to New Hall Hey retail park	NCR6 Complementary route	L	LCC	s106	
T15	NCR6 Rawtenstall to Dunnockshaw	NCR6 Complementary route	L	LCC	Unknown	
T16	East Lancashire Railway Line	Valley City Railway Link	L	TfGM / LCC / Network Rail / Valley City Link Steering Group	DfT, TfGM	Under review
T17	Ewood Bridge	Park and Ride	L	RBC	DfT / RBC / LCC	Under review

*Cost estimates for highway transportation schemes based on Highway Capacity Study (2018). Estimated costs are exclusive of land acquisition, land compensation (part 1 claims), alteration to statutory undertakers' infrastructure, changes or provision of structures, earthworks over and above typical excavation or other unforeseen construction requirements and are subject to detailed highway, signal and drainage design. Cost estimates are provided for illustrative purposes only. Cycle scheme estimated costs based on Rossendale IDP 2018.

Trigger to Implement Contingencies

Year on year failure to meet timescales identified within the IDP

Trigger Met

Progress is being made on several of the targets, particularly the higher priority projects, such as the Gytratory.

Contingencies

Continue to liaise with infrastructure providers to ensure that provision is made, where this cannot be achieved consider how barriers can be removed.

Policy TR2: Footpaths, Cycleways and Bridleways

“To support recreation, health and well-being.”

Indicator	Kilometres of existing and new / enhanced walking / cycle routes
Results	<p>Figures from 21/22:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Valley of Stone – 15.14 km • National Cycle Route 6 – 9.61 km • Regional Cycle Route 91 – 40.65 km • South of Rawtenstall section (proposed) – 9.77 km • Rawtenstall to Dunnockshaw section (proposed) – 6.28 km
Indicator	Amount of investment in routes
Results	<p>Rossendale Borough Council and Lancashire County Council have been working together on the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Project (LCWIP) for Rossendale to secure improvements to routes throughout the borough. The LCWIP has now been adopted by Lancashire County Council and is available here: https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/media/951845/hyndburn-and-rossendale.pdf</p> <p>A planning application, approved in 21/22 for a new Aldi food store in Bacup (2020/0363), is currently at an advance stage of construction, and makes a provision for an active travel route into and from the store, including s106 contributions.</p> <p>In 22/23 a planning application was approved for a residential development on Station Road, Whitworth (2021/0271). This provides an access point within the site to create a more direct route from Cowm Park Way to the cycleway to the north, part of the Valley of Stone route.</p> <p>No major applications were approved in 23/24 which proposed active travel investment, however work has been progressing on developing the Valley of Stone route, including improvements on Bacup Rd, Waterfoot and Bocholt Way, Rawtenstall and maintenance works on Hareholme Viaduct. Improvement and maintenance works also took place on Helmshore Viaduct (part of NCR6).</p>

Strategic Policy TR4: Parking

“To provide for appropriate levels of car parking and encourage the use of electric vehicles.”

Target	75% of new dwellings granted approval by 2036 to be fitted with electric vehicle (EV) recharging points
Progress towards Target	<p>No major residential planning applications were approved or completed in 21/22 which included EV charging points. One major retail application approved provided 4 EV points.</p> <p>Two major residential planning applications were approved in 22/23, equating to 78 dwellings, one permission required an EV recharging point at every property (37). Equating to 47% of new dwellings on major sites approved requiring EV recharging points.</p>

	<p>In 23/24 87 EV chargers were reported as being constructed on major residential development sites.</p> <p>No major residential planning applications were approved in 23/24, however 3 other applicable major applications were approved, all providing EV charging points as below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2023/0108 – Erection of 11 industrial starter units – 3 EV spaces • 2023/0505 – Erection of new building – 1 EV space • 2023/0103 – Replacement education facility – 6 EV spaces
Trigger to Implement Contingencies	Failure to condition 75% of new dwelling permissions within the reported year
Trigger Met	One major residential planning application was approved with EV charging points in 22/23. No applicable major residential planning applications were approved in 23/24 hence the lack of EV chargers granted in this monitoring period. We expect this figure to rise in subsequent monitoring periods.
Contingencies	Work with developers and LCC Highways to identify potential barriers to the provision of electric vehicle charging points.

Appendices

Appendix 1: List of Housing Allocations

Housing Allocation Ref.	Site name	Net developable area (ha)	No. of units proposed	Density (dwellings per hectare)	Delivery Timescale	Greenfield/Brownfield	Allocation	Policy	Site Specific Policy
Rawtenstall, Crawshawbooth, Goodshaw and Loveclough									
H1	Magistrates Court, Rawtenstall	0.02	11	550	Years 1-5	Brownfield	Housing	HS2	
H2	Land at former Oakenhead Resource Centre	0.69	19	28	Years 1-5	Brownfield	Housing	HS2	
H3	Turton Hollow, Goodshaw	0.87	26	30	Years 6-10	Mixed but largely greenfield	Housing	HS2	
H4	Swinshaw Hall, Loveclough	1.72	47	26	Years 1-5	Greenfield	Housing	HS2	Yes
H5	Land south of 1293 Burnley Road, Loveclough	0.19	5	26	Years 6-10	Greenfield	Housing (Self Build)	HS20	
H6	Land Adjacent Laburnum Cottages, Goodshaw	0.31	10	32	Years 6-10	Greenfield	Housing	HS2	Yes
H7	Oak Mount Garden, Rawtenstall	0.29	9	31	Years 6-10	Greenfield	Housing	HS2	Yes
H8	Land at Bury Road, Rawtenstall	0.25	7	28	Years 6-10	Greenfield	Housing	HS2	Yes
H9	The Hollins, Hollin Way	2.62	70	27	Years 1-15	Greenfield	Housing	HS2	
H10	Reedsholme Works, Rawtenstall	2.19	110	50	Years 1-15	Brownfield	Housing	HS2	
H11	Loveclough Working Mens Club and land at rear and extension	3.2	94	29	Years 1-10	Mixed	Housing	HS2	
H12	Hall Carr Farm, off Yarraville Street	1.07	26	24	Years 6-10	Greenfield	Housing	HS2	
H13	Land East of Acrefield Drive	0.61	18	30	Years 11-15	Greenfield	Housing	HS2	
H14	Land south of Goodshaw Fold Road	0.23	7	30	Years 1-5	Greenfield	Housing	HS2	
H15	Carr Barn and Carr Farm	1.24	25	20	Years 6-10	Greenfield	Housing	HS2	Yes
H16	Land off Lower Clowes Road, New Hall Hey	0.27	7	26	Years 11-15	Greenfield	Housing	HS2	

Housing Allocation Ref.	Site name	Net developable area (ha)	No. of units proposed	Density (dwellings per hectare)	Delivery Timescale	Greenfield/Brownfield	Allocation	Policy	Site Specific Policy
Bacup, Stacksteads, Britannia and Weir									
H17	Old Market Hall, Bacup	0.16	16	100	Years 6-10	Brownfield	Housing	HS2	Yes
H18	Reed Street, Bacup	0.42	22	52	Years 1-5	Brownfield	Housing	HS2	
H19	Former Bacup Health Centre	0.2	12	60	Years 1-5	Brownfield	Housing (Specialist Housing)	HS19	
H20	Glen Mill, 640 Newchurch Road, Stacksteads	0.17	9	53	Years 1-5	Brownfield	Housing	HS2	
H21	The Former Commercial Hotel, 318A, 316B and 316C Newchurch Road	0.04	7	175	Years 1-5	Brownfield	Housing	HS2	
H22	Land at Blackwood Road, Stacksteads	1.37	41	30	Years 6-10	Mixed	Housing	HS2	Yes
H23	Land off Greensnook Lane, Bacup	1.43	26	18	Years 1-10	Greenfield	Housing	HS2	
H24	Land off Fernhill Drive, Bacup	0.15	5	33	Years 6-10	Greenfield	Housing	HS2	
H25	Sheephouse Reservoir, Britannia	2.1	63	30	Years 1-5	Greenfield	Housing	HS2	Yes
H26	Land off Pennine Road, Bacup	2.8	71	30	Years 1-10	Greenfield	Housing	HS2	Yes
H27	Tong Farm, Bacup	1.7	51	30	Years 6-10	Greenfield	Housing	HS2	
H28	Lower Stack Farm	0.32	10	31	Years 6-10	Greenfield	Housing	HS2	Yes
H29	Booth Road/Woodland Mount, Brandwood	0.35	14	40	Years 1-5	Greenfield	Housing	HS2	
H30	Land off Rockcliffe Road and Moorlands Terrace, Bacup	3.22	63	20	Years 1-10	Greenfield	Housing	HS2	
H31	Land at Higher Cross Row, Bacup	0.53	10	32	Years 6-10	Greenfield	Housing	HS2	Yes
H32	Hare and Hounds Garage, Newchurch Road, Stacksteads	0.15	9	60	Years 6-10	Brownfield	Housing	HS2	
H33	Land off Gladstone Street, Bacup	2.1	63	30	Years 6-10	Mixed	Housing	HS2	Yes
H34	Land off Burnley Road and Meadows Avenue, Bacup	0.13	6	46	Years 1-5	Greenfield	Housing	HS2	
H35	Land off Cowtoot Lane, Bacup	3.13	94	30	Years 1-10	Greenfield	Housing	HS2	Yes
H36	Land off Todmorden Road, Bacup	2.98	53	18	Years 1-10	Greenfield	Housing	HS2	Yes
H37	Land south of The Weir Public House	1.77	52	29	Years 6-10	Greenfield	Housing	HS2	
H38	Land West of Burnley Road, Weir	0.46	10	22	Years 6-10	Greenfield	Housing	HS2	
H39	Irwell Springs, Weir	2.48	46	19	Years 1-5	Greenfield	Housing	HS2	

Housing Allocation Ref.	Site name	Net developable area (ha)	No. of units proposed	Density (dwellings per hectare)	Delivery Timescale	Greenfield/Brownfield	Allocation	Policy	Site Specific Policy
Haslingden and Rising Bridge									
H40	Former Haslingden Police Station, Manchester Road	0.12	8	67	Years 1-5	Brownfield	Housing	HS2	
H41	1 Laburnum Street	0.04	8	200	Years 6-10	Brownfield	Housing	HS2	
H42	Land at Kirkhill Avenue, Haslingden	0.74	22	30	Years 6-10	Greenfield	Housing	HS2	Yes
H43	Land Off Highfield Street	0.45	13	29	Years 6-10	Greenfield	Housing	HS2	
H44	Land adjacent 53 Grane Road	0.15	5	33	Years 6-10	Greenfield	Housing	HS2	
H45	Land Adjacent Park Avenue/Criccieth Close	1	30	30	Years 1-5	Greenfield	Housing	HS2	Yes
H46	Land to side and rear of Petrol Station, Manchester Road	0.16	6	38	Years 6-10	Brownfield	Housing	HS2	Yes
H47	Haslingden Cricket Club Land, off Private Lane	0.74	30	41	Years 1-5	Greenfield	Housing	HS2	Yes
Waterfoot, Lumb, Cowpe and Water									
H48	Waterfoot Primary School	0.4	21	53	Years 1-5	Brownfield	Housing (Specialist Housing)	HS19	
H49	Land at Ashworth Road, Water	0.06	6	100	Years 1-5	Brownfield	Housing	HS2	
H50	Carr Mill and Bolton Mill, Cowpe	0.07	11	157	Years 6-10	Brownfield	Housing	HS2	
H51	Knott Mill Works, Pilling Street and Orchard Works, Miller Barn Lane	0.06	5	83	Years 6-10	Brownfield	Housing	HS2	
H52	Foxhill Drive	0.22	7	32	Years 1-5	Greenfield	Housing	HS2	Yes
H53	Land off Lea Bank	0.31	9	29	Years 6-10	Greenfield	Housing (Self Build)	HS20	Yes
H54	Land Adjacent Dark Lane Football Ground	1.95	95	48	Years 1-10	Mixed	Housing	HS2	
H55	Johnny Barn Farm and land to the east, Cloughfold	4.55	80	18	Years 1-10	Greenfield	Housing	HS2	Yes
H56	Hareholme, Stagghills	0.33	9	27	Years 6-10	Greenfield	Housing (Self Build)	HS20	Yes
H57	Land off Peel Street, Cloughfold	0.28	8	29	Years 6-10	Greenfield	Housing	HS2	Yes
H58	Hargreaves Fold Lane, Chapel Bridge, Lumb	0.75	23	31	Years 6-10	Greenfield	Housing	HS2	Yes
Whitworth, Facit and Shawforth									
H59	Albert Mill, Whitworth	1.14	85	74	Years 1-10	Brownfield	Housing	HS2	

Housing Allocation Ref.	Site name	Net developable area (ha)	No. of units proposed	Density (dwellings per hectare)	Delivery Timescale	Greenfield/Brownfield	Allocation	Policy	Site Specific Policy
H60	Land North Of King Street	0.17	5	29	Years 6-10	Greenfield	Housing	HS2	
H61	Land Behind Buxton Street	0.41	28	68	Years 1-5	Greenfield	Housing (Specialist Housing)	HS2	
H62	Former Spring Mill (land off eastgate and westgate)	3.7	119	32	Years 1-10	Brownfield	Housing	HS2	
H63	Cowm Water Treatment Works, Whitworth	0.68	10	15	Years 1-5	Mixed	Housing	HS2	
Edenfield, Helmshore, Irwell Vale and Ewood Bridge									
H64	Irwell Vale Mill	1.43	30	21	Years 1-5	Mixed	Housing	HS2	Yes
H65	Land East of Market Street, Edenfield	0.31	9	29	Years 6-10	Brownfield	Housing	HS2	Yes
H66	Land West of Market Street, Edenfield	13.74	400	29	Years 1-15	Greenfield	Housing	HS2	Yes
H67	Edenwood Mill, Edenfield	0.99	47	50	Years 1-5	Mixed	Housing	HS2	Yes
H68	Grane Village, Helmshore	4	139	35	Years 1-10	Mixed but largely greenfield	Housing	HS2	Yes
Mixed-use including residential									
M1	Waterside Mill, Bacup	0.09	39	433	Years 6-10	Brownfield	Mixed-use	EMP2	Yes
M3	Isle of Man Mill, Water	0.54	16	30	Years 6-10	Mixed	Mixed-use	EMP2	Yes

Appendix 2: List of approvals related to town centre uses and employment in 2023/24

Application Number	Address	Proposal	Use Class Existing	Use Class Proposed	E(a) (sqm)	E(b) (sqm)	E(c) (sqm)	E(d) (sqm)	E(e) (sqm)	E(f) (sqm)	E(g) (sqm)	SG (sqm)	F1 (sqm)	F2 (sqm)	B2 (sqm)	B8 (sqm)
2023/0140	288 Newchurch Road Stacksteads Bacup	Full: Change of use from office and separate 3-bedroom dwelling to a single dwellinghouse	Egi	C3	0	0	0	0	0	0	-89	0	0	0	0	0
2023/0368	Over 69 Deardengate, Haslingden, Rossendale, BB4 5SN	Prior notification (Class MA): Change of use from Offices to no.1 Flats	Egi	C3	0	0	0	0	0	0	-88	0	0	0	0	0
2023/0488	Over 67 Deardengate Haslingden Rossendale	Prior Notification (Class MA): Change of use of the upstairs Offices (First and Second Floor) to no. 4 Flats	Egi	C3	0	0	0	0	0	0	-242	0	0	0	0	0
2022/0616	717 Bacup Road Rawtenstall Rossendale BB4 7EU	Full: Proposed change of use from commercial development to ground floor bar with basement storage (sui generis).	Eg(i)	Sui Generis	0	0	0	0	0	0	-64	64	0	0	0	0
2023/0158	Former Regal Cinema 16 Burnley Road Bacup Lancashire OL13 8EU	Demolition of the existing former regal cinema and bingo hall, partial demolition to the rear of 14 Burnley Road and partial demolition to the rear of The Snooker Hall, to accommodate construction of a new two storey building and new extensions to the rear of The Snooker Hall and 14 Burnley Road, providing a total of 5 commercial units, with associated highways improvements to Hall Road and the rear courtyard and proposed relocation of a Bus Shelter.	Sui Generis	Ec(iii)	0	0	902	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2023/0312	7-9 Manchester Road Haslingden BB4 5SL	Part two storey, part single storey extension for additional consulting rooms/training rooms to the rear of Hazelvalley Family Practice	E(e)	E(e)	0	0	0	0	136	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2023/0565	11 Market Street Bacup OL13 8EY	Creation of 3 no. residential apartments at ground floor level and minor external alterations to the building	E(c)(i)	C3	0	0	-282	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2023/0214	Land At Fallbarn Road Rawtenstall Rossendale Lancashire	Application for a certificate of lawfulness (S192) for the use of an approved building at Fallbarn Road, Rawtenstall for storage purposes	B8	B8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	210
2023/0330	4 St Crispin Way Haslingden	Change of use the building from office use (Use Class E(G)(i)) to self-storage (Use Class B8) including	Egi	B8	0	0	0	0	0	0	-2820	0	0	0	0	4760

Application Number	Address	Proposal	Use Class Existing	Use Class Proposed	E(a) (sqm)	E(b) (sqm)	E(c) (sqm)	E(d) (sqm)	E(e) (sqm)	E(f) (sqm)	E(g) (sqm)	SG (sqm)	F1 (sqm)	F2 (sqm)	B2 (sqm)	B8 (sqm)
	Rossendale BB4 4PW	external alterations, parking and access.														
2022/0526	Christ Church, Beech Street, Bacup	Proposed Conversion of former church to a Business Centre.	F1	Eg(i)	0	0	0	0	0	0	489	0	-489	0	0	0
2019/0434	BACUP SHOE CO LTD FALL BARN ROAD RAWTENSTALL BB4 7QE	Replacement of footwear wholesale unit.	B8	B8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0 (to not double count with 20213/0214)
2023/0400	466 Newchurch Road, Stackstaeds, Bacup, OL13 ONB	Prior approval: change of use of Class E to 2 flats C3 and retention of class E to ground floor	Egiii	C3	0	0	0	0	0	0	-86	0	0	0	0	0
2023/0202	847 Burnley Road, Loveclough, Rossendale, BB4 8QL	Prior approval: change of use from Commercial, Business and service (class E) to 2 dwellinghouses (C3)	Egi	C3	0	0	0	0	0	0	-262	0	0	0	0	0
2023/0237	Sun Dragon Cantonese Restaurant Blackburn Road Acre Rossendale	Lawful Development Certificate: proposed use of premises as a Class E children and parent facility with learning and play rooms, and ancillary cafe, book shop and consulting rooms.	Restaurant E(b)	E	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2023/0285	Jolly Sailor Inn Booth Road Waterfoot Rossendale BB4 9BD	Change of use of Public House (Sui Generis) and C3 residential to form 4 1 bedroom flats (C3) with associated parking, cycle storage and bin storage	Sui Generis	C3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-147	0	0	0	0
2023/0525	548 Burnley Road Crawshawbooth Rossendale BB4 8NE	Full: Installation of a new shopfront with entrance door. Provision of a new entrance door on front elevation giving access to a new corridor leading to the existing first floor flat. Provision of a flat on the ground floor, with 2 new windows, a replacement door and an access ramp.	E(a), C3	E(a), C3	0	-37	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2023/0390	613 Market Street Whitworth	New pitched roof to replace existing flat roof over dance studio	Sui Generis	Sui Generis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2023/0417	Alma Street Chapel Alma Street Bacup Lancashire	Full: Conversion of the basement level of the building from a store as approved by application 2017/0256 to a one bedroom apartment (Use Class C3) including external changes to fenestration.	Ancillary to C3	C3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Application Number	Address	Proposal	Use Class Existing	Use Class Proposed	E(a) (sqm)	E(b) (sqm)	E(c) (sqm)	E(d) (sqm)	E(e) (sqm)	E(f) (sqm)	E(g) (sqm)	SG (sqm)	F1 (sqm)	F2 (sqm)	B2 (sqm)	B8 (sqm)
2023/0359	Whitaker Museum Haslingden Road Rawtenstall	Erection of a timber chalet-type building at the Whitaker	F2	F2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	41	0	0
2022/0608	801 Burnley Road Crawshawbooth	Change of use from Motorcycle showroom and retail at first floor to ground floor cafe and retail to upper floor	Sui Generis	E(b)	0	120	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2022/0615	Cuckoo Narr Farm Scotland Lane Ramsbottom	Valley View Tea Room comprising timber built cafe pod, indoor cafe area and customer toilets	Sui Generis	E(b)	0	60	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2023/0103	All Saints Rc Language College Haslingden Road Rawtenstall Rossendale BB4 6SJ	Full: demolition of the main school building and language centre (Use Class F1a), erection of replacement education facility (Use Class F1a) and photovoltaic panels, with associated vehicle and cycle parking, refuse store and outdoor recreation facilities.	F1(a)	F1(a)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2023/0231	Bacup FC Sports Club West View Football Ground. Cowtoot Lane Bacup	Partial demolish existing club house and rebuild increasing footprint.	F2c	F2c	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	77	0	0
2023/0441	32 Deardengate Haslingden Rossendale BB4 5QJ	Change of use from office and storage associated with former bank to 1 no. two bedroom residential apartment.	E(g)(i)	C3	0	0	0	0	0	0	-78	0	0	0	0	0
2023/0391	564 Burnley Road Crawshawbooth	Change of Use from Financial Services to Drinking Establishment	Eci	Sui Generis	0	0	-182	0	0	0	0	182	0	0		
2023/0028	5 Union Street Bacup Lancashire OL13 0AA	Full: Change of use of former Police Office (Sui Generis) to Community Led Youth Hub under Classification F2 (b) - Spaces/Buildings for use by the Local Community	Sui Generis	F2(b)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-72	0	72		
2022/0504	295 Rochdale Road Edenfield Bury Lancashire BL0 0RN	Full: Change of use of land adjoining 295 Rochdale Road from residential and vacant industrial to residential use to form garden and parking space and ancillary external area within the curtilage of 295 Rochdale Road	B2	C3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2023/0108	Land On The North East Side Of York Avenue Haslingden	Full: Erection of new building to provide 11 no. Industrial starter units and new access	B2	B2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1188	0
2023/0163	Vehicle Storage Garage New Line Bacup Lancashire	Construction of garage on exg land used as a Haulage Yard	B8	B8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	51	51

Application Number	Address	Proposal	Use Class Existing	Use Class Proposed	E(a) (sqm)	E(b) (sqm)	E(c) (sqm)	E(d) (sqm)	E(e) (sqm)	E(f) (sqm)	E(g) (sqm)	SG (sqm)	F1 (sqm)	F2 (sqm)	B2 (sqm)	B8 (sqm)
2023/0117	Unit 1, Broadclough Mill, Burnley Road, Bacup, OL13 8PJ	Full: Repairs and change of use of part of mill to form a dwelling	B2	C3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-16	0
2023/0104	Unit 2 New Line Industrial Estate The Sidings Bacup OL13 9RW	Proposed two storey rear extension	B8	B8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	776
2023/0236	Land And Buildings On The North West Side Of Martin Croft Road Haslingden Rossendale	Change of use of existing workshop to a dwelling	B8	C3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-111
2023/0238	928 Burnley Road Loveclough Rossendale Lancashire BB4 8QL	Application to determine if prior approval is required for conversion of business premises into two apartments, one at ground floor and one at first floor. Replacement of existing windows to be retained and minor modifications to existing fenestration, including the reinstatement / enlargement of a window, blocking up of an existing door and window, and modifications to window sizes to the rear existing extension to facilitate internal layout. Application of render to the rear existing extension.	E(g)	C3	0	0	0	0	0	0	-130	0	0	0	0	0
2023/0505	Primrose Mill Commerce Street Haslingden Rossendale BB4 5JT	Partial demolition of existing factory and erection of new building	B2	B2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0 (no increase in floorspace)	0

Appendix 3: List of completions related to town centre uses and employment approved in 2023/24

Application Number	Address	Proposal	Use Class Existing	Use Class Completed	E(a) (sqm)	E(b) (sqm)	E(c) (sqm)	E(d) (sqm)	E(e) (sqm)	E(f) (sqm)	E(g) (sqm)	SG (sqm)	F1 (sqm)	F2 (sqm)	B2 (sqm)	B8 (sqm)
2022/0531	11 Burnley Road East Waterfoot Rossendale BB4 9AG	Full: Change of use from shop to sui generis drinking establishment with food offering. Installation of cellar cooling system with condenser. Installation of bar and small kitchen and preparation area inside.	E(a)	SG	-87	0	0	0	0	0	0	87	0	0	0	0
2022/0117	214 Newchurch Road Stacksteads Bacup Lancashire OL13 0TS	Prior notification (Class MA): Proposed change of use from ground floor retail use with living accommodation above to a dwellinghouse with no external or structural changes	E(A)	C3	-55	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2022/0586	206 Newchurch Road Stacksteads Bacup Lancashire OL13 0TS	Change of use of ground floor from commercial use to 1 dwelling.	E(a)	C3	-77	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2021/0697	LIBERAL CLUB LORD STREET RAWTENSTALL ROSSENDALE BB4 7LZ	Full: change of use and conversion from Liberal Club to cafe and restaurant on the ground floor and 4 no. apartments above, with associated works.	E(g)(i)	E(b) and C3	0	307	0	0	0	0	-307	0	0	0	0	0
2023/0391	564 Burnley Road Crawshawbooth Rossendale BB4 8AJ	Change of Use from Financial Services to Drinking Establishment	Eci	Sui Generis	0	0	-182	0	0	0	0	182	0	0	0	0
2022/0482	371 Manchester Road Haslingden Rossendale Lancashire BB4 6PT	Prior Approval - Conversion of former baker/shop to house	E(a)	C3	-54	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Application Number	Address	Proposal	Use Class Existing	Use Class Completed	E(a) (sqm)	E(b) (sqm)	E(c) (sqm)	E(d) (sqm)	E(e) (sqm)	E(f) (sqm)	E(g) (sqm)	SG (sqm)	F1 (sqm)	F2 (sqm)	B2 (sqm)	B8 (sqm)
2022/0502	Mountain Rescue Headquarters 46 Clegg Street Haslingden Rossendale Lancashire BB4 5LW	Conversion of existing Mountain Rescue Centre into 2 x 2 bedroomed flats. (1 on ground floor accessed via existing entrance and 1 on first floor accessed via proposed external staircase.	Sui Generis	C3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2022/0517	41 Bury Road Haslingden Rossendale BB4 6PG	Prior Notification - Change of Use of Existing Offices to Nursery and Alternative Education Provision	E(g)(i)	E(f) and F1(a)	0	0	0	0	0	86	-192	0	106	0	0	0
2022/0349	238 Burnley Road East Waterfoot Rossendale BB4 9DQ	Change of use from offices to single dwelling.	B1 / E(g)(i)	C3	0	0	0	0	0	0	-70	0	0	0	0	0
2022/0361	Holmefield Service Station Burnley Road Rawtenstall Rossendale BB4 8EW	Demolition of buildings and the formation of an extended and reconfigured car park to the existing SPAR store and petrol filling station	C3, E, SG	Car Parking	-280	0	0	0	0	0	0	-140	0	0	0	0
2022/0226	21-23 Market Street Whitworth Rossendale OL12 8RW	Change of use of the back garden of No. 23 to allow customers from the shop at 21 Market Street to use the area to consume food/drinks which they have purchased from the shop.	C3	E	29	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2022/0606	609 Market Street Whitworth OL12 8QS	Prior notification: conversion of vacant office (Class E) to dwellinghouse (Class C3)	E(g)(i)	C3	0	0	0	0	0	0	-78	0	0	0	0	0
2021/0635	LAND TO THE REAR OF 311-317 MARKET STREET WHITWORTH	Full: Change of use of building from Use Class B2 to retail use on ground floor and office use above (Class E)	B2	E(a) and E(g) ancillary to B2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0 (no change of floorspace)
2023/0237	Sun Dragon Cantonese Restaurant Blackburn Road Acre Rossendale Lancashire BB4 5AZ	Lawful Development Certificate: proposed use of premises as a Class E children and parent facility with learning and play rooms, and ancillary cafe, book shop and consulting rooms.	Restaurant E(b)	E	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Application Number	Address	Proposal	Use Class Existing	Use Class Completed	E(a) (sqm)	E(b) (sqm)	E(c) (sqm)	E(d) (sqm)	E(e) (sqm)	E(f) (sqm)	E(g) (sqm)	SG (sqm)	F1 (sqm)	F2 (sqm)	B2 (sqm)	B8 (sqm)
2023/0390	613 Market Street Whitworth Rochdale Lancashire OL12 8DY	New pitched roof to replace existing flat roof over dance studio	Sui Generis	Sui Generis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2022/0615	Cuckoo Narr Farm Scotland Lane Ramsbottom Bury Lancashire BL9 6UP	Valley View Tea Room comprising timber built cafe pod, indoor cafe area and customer toilets	Sui Generis	E(b)	0	60	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2021/0519	32 DEARDENGATE HASLINGDEN ROSSENDALE BB4 5QJ	Prior notification: conversion and change of use from bank (A2) to form 3 no. one-bedroom apartments (C3), with associated internal works.	E(c)(i)	C3	0	0	-148	0	0	0	0	0			0	0
2023/0029	51 Deardengate Haslingden Rossendale BB4 5QN	Full: Change of Use from Commercial ground floor and first and second floor apartment to all floors commercial use (office)	Cafe E(a), Takeaway (SG) and residential (C3)	E(g)(i)	0	0	0	0	0	0	216	-108	0	0	0	0
2021/0585	4-6 UNION STREET BACUP OL13 0AA	Removal of current shop front, replacement of shop front and subdivision of ground floor to 3 retail units (Class E(a))	E(a)	E(a)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2023/0441	32 Deardengate Haslingden Rossendale BB4 5QJ	Change of use from office and storage associated with former bank to 1 no. two bedroom residential apartment.	E(g)(i)	C3	0	0	0	0	0	0	-78	0	0	0	0	0
2023/0028	5 Union Street Bacup Lancashire OL13 0AA	Full: Change of use of former Police Office (Sui Generis) to Community Led Youth Hub under Classification F2 (b) - Spaces/Buildings for use by the Local Community	Sui Generis	F2(b)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-72	0	72	0	0
2022/0504	295 Rochdale Road Edenfield Bury Lancashire BL0 0RN	Full: Change of use of land adjoining 295 Rochdale Road from residential and vacant industrial to residential use to form garden and parking space and ancillary external area within the curtilage of 295 Rochdale Road	C3 and B2	C3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Application Number	Address	Proposal	Use Class Existing	Use Class Completed	E(a) (sqm)	E(b) (sqm)	E(c) (sqm)	E(d) (sqm)	E(e) (sqm)	E(f) (sqm)	E(g) (sqm)	SG (sqm)	F1 (sqm)	F2 (sqm)	B2 (sqm)	B8 (sqm)
2023/0163	Vehicle Storage Garage New Line Bacup Lancashire	Construction of garage on exg land used as a Haulage Yard	B8	B8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	507
2022/0621	Unit 16 Commerce Street Haslingden Rossendale Lancashire BB4 5JT	Change of use to motor vehicle service, repairs & MOT Class 7 testing centre, and associated palisade fencing installation, for BP Rolls (North-West) Limited	B2	B2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

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Equality Impact Assessment:	Required:	No	Attached:	No	
Biodiversity Impact Assessment:	Required:	No	Attached:	No	
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1. RECOMMENDATION

1.1 That the contents of the report be noted.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The Annual Air Quality Report is a statutory requirement of the Authority.
- Air quality is continuing to improve in Rossendale.
- Two Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) were revoked in 2022.
- The AQMA recently declared along a small section of Grane Road in Haslingden has showed consistent improvement in air quality and the trajectory continues downwards from a reading of almost 50.4 mg $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ down to 41.6 mg $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$.
- The action plan for this AQMA is in the process of being finalised.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Air pollution is associated with a number of adverse health impacts. It is recognised as a contributing factor in the onset of heart disease and cancer.
- 3.2 Additionally, air pollution particularly affects the most vulnerable in society: children, the elderly, and those with existing heart and lung conditions. There is also often a strong correlation with equalities issues because areas with poor air quality are also often less affluent areas.
- 3.3 The mortality burden of air pollution within the UK is equivalent to 29,000 to 43,000 deaths at typical ages with a total estimated healthcare cost to the NHS and social care of £157 million in 2017.
- 3.4 Approximately 80% of a person's health and wellbeing is determined by activities and circumstances in their home and community and not medical health interventions.
- 3.5 The main air quality concern in Rossendale continues to be Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂) caused by road traffic vehicles.
- 3.6 Every year an Annual Status Report is submitted to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) detailing the current position regarding air quality within the Borough. A copy of this report is appended at **Appendix A**.

4. DETAILS

- 4.1 District Councils have responsibility for monitoring air quality. Where places are found to have pollution levels higher than the national air quality objectives the local authority must declare an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) and then put together a plan to bring about improvements.

- 4.2 An AQMA was previously declared which comprised 13 residential properties between Gas Street and Holden Place numbered 240 to 268 Grane Road, Haslingden, BB4 4PB.
- 4.3 The action plan for this is currently being finalised, however, the actions proposed will not be significant in financial value as current actions are significantly improving the air quality.
- 4.4 There were only 2 tubes in this area which breached the Air Quality of 40mg $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ with those readings showing a downward trend from almost 50.4 mg $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ down to 41.6 mg $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$.
- 4.5 As a result, no significant changes in respect of road layouts or other major highways considerations are necessary to allow the Air Quality to fall within acceptable limits.
- 4.6 Initial actions proposed to deal with the AQMA will therefore be proportionate and will extend to considerations such as car sharing schemes, the promotion of working from home and greater use of electric vehicles.

RBC actions taken during 2023 in relation to air quality:

- Rossendale Borough Council has lots of updated information on air quality on the council website see [Air quality in Rossendale | Rossendale Borough Council](#)
- Climate Change work is gaining momentum and more information about what's going on in Rossendale including air quality improvements is found here [What we are doing | Our Climate Action Plan | Rossendale Borough Council](#)
- There's a new electric pool car for staff business use
- Promotion of the harms of open burning on social media channel's
- Investigation of 60 requests for service relating to domestic smoky chimneys, open domestic and commercial burning and advice given about the environmental and human health effects of the smoke
- The following are supporting planning and policy documents that will contribute toward improvements in air quality in our local authority area.
- East Lancashire Strategic Cycle network see [East Lancashire Cycle Way - Lancashire Enterprise Partnership \(lancashirelep.co.uk\)](#)
- East Lancashire Highways and Transport Plan [The East Lancashire highways and transport masterplan - Lancashire County Council](#)
- Rossendale Borough Council Climate Change Strategy [Climate Change | Rossendale Borough Council](#)
- [Local Plan – Rossendale Borough Council](#) see [Rossendale Local Plan 2019 to 2036 | Rossendale Borough Council](#)
- Lancashire County Council also produces lot of information on air quality and health see
- [Air quality - Lancashire County Council](#) and [Air Quality and Public Health report.pdf \(healthierlsc.co.uk\)](#)
- [Lancashire's Levelling Up Fund Bid - Lancashire County Council](#)
- [Consultation on Local Cycling and walking infrastructure plans including Rossendale Lancashire Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans - Lancashire County Council](#)
- [LCWIP Engagement Stage 2 - Lancashire County Council - Citizen Space](#)

5. RISK

All the issues raised and the recommendation(s) in this report involve risk considerations as set out below:

- Local authority obligations may be enforced by the Secretary of State.

- Where a district council is preparing an action plan, county councils are required to submit measures related to their functions (ie, local transport, highways and public health) to help meet air quality objectives in their local area. Any disagreements between district and county councils over action plan proposals can be referred by either Council to the Secretary of State to decide.
- Secretary of State can give directions to the local authority if it is not meeting air quality standards, if it is failing to discharge its duties under the LAQM system, or if its actions under LAQM are inappropriate.

Continued joint working and cross authority cooperation will help mitigate the risks outlined.

6. FINANCE

6.1 Any future financial implications arising will have to be assessed separately as part of the Council's budget setting and resource allocations.

7. LEGAL

7.1 The Council must continue to work towards improvement of air quality to mitigate the risk of challenge or intervention although as outlined in previous years the risk of this is considered to below.

8. POLICY AND EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

8.1 Consultation with statutory officers.

9. REASON FOR DECISION

9.1 Success in improving the air that we breathe relies on action by a wide range of organisations and individuals and continued work across the authority and in partnership with other public and private organisations is central to achieving this.

Background Papers	
Document	Place of Inspection
Annual Status Report	Appendix A



2024 Air Quality Annual Status Report (ASR)

In fulfilment of Part IV of the Environment Act 1995
Local Air Quality Management, as amended by the
Environment Act 2021

Date: September 2024

Information	Rossendale Borough Council Details
Local Authority Officer	Lorna Robinson
Department	Environmental Health
Address	Futures Park, Newchurch Road, Bacup OL13 0BB
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Report Reference Number	ASR 2024
Date	October 2024

Executive Summary: Air Quality in Our Area

Air quality continues to improve in Rossendale. Two air quality management areas were revoked in 2022 and the recently declared new area along a small section of Grane Road Haslingden is showing continued improvement in air quality. There were only two tubes which breached the Air Quality 40mg $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ but with only slight exceedances. Tube 12 located at 250 Grane Road Haslingen recorded 41.6mg $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ and tube 19 located between 256-258 Grane Road Haslingden recorded 40.7mg $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$. Looking at the trajectory from previous years the air quality is improving and levels will hopefully continue to decrease to below the air quality objective.

Air Quality in Rossendale Borough Council

Breathing in polluted air affects our health and costs the NHS and our society billions of pounds each year. Air pollution is recognised as a contributing factor in the onset of heart disease and cancer and can cause a range of health impacts, including effects on lung function, exacerbation of asthma, increases in hospital admissions and mortality. In the UK, it is estimated that the reduction in healthy life expectancy caused by air pollution is equivalent to 29,000 to 43,000 deaths a year¹.

Air pollution particularly affects the most vulnerable in society, children, the elderly, and those with existing heart and lung conditions. Additionally, people living in less affluent areas are most exposed to dangerous levels of air pollution².

Table ES 1 provides a brief explanation of the key pollutants relevant to Local Air Quality Management and the kind of activities they might arise from.

Table ES 1 - Description of Key Pollutants

Pollutant	Description
Nitrogen Dioxide (NO ₂)	Nitrogen dioxide is a gas which is generally emitted from high-temperature combustion processes such as road transport or energy generation.

¹ UK Health Security Agency. Chemical Hazards and Poisons Report, Issue 28, 2022.

² Defra. Air quality and social deprivation in the UK: an environmental inequalities analysis, 2006

Sulphur Dioxide (SO ₂)	Sulphur dioxide (SO ₂) is a corrosive gas which is predominantly produced from the combustion of coal or crude oil.
Particulate Matter (PM ₁₀ and PM _{2.5})	<p>Particulate matter is everything in the air that is not a gas.</p> <p>Particles can come from natural sources such as pollen, as well as human made sources such as smoke from fires, emissions from industry and dust from tyres and brakes.</p> <p>PM₁₀ refers to particles under 10 micrometres. Fine particulate matter or PM_{2.5} are particles under 2.5 micrometres.</p>

Rossendale Borough Council has lots of updated information on air quality on the council website see [Air quality in Rossendale | Rossendale Borough Council](#)

Climate Change work is gaining momentum and more information about what’s going on in Rossendale including air quality improvements is found here [What we are doing | Our Climate Action Plan | Rossendale Borough Council](#)

There’s a new electric pool car for staff business use

Lancashire County Council also produces lot of information on air quality and health see [Air quality - Lancashire County Council](#) and [Air Quality and Public Health report.pdf \(healthierlsc.co.uk\)](#)

[Lancashire's Levelling Up Fund Bid - Lancashire County Council](#)

[Consultation on Local Cycling and walking infrastructure plans including Rossendale Lancashire Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans - Lancashire County Council](#)

[LCWIP Engagement Stage 2 - Lancashire County Council - Citizen Space](#)

Actions to Improve Air Quality

Whilst air quality has improved significantly in recent decades, there are some areas where local action is needed to protect people and the environment from the effects of air pollution.

The Environmental Improvement Plan³ sets out actions that will drive continued improvements to air quality and to meet the new national interim and long-term targets for fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}), the pollutant of most harmful to human health. The Air Quality Strategy⁴ provides more information on local authorities' responsibilities to work towards these new targets and reduce fine particulate matter in their areas.

The Road to Zero⁵ details the Government's approach to reduce exhaust emissions from road transport through a number of mechanisms, in balance with the needs of the local community. This is extremely important given that cars are the most popular mode of personal travel and the majority of Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) are designated due to elevated concentrations heavily influenced by transport emissions.

Conclusions and Priorities

The majority of diffusion tubes across the borough show compliance with the air quality objective exceedance. The two tubes with exceedances are reducing year on year see Figure A.1 which is positive. A priority for the Council will be the installation of more electric vehicle charging points to encourage continued uptake of electric vehicles. The number of diffusion tubes will also be reduced in 2024 as the majority of the borough is consistently showing NO₂ levels well below the air quality objective.

Local Engagement and How to get involved

Thinking about air pollution and climate change on a worldwide, or even country scale can be daunting because as individuals we can often feel insignificant. Yet if we all work to reduce the amount of fuel we use and the number of chemicals we use at home, we will improve the quality of the air that we breathe and help the local and global problem. Other ways we can all contribute to improving air quality are as follows:

- Using public transport more
- Reducing car use and doing more car sharing for things like the school runs sorted informally or see <https://liftshare.com/uk>

³ Defra. Environmental Improvement Plan 2023, January 2023

⁴ Defra. Air Quality Strategy – Framework for Local Authority Delivery, August 2023

⁵ DfT. The Road to Zero: Next steps towards cleaner road transport and delivering our Industrial Strategy, July 2018

- Changing to an electric or hybrid vehicle see <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/office-for-zero-emission-vehicles>
- Cycling and walking where possible
- Using less chemicals and more natural products in the home to reduce the toxic load on your internal air quality see <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng149>
- Not having garden bonfires and only burning smokeless fuel on domestic stoves as the whole of Rossendale is a smoke control area (except for a few outlying rural properties see https://www.rossendale.gov.uk/info/210197/environmental_protection/10622/report_pollution/4
- Working from home, if you can, to save commuting

There is no local air quality action group to the knowledge of the writer however there is an active Clean Air Parents Network public facebook group.

The Rossendale Climate Network was created which is a group of like-minded individuals, schools, groups, businesses and organisations who are interested practical action to tackle the climate emergency in Rossendale. Find them on the Facebook page.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/rossendaleclimatenetwork>. They would like to hear from anyone who is taking local action or has some information to share with others in the area. Client Earth are activist lawyers committed to securing a healthier planet. Their website is [ClientEarth | ClientEarth](#)

Further information on air quality and air pollution forecasts can be found on the DEFRA website UK Air quality Information Resource following this link [Home - Defra, UK](#)

The Choked up Campaign is teenagers in London raising awareness of air pollution issues Living Street UK is a charity who want a nation where walking is the natural choice for everyday local journeys see [Living Streets | Home Page | Living Streets](#)

Local Responsibilities and Commitment

This ASR was prepared by Environmental Health of Rossendale Borough Council with the support and agreement of the following officers and departments:

Susan Chadwick Public Protection Manager

This ASR has not been signed off by a Director of Public Health.

If you have any comments on this ASR please send them to Lorna Robinson at:

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1 Local Air Quality Management

This report provides an overview of air quality in Rossendale Borough Council during 2023. It fulfils the requirements of Local Air Quality Management (LAQM) as set out in Part IV of the Environment Act (1995), as amended by the Environment Act (2021), and the relevant Policy and Technical Guidance documents.

The LAQM process places an obligation on all local authorities to regularly review and assess air quality in their areas, and to determine whether or not the air quality objectives are likely to be achieved. Where an exceedance is considered likely the local authority must declare an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) and prepare an Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) setting out the measures it intends to put in place in order to achieve and maintain the objectives and the dates by which each measure will be carried out. This Annual Status Report (ASR) is an annual requirement showing the strategies employed by Rossendale Borough Council to improve air quality and any progress that has been made.

The statutory air quality objectives applicable to LAQM in England are presented in Table E.1.

2 Actions to Improve Air Quality

2.1 Air Quality Management Areas

Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) are declared when there is an exceedance or likely exceedance of an air quality objective. After declaration, the authority should prepare an Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) within 18 months. The AQAP should specify how air quality targets will be achieved and maintained, and provide dates by which measures will be carried out.

A summary of the AQMA declared by Rossendale Borough Council can be found in Table 2.1. The table presents a description of the one AQMA that is currently designated within Rossendale Borough Council. Appendix D: Map(s) of Monitoring Locations and AQMAs provides maps of the AQMA and also the air quality monitoring locations in relation to the AQMA. The air quality objective pertinent to the current AQMA designation are as follows:

- NO₂ annual mean

Table 2.1 – Declared Air Quality Management Areas

AQMA Name	Date of Declaration	Pollutants and Air Quality Objectives	One Line Description	Is air quality in the AQMA influenced by roads controlled by Highways England?	Level of Exceedance: Declaration	Level of Exceedance: Current Year	Number of Years Compliant with Air Quality Objective	Name and Date of AQAP Publication	Web Link to AQAP
AQMA 3	7 th December 2022	NO ₂ annual mean	An area encompassing thirteen residential properties between Gas Street and Holden Place numbered 240 to 268 Grane Road Haslingden BB4 4PB	NO	50.4 µg/m ³	41.6 µg/m ³	0	Work in progress	Not published yet

- Rossendale Borough Council confirm the information on UK-Air regarding their AQMA is up to date
- Rossendale Borough Council confirm that all current AQAPs have been submitted to Defra

2.2 Progress and Impact of Measures to address Air Quality in Rossendale Borough Council

Defra's appraisal of last year's ASR concluded that an AQAP for AQMA 3 is strongly encouraged and we are working on this and an Air Quality Action plan is being produced and will be hopefully be published next year. An extension has been requested

Table 0.1 – Progress on Measures to Improve Air Quality

The Air Quality Action Plan is still being worked on and an extension has been requested.

2.3 PM_{2.5} – Local Authority Approach to Reducing Emissions and/or Concentrations

As detailed in Policy Guidance LAQM.PG22 (Chapter 8) and the Air Quality Strategy⁶, local authorities are expected to work towards reducing emissions and/or concentrations of fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}). There is clear evidence that PM_{2.5} (particulate matter smaller 2.5 micrometres) has a significant impact on human health, including premature mortality, allergic reactions, and cardiovascular diseases.

Using the [Defra background mapping resource](#) the maximum background annual mean PM_{2.5} concentrations within the Local Authority was 7.4mg µg/m³. This is a slight reduction from the year below and this is also lower than the North West maximum of 10.6mg µg/m³

Rossendale Borough Council is taking the following measures to address PM_{2.5}:

Environmental Health have investigated over 80 complaints about open burning and smoky domestic chimneys, given advice and sent warning letters. Open burning is becoming more anti-social and we discourage it wherever possible. We've promoted National Clean Air Day and National Clean Air Night on social media.

⁶ Defra. Air Quality Strategy – Framework for Local Authority Delivery, August 2023

3 Air Quality Monitoring Data and Comparison with Air Quality Objectives and National Compliance

This section sets out the monitoring undertaken within 2023 by Rossendale Borough Council and how it compares with the relevant air quality objectives. In addition, monitoring results are presented for a five-year period between 2019 and 2023 to allow monitoring trends to be identified and discussed.

3.1 Summary of Monitoring Undertaken

3.1.1 Automatic Monitoring Sites

Rossendale Borough Council undertook no automatic (continuous) monitoring during 2023.

3.1.2 Non-Automatic Monitoring Sites

Rossendale Borough Council undertook non-automatic (i.e. passive) monitoring of NO₂ at 20 sites during 2023. Table A.2 in Appendix A presents the details of the non-automatic sites.

Maps showing the location of the monitoring sites are provided in Appendix D. Further details on Quality Assurance/Quality Control (QA/QC) for the diffusion tubes, including bias adjustments and any other adjustments applied (e.g. annualisation and/or distance correction), are included in Appendix C.

3.2 Individual Pollutants

The air quality monitoring results presented in this section are, where relevant, adjusted for bias, annualisation (where the annual mean data capture is below 75% and greater than 25%), and distance correction. Further details on adjustments are provided in Appendix C.

3.2.1 Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂)

Table A.4 in Appendix A compares the ratified and adjusted monitored NO₂ annual mean concentrations for the past five years with the air quality objective of 40µg/m³. Note that

the concentration data presented represents the concentration at the location of the monitoring site, following the application of bias adjustment and annualisation, as required (i.e. the values are exclusive of any consideration to fall-off with distance adjustment).

For diffusion tubes, the full 2023 dataset of monthly mean values is provided in Appendix B. Note that the concentration data presented in Table B.1 includes distance corrected values, only where relevant.

Diffusion tubes 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 14, 15, 16 and 17 show consistently low NO₂ levels well below the air quality objective. Tube 1 will be relocated to Plantation View Weir following a request from a resident to monitor the air quality. All the other tubes will be removed from 2024 onwards resulting in a cost saving for the Council.

3.2.2 Particulate Matter (PM₁₀)

PM₁₀ is not monitored in Rossendale

3.2.3 Particulate Matter (PM_{2.5})

PM_{2.5} is not covered by the LAQM regulations and no monitoring is carried out in Rossendale.

3.2.4 Sulphur Dioxide (SO₂)

No sulphur dioxide monitoring is carried out in Rossendale

Appendix A: Monitoring Results

Table A.1 – Details of Automatic Monitoring Sites

Rossendale Borough Council undertook no automatic (continuous) monitoring during 2023.

Table A.2 – Details of Non-Automatic Monitoring Sites

Diffusion Tube ID	Site Name	Site Type	X OS Grid Ref (Easting)	Y OS Grid Ref (Northing)	Pollutants Monitored	In AQMA? Which AQMA?	Distance to Relevant Exposure (m) ⁽¹⁾	Distance to kerb of nearest road (m) ⁽²⁾	Tube Co-located with a Continuous Analyser?	Tube Height (m)
DT1	Front of Casa Tapas Bacup Road Rawtenstall	Kerbside	381394	422756	NO ₂	No	2.0	2.0	No	1.8
DT2	60 Hud Hey Road Haslingden	Kerbside	378495	424454	NO ₂	No	2.0	2.0	No	1.8
DT3	349 Manchester Road Haslingden	Kerbside	379153	422234	NO ₂	AQMA3	3.0	3.0	No	1.8
DT4	Jobcentre 83 Bacup Road Rawtenstall	Kerbside	381325	422740	NO ₂	No	3.0	3.0	No	1.8
DT5	377 Manchester Road Haslingden	Kerbside	379209	422171	NO ₂	No	3.0	3.0	No	1.8
DT6	359 Manchester Road Haslingden	Kerbside	379175	422213	NO ₂	No	4.0	4.0	No	1.8
DT7	366-368 Manchester Road Haslingden	Kerbside	379193	422210	NO ₂	AQMA 3	2.0	2.0	No	1.8
DT8	5-7 Rawtenstall Road Haslingden	Kerbside	379197	422213	NO ₂	No	2.0	2.0	No	1.8
DT9	363 Manchester Road Haslingden	Kerbside	379183	422200	NO ₂	No	4.0	4.0	No	1.8
DT10	277 Grane Road Haslingden	Kerbside	377879	422502	NO ₂	AQMA 3	5.0	5.0	No	1.8
DT11	450 Bacup Road Waterfoot	Kerbside	382845	421978	NO ₂	No	0.0	0.0	No	1.8
DT12	250 Grane Road Haslingden	Kerbside	377909	422488	NO ₂	AQMA 3	2.0	2.0	No	1.8

Diffusion Tube ID	Site Name	Site Type	X OS Grid Ref (Easting)	Y OS Grid Ref (Northing)	Pollutants Monitored	In AQMA? Which AQMA?	Distance to Relevant Exposure (m) ⁽¹⁾	Distance to kerb of nearest road (m) ⁽²⁾	Tube Co-located with a Continuous Analyser?	Tube Height (m)
DT13	30-32 Bacup Road Rawtenstall	Kerbside	381377	422756	NO ₂	No	2.0	2.0	No	1.8
DT14	24-26 Bacup Road Rawtenstall	Kerbside	381358	422754	NO ₂	No	2.0	2.0	No	1.8
DT15	22 Bacup Road Rawtenstall	Kerbside	381350	422754	NO ₂	No	2.0	2.0	No	1.8
DT16	2A Bacup Road Rawtenstall	Kerbside	381161	422725	NO ₂	No	6.0	6.0	No	1.8
DT17	1 Bacup Road Rawtenstall	Kerbside	381121	422725	NO ₂	No	2.0	2.0	No	1.8
DT18	222 Grane Road Haslingden	Kerbside	378094	422560	NO ₂	AQMA 3	3.0	3.0	No	1.8
DT19	256-258 Grane Road Haslingden	Kerbside	377896	422488	NO ₂	AQMA 3	2.0	2.0	No	1.8
DT20	264 Grane Road Haslingden	Kerbside	377899	422488	NO ₂	AQMA 3	2.0	2.0	No	1.8

Notes:

(1) 0m if the monitoring site is at a location of exposure (e.g. installed on the façade of a residential property).

(2) N/A if not applicable.

Table A.3 – Annual Mean NO₂ Monitoring Results: Automatic Monitoring (µg/m³)

This is not measured in Rossendale Borough Council

Table A.4 – Annual Mean NO₂ Monitoring Results: Non-Automatic Monitoring (µg/m³)

Diffusion Tube ID	X OS Grid Ref (Easting)	Y OS Grid Ref (Northing)	Site Type	Valid Data Capture for Monitoring Period (%) ⁽¹⁾	Valid Data Capture 2023 (%) ⁽²⁾	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
DT1	381394	422756	Kerbside	83.0	83.0	32.3	23.8	26.2	25.3	20.1
DT2	378495	424454	Kerbside	100.0	100.0	N/A	N/A	N/A	25.7	19.7
DT3	379153	422234	Kerbside	92.0	92.0	27.3	22.0	24.9	21.4	18.4
DT4	381325	422740	Kerbside	92.0	92.0	27.3	22.0	20.9	21.9	19.5
DT5	379209	422171	Kerbside	75.0	75.0	28.7	22.1	23.7	24.5	22
DT6	379175	422213	Kerbside	92.0	92.0	31.1	24.2	27.8	26.7	24
DT7	379193	422210	Kerbside	83.0	83.0	32.3	26.3	30.0	28.3	26.4
DT8	379197	422213	Kerbside	100.0	100.0	25.6	20.4	20.2	19.9	16.6
DT9	379183	422200	Kerbside	92.0	92.0	31.6	25.3	26.9	28.2	24
DT10	377879	422502	Kerbside	100.0	100.0	N/A	N/A	18.4	16.9	16.6
DT11	382845	421978	Kerbside	83.0	83.0	N/A	N/A	N/A	29.9	29.3
DT12	377909	422488	Kerbside	100.0	100.0	N/A	44.9	50.4	46.7	41.6
DT13	381377	422756	Kerbside	100.0	100.0	32.2	28.4	32.7	31.2	30.6
DT14	381358	422754	Kerbside	100.0	100.0	31.9	26.2	29.3	30.9	30
DT15	381350	422754	Kerbside	100.0	100.0	32.2	28.8	31.8	30.8	23.9
DT16	381161	422725	Kerbside	100.0	100.0	26.6	24.7	24.1	24.8	21.6
DT17	381121	422725	Kerbside	83.0	83.0	34.7	28.6	29.6	29.9	27.3
DT18	378094	422560	Kerbside	100.0	100.0	N/A	20.4	23.2	21.3	18.2
DT19	377896	422488	Kerbside	100.0	100.0	N/A	41.6	46.9	42.2	40.7
DT20	377899	422488	Kerbside	92.0	92.0	46.6	34.8	36.1	36.2	34

Annualisation has been conducted where data capture is <75% and >25% in line with LAQM.TG22

Diffusion tube data has been bias adjusted

Reported concentrations are those at the location of the monitoring site (bias adjusted and annualised, as required), i.e. prior to any fall-off with distance correction

Notes:

The annual mean concentrations are presented as µg/m³.

Exceedances of the NO₂ annual mean objective of 40µg/m³ are shown in **bold**.

NO₂ annual means exceeding 60µg/m³, indicating a potential exceedance of the NO₂ 1-hour mean objective are shown in **bold and underlined**.

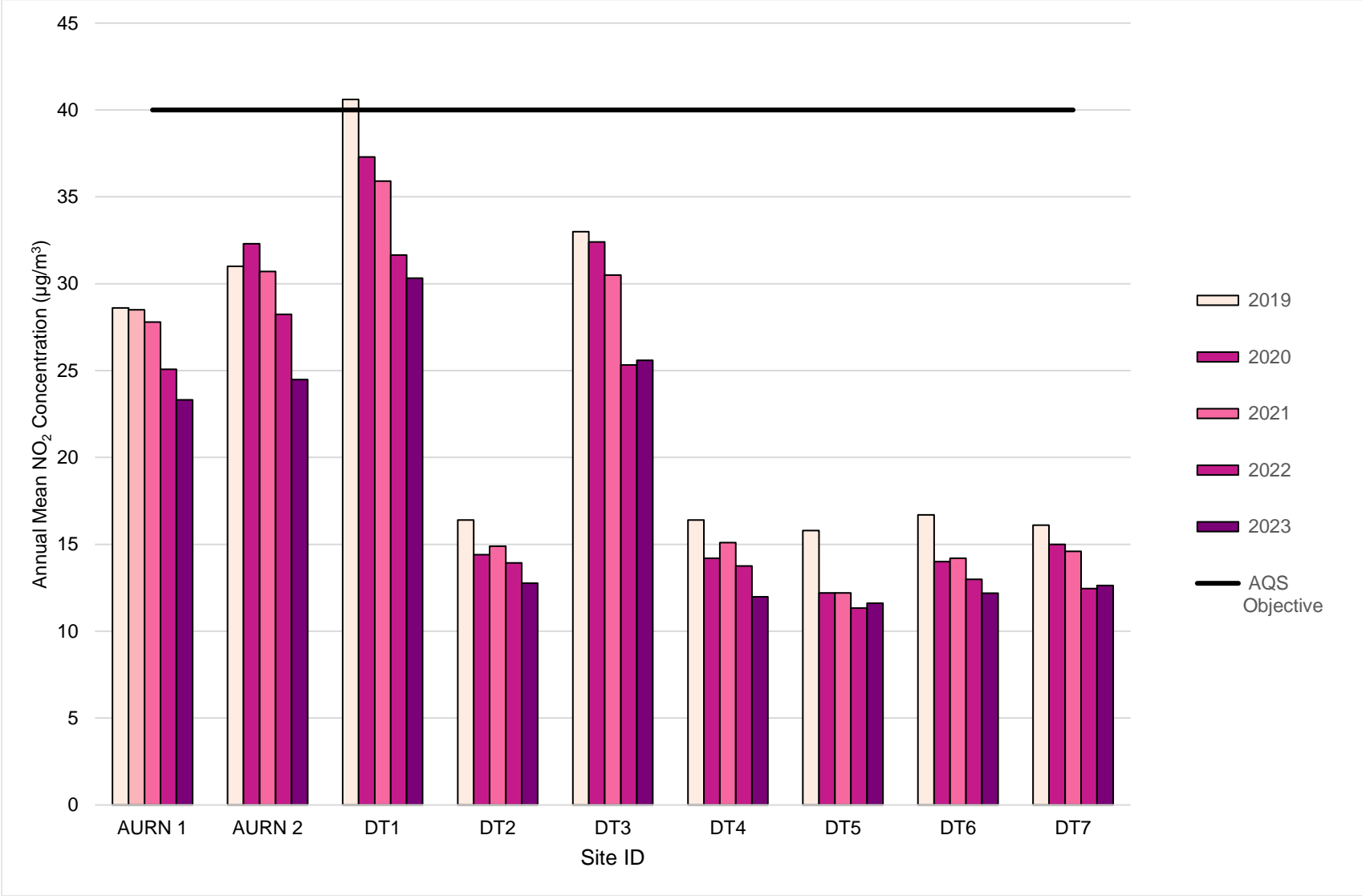
Means for diffusion tubes have been corrected for bias. All means have been “annualised” as per LAQM.TG22 if valid data capture for the full calendar year is less than 75%. See Appendix C for details.

Concentrations are those at the location of monitoring and not those following any fall-off with distance adjustment.

(1) Data capture for the monitoring period, in cases where monitoring was only carried out for part of the year.

(2) Data capture for the full calendar year (e.g. if monitoring was carried out for 6 months, the maximum data capture for the full calendar year is 50%).

Figure A.1 – Trends in Annual Mean NO₂ Concentrations



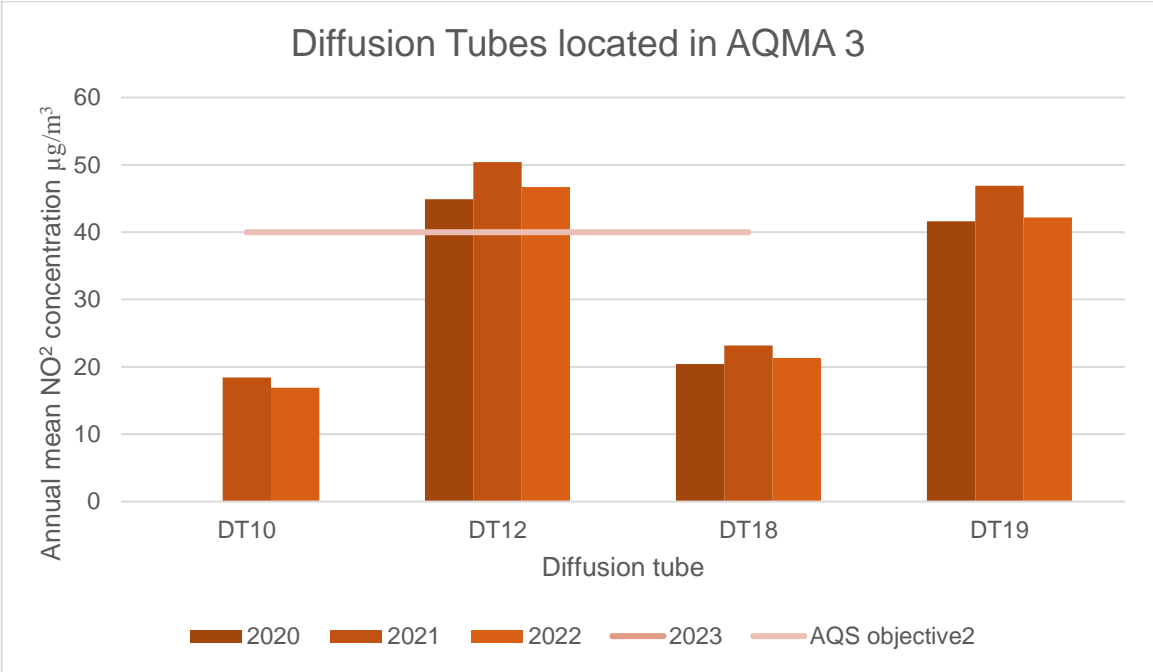


Table A.5 – 1-Hour Mean NO₂ Monitoring Results, Number of 1-Hour Means > 200µg/m³

This is not measured in Rossendale Borough Council

Figure A.2 – Trends in Number of NO₂ 1-Hour Means > 200µg/m³

This is not measured in Rossendale Borough Council

Table A.6 – Annual Mean PM₁₀ Monitoring Results (µg/m³)

This is not measured in Rossendale Borough Council

Figure A.3 – Trends in Annual Mean PM₁₀ Concentrations

This is not measured in Rossendale Borough Council

Table A.7 – 24-Hour Mean PM₁₀ Monitoring Results, Number of PM₁₀ 24-Hour Means > 50µg/m³

This is not measured in Rossendale Borough Council

Figure A.4 – Trends in Number of 24-Hour Mean PM₁₀ Results > 50µg/m³

This is not measured in Rossendale

Table A.8 – Annual Mean PM_{2.5} Monitoring Results (µg/m³)

This is not measured in Rossendale Borough Council

Figure A.5 – Trends in Annual Mean PM_{2.5} Concentrations

This is not measured in Rossendale Borough Council

Table A.9 – SO₂ 2023 Monitoring Results, Number of Relevant Instances

There is no SO₂ monitoring carried out in Rossendale

Appendix B: Full Monthly Diffusion Tube Results for 2023

Table B.1 – NO₂ 2023 Diffusion Tube Results (µg/m³)

DT ID	X OS Grid Ref (Easting)	Y OS Grid Ref (Northing)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual Mean: Raw Data	Annual Mean: Annualised and Bias Adjusted 0.77	Annual Mean: Distance Corrected to Nearest Exposure	Comment
DT1	381394	422756	42.4	11.8	33.3	31.7	30.2	N/A	25.9	N/A	34.2	36.6	25.2	24.8	27	20.1	N/A	
DT2	378495	424454	33	30.2	30.3	30.9	29.6	24.9	16.8	28.2	37.3	29.6	30.6	20.6	25.6	19.7	N/A	
DT3	379153	422234	33.3	25.2	28.4	28.2	27.7	22.6	21.5	24.1	N/A	28.9	28	24.2	23.9	18.4	N/A	
DT4	381325	422740	35.7	14.9	27.1	26.8	20.9	N/A	17.9	21.3	28	31	31	23.5	25.3	19.5	N/A	
DT5	379209	422171	36.1	N/A	30.4	27.8	33.7	24.7	17.5	26.6	32.3	33.3	N/A	24.9	28.7	22	N/A	
DT6	379175	422213	41.5	35.9	33.6	31.6	29.1	27.3	25.6	27.3	N/A	35.4	32.8	29.4	31.7	24	N/A	
DT7	379193	422210	39.7	37.5	37.1	33.4	32	32.4	N/A	25.4	29.1	39.3	37.4	N/A	34.3	26.4	N/A	
DT8	379197	422213	32.5	21.4	26	22.6	21	18.4	16.9	17.7	22.2	25.5	28.8	22.8	21.6	16.6	N/A	
DT9	379183	422200	42.4	32.8	33.4	30.1	29.9	28.2	27.4	27.4	N/A	35.8	33.7	22.6	31.2	24	N/A	
DT10	377879	422502	25.3	23.6	22	19.3	21.1	17.9	12.8	17	21	26.2	26.6	16.6	20.8	16.6	N/A	
DT11	382845	421978	64.4	26.7	38.7	38.7	36.6	27.6	N/A	N/A	35.6	33	53.6	25.9	38	29.3	N/A	
DT12	377909	422488	65.6	33.3	56.6	64.7	60.7	63.1	45.7	60.1	56.3	60.2	40.5	41.8	54	41.6	N/A	
DT13	381377	422756	43	N/A	38.3	36.1	40.8	42.3	26.2	34.9	36.4	38	53.8	37	38.8	30.6	N/A	
DT14	381358	422754	51.3	43.3	39.7	40	42.4	38.4	26.1	36.4	35.7	41.8	42.7	31.6	39.1	30	N/A	
DT15	381350	422754	21.5	45.5	37.7	39.7	40.9	38.8	18	31.3	39.6	43.3	45.4	27.8	31	23.9	N/A	
DT16	381161	422725	40.3	41.6	29	25.1	23.3	19.7	21	24.7	30.7	32.1	27.4	21.1	28	21.6	N/A	
DT17	381121	422725	48.5	28.8	38.3	32.2	N/A	N/A	27.3	28.5	39.8	42.9	41.1	27.4	35.5	27.3	N/A	
DT18	378094	422560	26.7	9.9	27.3	25.7	24.6	28.3	15.8	21.5	29.7	31.4	26.6	17.2	23.6	18.2	N/A	
DT19	377896	422488	57.7	42	52	60	54.3	54.8	43.3	47	61	61.5	55.9	46.3	52.9	40.7	N/A	
DT20	377899	422488	46.7	16.7	50.2	47.9	49.1	38.3	N/A	41.7	50.8	55.1	47	42.7	44.2	34	N/A	

- All erroneous data has been removed from the NO₂ diffusion tube dataset presented in Table B.1
- Annualisation has been conducted where data capture is <75% and >25% in line with LAQM.TG22
- Local bias adjustment factor used
- National bias adjustment factor used

- Where applicable, data has been distance corrected for relevant exposure in the final column
- Rossendale Borough Council confirm that all 2023 diffusion tube data has been uploaded to the Diffusion Tube Data Entry System

Notes:

Exceedances of the NO₂ annual mean objective of 40µg/m³ are shown in **bold**.

NO₂ annual means exceeding 60µg/m³, indicating a potential exceedance of the NO₂ 1-hour mean objective are shown in **bold and underlined**.

See Appendix C for details on bias adjustment and annualisation.

Appendix C: Supporting Technical Information / Air Quality Monitoring Data QA/QC

New or Changed Sources Identified Within Rossendale Borough Council During 2023

Rossendale Borough Council has not identified any new sources relating to air quality within the reporting year of 2023.

Additional Air Quality Works Undertaken by Rossendale Borough Council During 2023

Rossendale Borough Council has not completed any additional works within the reporting year of 2023.

QA/QC of Diffusion Tube Monitoring

The monitoring has been completed in adherence with the 2023 Diffusion Tube Monitoring Calendar.

The supplier used for the provision and analysis of the diffusion tubes continued to be SOCOTEC, Didcot,

The samples have been analysed in accordance with SOCOTEC's standard operating procedure ANU/SOP/1015. This method meets the guidelines set out in DEFRA's 'Diffusion Tubes For Ambient NO₂ Monitoring: Practical Guidance.'

The tubes were prepared by spiking acetone:triethanolamine (50:50) onto the grids prior to the tubes being assembled. The tubes were desorbed with distilled water and the extract analysed using a segmented flow autoanalyser with ultraviolet detection. All samples were received in good condition, unless otherwise stated in the comments field of results table. Please note:

i) As set out in the practical guidance, the results were initially calculated assuming an ambient temperature of 11°C, the reported values **have** been adjusted to 20°C to allow for direct comparison with EU limits.

(ii) The reported results have not been bias adjusted.

This analysis of diffusion tube samples to determine the amount of nitrogen dioxide present on the tube is within the scope of our UKAS schedule. Any further calculations and assessments requiring exposure details and conditions fall outside the scope of our accreditation. In the AIR PT intercomparison scheme for comparing spiked Nitrogen Dioxide diffusion tubes, SOCOTEC currently holds the highest rank of a **Satisfactory** laboratory.

Diffusion Tube Annualisation

All diffusion tube monitoring locations within Rossendale Borough Council recorded data capture of $\geq 75\%$ therefore it was not required to annualise any monitoring data.

Table C.1 – Annualisation Summary (concentrations presented in $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)

All diffusion tube monitoring locations within Rossendale Borough Council recorded data capture of $\geq 75\%$ therefore it was not required to annualise any monitoring data.

Diffusion Tube Bias Adjustment Factors

The diffusion tube data presented within the 2023 ASR have been corrected for bias using an adjustment factor. Bias represents the overall tendency of the diffusion tubes to under or over-read relative to the reference chemiluminescence analyser. LAQM.TG22 provides guidance with regard to the application of a bias adjustment factor to correct diffusion tube monitoring. Triplicate co-location studies can be used to determine a local bias factor based on the comparison of diffusion tube results with data taken from NO_x/NO_2 continuous analysers. Alternatively, the national database of diffusion tube co-location surveys provides bias factors for the relevant laboratory and preparation method.

Rossendale Borough Council have applied a national bias adjustment factor of 0.77 to the 2023 monitoring data. A summary of bias adjustment factors used by Rossendale Borough Council over the past five years is presented in Table C.2.

Table C.2 – Bias Adjustment Factor

Monitoring Year	Local or National	If National, Version of National Spreadsheet	Adjustment Factor
2023	National	03/24	0.77
2022	National	03/23	0.76

2021	National	03/22	0.78
2020	National	03/21	0.77
2019	National	03/20	0.75

Table C.3 – Local Bias Adjustment Calculation

A local bias adjustment factor was not used

NO₂ Fall-off with Distance from the Road

Wherever possible, monitoring locations are representative of exposure and no fall-off with distance calculations are necessary.

Table C.4 – Non-Automatic NO₂ Fall off With Distance Calculations (concentrations presented in µg/m³)

No diffusion tube NO₂ monitoring locations within Rossendale Borough Council required distance correction during 2023.

QA/QC of Automatic Monitoring

PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} Monitoring Adjustment

PM₁₀/PM_{2.5} monitoring is not completed within Rossendale Borough Council.

Automatic Monitoring Annualisation

No automatic monitoring is completed within Rossendale Borough Council

NO₂ Fall-off with Distance from the Road

Wherever possible, monitoring locations are representative of exposure and no fall-off with distance calculations are needed.

Table C.5 – Automatic NO₂ Fall off With Distance Calculations (concentrations presented in µg/m³)

No automatic NO₂ monitoring locations within Rossendale Borough Council required distance correction during 2023.

Appendix D: Map(s) of Monitoring Locations and AQMAs

Figure D.1 – Map of Non-Automatic Monitoring Site

Tube 2 60 Hud Hey Road Haslingden

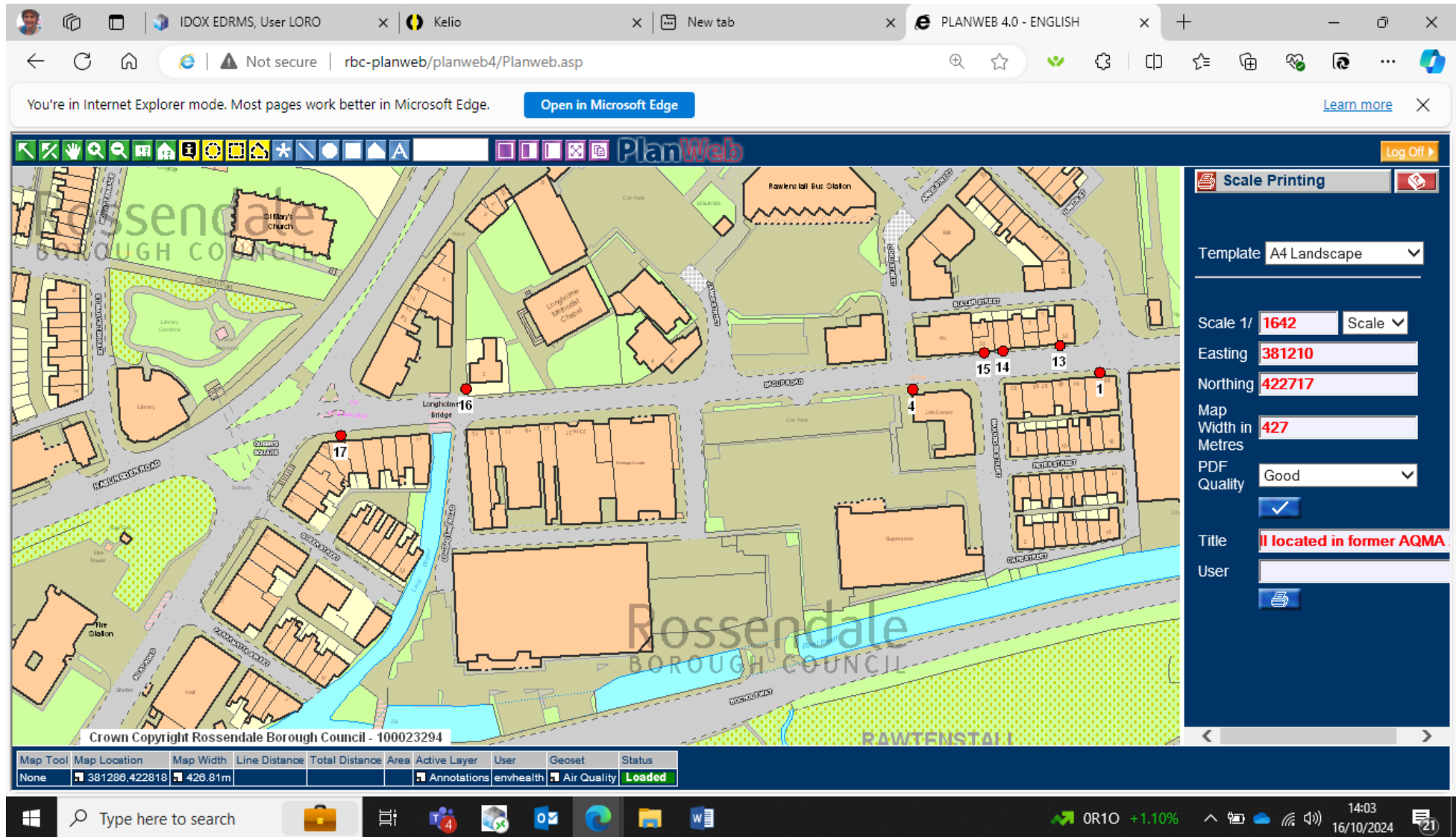


Tubes DT3,DT5,DT6,DT7,DT8 and DT9 on Manchester Road Haslingden located in the former AQMA 1

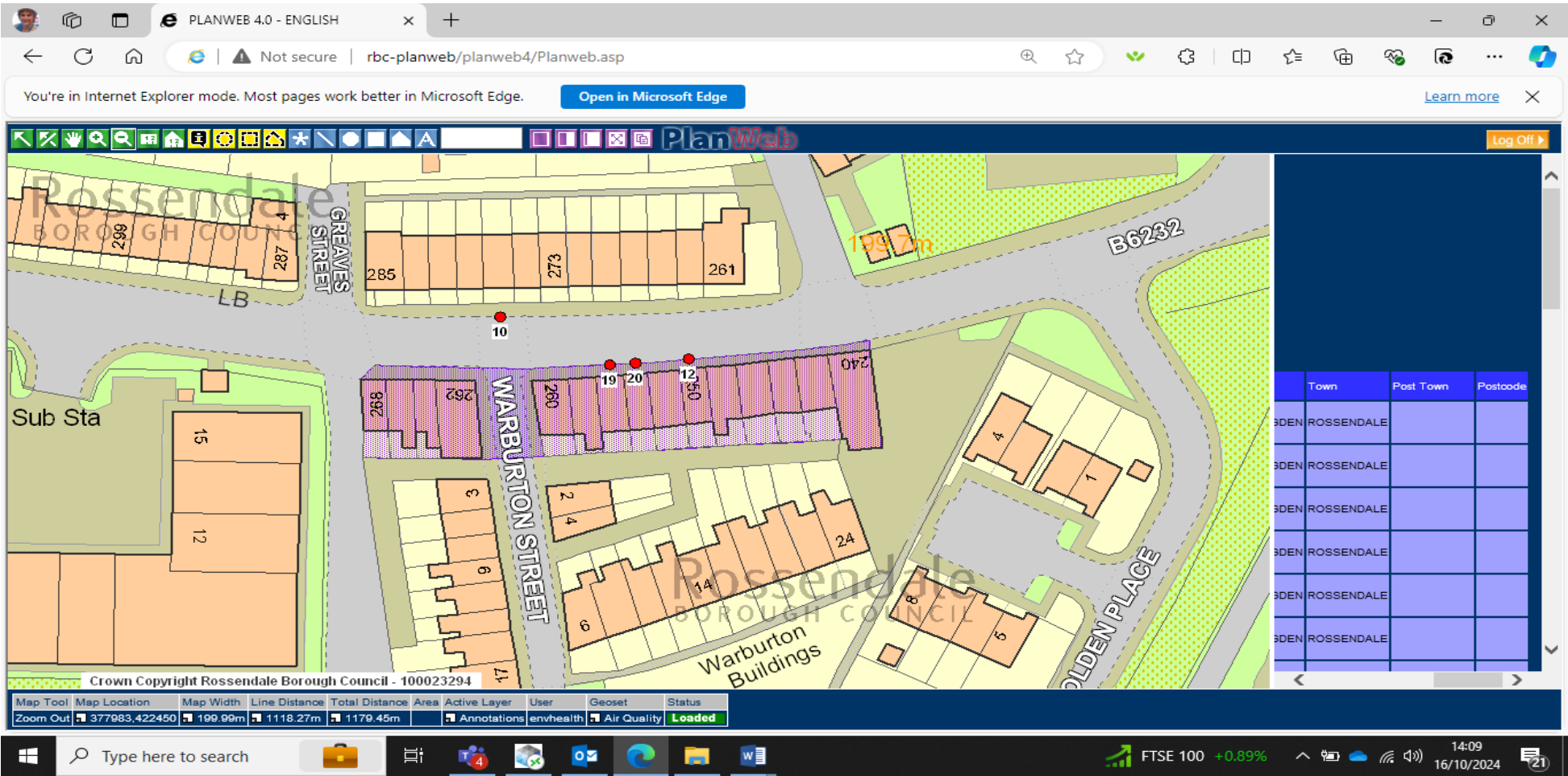
The screenshot displays the PlanWeb 4.0 interface. The map shows a residential area with several sampling tubes marked with red dots and numbered 3 through 9. The map includes labels for 'ROSSENDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL', 'SYKE SIDE', 'RAWTENSTALL ROAD', 'Piper Hollin', and 'Piper Hollin Bungalow'. A distance of 210.0m is indicated on the map. The right-hand side of the interface features a data table with columns for Town, Post Town, and Postcode. The status bar at the bottom shows 'Map Tool: Pan', 'Map Location: 379286,422154', 'Map Width: 200m', 'Line Distance', 'Total Distance', 'Area', 'Active Layer: Annotations', 'User: envhealth', 'Geoset: Air Quality', and 'Status: Loaded'. The Windows taskbar at the bottom shows the date and time as 14:05 on 16/10/2024, along with weather information: 'Heavier rain soon'.

Town	Post Town	Postcode
ROSSENDALE	ROSSENDALE	
ROSSENDALE	ROSSENDALE	
ROSSENDALE	ROSSENDALE	
ROSSENDALE	ROSSENDALE	
ROSSENDALE	ROSSENDALE	
ROSSENDALE	ROSSENDALE	
ROSSENDALE	ROSSENDALE	

Diffusion Tubes DT1,DT4,DT13,DT14,DT15,DT16 and DT17 on Bacup Road Rawtenstall located in the former AQMA 2



Diffusion Tubes DT10, DT12, DT18, DT19 (AQMA 3) along Grane Road Haslingden



Diffusion tube 11 located on Bacup Road, Waterfoot

The screenshot displays the Rossendale Borough Council PlanWeb 4.0 interface. The browser address bar shows the URL `rbc-planweb/planweb4/Planweb.asp`. A notification indicates the user is in Internet Explorer mode. The map shows a residential street with a red dot labeled '11' and a distance of '186.2m' to a nearby property. The map includes labels for 'Shelter', 'Sandy Bank Terrace', and various property numbers (448, 454, 456, 460, 462). A data table on the right side of the map provides the following information:

Town	Post Town	Postcode
ROSSENDALE	ROSSENDALE	
ROSSENDALE	ROSSENDALE	
ROSSENDALE	ROSSENDALE	
ROSSENDALE	ROSSENDALE	
ROSSENDALE	ROSSENDALE	
ROSSENDALE	ROSSENDALE	

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Appendix E: Summary of Air Quality Objectives in England

Table E.1 – Air Quality Objectives in England⁷

Pollutant	Air Quality Objective: Concentration	Air Quality Objective: Measured as
Nitrogen Dioxide (NO ₂)	200µg/m ³ not to be exceeded more than 18 times a year	1-hour mean
Nitrogen Dioxide (NO ₂)	40µg/m ³	Annual mean
Particulate Matter (PM ₁₀)	50µg/m ³ , not to be exceeded more than 35 times a year	24-hour mean
Particulate Matter (PM ₁₀)	40µg/m ³	Annual mean
Sulphur Dioxide (SO ₂)	350µg/m ³ , not to be exceeded more than 24 times a year	1-hour mean
Sulphur Dioxide (SO ₂)	125µg/m ³ , not to be exceeded more than 3 times a year	24-hour mean
Sulphur Dioxide (SO ₂)	266µg/m ³ , not to be exceeded more than 35 times a year	15-minute mean

⁷ The units are in microgrammes of pollutant per cubic metre of air (µg/m³).

Glossary of Terms

Abbreviation	Description
AQAP	Air Quality Action Plan - A detailed description of measures, outcomes, achievement dates and implementation methods, showing how the local authority intends to achieve air quality limit values'
AQMA	Air Quality Management Area – An area where air pollutant concentrations exceed / are likely to exceed the relevant air quality objectives. AQMAs are declared for specific pollutants and objectives
ASR	Annual Status Report
Defra	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
DMRB	Design Manual for Roads and Bridges – Air quality screening tool produced by National Highways
EU	European Union
FDMS	Filter Dynamics Measurement System
LAQM	Local Air Quality Management
NO ₂	Nitrogen Dioxide
NO _x	Nitrogen Oxides
PM ₁₀	Airborne particulate matter with an aerodynamic diameter of 10µm or less
PM _{2.5}	Airborne particulate matter with an aerodynamic diameter of 2.5µm or less
QA/QC	Quality Assurance and Quality Control
SO ₂	Sulphur Dioxide

References

- Local Air Quality Management Technical Guidance LAQM.TG22. August 2022. Published by Defra in partnership with the Scottish Government, Welsh Assembly Government and Department of the Environment Northern Ireland.
- Local Air Quality Management Policy Guidance LAQM.PG22. August 2022. Published by Defra in partnership with the Scottish Government, Welsh Assembly Government and Department of the Environment Northern Ireland.
- Chemical hazards and poisons report: Issue 28. June 2022. Published by UK Health Security Agency
- Air Quality Strategy – Framework for Local Authority Delivery. August 2023. Published by Defra.

Subject:	Rosendale Sport and Physical Activity Strategy	Status:	For publication
Report to:	Cabinet	Date:	20 th November 2024
Report of:	Programme Manager – Physical Activity	Lead Member:	Communities, Housing, Health, and Wellbeing
Key Decision:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Forward Plan <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	General Exception <input type="checkbox"/>	Special Urgency <input type="checkbox"/>
Equality Impact Assessment:	Required:	Yes/No	Attached: Yes/No
Biodiversity Impact Assessment:	Required:	Yes/No	Attached: Yes/No
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1. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 That Cabinet agrees to the adoption of the new Rosendale Physical Activity and Sport Strategy 2025 – 2030.
- 1.2 That amendments be delegated to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Lead Member for Communities, Housing, Health and Wellbeing.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The purpose of this report is to seek approval of a new partnership physical activity and sport strategy for Rosendale. Over the past 12 months, extensive consultation has taken place to establish a long-term vision for physical activity and sport in the Valley, and to outline this vision in a strategy that supports the provision of a comprehensive physical activity and sport offer that allows people to move more.
- The vision has been designed to align with Sport England’s “Uniting the Movement” vision to strengthen our ability to lever in external funding.
- Certain aspects of the vision are already underway via the Rosendale Connected network however the action plan that supports this strategy will further strengthen the network and its role to drive activity and reduce inactivity. We know that in Rosendale 68.6%* of the adult population (aged 16+) are active. However, it still leaves 8.2% who are fairly active and 23.1% who are classed as inactive. That’s 13,300 people who do less than 30 minutes of activity or no activity at all each week.

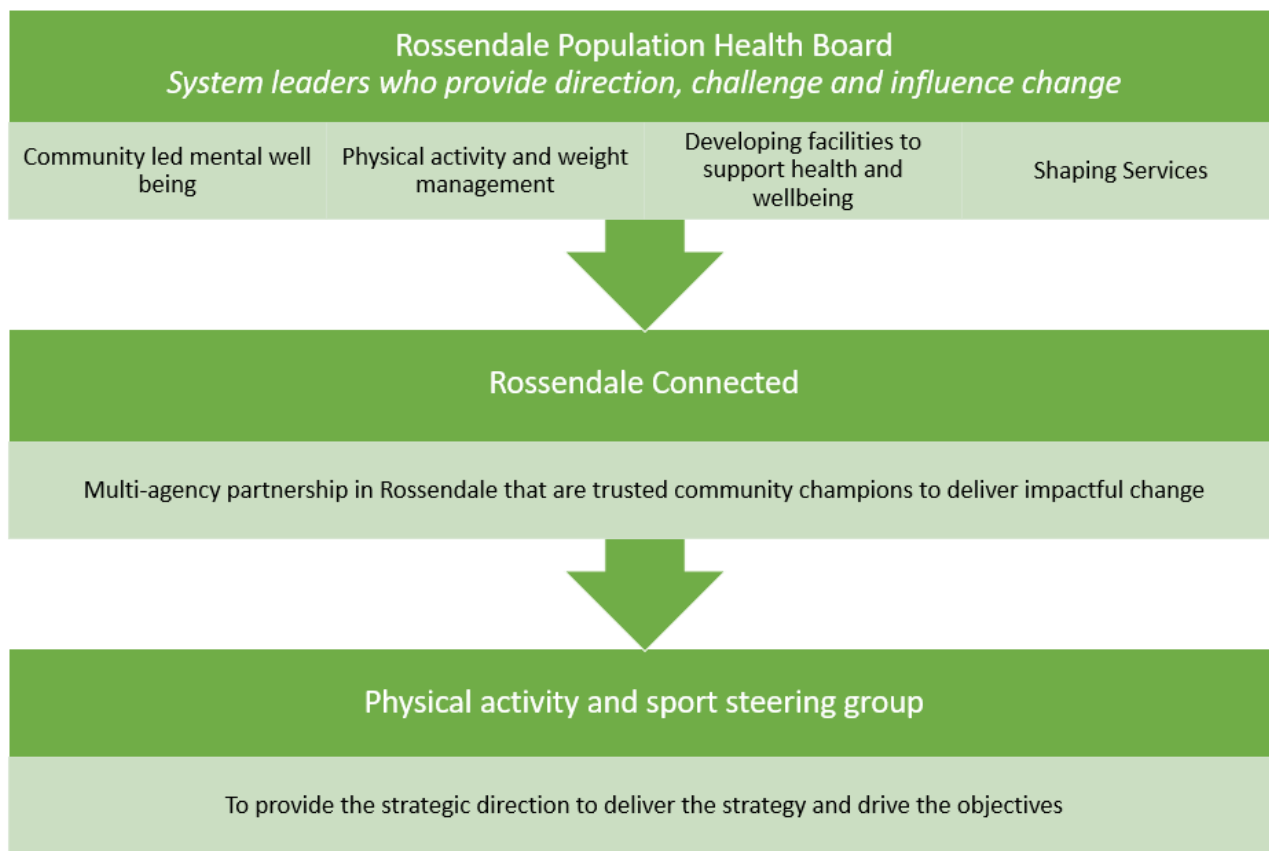
3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Over the past 12 months, consultation has been undertaken with the Rosendale Connected community network, other county, regional and national partners to develop a data led, strategy for Rosendale that enables residents to become more active.
- 3.2 The consultation included:
 - Stakeholder engagement event (BIG Connect) with over 30 organisations.
 - Four interactive workshops.
 - A women and girls survey.
 - Data and insight / research supported by partners including the Rosendale Primary Care Trust.
- 3.3 In 2010, the UK was one of the first Nations in the world to set out the evidence for how much and what kinds of physical activity we need to do to keep ourselves healthy.

- 3.4 In 2011 the report was updated with the UK Chief Medical Officers guidance of *“The UK Chief Medical Officers’ (CMOs) guidelines for adult and older adult physical activity outline evidence-based, age-specific recommendations for physical activity for good health. The guidelines cover four elements: cardiovascular activity; strengthening activities; activities to improve balance and coordination; and reducing prolonged sedentary (sitting) time¹. To achieve health benefits, undertake 120 to 180 minutes of aerobic physical activity weekly at a moderate-to-vigorous intensity”*
- 3.5 Sport England responded with the strategy **“Uniting the Movement”** which is a 10-year vision to transform lives and communities through sport and physical activity”.
- 3.6 In 2023 the Government then announced the **“Get Active: a strategy for the future of sport and physical activity”** with three core themes; Being unapologetically ambitious in making the nation more active, whether in government or in the sport sector, making sport and physical activity more inclusive and welcoming for all so that everyone can have confidence that there is a place for them in sport, moving towards a more sustainable sector that is more financially resilient and robust.
- 3.7 In 2024, in recognition of the complexity of tackling health inequalities, the think piece – **An Active Wellbeing Service: A Movement for Change** was published recognising that health inequalities remain stubborn across many communities, but that physical activity in all its forms, holds a super preventive power, and that through collaboration and selfless approaches, change can be created so that everyone can benefit from being more physically active.
- 3.8 Rossendale’s vision and Valley priorities provide the direction for Rossendale, Rossendale Council’s Valley Plan sets the overall vision and priorities for the borough. The strategy underlines the Council’s commitment to building change in the towns, creating a quality environment, and improving lives and acknowledges the importance that physical activity plays in the delivery of the Valley Plan priorities.
- 3.9 In 2022 two plans were adopted; **Rossendale Health plan; Our Plan Our Wellbeing Our Place** and **Our Place Our Facilities Our Plan**.
- 3.10 The health plan priorities aim to make it easier for people to be physically active and encourage healthy weight, whilst the facilities plan provided an overview of the facilities required across the valley to enable more people to be active. The plan sought to provide an overview of the ambitions for health, leisure, and sports facilities in Rossendale, and will be reviewed in 2025/26 taking into account the level of available resources.
- 3.11 The physical activity and sport strategy has been developed due to the need for a dedicated plan that focusses on increasing physical activity levels and raising the profile of sport.
- 3.12 A series of consultation events commenced, launched by the Rossendale BIG Connect which brought together partners and stakeholders from sport, health, and physical activity to discuss the strategy, its aims, and objectives. The events saw over 30 organisations, including Sport England provide invaluable data, insight, recommendations, information sharing and explored the systems we will work within. The events highlighted how stakeholders would encourage more people to become physically active and embed movement into the Rossendale community.
- 3.13 The strategy sets out long-term objectives that we will all work on together, leaving flexibility for communities to develop actions, determine outcomes and methods of delivery. In taking this approach, it was decided that it was valuable to agree a set of principles to which the partners would work towards. This means that as a group we develop future actions, we ensure

that we are appreciative of everyone’s efforts, we lead together as a community, we invest our time and effort where it is most needed, and we keep it simple, listen, and learn.

3.14 Through the Rossendale Connected partnership principle, delivery against the strategy will be governed by the Rossendale Population Health Board as illustrated below.



3.15 Rossendale Borough Council is a member of Rossendale Connected, the Population Health Board and the new Physical Activity and Sport Steering Group.

3.16 The responsibility of Rossendale Borough Council as a key stakeholder is:

- **Partnership collaboration:** Being part of the collaborative network to drive the strategy.
- **Policy Development:** Formulating policies that support physical activity, such as planning regulations and a section 106 policy that encourage active transportation and the development of sports facilities.
- **Long-term Planning:** The strategy may necessitate long-term planning and investment in facilities and programs, which would be determined through the budget process.
- **Funding and Resource Management:** Identify and support the network to access funding for physical activity and sport programmes and initiatives, ensuring financial sustainability and effective resource use.

3.17 As a Local Delivery Partner (Together an Active Future TaAF), identified as one of the 12 pilots by Sport England. Rossendale Borough Council has been working collectively with partners since 2019 to improve communities and to embed sport and physical activity as part of a regular lifestyle habit.

- 3.18 The Sport England TaAF funding invested into Rossendale has enabled one role to be hosted by RBC and funding to enable an existing role to have a day a week focussed on the TaAF project.
- 3.19 The Rossendale Population Health Board has been established to deliver the priorities outlined in “**Our Place Our Wellbeing Our Plan**” and now will monitor the “Physical Activity and Sport Strategy” via a newly established steering group.

4 DETAILS

- 4.1 There is overwhelming evidence for the life-changing benefits of being physically active. The causality between being physically active and health is well documented and understood. Every year, these benefits deliver billions of pounds of value to our healthcare systems, society and economy by adopting the visions and objectives within the strategy we will move to creating a healthier, more active Valley.
- 4.2 Physical activity and sport deliver a number of benefits in maintaining and enhancing overall health and well-being, these include:
- Physical Health.
 - Mental Health and Emotional Well-being.
 - Social Benefits.
 - Skill Development and Personal Growth.
 - Quality of Life, skill development.
 - Longevity.
- 4.3 We know that in Rossendale 68.6%* of the adult population (aged 16+) are active. However it still leaves 8.2% who are fairly active and 23.1% who are classed as inactive. That’s 13,300 people who do less than 30 minutes of activity or no activity at all each week.
- 4.4 We know that the greatest gains are achieved from getting those who are least active more active and so the strategy will focus on nudging everyone along towards the recommended guidelines of 150 minutes of moderate physical activity a week.

“Our vision is to create a more active valley through enabling Rossendale residents to be more physically active”.

The strategy will achieve this vision through the following.

- Encouraging OUR people to lead an active life.
 - Supporting and driving effective system wide collaboration and partnership to promote physical activity.
 - Embedding physical activity and sport into key local policies.
 - Focussing on those with the greatest need (health inequalities) and our key priority groups.
- 4.5 The strategy will focus on three key themes: **Active Communities, Active Places and Active Environments**, all of which are interconnected and cannot be viewed in isolation. The strategy aims to bring people together so we can all enable each other to be more active every day.



5 RISK

5.1 The plan has been developed through intensive community engagement and strong partnership working. Delivery will be dependent on maintaining this engagement between partners. A reduction in the current excellent level of engagement will negatively impact on delivery. It is expected that the plan will act as a catalyst to increased external funding for physical activity, health and sport.

6 FINANCE

6.1 The council is not able to directly fund or use borrowing for the strategy and therefore it will be necessary to seek funding and work in partnership to deliver its objectives.

7 LEGAL

7.1 This strategy is a collaboration between stakeholders working towards the common goal of encouraging people to move more. Governance arrangements and clear roles and responsibilities between the stakeholders will be required to mitigate any risk to the Council when delivering the action plan. Further reports will be brought to Cabinet where a specific ask of the Council is required to ensure all required authorisations are in place.

8 POLICY AND EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

8.1 The Strategy has been extensively consulted upon as outlined in the body of the report.

9 REASON FOR DECISION

9.1 To establish a long-term vision for physical activity and sport in the Valley, and to outline this vision in a strategy that supports the provision of a comprehensive physical activity and sport offer that allows people to move more.

Background Papers	
Document	Place of Inspection
Rossendale Sport and Physical Activity Strategy	Attached
Our Place Our Wellbeing Our Plan	Rossendale-Connected-Our-Place-Our-Wellbeing-Our-Plan.pdf
Our Place Our Facilities Our Plan	Our Place Our Facilities

Rossendale's Physical Activity & Sport Strategy

An Active Valley!

2025 – 2030

Contents

- Foreword
- Introduction
- Why is physical activity and sport important
- How active is Rossendale?
- Health in Summary
- Alignment to National and local strategies
- Stakeholder consultation
- The current landscape in Rossendale
- Sport
- The strategic framework
- Vision
- Principles
- What we will deliver “settings”
- Governance
- Action plan
- Appendix

Foreword by Rob Huntington

Rossendale is an area with a proud industrial heritage, beautiful countryside with unique towns and villages, we are proud of the local area and its strong community ethos.

Aligned to the plans for future growth and regeneration across its towns, Rossendale is in a unique position to be at the forefront of increasing physical activity and reducing inactivity through the network of community groups, sports clubs and leisure facilities.

One of the smallest boroughs in Lancashire, Rossendale covers an area of 138sq kilometres, with a population of over 70,000 people, and is located in the south east of Lancashire, on the border with Greater Manchester and West Yorkshire.

Rossendale Borough Council is rightly proud of its achievements including the £15 million New Hall Hey development, the £5 million Spinning Point development, Futures Business Park in Bacup, Rossendale Works which has placed over 130 people into employment and a £ 1.1 million Heritage Action Zone in Bacup in recent years and more recently.

Rossendale has been successful in receiving town centre funding from the Government, as follows: include in Rob's foreword.

- Rawtenstall Masterplan – and has accepted the recently allocated Government-funded £20million Long Term Plan for Towns. The £20million Long Term Plan for Towns funding is focused on the core areas of Rawtenstall, Crawshawbooth and Waterfoot and will be spread over a 10-year period
- In 2023, it was announced that Rossendale would receive £17.9m, which was applied for via the Levelling up Fund. A significant part of this bid was to realise the redevelopment of Bacup Market as part of the Bacup 2040 Masterplan.

Signed

Rob Huntington

Signed

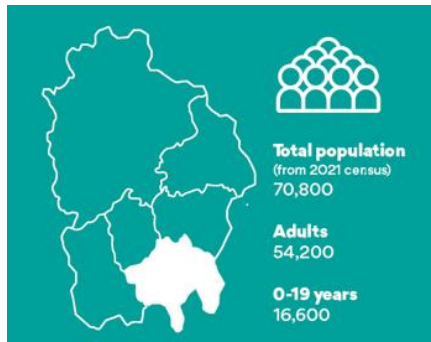
Cllr McInnes

Introduction

Welcome to Rossendale's Physical Activity and Sport Strategy **'An Active Valley'**. From walking and cycling to playing tennis or cricket, the valley serves as a natural playground for all ages.

The picturesque beauty of the valley, coupled with the plethora of activities it offers, draws in visitors from near and far. An active valley supports the local economy, attracting tourists and outdoor enthusiasts who contribute to economic growth and the provision of employment opportunities for local people.

Figure 1.0: Rossendale population



Rossendale has a population of 70,873 residents, 55,660 adults and 15,193 children and young people. The valley is geographically split into 10 wards with higher levels of deprivation experienced in the east.

Rossendale's population is predicted to increase above the England average by 12.6% by 2034 with an 18.2% increase in the number of households, the implications of this projected growth are considered throughout the strategy.

Map 1.0: Rossendale



The role and reach of sport and physical activity within a place cannot be underestimated and the benefits of being active are well documented. Within the Government's "Get Active" strategy for sport and physical activity the aim is to achieve 2.5 million more adults and 1 million more children being classed as active in England by 2030.

The development of this strategy is testament to the importance that Rossendale places on its residents being active. Complementing a suite of existing corporate documents, including the Council's Corporate Plan, Health Plan and Facilities Plan, 'an Active Valley' aims to underpin and contribute to the wider strategic priorities of Rossendale, enabling every resident to benefit from the opportunities being active creates.

The strategy aims to bring people together so we can enable each other to be more active every day.

We are proud of the collaborative approach taken in the development of this strategy, the wide ranging consultation that has been undertaken in its development will ensure that the strategy is not working in isolation of the wider system and placing the strategy delivery within Rossendale Connected, a multi-agency partnership. The strategy aligns with the principles of Rossendale Connected and contributes to their four priority areas:

Figure 2.0: Rossendale connected priority areas



The strategy has been developed during a period of significant political change which will influence our work in ways we are yet to realise. Labour have shared their five Missions, devolution with Lancashire has been announced and there is a movement within the sector towards prevention and the role that leisure can play in the pivot to wellbeing. The strategy action plan will continuously evolve to the changing external environment.

Prevention will always be better, and cheaper, than a cure. So, we must take preventative public health measures to tackle the biggest killers and support people to live longer, healthier lives.

Why is physical activity and sport important?

“Being physically active can prevent dementia, type 2 diabetes, some cancers, depression, heart disease and other common serious conditions, reducing the risk of each by at least 30%”.

In 2010 we were among one of the first Nations in the world to set out the evidence for how much and what kinds of physical activity we need to do to keep ourselves healthy.

The benefits and reasons why sport and physical activity are important were stated by the UK Chief Medical Officers' who published physical activity guidelines for the nation in 2019.

The guidelines state:

- Each week, adults (age 19 to 64 years) should accumulate at least 150 minutes of moderate intensity activity (such as brisk walking or cycling); or 75 minutes of vigorous intensity activity (such as running); or even shorter durations of very vigorous intensity activity (such as sprinting or stair climbing); or a combination of moderate, vigorous and very vigorous intensity activity.
- Children between the ages of 5 to 18 years should engage in moderate-to-vigorous intensity physical activity for an average of at least 60 minutes per day across the week. This can include all forms of activity such as physical education, active travel, after-school activities, play and sports.

Movement for people with long-term conditions can and should be made a part of everyday life for those able to be active. Moving more – be that hanging out washing, dancing in the kitchen, a walk, chair exercises at home or something more organised like walking tennis or an exercise class – is something that the majority of people with long-term conditions say they want to do.

Infographic - Physical inactivity is associated with 1 in 6 deaths in the UK

Office for Health Improvement and Disparities

“If physical activity were a drug, we would refer to it as a miracle cure, due to the great many illnesses it can prevent and help treat. UK Chief Medical Officers’, 2019”

There is overwhelming evidence for the life-changing benefits of being physically active across the life course. The causality between being physically active and health is well documented and understood. Every year, these benefits deliver billions of pounds of value to our healthcare systems, society and economy.

Every £1 spent on increasing physical activity generates £4 of savings across health, communities and the economy.

Physical activity and sport deliver a number of benefits in maintaining and enhancing overall health and well-being, these include:

- Physical Health
- Mental Health and Emotional Well-being
- Social Benefits
- Skill Development and Personal Growth
- Quality of Life, skill development
- Longevity

“Exercising regularly, every day if possible, is the single most important thing you can do for your physical health. Lifelong involvement in sport and physical activity will deliver an active, healthy, resilient and inclusive society which recognises and values both participation and excellence. (Harvard Health January 2021) “

1 in 4 people are inactive, meaning they do less than an average of 30 minutes of physical activity a week.

Men are more likely to be active than women, those from lower social groups (NS-SEC 6-8) are the least likely to be active, and activity levels generally decrease with age. Significant inequalities continue to exist in activity levels, with this gap continuing to widen. Research from Sport England shows that none of the Black, Asian or minority ethnic groups are showing a reportable difference in the proportion who are active compared to November 2015-16. As a result, inequalities continue to widen as White British adults have seen activity levels increase over the same period (up 2.1%). In addition, people with long-term health conditions are more likely to be inactive than those without.

Research demonstrates **that those who are least active stand to benefit most in terms of their health and happiness by becoming active.**

How active is Rossendale?

Significant research shows that the most effective preventative measure for ill health and wellbeing is being active

Adults

68.6%* of the adult population (aged 16+) in Rossendale are active.

As illustrated in graph one Rossendale has higher levels of physical activity compared to regional and national figures and we need to celebrate this, however it still leaves 8.2% of the population who are fairly active and 23.1% who are classed as inactive.

That's 13,300 people who do less than 30 minutes of activity or no activity at all each week in Rossendale. We know that the greatest gains are achieved from getting those who are least active more active and so this strategy will focus on nudging everyone along the below continuum towards the recommended guidelines of 150 minutes of moderate physical activity a week.

For some this will be a long journey requiring lots of support to achieve behaviour change, for others it may be simple adaptations to their daily lives.

Graph 1.0: Physical activity levels in Adults

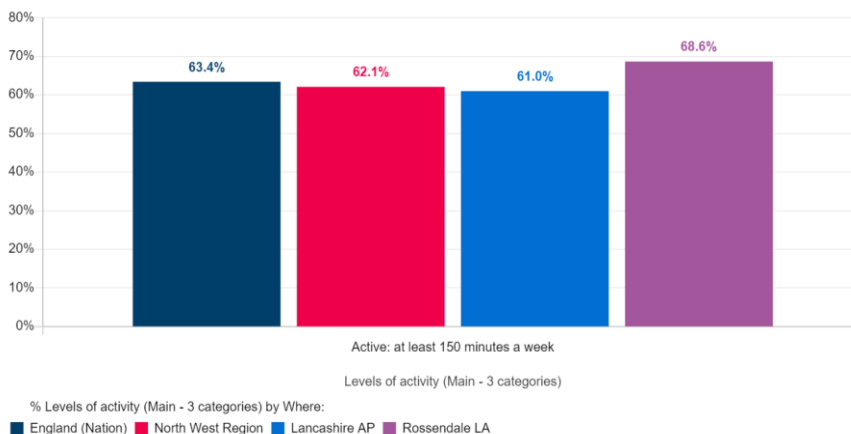


Figure 3.0: The physical activity spectrum



An "unapologetically ambitious" target of one million more adults and 2.5 million more children to be physically active by 2030 has been set as part of the government's Get Active initiative.

The challenge of "stubborn inactivity":

Addressing stubborn inactivity requires a multifaceted approach, often involving different support agencies and setting realistic goals, finding enjoyable activities, and creating supportive environments.

Stubborn inactivity refers to a persistent lack of movement or exercise despite awareness of its negative effects on health and well-being.

It often involves resistance to engaging in physical activity due to various factors, such as:

- Lack of motivation: Difficulty finding the drive to start or maintain an exercise routine.
- Habitual behaviour: Long-standing routines that prioritise sedentary activities, making it challenging to incorporate movement.
- Barriers: Physical, social, or environmental obstacles that discourage activity, such as injury, lack of access to facilities, or unsupportive social circles.
- Emotional factors: Feelings of anxiety, depression, or low self-esteem that can contribute to avoidance of physical activity.

Children

The Active Lives Children and Young People's Survey provides detailed insight into the amount, frequency and type of sport and physical activity undertaken by children.

The latest data for Rossendale shows that the proportion of children who are active (an average of 60 minutes a day) has increased by 19.3% compared to the academic year 2021/22, bringing activity levels back in line with those seen pre-pandemic.

In England
only 47%
of young people aged 5-16 met the Chief Medical Officer's Guidelines in 2022/23*

The data reported that 58% of children and young people were active with 18% less active (less than an average of 30 minutes a day), this is higher than Lancashire (45%) and England (47%). Despite this encouraging increase, the evidence also tells us that stubborn inequalities persist.

Too many children are missing out on being active and we are not unlocking their potential Youth Sport Trust annual review 2024

Demographics affect participation in physical activity and sport. The data below has informed the objectives and priorities of this strategy leading us to focus on certain priority groups.

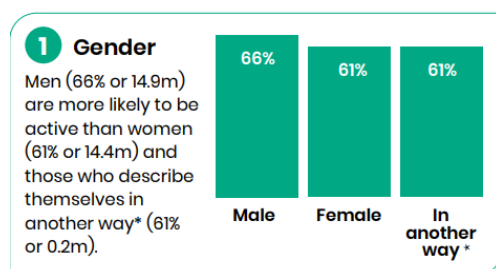
Gender

Research indicates that males are more active than females, within Rossendale 73% of males are active compared to 64% of females.

Figure 4.0 Rossendale demographics

Summary of demographic differences

Our data shows there are significant inequalities:



Age

Rossendale has a higher average age (42 years) than the North West as a whole as measured in 2021 (40 years) and a higher average age than England (40 years). By 2043, the population aged 65 or over in Rossendale is projected to increase to 19.1% compared to 18.4% in England.

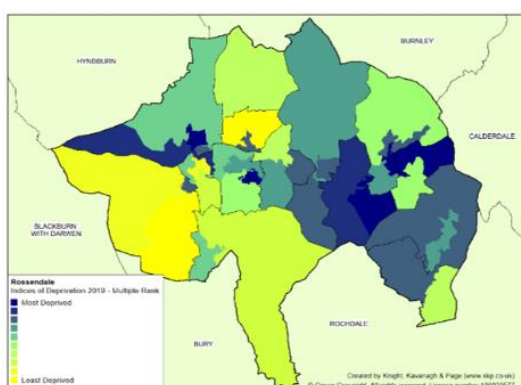
As the population ages, physical activity levels decrease. The percentage of the population aged 16-64 year olds participating in 150 minutes of activity in Rossendale is 52% (68%England), this figure decreases to 50% (52% in England) over the age of 65 years.

Deprivation

High levels of deprivation tend to correlate with lower levels of physical activity. 38% of adults in the most deprived places are classed as 'inactive', this is considerably higher than those in the least deprived areas (21%). It is the same for children and young people; 33% of children and young people are not meeting the guidelines for physical activity in the most deprived places, compared to 49% not meeting the guidelines in the least deprived areas.

Rossendale is the 91st most deprived district in England and approximately 16% of children live in low-income families. Where you live in Rossendale can influence how active you are, as illustrated in map 2.0 below. The areas of Haslingden, Bacup, Waterfoot and Stacksteads experience some of the highest levels of deprivation. Within Stacksteads and Waterfoot the access to leisure provision is also limited.

Map 2.0 Rossendale deprivation



People in the most deprived areas are twice as likely to die prematurely from cardiovascular disease as people in the least deprived areas.
Source: Office for Health Improvement and Disparities 2024.

Disability

Activity is less common for adults with a disability or long-term health condition (47%) than those without (68%). 34% of people with a long term disability participate in less than three days a week of physical activity and are therefore inactive (compared to 41% across England).

In Rossendale activity levels of people who have a long-term health condition are positive (61%) compared to the rest of England (47%) and as a priority group we aim to increase opportunities and to make being active attractive and accessible.

People with a disability – should try to undertake strength and balance exercise on two days a week as well as 150 minutes each week of moderate intensity activity.

UK Chief Medical Officer

Ethnicity

In Rossendale 92.4% of people identify as "White", which is significantly higher than the national figure of 81.7%, while 5.5% identified their ethnic group within the "Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh" category (compared with 5.0% the previous decade). There are areas of the valley with high levels of ethnic populations, these include; areas of Greenfield, Haslingden, Goodshaw and Rawtenstall.

Data released by the UK Government in 2024 indicated;

- People from mixed ethnic backgrounds were the most likely out of all ethnic groups to be physically active – this has remained consistent for the last seven years
- People from the Asian, black, and 'other' ethnic groups were less likely to be physically active than the national average
- Men were more likely to be active than women in the Asian, black, white British, and 'other' ethnic groups

Health in summary

The role of physical activity in reducing health inequalities is well documented and proven, health is influenced by socioeconomic, environmental, and behavioural factors.

Physical activity plays a role in addressing these disparities by promoting better health outcomes and reducing the burden of chronic diseases.

Inequalities in health reflect the inequalities in society at large: they are closely related to personal and socio-economic factors, such as income, education, housing, gender, age, ethnicity, disability, geography and social inclusion.

Tackling health inequalities and improving health for the groups who typically experience the worst outcomes requires concerted action from across Rossendale partners.

Figure 5.0 Inactive Rossendale residents

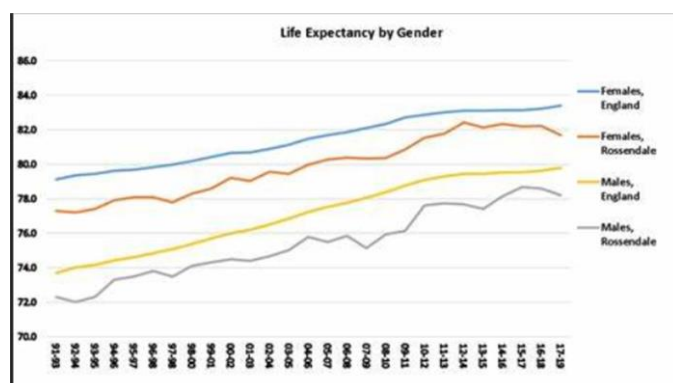


One of the major challenges we face in Rossendale is increasing the life expectancy of residents.

In England, current life expectancy at birth is 81 years, for females that rises to 83 years and for males it falls to 79 years. The life expectancy for someone born in Rossendale has risen by 2 years over the past decade, from a life expectancy of 77 years to a life expectancy of 80 years. Where you live in Rossendale can effect life expectancy; Life expectancy is **5.3 years lower** for men and **4.5 years lower** for women in the most deprived areas of Rossendale compared to the least deprived, with Goodshaw having the lowest life expectancy for females and Stacksteads having the lowest life expectancy for males. The Cribbden ward, has the highest life expectancy for both male and females.

Graph 2.0 Life expectancy in Rossendale

Life expectancy of males and females is detailed below, compared to England



Life expectancy for both male and females at three years of age in Rossendale is worse than the rest of England.

Children and young people identified within these figures will have further health inequalities that will impact on the physical and mental health.

The strategy aims to tackle health inequalities by using physical activity as one of the key drivers, working collaboratively with partners in a data led approach.

Programmes designed to be inclusive and accessible to all, regardless of age, gender, ability, or background, are essential in addressing health inequalities.

By offering a range of activities that cater to different interests and abilities, Rossendale can encourage broader community participation. This includes promoting activities like cycling, swimming or walking, which require minimal equipment and can be enjoyed by people of varying fitness levels.

Delivering improvement in health and wellbeing requires us to consider the impact we can have collectively on the wider determinants of health and the role sport and physical activity can play.

In Rossendale the percentage of adults walking for travel at least three days per week is 9.7% compared to 15.1% across England.

Our challenge is to promote walking as an everyday activity, increase access to safe paths and improve the infrastructure to alleviate the barrier to active travel



Comprehensive reviews of data found that compared with those who sit the least, those who sit the most have over twice the risk of developing type 2 diabetes and cardiovascular disease, and a 13% and 17% increased risk of cancer incidence and mortality, respectively.

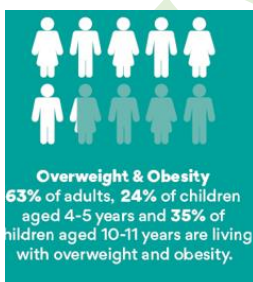
Physical activity and sport have a key role to play in the Government's shift towards prevention and delivery in local communities. In 2023 there were 27,500 hospital admissions costing £2.2 million to Rossendale. Repositioning leisure to support communities will help reduce these figures.

The role of workplaces and policies that recognise and encourage physical activity are key if we are to affect change.

Getting children active and keeping them active throughout their life course is the key to reducing health inequalities caused through inactivity.

Prevention is better than cure and the focus of this strategy is aligned to everyday activity accessible to all.

Figure 6.0 Rossendale overweight and obesity



Research on depression, anxiety and exercise shows that the mental health and physical benefits of exercise can improve mood and lessen anxiety. This is of particular importance when we know that **18.8%** of people in Rossendale are more likely to suffer from **depression** compared to 13.25% across England.

In 2022 to 2023, 64.0% of adults aged 18 years and over in England were estimated to be overweight or living with obesity. In England, 21% of four to five year olds are classed as obese or overweight, within Rossendale this figure is 24%. In year six, the prevalence of obesity alone in children in year 6 is 35% in Rossendale which is considerably higher than the England figure of 22.7%

Alignment to National and Local Strategies

It is paramount that the ambitions of this strategy are firmly aligned with the key national, regional and local strategies, a summary of some of the key strategies are listed below with a full list within appendix one.

In 2022, two key plans were developed to improve the health and wellbeing of Rossendale residents. Our Place Our Wellbeing Our Plan identified four priorities for the valley based on identified need. These were:

Figure 7.0 Our Place Our Wellbeing Our Plan priorities

1. Community-led mental wellbeing
2. Physical activity & healthy weight
3. Developing facilities to support health & wellbeing
4. Rossendale shaping local services

Our Place Our Facilities Our Plan provided an overview of the facilities required across the valley to enable more people to be active.

The plan sought to provide an overview of the ambitions for health, leisure and sports facilities in Rossendale, split into three zones; West, Central and East of which of a number of objectives have been achieved for the valley:

- Working with health partners to create rooms allow health consultations from local clinicians such as nurses and General Practitioners
- Offer adventure climbing, laser tag and more will be retained and improved
- Creation of a new running track
- Develop Whitworth high school to provide quality sports and activity space to local people

With regards to other areas of focus, Rossendale will continue to work closely with partners, including Sport England, National Governing Bodies of Sport, Active Lancashire and Lancashire County Council to deliver a number of priorities within this strategy, including:

- Create Cycling and walking infrastructure
- Create a new full size floodlight 3G football pitch
- Improve access to education facilities for community use
- Work with sports to develop ownership models

The ambition is that The Valley becomes increasingly active, with vibrant towns where healthy and active lives are common practice - we want people to move more, move well and more often.

The local ambition is to create an environment where people are physically active in their daily lives, which in turn will improve health and resilience. This will increase both physical and emotional wellbeing; improve life chances, employability, decrease dependence on health and social care services and support prosperity.

Key Strategy	Summary
Get Active a strategy for the future of sport and physical activity	Building a healthier nation by tackling high levels of inactivity and making sure that the sport and physical activity sector thrives for future generations.
Sport England: Uniting the Movement	Sport England 10-year vision to transform lives and communities through sport and physical activity.
UK ACTIVE Blueprint for an Active Britain, More people, more active, more often	The blueprint calls for a single-minded focusing of resources, energy and policy to turn the tide of physical inactivity. The blueprint sets out clear and achievable recommendations to get the nation moving
Lancashire 2050	The Lancashire 2050 framework aims to bring people together with a shared vision, shared ambition, shared goals and shared priorities. Of the eight priorities two are focussed on physical activity
Lancashire and South Cumbria Strategy for working in partnership with people and communities 2023-2026	Commitment to working as a partnership is a real one. Involving local people, reaching diverse communities and empowering change will only be possible by working closely with our partners in the voluntary, community faith and social enterprise sector (VCFSE), local authorities and Health watch who already work closely with those who are most vulnerable in society
Creating Healthy Communities Lancashire: Delivery Plan 2024-2025	Vision: Living Better Lives in Lancashire Our ambition is to help the citizens of Lancashire to live longer, healthier and happier lives. We will do this by improving health and care services through integration and addressing health and wellbeing inequity across the Lancashire Place
Rossendale Borough Council Our Place Our Plan	The plan has four key priorities: Thriving Local Economy, High Quality Environment, Health and Proud Communities, Effective and Efficient Council
Rossendale Borough Council: Better Lives	To improve the lived experience. This means enhancing relationships and networks, improving qualifications and employability, improving physical and mental health, income maximisation and financial capability.

Stakeholder consultation

Over the last 12 months, we have been consulting with partners and through active listening we have built on our understanding of the importance of collaboration, sharing information, and designing ideas together. We have listened to the different needs of individuals and community groups, and what helps them be active and sporty and more so what are the barriers that prevent them.

A series of consultation events were kick started with the Rossendale BIG Connect in 2023, which brought together partners and stakeholders from sport, health and physical activity to discuss the strategy, its aims and objectives. The events saw over 30 organisations, including Sport England provide invaluable data, insight, recommendations, information sharing and explored the systems we will work within. The events highlighted how stakeholders would encourage more people to become physically active and embed movement into the Rossendale community.

In addition to the networking events and for us to understand physical activity and sports participation specifically for “Women and Girls”, a survey was conducted to understand the barriers, motivations, needs and how we develop a strategy for this key group. “The overwhelming message was that women and girls want to do more, they feel that being active makes them feel better about themselves and with a clear understanding that being active helps their mental health”

Figure 8.0 Rossendale Women and Girls survey results

- 16% of women and girls participate in three days a week of physical activity
- 18% indicate that lack of time is a reason for not participating in physical activity
- When women and girls do participate 40% of them indicate “it makes them feel better”
- 19% of women and girls stated that to be part of sports or community club it must be welcoming

All these conversations have helped us to think differently about how all of us could benefit from being more active.

A full list of partners who have supported the network can be found in appendix two



The current landscape in Rossendale

“Transforming the delivery of physical activity locally” Sport England

Rossendale is part of Sport England’s Local Delivery Pilot (LDP) programme, alongside other Pennine Lancashire authorities. Sport England funded 12 Local Delivery Pilot areas (LDPs) across the country

for a 5-year period (2019–2024/5), to take a whole system, place-based approach to reduce physical inactivity and health inequalities.

The partnership has now been defined as a **Sport England Place Partner** which aims to create the conditions for change at a local level, within Pennine Lancashire.

Active Lancashire's place-based approach involves leading and facilitating partnerships across the county, from high-level decision-makers to grassroots community organisations of which Rossendale has been identified as one of five priority places.

Rossendale has benefitted significantly from being part of the LDP, which in Pennine Lancashire is called Together an Active Future (TaAF), the learnings and support realised have been instrumental in our ability to create the conditions for change in Rossendale and have helped people to be physically active.

Place-based working has been defined as “a person-centred, bottom-up approach used to meet the unique needs of people in one given location by working together to use the best available resources and collaborate to gain local knowledge and insight.”

The next phase of the LDP (2025 – 2028) is identified as the “deepening” phase which will focus on the three areas below and their connectivity at a local level. Rossendale are working closely with TaAF to support their submission for further investment.

Figure 9.0 Together an Active Future deepening themes

The health system



The education system



Active Environments



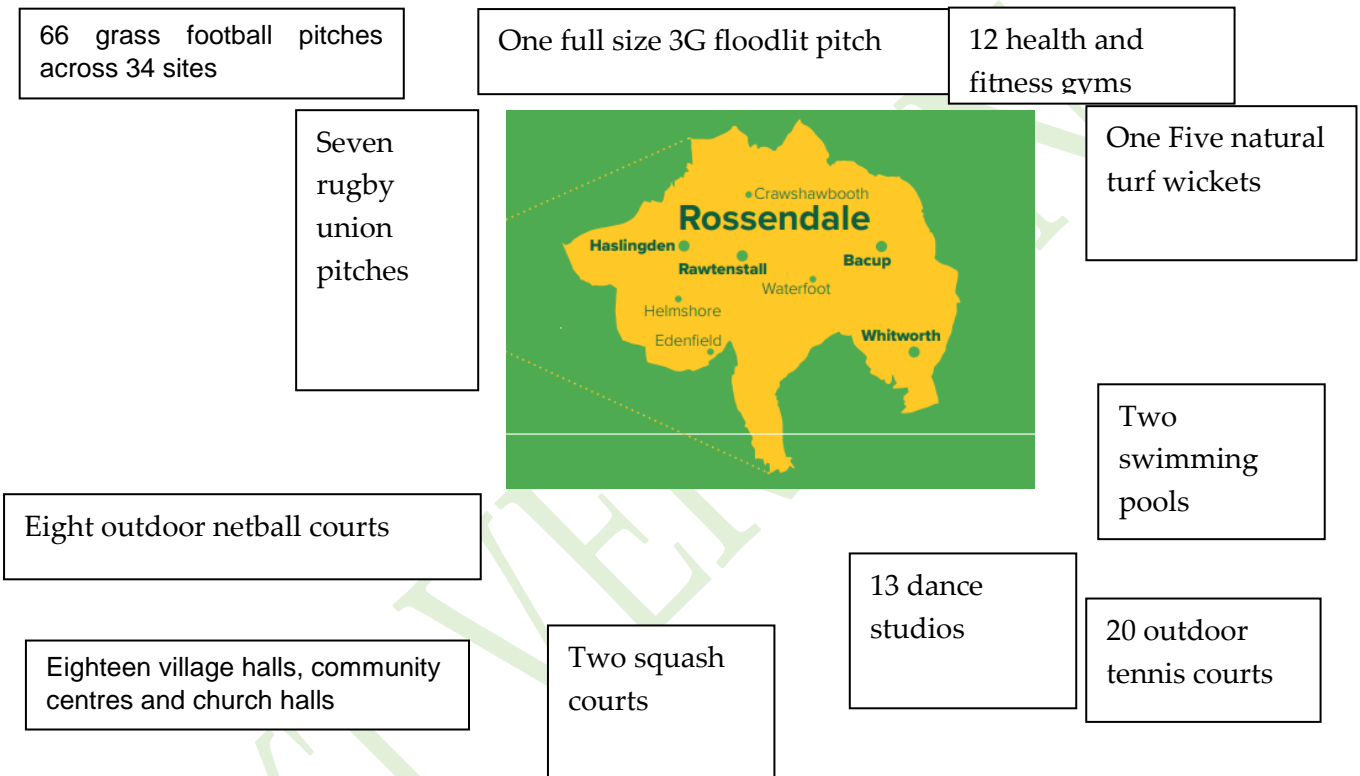
By adopting a Whole System Approach, partners can more effectively address the multifaceted determinants of health, sport and physical activity, leading to improved outcomes and healthier residents.

Provision of leisure services

The majority of sport and physical activity in Rossendale is delivered by Rossendale Leisure Trust (RLT) who manage and deliver the Council's leisure services, alongside a thriving community and voluntary sector and a strong network of sports clubs.

“Rossendale’s Leisure facilities are amongst the Boroughs most appreciated local buildings. Most of our local leisure and wellbeing assets were built in the early 1970s and whilst they are much-loved by local people, they are ageing and in need of refurbishment and renewal”.

Figure 10.0 Rossendale landscape



Through the vehicle of Rossendale Connected a multitude of opportunities and programmes have been created for residents to be more active.

- 1 Junior Park Run
- Yoga in the park
- Rossendale Works “Football works”
- Sports club network newsletter
- Children’s Balance bike sessions
- 14 weekly walks
- The Walking Summit
- Cycling Summit
- Well-being walks
- Couch to 5km
- Rossendale Leisure Trust Up and Active programme



Rossendale has a profound shortage of physical activity assets as identified in a number of strategies and assessment reports and there is a lack of capital to invest. The below list summarises the facility need across the valley:

- 3 x 3G Football Turf Pitches
- A full renovation of all poor quality grass pitches
- There is an undersupply equivalent to a 6-lane 25m swimming pool
- Additional sports hall provision is required, either by opening up school facilities or additional build
- Improve the condition of poor and below average quality sports halls
- Gym provision is strong but additional capacity at Marl Pits would meet demand
- Shortfalls in some forms of open space
- Modernisation of ancillary facilities for sports clubs utilising outdoor pitches
- Improve quality of bowling greens

Securing external capital funding for sport and physical activity is one of the key priorities of this strategy, the challenge of being able to match funds will continue to be an ongoing issue for Rossendale, unless the funding landscape changes.

Sport

We recognise the very significant contribution our local clubs and community groups make to Rossendale's sport and physical activity offer. We are home to a close knit community of sports clubs that have existed with limited support and investment into the infrastructure and facilities our sports clubs utilise.

The strategy has a dual focus of community-level population-based participation and at the other end of the participation spectrum, elite performance.

The progression from foundation to elite is not always linear, and people can join or leave the pyramid at any stage, based on their life circumstances, interests and the opportunities available to them.

Sport is a powerful force for good, it brings people together, connects communities, instils important values and inspires people

"The sports club and community network is at the heart of the Valley and need to continue to adapt to meet the changing needs of the wider community"

Rossendale partners will work together to ensure a continued sport offer that is inclusive and inspiring. One that engages people across the life course and offers a range of different levels from new-comers to seasoned professionals and welcomes people back into sport after transitions or life events.

There are over 90 sports clubs in Rossendale ranging from Badminton to martial arts, football being the largest number with 15 clubs and over 140 teams.

Rossendale has one of the fastest growing women and girl's football clubs in Lancashire, as the sport continues to develop and grow following the success of the Lionesses in 2022.

Rossendale is home to one of the oldest football clubs in England, Bacup Borough Football founded 1879. In 1982 Bacup Borough became founder members of the North West Counties League, this following the amalgamation of the Cheshire League and the Lancashire Combination and its current manager is the longest standing football manager in English football.

Rossendale is home to "The Hill" a tourist attraction and bringing a slice of the Alps to Rossendale, it is the premier outdoor ski and snowboarding centre in the UK.

In 2022 significant investment was made into the running track located at Marl Pits which transformed the track for the Valley, which in turn has resulted in an increase in use and the development of walking programmes and the integration of physical activity into sport with couch to 5k.

Vision

The School Games will make a positive and meaningful difference to the lives of children and young people through sport and physical activity.

Rossendale hosts a School Games programme funded by Sport England and delivered by the Youth Sport Trust, the School Games is a framework delivered in the Valley to make a positive and meaningful difference to the lives of children and young people through sport and physical activity.

The programme has five outcomes of which two are directly linked to the strategy:

- To advocate and position the delivery of the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) daily active minutes for all young people, as a universal offer to maintain and grow school engagement.
- To advocate and engage key stakeholders on the value of School Games to support local provision and improve the experience for young people and their families.

By working with relevant National Governing Bodies of sport (NGBs), we aim to develop sport-specific plans implementing a vision and strategic plan for its network of clubs, coaches, volunteers and participants.

Our objectives

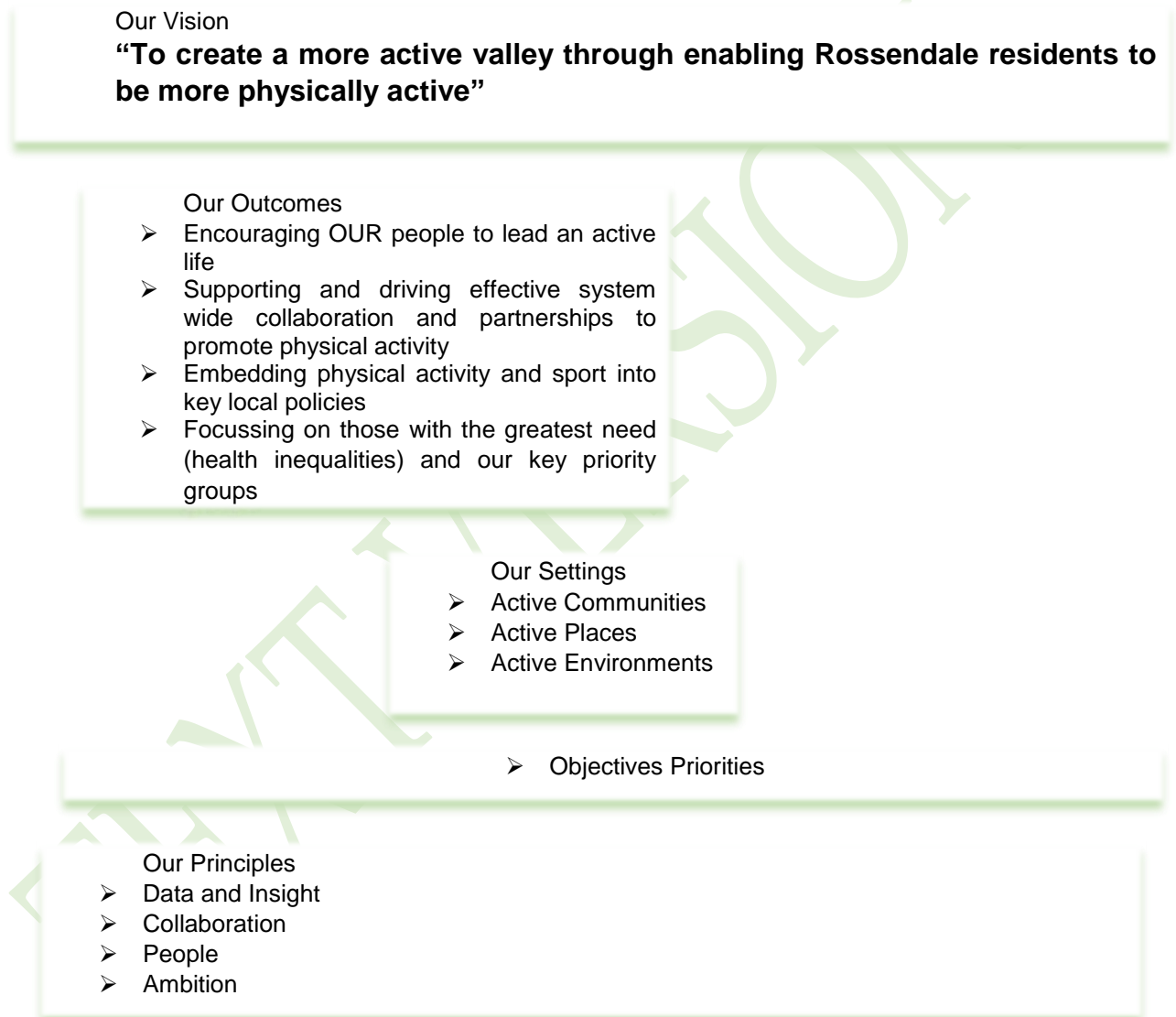
- Ensure that each sports club is operating to the minimum standards as set by the NGB
- Support our substantial network of sporting and community organisations not only to survive but thrive in Rossendale
- Attract new sports, physical activity and sports teams to make their home in Rossendale
- Establish the Rossendale Sport Advisory Group to help guide and shape the Borough of Sport plans, the group is made up of representatives from sporting, community and commercial organisations who help inform and feedback on our progress
- Supporting the development of a sustainable and inclusive sport and physical activity infrastructure of clubs, volunteers, participants, coaches, officials, teachers and leaders
- Increase community pride in the achievements of all our sporting participants

The Strategic Framework

The data, insight, consultation and external environment considered throughout the development of this strategy has informed the strategic framework, providing us with a clear vision, underpinned by four outcomes, three key settings and a set of principles that will be embedded in the objectives and priorities.

Collaboration has been pivotal in the development of the strategic framework: “People, communities, and organisations, from across the Valley, are united in a shared passion and commitment for what we do, why we do it and how we do it”

Figure 11.0 Rossendale strategic framework



Vision

Our vision is **“to create a more active valley through enabling Rossendale residents to be more physically active”**

We will achieve this vision through the below four outcomes;

1. Encouraging OUR people to lead an active life
2. Supporting and driving effective system wide collaboration and partnerships to promote physical activity
3. Embedding physical activity and sport into key local policies
4. Focussing on those with the greatest need (health inequalities) and our key priority groups

The strategy will focus on three key settings: Active Communities, Active Places and Active Environments, all of which are interconnected and cannot be viewed in isolation.

Figure 12.0 Strategic settings

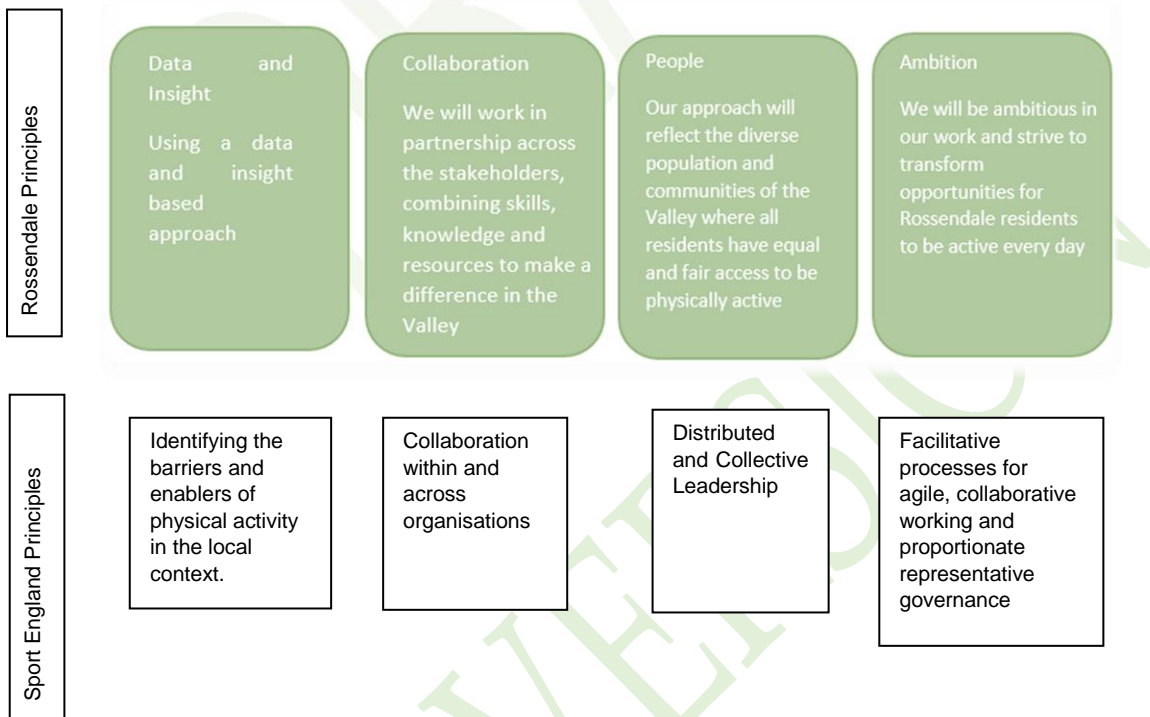


- Active Communities; To increase physical activity through a whole system approach, tackling inactivity using effective local Rossendale networks which engage and empower local people to increase their activity levels, ensuring priority groups and individuals are engaged and having a targeted approach to increasing physical activity and access to sports clubs
- Active Places; maximise use of community assets (built and green and blue spaces), increase capital investment, and ensure sustainability of leisure facilities
- Active Environment; ensure active travel is built into the valley and that opportunities for people to be active is at the heart of the valley's regeneration projects, influencing planning and property services, safe spaces, improving towns through regeneration and levelling Up.

Principles

The below principles will underpin the way that we will work to deliver this strategy, these align with a number of Sport England’s 10 conditions for physical activity that are embedded within the TaAF work. As a network we will be data driven, work in collaboration with our people in Rossendale and drive the ambitious targets we set ourselves to increase participation in sport and physical activity.

Figure 13.0 Rossendale principles



Addressing complex problems requires the contribution of many different factors, and no one service, organisation or person can address the root cause or find a solution on their own. Through embedding physical activity with other service provision and raising awareness of how physical activity can contribute to the outcomes of partner strategies, a more integrated approach will emerge that will help tackle the health inequalities we currently face.

Large proportions of the population are not meeting recommended levels of physical activity and have increasingly sedentary lifestyles. Low levels of physical activity are predictive of poor health outcomes and time spent sedentary is related to a host of risk factors independently of physical activity levels.

We aim to mobilise the collective power of the whole system, to make more of the sum of the parts, and to work with communities to help empower individuals in their life choices.

What we will deliver – “The settings”

Rossendale’s physical activity and sport strategy is a comprehensive plan aimed at promoting active lives through increasing physical activity across the Valley. The strategy is to be delivered through three intersecting settings.

By focusing on these areas, Rossendale aims to create a supportive environment where residents are encouraged and able to lead more active and healthier lives. The strategy’s success will depend on a strong community, an active environment, and people that are active.



Active Communities

What is an active community in Rossendale?

Rossendale is known for its close-knit communities. An active community in Rossendale refers to a group of engaged residents who come together to participate in various social, recreational, and civic activities. These communities play a vital role in enhancing the quality of life and fostering a sense of belonging among the Valley population.

Why should we invest in our communities? Why do we need to invest?

Investing in the Rossendale community presents a unique opportunity to contribute to the Valleys economic, cultural, and environmental well-being. By directing resources towards local communities, regeneration projects, and sustainable initiatives, investors can play a vital role in shaping the future of this thriving community.

An active community is less reliant on public services, has a better quality of life and ultimately costs the health and social care system less money.

Evidence shows that having access to green space, of which Rossendale has much of, is vital in promoting physical activity and influences physical activity through the whole life course.

Using the green spaces to our advantage to increase physical activity to:

Boost mood and motivations	Engaging new groups and communities
Making workouts enjoyable	Making use of landmarks
Developing social interactions	Enhance mental well-being

We need to acknowledge and address the barriers to participation through the development of programmes, improved capacity and by modernising infrastructure.

Our priorities within sport are underpinned by clear pathways and support for those engaged in sport as well as the benefits from continued involvement in physical activity for those participants and competitors who have participated at any level.

It is the ambition of this strategy to have an inclusive, valley-wide sport and physical activity offer that enables everyone in Rossendale to experience the benefits of sport and physical activity.

The Future of Public Sector Leisure report published by Sport England in December 2022 set out how the sector needed to transition or ‘pivot’ from a traditional leisure service to one that is far more focused on active wellbeing. The ‘pivot’ was seen as a response to the crisis created by the pandemic, the energy crisis and a cost-of-living crisis and a mounting funding crisis in many councils. It was defined as a shift to a model that focuses on adding value and supporting the delivery of local economic and social priorities.

Our aim through the strategy and place based collaboration would be to “pivot’ from having a traditional leisure provider to being recognised as the leader of health, social and wellbeing outcomes to enable people to be more active.

What are the challenges?

- Need for long-term commitment and consistent Rossendale Borough Council policy support to sustain active communities initiatives
- Tackling multi-layered complex problems that are particularly prevalent with those that are in active
- Limited financial resources to invest in capital infrastructure and revenue programmes

The Sport England strategy “Uniting the movement” identifies that not everyone has the same experiences of sport and physical activity, or the same life opportunities. Some people feel excluded from activities, and some people and communities simply don’t have the opportunities to take part.

Rossendale has a number of key priority groups based on consultation, data and insight;

- Inactive
- Women and girls
- Older adults
- Children and young people
- Those living in deprived areas
- Minority ethnic groups
- People with disabilities and long-term health conditions

Our objectives

- Increase levels of physical activity for all using the data and insight available to us to target those groups who are the least active
- To create long-term behaviour change through improving the marketing of existing physical activity and sport opportunities and ensuring there is strong understanding of the benefits
- To deliver the strategy via Rossendale Connected stakeholders who are trusted community champions to deliver impactful change
- Support local clubs and organisations by creating and maintaining a local directory of sports clubs and assist in the publicity of clubs
- To work closely with National Governing Bodies of Sport to increase participation, improve and educate coaches and volunteers, implement minimum standards and develop our clubs

Active Places

What is an active place in Rossendale?

"Active Place" in Rossendale refers to spaces and facilities designed to encourage and facilitate physical activity, sports participation, and overall well-being for the local community. These places can include a variety of environments, such as parks, leisure centres, education setting, sports clubs, gyms, walking and cycling paths, and community centres.

Why should we invest in our places?

It is important that we maximise usage of what we already have, whilst also providing access to previously untapped resources such as schools, as they are great facilities right in the heart of our communities.

Rossendale Borough Council own two leisure centres; The Adrenaline Centre and Marl Pits Leisure Centre, both of which were built in the 1970’s. The centres are anchor points in our communities and play a vital role in keeping our population active and healthy. Like many other leisure centres built around the same time, they are in need of investment and refurbishment. The Facilities Strategy produced in 2022 created a vision for built leisure assets in Rossendale, however due to a multitude of factors, this vision now needs reviewing and this will form part of this strategy delivery.

Given the clear links between green spaces and mental wellbeing, we are uniquely positioned to use these spaces to promote both physical activity, sport and improved mental health. By developing the offer in our parks, we can encourage more people to use them, as they are great places to have fun and be physically active, which in turn drives people to be active in Rossendale's rich outdoor environment.

We need to ensure that they are welcoming places where people feel safe and where a balance between formal and informal sport is encouraged and achieved.

As part of this we must ensure the transport infrastructure facilitates more journeys to be made by walking and cycling.

What are the challenges?

- Maximising use of our assets: Significant budget reductions, and lack of investment into sport and leisure facilities has resulted in sites that are in need of improvement (and lack of maintenance budget)
- Catering to the diverse needs and preferences of a community can be challenging, as different groups may have varying interests and requirements for active spaces
- Adverse weather conditions can limit the usability of outdoor active spaces. (Planning for year-round usability requires innovative solutions)
- Empowering local communities to do more

Our objectives

- To maximise use of community assets, particularly in target locations by target audiences
- Support as far as possible inclusive mass participation events which enable all members of the community to take part in physical activity in our parks and open spaces; Tour De Manc, Park Yoga, Park Tennis, Park Run
- To work in partnership with Rossendale School Games Organiser to ensure schools have equal access to a broad range of physical activity and sport opportunities for the children and young people of the Valley improving the opportunities and quality of sport on offer to our young people in our schools
- Encouraging greater and wider use of our open spaces for physical activity, informal play and structured sport for all the community
- Explore the feasibility and funding opportunities available to improve and enhance the leisure facility infrastructure
- Explore the options of repositioning our leisure services to widen the reach into the community to become active wellbeing hubs

Active Environment

What is an active environment in Rossendale?

With 642km of Public Rights of Way, Rossendale can be described as a series of inter-locking valleys, which dissect open moorland, and closely linked small towns line the valley floors. This creates a main urban core from Haslingden through to Whitworth, interspersed with and surrounded by countryside.

"It is essential for all residents to have access to a range of leisure facilities and green spaces which meet the needs of the local community"

The Rossendale active environment will collaborate across planning, housing, policy, transport and other infrastructures and partners to access factors that influence when and how people chose to be active; including the importance of healthy streets and utilising the newly developed healthy place framework.

Rossendale is the "Adrenaline Valley". With a unique collection of outdoor and adrenaline-filled activities giving locals and visitors the opportunity to get involved in distinctive sporting activities, ranging from skiing, walking, mountain biking and long distance cycling.

“Rossendale has been ranked the highest in England and Wales for having the longest length of public rights of way (paths) within 800 metres of people’s homes”

Creating safe and supportive environments for physical activity, such as parks, playgrounds, community spaces and walking trails, is vital. Working together, Rossendale can work on improving these public spaces and ensuring they are safe and welcoming for all of the Rossendale community.

Why should we invest in our environment?

We are lucky in Rossendale to be surrounded by outstanding natural beauty, including moorlands, rivers, and forests that attracts tourists. By investing in environmental conservation and enhancement, we can boost tourism and outdoor activities such as active travel.

There are very few barriers for residents of the Valley to access the free outdoor spaces available in Rossendale which lends itself to an environment that welcomes the opportunity to be active.

Access to green spaces and clean environments is linked to improved mental health and well-being. The community of Rossendale can enjoy better quality of life through recreational opportunities and spaces for relaxation and socialisation.

Rossendale must become a place where active travel is an easy and safe option for everyone regardless of their age, ability or where they live, work, learn, visit and play.

Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans (LCWIPs) are a new, strategic approach to identifying cycling and walking improvements.

The plans will enable a long-term approach to developing local cycling and walking networks and show the vision to create safer, greener and healthier travel opportunities.

The Rossendale LCWIP outlines a long-term plan (10+ years) to enhance active travel which in turn leads to the process of identifying priorities for future active travel investment.

What are the challenges?

Creating an active environment in Rossendale, as in many other areas, faces a number of challenges:

- Ensuring environmental sustainability and the reduction of the carbon footprint
- The topography and natural landscape of Rossendale may limit the types of activities that can be easily promoted and accessed
- Areas of existing infrastructure need investment and maintenance
- Raising awareness of the accessible routes and opportunities available
- Safe active travel routes and suitable ancillary facilities

Our objectives

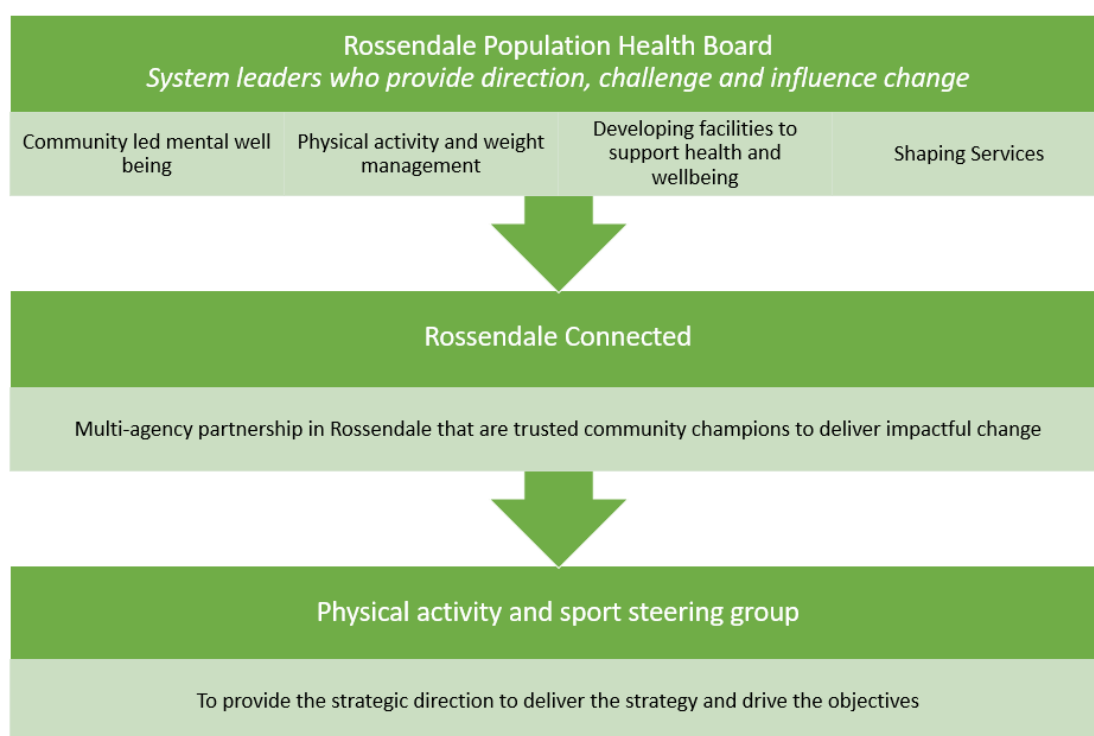
- To positively influence planning developments and the use of section 106 investment to support increased physical activity
- A well-coordinated approach that encourages people to walk, run, cycle, and push as a mode of transport supporting the active travel agenda
- To work with Lancashire County Council to deliver the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans (LCWIPs)
- To increase physical activity in all parks and open spaces ensuring more people feel safe being active in public spaces and use physical activity and sport as a positive diversionary tool

Governance

Driven by Rossendale Connected, the strategy will be governed by Rossendale Population Health Board. The board, which is a collective of leaders within sport, health, community and physical activity will ensure the strategy delivers its objectives and priorities and contributes to the purpose of the Population Health Board to “enhance the wellbeing, physical activity and health of all residents of Rossendale with particular regard to addressing ‘health inequalities’ that exist across the valley”.

A clear action plan which details available resources and accountability for achieving the outcomes/targets, will regularly be monitored and reviewed by the board. The action plans will remain agile in response to the changing environment.

Figure 14.0 Governance model



Underpinning the above governance are a number of sub groups that will drive the action plans.

The physical activity and sport strategy steering group will meet quarterly, driving the delivery of the objectives within the three settings; Place, Community and Environment.

Action Plan – Year 1 (2025-26)

Objective	Actions	Lead	Timescale	Setting	Rossendale TaAF Goals
Use the strategy to influence the inclusion of sport and physical activity within key Rossendale strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incorporate physical activity into relevant Council policies and strategies focussing in year one on the Corporate Plan refresh 	NA	2025	Active Communities	Goal 1 Active venues, places and spaces Goal 5 Rossendale Connected
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Influence new and existing partners to ensure that their strategic plans and policies reflect the positive role that physical activity can play to improve health and wellbeing and strengthen our communities 	NA	2025		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategically review the population health board and associated health and wellbeing plan aligning with the sport and physical activity strategy 	NA	2025		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refresh the Playing Pitch Strategy (Stage E) to ensure the demand and supply of outdoor sports is up to date and is used to inform decision making 	NA	Nov 2024		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that the Supplementary planning documents (SPDs) provides guidance on the Council's approach to the provision and enhancement of open space, sport and recreational facilities as part of new housing developments (current refresh 2024) and that the physical activity and sport steering group are consulted for any new provision planned 	AS	2025		
Set up an effective governance structure around sport, physical activity and health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop the Rossendale Physical Activity and Sport Partnership governance structure to oversee delivery of the action plan 	NA	2024	Active Communities	Goal 5 Rossendale Connected
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take the sport and physical activity facilities governance model through relevant RBC committees for sign off 	NA	2024		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set up relevant steering groups to govern the delivery of this strategy 	NA	2024		
		NA	2024		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a monitoring and evaluation framework 				
Increase levels of physical activity for all using the data and insight available to us to target those groups who are the least active	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with RLT on delivery of programmes linked to their strategic plan Introduce two new “Pub running clubs” using the current model of deliver at Casked Pub Develop a new “Bowls for health” project with the Rossendale Bowls clubs, targeting older people Establish a Women Girls Taskforce to respond to the women and girls survey findings Deliver the “Lets lift the curfew” campaign in Rossendale for women and girls Establish a Rossendale “This Girl Can” campaign to promote the sport and physical activities that take place in the Valley Deliver a programme of activity for the South Asian community as identified by the community to increase physical activity levels Work closely with Rossendale Rays to continue to deliver a programme of activity for people with a disability Work with Rossendale Rays to source funding to deliver new activities Develop a Rossendale model to increase physical activity levels in children and young people who are overweight or obese Work with sports clubs to raise awareness of the opportunities for spectators to be active (consult with those first as to what they want) Implement three new 5km routes for walkers / runners to start and continue running Establish and deliver a plan to address those that are financially vulnerable “Better Lives” project 	<p>NA</p> <p>JH</p> <p>JH</p> <p>NA</p> <p>JH</p> <p>JH / Marketing teams (RBC / RLT)</p> <p>JH</p> <p>JH</p> <p>JH</p> <p>JP / JM</p> <p>NA</p> <p>JH</p> <p>St / JF</p>	<p>2025</p> <p>2024</p> <p>2024</p> <p>2025</p> <p>2024</p> <p>2025</p> <p>2024</p> <p>2024</p> <p>2025</p> <p>2025</p> <p>2025</p> <p>2024</p> <p>2024</p>	Active Communities	<p>Goal 1 Active venues, places and spaces</p> <p>Goal 3 Connecting Rossendale through parks and outdoors spaces</p>
To create long-term behaviour change through	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with the Councils’ communications teams to develop a consistent narrative for 	NA	2025	Active Communities	Goal 5

<p>improving the marketing of existing physical activity and sport opportunities and ensuring there is strong understanding of the benefits</p>	<p>the Strategy that helps residents to be clear about what is meant by 'physical activity'</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Link into national marketing campaigns; This Girl Can, We are Undefeatable, Change for Life • Use case studies to highlight positive and real life change • Establish a Talented Athlete Scheme managed by RLT • Review Rossendale Connected and Rossendale Connected website as a gateway for information for the public to use (identify if this is the correct website for sport / physical activity / health) • We will use the We Are Undefeatable resources available via the Richmond Group to encourage those that are inactive to be active 	<p>NA</p> <p>RBC/RLT</p> <p>PH</p> <p>RBC/RLT</p> <p>RBC/RLT</p>	<p>2025</p> <p>2024</p> <p>2025</p> <p>2025</p> <p>2025</p>		<p>Rossendale Connected</p>
<p>To deliver the strategy via Rossendale Connected stakeholders who are trusted community champions to deliver impactful change</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review the sustainability and role of Rossendale connected • Establish sport and physical activity steering group – with representation from – RBC, RLT, CVS, Sport, Education • Work with Rossendale Leisure Trust to consider ways to encourage leisure centre visits and membership from target groups • Continue with weekly Together an Active Future team meetings (RBC / RLT) • Attend weekly Together an Active Future discussion meetings (Lodge House) • Attend Together an Active Future curiosity cafes and conferences to ensure the team are up to date and aware of projects 	<p>JF</p> <p>NA</p> <p>RLT</p> <p>RBC / RLT</p> <p>JE / JH / JF</p> <p>JE / JH / JF</p>	<p>2025</p> <p>2025</p> <p>2024</p> <p>2024</p> <p>2024</p> <p>2024</p>	<p>Active Communities</p>	<p>Goal 5 Rossendale Connected</p>
<p>Support local clubs and organisations by creating and maintaining a local directory of sports clubs and assist in the publicity of clubs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish and formalise a sports club network with the following: • Deliver a quarterly Sports network - newsletter • Establish a new Sports Network website 	<p>NA / JH</p> <p>JH / RLT</p> <p>JH</p>	<p>2025</p> <p>2024</p> <p>2025</p>	<p>Active Communities</p>	<p>Goal 4 Connecting Rossendale through</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage with key National Governing Bodies of sport (NGB) to provide guidance, direction, minimum standard support and drive participation and growth based on NGB KPI's Link with Active Lancashire to ensure clubs are aware of the support available to them. Raise awareness of the support available to local clubs and groups from being a member of CVS. 	NA NA/SS	2024		community venues Goal 5 Rossendale Connected
To work closely with National Governing Bodies of Sport to increase participation, improve and educate coaches and volunteers, implement minimum standards and develop our clubs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that our club and community network have the appropriate welfare and safeguarding policies in place Develop sport specific plans with local sports clubs and Active Lancashire 	NA NA	2025 2025	Active Communities	Goal 5 Rossendale Connected
To maximise use of community assets, particularly in target locations by target audiences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a Rossendale Bowls development committee to access funding to create a health for bowls programme Work with Haslingden High School to implement a community opening of facilities policy Work with education partners to open more facilities to be accessible for the community Complete a feasibility exercise for investment into multi use games areas, refurbishing them into Play zones Develop Wellbeing Walks in parks or other open spaces where they currently do not exist (2024 Crawshaw Booth / Whitworth) a further two places to be identified in 2025 Implement the recommendations from the Playing Pitch Strategy to protect and enhance playing pitches across Rossendale Achieve healthy workplace accreditation (or appropriate equivalent) for the Council 	NA NA NA NA JH NA NA JH	2024 2025 2025 2025 2025 2025 2025	Active Places	Goal 1 Active venues, places and spaces Goal 2 Connecting Rossendale through walking and cycling Goal 3 Connecting Rossendale through

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the Park Yoga programme into an additional two parks and make it sustainable by working with RLT partnership • Implement the recommendations from the Outdoor Facilities Sports Paper, maximising investment into key assets • Working with local stakeholders and Sport England, develop a list of facility investment needs • Ensure the objectives within the Swimming Pool Support Fund grant are delivered 	<p>NA</p> <p>NA</p> <p>RLT</p>	<p>2025</p> <p>2025</p> <p>2024</p>		<p>parks and outdoors spaces</p> <p>Goal 4 Connecting Rossendale through community venues</p>
Support as far as possible inclusive mass participation events which enable all members of the community to take part in physical activity in our parks and open spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2025 deliver and support a series of events: Triathlon Swim Bike Run local Tour de Manc Relay for Life School Games Introduce an Adult and Junior Park Run (Edgeside) Park tennis tournament Couch 2 5km Round the Hills Walk Skyline Walks Rossendale Triathlon Lee Quarry Cycling • Utilise the sports network and environment to lever local, regional and national events to Rossendale 	<p>NA / JH</p> <p>NA</p>	<p>2025</p> <p>2025</p>	Active Places	<p>Goal 1 Active venues, places and spaces</p> <p>Goal 2 Connecting Rossendale through walking and cycling</p> <p>Goal 3 Connecting Rossendale through parks and outdoors spaces</p>
To work in partnership with Rossendale School Games Organiser to ensure schools have equal access to a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with the School Games Organiser (SGO) on funding bids and participation initiatives, to maximise use of school sports 	NA / NB	2025	Active Places	Goal 1 Active venues,

<p>broad range of physical activity and sport opportunities for the children and young people of the Valley improving the opportunities and quality of sport on offer to our young people in our schools</p>	<p>facilities outside of school hours and support the delivery of the SGO outcomes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with Rossendale School Games Organiser to increase cycling levels in children and young people • Work with schools to ensure that their physical activity and sport provision helps to engage inactive children. • Work with primary schools to help extend the reach and impact of the Daily Mile and other similar initiatives. • Continue to support schools with their PE and school sport needs through providing high quality sports coaching. 	<p>JH JT JH / NB RLT</p>	<p>2025 2025 2025</p>		<p>places and spaces</p> <p>Goal 4 Connecting Rossendale through community venues</p>
<p>Encouraging greater and wider use of our open spaces for physical activity, informal play and structured sport for all the community</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lease (21 years+) playing fields (single pitch sites) where appropriate to sports clubs ensuring the club has FA accreditation and a football development plan • Introduce an adult park run to Rossendale (Edgeside Park) • Work to deliver the Tennis in Parks programme (in line with the Lawn Tennis Associations funding investment) • Work with partners to deliver the Yoga in the park initiative and feasibility to grow in two more parks • Using the play streets model in Haslingden, develop the model in other streets so that communities improve their health, be more physical activity and be involved in informal play 	<p>NA JH JH JH JH</p>	<p>2024 2024 2024 2025 2025</p>	<p>Active Places</p>	<p>Goal 1 Active venues, places and spaces</p> <p>Goal 2 Connecting Rossendale through walking and cycling</p> <p>Goal 3 Connecting Rossendale through parks and outdoors spaces</p> <p>Goal 4</p>

					Connecting Rossendale through community venues
Explore the feasibility and funding opportunities available to improve and enhance the leisure facility infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver the first 3G Artificial Turf Pitch in Rossendale at the Adrenaline Centre • Complete a feasibility study for investment into multi use games areas refurbishing into Play zones • Explore the options for the development of Padel tennis courts in Rossendale via a test and learn project • Promote our sports facilities, outdoor venues and open spaces that they are welcoming, accessible and safe and encourage people of all abilities to be more physically active, to take part and to have fun via a new website • Ensure that physical activity and sport are an integral part of the regeneration plans for town centre investment, particularly linked to investment in Rawtenstall • Seek to minimise energy consumption through invest to save energy schemes across all sport and leisure assets, contributing to the Councils' ambitions for net zero carbon emissions by 2030 • Submit an application to the Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund for a number of environmental improvements at Marl Pits Leisure Centre 	NA	2025	Active Places	<p>Goal 1 Active venues, places and spaces</p> <p>Goal 2 Connecting Rossendale through walking and cycling</p> <p>Goal 3 Connecting Rossendale through parks and outdoors spaces</p>
		NA	2025		
		NA / JH	2025		
		RBC / RLT	2025		
		RBC	2025		
		RBC Environmental team	2024		
RBC	2024				
Reposition our leisure services to widen their reach into the community by becoming active wellbeing hubs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a new business model for the Rossendale Up and Active programme to enable the programme to be sustained post December 2025. • Commission a social value report with the other East Lancashire Leisure Trusts, into the value of the Up and Active programme 	JT	2024	Active Places	<p>Goal 1 Active venues, places and spaces</p> <p>Goal 2</p>
		JT	2024		
		JT	2024		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver the Lancashire Collaborative Weight Management project for families and adults, taking an innovative approach to delivery • Continue to deliver the Rossendale Cardiac Programme • Explore new funding streams to increase the number of referral pathways provided • Work with the PCN to explore the introduction of Active Practices • Work with local volunteers to create a sustainable model for Wellbeing Walks • Ensure the Leisure Trust keep up to date with and are able to react to Labour's focus on prevention and moving health services into the community • Train all RLT staff with Make Every Contact Count (MECC) training so that interactions and behaviour change is maximised 	SS SS SS JE JH RLT RLT	2025 2025 2025 2025 2024 2025 2025		Connecting Rossendale through walking and cycling Goal 4 Connecting Rossendale through community venues
To positively influence planning developments and the use of section 106 investment to support increased physical activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refresh and implement the Rossendale Borough Council Community Asset Transfer policy • Develop and implement a S106 approach / policy to strategically inform how available funding is used 	NA NA / AS	2025 2025	Active Environment	Goal 1 Active venues, places and spaces Goal 2 Connecting Rossendale through walking and cycling Goal 3 Connecting Rossendale through parks and

					outdoors spaces
A well-coordinated approach that encourages people to walk, run, cycle, and push as a mode of transport supporting the active travel agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a borough wide “Active travel day” – whereby everyone walks, cycles or runs for a journey Continue to support all primary schools in Rossendale to access the Bikeability programme Deliver a Balance bike programme to support more children and young people learning to ride Support the establishment of the Lee Quarry volunteer group in their drive to maintain the quarry Support Rossendale Bike Hub to engage with the cycling community, develop events and rides Promote and support Rossendale Ladies cycling group from the Bike Hub in Rawtenstall Apply for funding from Cycling UK to deliver the annual Big Bike Revival learn to fix, maintain an rides programme We will develop a programme to encourage mothers to participate in exercise, via a new buggy walks initiative (targeting two new walks) We will activate the Valley of Stone cycling route with family bike rides 	RBC / RLT marketing team JH JH JH JH JH JH JH JH JH / NA / Newground Together	2025 2024 2024 2024 2024 2024 2025 2025 2025	Active Environment	Goal 1 Active venues, places and spaces Goal 2 Connecting Rossendale through walking and cycling Goal 3 Connecting Rossendale through parks and outdoors spaces
To work with Lancashire County Council to deliver the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans (LCWIPs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Champion investment in appropriate infrastructure, with the priority being on cycling and walking routes that provide safe opportunities for active travel 	NA / Jacob Landers	2024	Active Environment	Goal 2 Connecting Rossendale through walking and cycling

<p>To increase physical activity in all parks and open spaces ensuring more people feel safe being active in public spaces and use physical activity and sport as a positive diversionary tool</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a plan / marketing strategy to encourage more people to exercise outside without the need for facilities – “Active Parks” initiative • Through our “Love Parks” programme seek to drive more investment into parks • Establish a new “Floodlit on time” to ensure that women feel safe to access the running track at Marl Pits • Working in partnership (RBC / Proffitts) deliver the Parks Masterplans focussing on accessible / new physical activity and outdoor sports facilities – Victoria Park, Edgeside park, Whitaker Park and Stubylee Park) 	<p>ST / AMc</p> <p>ST / AMc</p> <p>NA</p> <p>Communities team / DMC</p>	<p>2024</p> <p>2024</p> <p>2024</p> <p>2025</p>	<p>Active Environment</p>	<p>Goal 1 Active venues, places and spaces</p> <p>Goal 3 Connecting Rossendale through parks and outdoors spaces</p>
<p>Ensure that each sports club is operating to the minimum standards as set by the NGB</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with National Governing Bodies of Sport to implement minimum standards into sports clubs with support from Active Lancashire • Deliver a Rossendale Safeguarding and Welfare conference in partnership with the Welfare team at Active Lancashire 	<p>NA</p> <p>NA</p>	<p>2025</p> <p>2025</p>	<p>Sport</p>	<p>Goal 5 Rossendale Connected</p>
<p>Support our substantial network of sporting and community organisations not only to survive but thrive in Rossendale</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with partners (e.g. Active Lancashire, National Governing Bodies) to develop a programme of support to sports clubs that includes; implementing minimum standards, access to courses and workshops, funding workshops, sports clubs newsletter, linking to schools 	<p>NA</p>	<p>2025</p>	<p>Sport</p>	<p>Goal 3 Connecting Rossendale through parks and outdoors spaces</p>
<p>Attract new sports, physical activity and sports teams to make their home in Rossendale</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By working with National Governing Bodies identify where a sports club does not exist and explore the options for development of that sport 	<p>NA / JH</p>	<p>2025</p>	<p>Sport</p>	<p>Goal 1 Active venues, places and spaces</p>
<p>Unlock investment and funding to get the best out of</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utilise the playing pitch strategy, indoor built facility and facility improvement list identified 	<p>NA</p>	<p>2025</p>	<p>Sport</p>	<p>Goal 1</p>

our existing sporting infrastructure (including facilities)	for Sport England as tools to lever in investment to improve facilities				Active venues, places and spaces
Supporting the development of a sustainable and inclusive sport and physical activity infrastructure of clubs, volunteers, participants, coaches, officials, teachers and leaders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that National Governing Bodies (NGBs) are actively engaged in Rossendale to encourage them to embed their 'entry level' participation programmes, support the growth of clubs, development of coaches and volunteers, and deliver facility aspirations. 	NA	2025	Sport	Goal 1 Active venues, places and spaces
Increase community pride in the achievements of all our sporting participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a Talented Athlete Scheme managed by RLT Establish a list of sporting ambassadors from Rossendale promoting their achievements via a hall of fame (website page hosted by RLT) 	PH NA	2025	Sport	

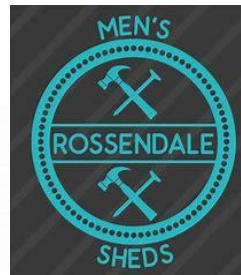
Appendix one

Strategy	Summary
Get Active a strategy for the future of sport and physical activity	<p>Building a healthier nation by tackling high levels of inactivity, and making sure that the sport and physical activity sector thrives for future generations.</p> <p>The government wants to help build a healthier nation by tackling high levels of inactivity, and by making sure that the sport and physical activity sector thrives for future generations.</p> <p>This strategy sets out how the government will work with the sector to achieve these aims by ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to be active.</p> <p>The three core priorities of this strategy, and what it means for the country, are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Being unapologetically ambitious in making the nation more active, whether in government or in the sport sector. 2. Making sport and physical activity more inclusive and welcoming for all so that everyone can have confidence that there is a place for them in sport. 3. Moving towards a more sustainable sector that is more financially resilient and robust.
Sport England: Uniting the Movement	<p>Sport England 10-year vision to transform lives and communities through sport and physical activity. Released in 2021 this strategy sets how to change as a sector and an ecosystem, so that we can give people the opportunities they need now and in the future. Sport England core objectives are –</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Advocating for movement, sport, and physical activity. 2. Joining forces on five big issues – recover and reinvent; connect communities; positive experiences for CYP; connect with health & wellbeing; active environments. 3. Creating the catalysts for change.
Sport England	<p>“We Are Undefeatable” This national campaign supports people who live with one or more long-term health conditions in England, such as diabetes, cancer, arthritis and Parkinson’s to build physical activity into their lives</p>
Sport England – Every Move (sustainability strategy)	<p>Leading, inspiring and supporting the sector to become environmentally sustainable, enabling greater opportunity for all people to participate in sport and physical activity, now and in the future.</p>
Sport England – ‘This Girl Can’	<p>This national campaign aims to get women and girls moving, regardless of shape, size and ability</p>
Health Matters: Getting Every Adult Active Every Day	<p>Professional resource setting out how to help increase the number of people being physically active. Increasing physical activity has the potential to improve the physical and mental health and wellbeing of individuals, families, communities and the nation as a whole.</p>
UK ACTIVE Blueprint for an Active Britain, More people, more active, more often	<p>The blueprint calls for a single-minded focusing of resources, energy and policy to turn the tide of physical inactivity. The blueprint sets out clear and achievable recommendations to get the nation moving</p>

<p>Lancashire 2050</p>	<p>The Lancashire 2050 framework aims to bring people together with a shared vision, shared ambition, shared goals and shared priorities. Of the eight priorities two are focussed on physical activity:</p> <p>Health and wellbeing We will improve health, life chances and independence, so residents can live healthy lives and access quality care when they need it.</p> <p>Communities and place We will build pride, belonging and resilience in all our diverse communities and ensure everyone has a voice and stake in their future</p>
<p>Lancashire and South Cumbria Strategy for working in partnership with people and communities 2023-2026</p>	<p>Commitment to working as a partnership is a real one. Involving local people, reaching diverse communities and empowering change will only be possible by working closely with our partners in the voluntary, community faith and social enterprise sector (VCFSE), local authorities and Health watch who already work closely with those who are most vulnerable in society</p>
<p>Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care Partnership: Integrated Care Strategy 2023-2028</p>	<p>Sets out the priority areas that will focus on to improve the health and wellbeing of residents, and to make sure that health and care services are more joined up and easier to access.</p>
<p>Creating Healthy Communities Lancashire: Delivery Plan 2024-2025</p>	<p>Vision: Living Better Lives in Lancashire Our ambition is to help the citizens of Lancashire to live longer, healthier and happier lives. We will do this by improving health and care services through integration and addressing health and wellbeing inequity across the Lancashire Place</p>
<p>Rossendale Borough Council Our Place Our Plan</p>	<p>To have a thriving economy, built around our changing town centres, creating a quality environment for all and improving the life chances of all those living and working in our borough.</p>
<p>Rossendale Borough Council: Better Lives</p>	<p>To improve the lived experience. This means enhancing relationships and networks, improving qualifications and employability, improving physical and mental health, income maximisation and financial capability.</p>
<p>Rossendale Borough Council: Climate Change Plan</p>	<p>Since declaring a Climate Emergency in 2019, the Council has been working to achieve net zero carbon emissions from our operations by 2030 as well as working in partnership to reduce carbon emissions for the whole of Rossendale. We are doing this by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving energy efficiency of our buildings • Switching to sustainable forms of transport • Reducing waste, increasing tree cover, enhancing biodiversity and adopting to impacts of climate change • Working in partnership with businesses, community groups, schools and colleges in and around the Borough to take action against climate change

Appendix two

The Rossendale network to build the strategy consisted of the following organisations:





Together an Active Future



Rossendale
Primary Care Network



M3Project



- Rossendale Badminton Club
- Rossendale Squash Club
- Catherine Argyle Fitness
- NGB Boxing
- Housing 21
- British Nordic Walking
- Rossendale Ramblers
- East Lancashire Alliance
- Civic Pride Rossendale
- Rossendale Couch 2 5k
- Health watch Lancashire
- Water Well Foundation CIC and Lumb Millennium Green Trust
- Groove n Glow
- Emerging Futures
- LCC Children and Family Wellbeing Service
- Lancashire Mind
- Rossendale School Games

Subject:	Financial Monitoring Report Q2 2024/25	Status:	For Publication
Report to:	Cabinet	Date:	20 th November 2024
Report of:	Head of Financial Services	Lead Member:	Resources
Key Decision:	<input type="checkbox"/> Forward Plan <input type="checkbox"/>	General Exception <input type="checkbox"/>	Special Urgency <input type="checkbox"/>
Equality Impact Assessment:	Required:	No	Attached: No
Biodiversity Impact Assessment:	Required:	No	Attached: No
Contact Officer:	Kimberly Haworth	Telephone:	01706 252409
Email:	kimberlyhaworth@rossendalebc.gov.uk		

1. RECOMMENDATION(S)

1.1 That Cabinet note the content of the Q2 financial monitoring report.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- This report provides an indicative estimate of the Council's General Fund Revenue outturn, Collection Fund performance and Capital outturn for the year ended 31 March 2025.
- At 30 September 2024, the Council is estimating a favourable variance of £107.6k against an approved net budget for the year of £10,598k.
- The approved Capital Programme for 2024/25 was agreed in the sum of £11,409k, to this was added prior year slippage of £7,166k, plus new additions of £925k making a revised capital programme for 2024/25 of £19,500k. At 30th September the estimated capital outturn for the year is £14,588k. Estimated slippage requirements into 2025/26, including the associated funding sources, currently total £4,912k, this includes £1,794k disabled facility grants.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 In February 2024 the MTFS set a balanced Budget of £10,598k for the year based on the assumptions made at that time and supported by £563k from reserves. The pay award, inflation rates, high vehicle fuel costs and high utility costs resulted in the requirement to use reserves to fund the budget gap.

4. DETAILS

Revenue

4.1 This Q2 monitoring report of the year 2024/25 is forecasting a favourable variance of £107.6k when compared to an original budget of £10,598k.

4.3 The most notable variances are:

- The budget contains a £225k vacancy savings target which is based on potential savings that may be obtained due to additional leave purchase and staff turnover, i.e. the salary saving made between an employee leaving the authority and the new recruit commencing. Staff cost savings are currently estimated to be £21k to the year-end, this is £204k short of the vacancy savings target of £225k. However, the estimates currently assume an extra 6.2% (average) pay award, the flat rate pay award of £1,920 is materially within this amount.

- At this stage it is anticipated that there will be an underspend on Empty Homes of approximately £100k
- As at Q2 we anticipate potential interest income of £200k for the year in excess of budget.
- We have seen additional expected costs with respect to audit fees of the Housing benefit Subsidy of £56k.
- At Q2 there is a predicted overspend of c£114k within the housing team on temporary accommodation. The team are actively working to reduce this overspend. It must be noted that we don't currently have supported accommodation, that provides the necessary service to support people, and which would also allow us to attract full housing benefit. This is not unique to Rossendale and is a national challenge.

4.4 Full details and explanations are included in appendix 1.

CAPITAL

4.5 The current estimate of Capital Receipts brought forward at 1st April 2024 totalled £2,503k.

4.6 The value of the budgeted capital scheme expenditure for 2024/25 was 11,409k to which £7,166k slippage has been added. New schemes have been added during the year to date totalling £925k with details of the most significant items set out on page 31 of appendix 1, this includes £265k of additional DFG funding. The revised capital programme for 2024/25 is £19,500k with an indicative outturn of £14,588k.

4.7 Anticipated slippage into 2025/26 is estimated at £4,912k.

TREASURY

4.8 At the end of June the Council's bank balances were c£14.2m. This is in line with cash amounts held at the end of Q2 in 2023/24.

4.9 Sustained high interest rates over recent months along with proactive treasury management resulted in the Council increasing its interest income budgets for 2024/25 to £109k from £9k in 2022/23. (also increased in 2023/24 to £120k – slight reduction in 2024/25 due to predicted interest rate reductions). Although it is anticipated that interest rates will fall (now 4.75% from November) along with anticipated reductions in cash balances due to internal borrowing for capital schemes we are optimistic that this budget will be exceeded. The budget for interest in 2024/25 is a net income of £3k, current estimates are that the outturn will exceed budget. The current estimated interest income is based on falling interest rates and reduced levels of available cash.

4.10 Details are included in Appendix 1.

COLLECTION FUND

4.11 Council Tax collection statistics have not yet returned to pre-pandemic levels. Whilst Business Rates collection performance appears to have returned to pre-pandemic levels, the rates are distorted by transitional reliefs given to businesses due to the Business Rates revaluation, which kicked in from April 2023. This remains an area of focus into 2024/25 given the 'Cost of Living Crisis' and potential impact on future collection.

- 4.12 For 2024/25 the Council Tax collection fund is predicting a surplus of £1,800k, with Rossendale Borough Council's share being £240k.
- 4.13 The NNDR collection fund is predicting a deficit of £1,350k with the Council's share being £540k.
- 4.14 Current estimates are that the Council will benefit from a pooling gain of £861k in 2024/25 through being a member of the Lancashire Business Rates Pool.
- 4.15 Details are included in Appendix 1.

EARMARKED RESERVES

- 4.17 The total cash-backed earmarked reserves brought forward at 1st April 2024 were £10,326k (after adjustment for Business Rate relief support repayable to government). The Earmarked Reserves closing balance at the 31 March 2025 are estimated to be £11,028k.

5. RISK

All the issues raised and the recommendation(s) in this report involve risk considerations as set out below:

- The cost of goods and services continue to increase. General inflationary increases are being experienced across all contracts that are linked directly to RPI and CPI despite these rates falling over recent months. High inflation and interest rates are also impacting on the capital programme. On average vehicle replacement costs are running c20% over and above the estimates included in the capital programme. Rising inflation is also having an impact on the construction industry - pushing up costs, increasing tender prices.
- Financial monitoring of General Fund service departments focuses on the key risk areas of employee costs, income, implementation of agreed budget savings, emerging issues (eg inflationary pressures and rising living costs) and opportunities, in particular service department net expenditure.
- Budget setting for future years is now treated as an integral part of financial monitoring during the current year and the impact of variances being reported will be considered by officers when preparing the detailed 2025/26 budgets. A zero based budget for 2025/26 is well underway at the date of publication of this paper.
- The council must explore ways of bridging its forecast annual funding gap. Amongst other things this may include becoming more commercially aware, aiming to grow its resources alongside the challenges to its cost base.
- If the level of Council Tax support claims increase as a result of the current economic climate or the level of Council Tax bad debt increases, this will have an adverse impact on the income the Council receives.
- The level of future Government funding is uncertain. Whilst the new Government are suggesting that three year settlements will be introduced in time, in reality the level of Government funding beyond 2024/25 is unknown until the expected announcement on 19th December.

6. CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 Robust monitoring of the General Fund and MTFS is essential to control risks expressed in section 5 above and the Council continues to undertake this.
- 6.2 Since 2010 the Council has seen its central government funding reduced by c£6m pa in real terms. Since that time the Council has reduced its budget requirement accordingly and continues to seek efficiencies and grow income where possible. However, the current economic climate, is making it impossible for the Council to balance its in year income and expenditure.
- 6.3 The Council is continuing its cost reduction programme, however Members are facing increasingly difficult choices in an attempt to balance expenditure with available resources over the medium term, with energy costs, vehicle fuel costs, the inflation rate and the pay award making this more difficult.
- 6.4 The Finance Settlement for 2024/25 was confirmed in February 2024. The settlement provided an increase in core spending power for 2024/25 of circa 3%, prior to factoring in any council tax increases. The ongoing level of Government funding poses a significant risk to the MTFS.

7. FINANCE

The financial implications are fully set out above and in Appendix 1.

8. LEGAL

Unless specifically commented upon within the report, there are no specific implications for consideration.

9. POLICY AND EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

There are no specific implications for consideration. Staffing issues have been discussed with colleagues in the People & Policy team.

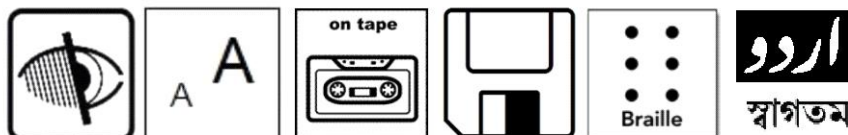
10. REASON FOR DECISION

Cabinet are recommended to note the Q1 monitoring report.

Background Papers	
Document	Place of Inspection
Service monitoring statements	Financial Services

Financial Monitoring Report

2024/25 as at end of September 2024
Including a Glossary of terms on page 39



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General Fund Revenue Operations – pages 4 to 21

Despite the current economic climate continuing to have a significant impact on the Council in Q2, the financial performance has been favourable compared to budget. The full year impact is predicted to result in a favourable variance of £107.6k on the General Fund when compared to the original budget of £10,598k. This will reduce the impact on reserves in the year. The significant budget variations are highlighted on page 6.

Earmarked Revenue Reserves – page 22

The total cash-backed Earmarked Reserves brought forward at 1st April 2024 were £10,326k.

The opening balance on the Transitional Reserve was £4,865k. The Council has received funding guarantee of £290k and £85k Services Grant as part of the 2024/25 Local Government Finance Settlement. This funding will be released in full as budgeted, to fund 2024/25 Net Service costs.

The indicative closing balance of earmarked reserves at the 31st March 2025, is estimated at £11,028k. Based on current plans and forecast commitments, and if nothing else changes, at the time of this report, available earmarked reserves are anticipated to run out during 2027/28. The earmarked reserves figure includes ringfenced sums of £2,054, this means that the funding was received for specific projects and may be subject to clawback.

Government Grants Unapplied – page 23

The opening value of Government Grants Unapplied at the 1st April 2024 was £4,183 of which £2,645 related to Disabled Facilities Grants. The balance carried forward into 2024/25 relates to previous years' slippage. The allocation of Better Care funding for DFGs for 2024/25 is £1,265k, giving total DFG resources available of £3,910.6k. The remaining balances related to UK Shared Prosperity Funding and Capital Regeneration Programme monies which are anticipated to be spent in full during 2024/25.

Staff Monitoring – page 24

The table on page 24 shows the forecast staffing variances for the year based on Q2 actuals. The forecast underspend for the year is currently £231k. However, consideration needs to be given to the pay award which at the date of preparation of this report was anticipated to average 6.2% which equals £235k additional cost (subsequent to the preparation of this report the pay award has been agreed and is materially in line with our forecast), once this has been factored in, the adjusted underspend will be £21k which includes the additional leave (£25k). Therefore, the shortfall at Q2 is £204k on the 2024/25 budget of £225k (£200k vacancy savings and £25k leave purchase).

Treasury & Cash Management - page 25 to 29

At the end of September, the bank balances were £14.2m. These resources continue to be relatively high due to various grant funding, ie UKSPF fund, HHSF5 etc. Despite Bank of England base rate increases over the last two years, it is now anticipated that rates will begin to fall. The Council is balancing the use of instant access accounts with shorter-term 'fixed' deposit facilities, to increase investment return within the scope of the approved Treasury Management Strategy. Fixed deposits are being made with high quality counterparties (Central Government, Local Authorities) where risk is considered low and returns are more closely linked to movement in the prevailing Bank Rate. Interest income is currently expected to exceed the budget for the year.

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The provision for doubtful debt at the 1st of April 2024 was £380.6k, plus a further £5.4k set aside for licensing debt, against £510k of doubtful debts. The level of cover for sums outstanding and that risk going unpaid is considered adequate at this time (c75% cover) with no further movement proposed. However given the 'Cost of Living Crisis' dominating the headlines, this position will be kept under review.

Capital Receipts – page 30

The total Capital Receipts rolled forward into financial year 2024/25 is £2,503k, but this is subject to review and may change.

The total value of Capital Grants receivable in the financial year 2024/25 is £9,743k. As all figures are indicative at this point in the reporting cycle, work continues to determine the most effective method of funding the Council's Capital Programme.

On current assumptions, the Capital Receipts Reserve is expected to total £2,550k at the yearend 2024/25, reflecting the most cost effective method of financing the Council's future Capital Programme. Whilst this is considered to be the most cost effective method of financing.

Capital Programme and Funding – page 31 to 35

The original Capital Programme for 2024/25 is £11,409k, including an estimate of £1,000k for DFGs and £740k for replacement operational vehicles. The slippage from 2023/24 was £7,166k, including £2,529k of DFG's. There is also an additional £265k for DFGs

The indicative capital outturn at 31st March 2025 is spend in the sum of £14,588k. The Capital Outturn will be reviewed throughout the year.

Collection Fund 2024/25 (Council Tax & NNDR) - page 35 to 37

Council Tax collection levels are recovering. However, they are still not back to pre-pandemic levels. Business rate collection appears to have returned to typical levels experienced pre-Covid, however there were two major appeals in 2022/23 which have distorted the comparative figures.

The Council Tax account is predicting an early surplus of £240k for Rossendale.

The **business rates** collection fund is predicting a deficit of £1,328k in 2024/25, the Council's share of the deficit is £531k. The Council has a Business Rate Retention Reserve to provide for any peaks and troughs in business rate income, therefore this deficit will be charged to the reserve. The reserve also contains funds from Government to cover the additional reliefs granted to business during Covid. Due to the complicated accounting process for business rates these funds have been released from the reserve into the collection fund over three years, of which 2023/24 was the final year.

Although it is anticipated the Council will suffer a collection fund loss, a pooling gain of £870k is estimated. The February 2024 MTFs included a pooling gain contribution of £500k, therefore if the current forecast remains at year end, it will result in a £370k surplus against that income budget, thus contributing towards alleviating pressure on the MTFs.

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Service Area	2024/25 App Budget £000	2024/25 Q2 Outturn £000	2024/25 Variance (Adv)/Fav £000	Variance last reported £000	Change in Qtr 2 (Adv)/Fav £000
Communities Directorate					
Customer Services and E-Government	1,742.9	1,850.4	(107.4)	(38.6)	(68.8)
Operational Functions	2,251.7	2,317.1	(65.4)	(120.9)	55.5
Parks and Cemeteries	945.8	942.0	3.8	19.9	(16.0)
Public Protection Unit	205.9	190.1	15.9	21.7	(5.9)
Environmental Health	212.2	199.2	13.0	1.5	11.4
Licensing & Enforcement	54.0	70.7	(16.8)	0.2	(17.0)
Communities Team	169.0	119.9	49.1	48.7	0.4
Economic Development Directorate					
Planning Services	310.1	314.8	(4.7)	(1.4)	(3.3)
Building Control Services	6.6	2.8	3.8	(2.3)	6.2
Regeneration	272.9	316.6	(44.7)	(37.4)	(7.3)
Property Services	235.4	279.7	(44.3)	(42.2)	(2.1)
Housing	273.5	387.6	(114.1)	(168.5)	54.4
Corporate Management Directorate					
Corporate Management	517.8	464.7	53.2	48.4	4.8
Legal Services	199.4	193.8	5.6	5.1	0.5
Local Land Charges	(4.9)	(17.1)	12.2	10.7	1.5
Democratic Services	627.3	552.4	74.9	87.3	(12.5)
Financial Services	769.9	773.4	(3.5)	54.3	(57.8)
People and Policy	801.14	749.8	51.3	46.0	5.3
Non Distributed Costs	106.01	125.1	(19.1)	(19.6)	0.5
Capital Financing and Interest	633.30	433.3	200.0	180.0	20.0
Leisure Services	(31.6)	23.5	(55.1)	(55.1)	(0.0)
Empty Homes Scheme	300.0	200.1	99.9	100.0	(0.1)
TOTAL Service Cost	10,598.25	10,489.82	107.6	137.8	(30.3)
Funded by					
Council Tax	(6,444.0)	(6,444.0)	-	-	-
Retained Business Rates	(2,335.0)	(2,335.0)	-	-	-
Funding Guarantee	(361.0)	(361.0)	-	-	-
Revenue Support Grant	(91.0)	(91.0)	-	-	-
Services Grant	(15.0)	(15.0)	-	-	-
New Homes Bonus	(163.0)	(163.0)	-	-	-
Collection Fund Surplus - Council Tax	(126.0)	(126.0)	-	-	-
Estimated NNDR Pooling/growth Gain	(500.0)	(500.0)	-	-	-
LESS Estimated use of Reserves	(563.2)	(454.8)	(107.6)	(137.9)	30.3
Net Budget Shortfall	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

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The position at Q2 2024/25 shows a favourable variance of £137.8k

The main variances are shown below: -

- Staff cost savings are estimated to be £21k to the year-end position, this is £204k short of the vacancy savings target of £225k. However, the estimates currently assume an extra 6.2% (average) pay award, the actual pay award has only been finalised following completion of this report. The flat rate pay award of £1,920 is materially within this amount.
- Fuel 'pump prices' continue to be monitored, Budgets for Fuel in 2024/25 remain at substantial levels totalling £489k which still includes the £60k premium for the use of HVO. In 23-24, due to the increasing differential between HVO and Diesel, a decision was taken to switch back to diesel until the two prices were more comparable. During Q2 2024/25 the differential between HVO and Diesel has reduced and HVO has been purchased during the period. As the two fuel types can be mixed, the decision regarding which fuel to use can be made on an order by order basis. At Q2 the surplus budget which includes £60k premium for HVO is £128.8k. So, if prices do rise due to global challenges there should be sufficient provision.
- Market income, budgeted at £28k, will not be received due to the refurbishment of Haslingden Market and there is an agreed rent free period with stall holders at Bacup Market until it closes for redevelopment. It is anticipated that this will at least be partially off-set by cost savings generated during market closures due to re-development works.
- The £34.6k favourable variance within Finance relates to staffing costs. There has been a transfer of staff into different roles within the department which has resulted in savings to two budgeted roles.
- In 2024/25 the Council has a total budget for Empty Homes related expenditure in the sum of £800k. This budget is split £300k (Revenue funding) and £500k (Capital funding.) At Q1 the predicted outturn is that the revenue out-turn will show an underspend of £100k and the capital underspend circa £300k. This is largely due to the considerable effort being made by the empty homes team to hand properties back in a timely and correct manner to avoid any future litigation. At the end of Q2, 12 properties remain on scheme and at time of publication 8 properties remain on scheme.

Target Efficiency Savings 2024-25

The Council agreed, as part of the 2024/25 Budget processes, a number of Efficiency Targets, including Staffing and Asset Management.

Whilst the indicative outturn position noted above requires a small contribution from reserves to balance the 2024/25 budget, the table below summaries efficiency performance against the individual budget headings.

A simple RAG Status (red, Amber, Green) has been used. Additional commentary is also provided and these areas of performance are considered in more detail in the main body of the report.

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Budget Proposals (Efficiency Targets)	2024-25	2024-25	2024-25	Commentary At Q2
	£000	£000	£000	
Income & Efficiencies Asset Management	Target	Q1	Q2	
Business Centre	(5)	(13)	(14)	Target Exceeded due to rent review implementation, reduced utility costs and new tenants moving into the building
Markets	(6)	-	-	Budgeted Income will not be received due to the refurb of Haslingden Market and an agreed rent free period for Bacup Market. This will be off-set against savings made due to the refurbishment of the markets.
Corporate Estates	(2)	-	(5)	Rent review ongoing. A full review of older leases is being carried out.
Council Offices	(13)	-	-	Full details for plans for Council owned offices are currently under review
Public Conveniences	(5)	-	-	All sites identified for sale have had successful offers made and it is hoped that the sales will complete end 2024/25
Depots	(11)	10	5	Ops team still occupying Tup Bridge. Move out date not yet confirmed therefore costs forecast for 12 month occupancy. This may reduce.
Sports Grounds	(8)	-	-	As part of the review of sports and leisure facilities it has become necessary to review utility usage at all sites. We are not predicting any savings until this is complete.
Public Halls	(2)	-	-	As above
	(52)	(3)	(14)	
Staffing				
Various Staffing Savings	(71)	(32)	(21)	Continue to be reviewed. See separate table
	(123)	(35)	(35)	

As can be seen in the above table, there is one area which has achieved and exceeded the targets set. Several of the above efficiency measures are dependent on the outcome of the sports and leisure facilities review, once this is complete it is hoped that budgeted savings will be achieved.

The staffing saving will be affected by the outcome of the pay-award for 24-25.

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Additional Narrative to General Fund Summary variances 2024/25	Q1 Fav/(Adv)	Q2 Fav/(Adv)	Q3 Fav/(Adv)	Q4 Fav/(Adv)	Total Fav/(Adv)	
Communitites Directorate						
Customer Services and e-Government						
Staff costs	0.1	(1.5)			(1.5)	
Benefits Admin Subsidy shortfall	(71.2)	(8.4)			(79.6)	
Central IT Costs	32.7	(58.9)			(26.2)	
Other minor variances	0.1	(0.2)			(0.1)	(107.4)
Operational Functions Including Parks						
Staff costs (including agency and overtime)	(195.1)	50.2			(144.9)	
Fuel, Vehicle Maint and Hire	113.9	(14.9)			99.0	
Parks & Open Spaces	2.5	(11.0)			(8.5)	
Garden Waste Income Less Costs	(13.2)	7.5			(5.7)	
Trade Waste & Bulks Net income	(6.6)	12.5			5.9	
Other minor variances	(2.5)	(4.9)			(7.4)	(61.6)
Communities Team	48.7	0.4			49.1	49.1
Env'tal Health, PPU, Licensing and Enforcement						
Staff costs	19.6	13.3			32.9	
Income Shortfall	(2.7)	(18.4)			(21.1)	
Other minor variances	6.5	(6.3)			0.2	12.0
Economic Development						
Staff costs (net of grant & fee income)	147.9	(12.1)			135.8	
Economic Development	(8.0)	(11.8)			(19.8)	
Market Income	(28.7)				(28.7)	
Housing	(192.5)	54.4			(138.1)	
Planning Consultancy Professional fees	(42.8)	(5.0)			(47.8)	
Planning Application Fee Income	(6.0)				(6.0)	
Planning Pre-apps	(24.6)	8.0			(16.6)	
Building Control Fee Income	(2.4)	5.6			3.2	
Planning /Building Control misc under/over	(7.2)				(7.2)	
Property Running costs	(14.4)	7.3			(7.1)	
Business Rates	16.3				16.3	
Spinning Point bus station	(4.0)				(4.0)	
Estates Income	(30.3)				(30.3)	
Valuation Fees & Professional Fees	(26.2)				(26.2)	
Tree Felling	(20.0)				(20.0)	
Other minor variances	(9.0)	1.5			(7.5)	(204.0)
Corporate Management						
Staff costs	158.5	(3.0)			155.5	
Legal income	(1.7)				(1.7)	
Legal Professional fees and ref books	2.7				2.7	
Election, Democratic Services and Member costs	45.9				45.9	
Land Charges income	12.6				12.6	
Internal and External Audit - Finance	15.7	(49.7)			(34.0)	
CIVICA Software update	(7.6)	(5.0)			(12.6)	
Leisure Services	(55.1)				(55.1)	
Bank & Cash Collection Charges	2.7				2.7	
Training	15.2				15.2	
Empty Homes	100.0				100.0	
Other minor variances	7.9	(0.6)			7.3	238.5
Non-Distributed Costs & Capital Financing						
Net Interest	180.0	20.0			200.0	
Employee & Pension Costs	(20.0)				(20.0)	
Other minor variances	0.4	0.5			0.9	180.9
Favourable/(adverse) variance	137.9	(30.3)	-	-	107.6	107.6

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Communities Directorate - Customer Services & IT

Period 6 (Sep)

Customer Services & ICT	2024/25 Orig Budget £000	Virements Budget £000	2024/25 App Budget £000	2024/25 Q2 Outturn £000	2024/25 Variance (Adv)/Fav £000	Variance last reported £000	Change in Qtr 2 (Adv)/Fav £000
Customer Services							
Benefits Administration	(117.6)	-	(117.6)	(66.2)	(51.4)	12.4	(63.7)
Benefits Granted	(23.7)	-	(23.7)	25.4	(49.1)	(120.4)	71.3
Local Tax Collection	(378.6)	-	(378.6)	(376.8)	(1.8)	(1.8)	-
Revenues & Benefits Partnership	1,158.1	-	1,158.1	1,135.4	22.7	35.8	(13.2)
Strategic Functions							
Management and Support	83.4	-	83.4	83.1	0.3	0.3	0.0
Service Assurance Team	147.2	-	147.2	162.0	(14.8)	(13.9)	(0.9)
Central Telephones	5.0	-	5.0	5.0	-	-	-
Central Printing	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
ICT Support	869.1	-	869.1	882.5	(13.4)	48.8	(62.2)
Total	1,742.9	-	1,742.9	1,850.4	(107.4)	(38.6)	(68.7)

Key changes made during the period to the full year forecast	Variance Bfwd £000	Variance this Qtr £000	Full-Yr Forecast £000
Benefits Admin			
Housing Benefit External Audit fee		(56.0)	(56.0)
Court fees/fines		4.6	4.6
Benefits Granted			
Benefits Admin Subsidy shortfall	(107.0)	57.9	(49.1)
Housing Benefits Overpmts Recovered			-
Revenues & Benefits Partnership			
Payments to Other LAs (Ribble Valley)		(1.8)	(1.8)
Partnership contracts	35.8	(13.1)	22.7
Management and Support			
Other minor variances	(1.1)	1.3	0.2
Service Assurance Team			
SAT staffing	1.5	(1.4)	0.1
SAT Team counter fraud work	(4.5)	3.9	(0.6)
Annual Licences		(15.8)	(15.8)
Other minor variances	(10.8)	12.3	1.5
ICT Support			
ICT Staff	(1.5)		(1.5)
Other minor variances	0.9	(0.9)	-
Central IT Costs			
Annual Licences	48.0	(86.6)	(38.6)
IT Equipment maintenance		9.7	9.7
Other Private Contractors (Disaster Recovery)		9.4	9.4
Other minor variances		7.7	7.7
Central Printing	-		-
Telephones			
TOTAL	(38.7)	(68.7)	(107.4)

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Customer Service & ICT Highlight Report – Q2 (September 2024)

Historic Issues

- None.

Current Quarter's Issues

At Outturn variance is £107.4k adverse, the main changes being: -

- Higher than anticipated costs for external audit of the Housing benefits administration, for the years 2023/24 and 2024/25. Giving an adverse variance of £56k
- The benefits granted outturn shows an adverse variance of £49k, due to the Housing Benefits subsidy shortfall being greater than anticipated. This is offset against higher than anticipated recovery of Housing benefits overpayments and unbudgeted funding received for Discretionary Housing. This is currently an estimation and will be monitored throughout the year.
- IT professional subscriptions and licences is estimated to have an adverse variance of £39k. A review of licences is carried out throughout the year to check for any potential overspends in this area.
- The contract with Capita is estimated to show savings of £23k for the year

Future Issues

- The Council's contract with Capita includes annual indexation increases linked to the higher of CPI or AWE.

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Communities Directorate

Period 6 (Sept)

Operations & Communities	2024/25 Orig Budget £000	Virements Budget £000	2024/25 App Budget £000	2024/25 Q2 Outturn £000	2024/25 Variance (Adv)/Fav £000	Variance last reported £000	Change in Qtr 2 (Adv)/Fav £000
Operational Functions							
Operations Admin & Vehicle Maintenance	421.9	-	421.9	456.6	(34.7)	(45.1)	10.4
Refuse & Recycling	1,530.4	-	1,530.4	1,587.7	(57.3)	(89.7)	32.4
Street Sweeping	299.3	-	299.3	272.8	26.6	13.8	12.8
Parks & Cemeteries							
Parks & Open Spaces	1,070.1	-	1,070.1	1,066.0	4.1	18.7	(14.6)
Cemeteries	(124.3)	-	(124.3)	(124.0)	(0.3)	1.1	(1.5)
Communities Team							
Area Forums	154.0	-	154.0	104.9	49.1	48.7	0.4
	15.0	-	15.0	15.0	-	-	-
Total	3,366.4	-	3,366.4	3,378.9	(12.5)	(52.3)	39.8

Key changes made during the period to the full year forecast	Variance Bfwd £000	Variance this Qtr £000	Full-Yr Forecast £000
Operations Admin & Vehicle Maintenance			
Operations Efficiency Saving on Henrietta Street	(87.0)		(87.0)
Henrietta Street Employee Related Costs	59.5	(0.3)	59.2
Henrietta Street Supplies & Services	(2.0)	(9.1)	(11.1)
Fleet Management Vacancy and Agency	(13.5)	27.0	13.5
Fleet Running Costs MOTs	(2.5)	(5.5)	(8.0)
Other Variances		(1.4)	(1.4)
Refuse & Recycling			
Refuse Salaries and Agency	(160.4)	(5.6)	(166.0)
Fuel Budget Savings	92.4	18.6	111.0
Garden Waste under achieved income	(13.2)	11.6	(1.6)
Trade Waste & Bulks- income	(6.6)	12.5	5.9
Other Variances - Supplies & services	(1.6)	(5.0)	(6.6)
Street Sweeping			
Street Sweeping Salaries and Agency	(4.1)	17.9	13.8
Street Sweep Refuse		(4.1)	(4.1)
Fuel Budget Savings	18.0		18.0
Other Variances	-	(1.1)	(1.1)
Parks & Open Spaces			
Parks Salary Variances (Including temporary gardeners)	9.2	12.4	21.6
Parks Costs	(7.5)	(5.0)	(12.5)
Parks Purchase of Tools/Equipment		(6.8)	(6.8)
Hire of Vehicle and Plant		(5.8)	(5.8)
Parks External Contractors		(10.5)	(10.5)
Fuel Budget Savings	6.0	(6.2)	(0.2)
Tyres - Renewal/Repair		3.0	3.0
Trees, Seeds and Plants		(5.5)	(5.5)
Parks & Open Spaces S106 and Other Contributions F	10.0	-	10.0
Insurance Savings		9.7	9.7
Cemeteries			
Cemetery Income & Internment Fees	1.1	(1.4)	(0.3)
Communities			
Communities staffing	48.7	0.4	49.1
Other Variances			
Overtime Budgets (net all areas)	1.2	-	1.2
TOTAL	(52.3)	39.8	(12.5)

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Operations Highlight Report – Q2 (September 2024)

Historic Issues

- The service last year and prior years have always needed to rely on Agency Support. This need continues into 2024-25. .

Current Quarter Issues

- At the end of Q2, Operations and Green Spaces have an adverse variance of £62k. Staffing costs are overspent by £145k which includes agency and overtime. A significant contributing factor is the difficulty in recruiting mechanics for the workshop.
- The service workshop continues to use Agency which does cost more by around £20k. Additionally, within the refuse service area the forecast out-turn for agency throughout the year is £144k adverse compared to the budget.
- Despite making savings on the fuel budgets the efficiency saving expected for the services will not be met which is £87k.

Fleet

- There is currently sufficient budget to cover the Fuel costs in 24-25 if the fuel prices remain stable
- Due to there being two vacant posts, and one post being vacant at the start of the year, employment costs are showing an annual saving £13k. This includes agency costs that are being used to cover the vacant posts.

Refuse

- The shortfall in Garden Waste Service Subscriptions at the end of Q1 is £2k.
- The fuel costs forecast outturn is a net saving of £111k across operations but subject to possible change.

Street Sweep

- The fuel costs forecast outturn is a net saving of £18k but subject to possible change

Parks

- There is one vacant post for the Parks Inspector.
- Playing Fields are within budget and so are the Play Grounds due to savings on insurance for the year of £6k.
- Within Playgrounds some S106 Funds have been released in Q1 of £10k.

Cemeteries

- Cemeteries has a minimal overspend and will be monitored over the future quarters.
- The budgeted running costs for the cemeteries have now been transferred into this area rather than the costs being recorded in Facilities.

Communities Team

- There is one vacant post in the Communities team, resulting in a saving of £50k.

The Future

- The Government has stipulated that by March 2026 every household will have a weekly food waste collection. This will be fully funded at least initially and from a capital perspective. The Council has been notified of the amount of capital funding it will receive, and is awaiting the revenue funding notification.

The Council is now working up plans to deliver the waste transfer station. This will assist in driving through efficiencies in refuse collection operations, which will contribute towards funding the capital expenditure required to build a transfer station.

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Communities Directorate

Period 6 (Sep)

Public Protection	2024/25 Orig Budget £000	Virements Budget £000	2024/25 App Budget £000	2024/25 Q2 Outturn £000	2024/25 Variance (Adv)/Fav £000	Variance last reported £000	Change in Qtr 2 (Adv)/Fav £000
Public Protection Unit	205.9	-	205.9	190.1	15.9	21.7	(5.9)
Environmental Health	212.2	-	212.2	199.2	13.0	1.5	11.4
Licensing & Enforcement	54.0	-	54.0	70.7	(16.8)	0.2	(17.0)
Total	472.1	-	472.1	460.1	12.0	23.4	(11.4)

Key changes made during the period to the full year forecast	Variance Bfwd £000	Variance this Qtr £000	Full-Yr £000
PPU			
PPU Staffing	11.3		11.3
Misc Income	1.8	1.1	2.9
CCTV	6.7	(6.7)	-
Other Variance	2.3	(0.6)	1.7
Environmental Health			
Environmental Health - staffing and consultant	6.5	17.9	24.4
Income Shortfall Offset by Direct Cost underspend	(4.5)	(6.9)	(11.4)
Licensing & Enforcement			
Licensing & Enforcement - staffing	1.8	(4.6)	(2.8)
Licensing income		(11.5)	(11.5)
Other misc variances	(2.5)		(2.5)
TOTAL	23.40	(11.4)	12.0

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Environmental Health, Public Protection Unit and Licensing and Enforcement Service Highlight Report – Q2 (Sept 2024)

Historic Issues

- Nothing reported.

Current Quarter Issues

- At the end of Q2 Environmental Health, Public Protection Unit and the Licensing and Enforcement budgets are projected to underspend by £12k primarily due to staffing changes generating saving of £11.3k and below reports the breakdown within the services.

Public Protection Unit

- The staffing costs are projected to underspend due to staffing succession - new manager appointed at lower point of scale £11.3k.
- The cost of dog services are currently within budget at Q2 with an under spend of £5.9k.
- During the year PPU has received contributions totalling £2.9k.

Environmental Health

- At Q2 staffing costs are underspent by £24.4k; one member of staff is on reduced hours working 4 days a week and a post assumed vacant for 3 months
- Supplies & services are projected to over spend by £11.5k within Licensing

Licensing & Enforcement

- The staffing costs are projected to over spend by £2.8k
- With 6 months of licensing income now received it is projected income will under achieve by £11.5k.

Future Issues

- None

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Economic Development Directorate

Period 6 (Sep)

Economic Development & Regeneration Services	2024/25 Orig Budget £000	Virements Budget £000	2024/25 App Budget £000	2024/25 Q2 Outturn £000	2024/25 Variance (Adv)/Fav £000	Variance last reported £000	Change in Qtr 2 (Adv)/Fav £000
Planning							
Development Control	150.6	-	150.6	158.3	(7.7)	(1.9)	(5.8)
Forward Planning	159.5	-	159.5	156.5	3.0	0.5	2.5
Building Control							
Building Control - Fee Earning Account	(30.9)	-	(30.9)	(35.2)	4.3	(1.7)	6.0
Building Control - Statutory Function	34.5	-	34.5	34.6	(0.1)	0.0	(0.1)
Building Control - Street Signs	3.0	-	3.0	3.4	(0.4)	(0.7)	0.2
Regeneration							
Economic Regeneration	205.9	-	205.9	227.7	(21.8)	(8.2)	(13.6)
Whitaker Park Museum	25.9	-	25.9	20.9	5.0	(0.5)	5.5
Tourism	20.0	-	20.0	20.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Markets	21.1	-	21.1	49.0	(27.9)	(28.7)	0.8
Property Services & Facilities Management							
Property Services	69.4	-	69.4	62.6	6.8	3.5	3.3
Corporate Estates	(374.4)	-	(374.4)	(444.4)	70.0	62.5	7.5
Non Domestic Estates	(136.3)	-	(136.3)	(145.2)	9.0	10.9	(1.9)
Office Accommodation	(33.0)	-	(33.0)	47.3	(80.3)	(77.4)	(2.9)
Operational Properties	302.5	-	302.5	385.9	(83.5)	(82.4)	(1.0)
Leisure Properties	55.0	-	55.0	48.5	6.5	9.6	(3.1)
Bus Shelters	148.6	-	148.6	136.6	12.0	18.0	(6.0)
Business Centre	203.6	-	203.6	188.5	15.2	13.2	2.0
Strategic Housing							
Housing Strategy	42.5	-	42.5	43.8	(1.3)	0.1	(1.3)
Private Sector Housing Renewals	11.4	-	11.4	(12.7)	24.1	23.6	0.5
Homelessness	219.6	-	219.6	356.6	(137.0)	(192.2)	55.2
Total	1,098.4	-	1,098.4	1,301.5	(204.0)	(251.9)	47.9

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Key changes made during the period	Variance Bfwd £000	Variance this Qtr £000	Full-Yr £000
Planning			
Forward Planning staffing	0.8		0.8
Planning staffing	78.5	(9.4)	69.1
Planning Consultancy fees/ Legal fees	(42.8)	(5.0)	(47.8)
Planning Application Fee Income	(6.0)		(6.0)
Pre-App Income	(24.6)	8.0	(16.6)
Other Miscellaneous Variances	(4.9)	2.3	(2.6)
Building Control			
Building Control staffing	0.0		0.0
Building Control Fees	(2.4)	5.6	3.2
Building Control - Statutory Function	-		
Building Control - Street Signs	(0.6)		(0.6)
Other Miscellaneous Variances	(1.7)	1.3	(0.4)
Regeneration			
Economic Regeneration Staffing	(1.6)	(1.6)	(3.2)
Recruitment Advertising	(0.8)		(0.8)
Economic Regenerations Costs and contributions	(5.6)	4.3	(1.3)
Markets Income under achieved	(28.7)		(28.7)
Whitaker Park Museum	0.5	(10.2)	(9.7)
Tourism	-		-
Strategic Housing			
Housing Strategy Staffing	0.1		0.1
Private Sector Housing Renewals staffing	23.6	(1.1)	22.5
Homelessness Staffing and Agency	14.8		14.8
Flexible Homelessness Grant Increase	71.1		71.1
Costs for Resources on Homelessness excluding B&B Costs underspent	52.1		52.1
Recharge from the Collection Fund for Costs associated with Bed & Breakfast Provision	(451.2)	35.1	(416.1)
Increase Income from Housing Benefits to Cover direct allocation of Bed & Breakfast	121.0	20.0	141.0
Property Services Team			-
Property Services staffing / recruitment	31.7		31.7
Pool Car, Emergency Planning, Xmas	4.6	(1.0)	3.6
Corporate Estates			
Corporate Estates rental income	(30.3)		(30.3)
Futures Park rental income	(0.4)		(0.4)
Valuation Fees	(5.9)		(5.9)
Professional Fees	(20.3)	1.4	(18.9)
Operational Properties			
Property Running Costs: Repairs & Maintenance	(0.6)	0.3	(0.3)
Gas, Electricity, Water	(13.5)	7.0	(6.5)
NNDR	16.3		16.3
Tree Felling	(20.0)		(20.0)
Bus Station / Shelters			-
Spinning Point Bus Station running costs	1.8	(3.5)	(1.7)
Spinning Point Bus Station - Departure charges	(5.8)		(5.8)
Bus Shelters			-
Business Centre			
Business Centre Cleaning	(1.0)		(1.0)
Business Centre rentals	(9.9)	1.8	(8.1)
Business Centre Fit Tarrif	1.5		1.5
Other Miscellaneous Variances	8.3	(7.4)	0.9
TOTAL	(251.9)	47.9	(204.0)

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Economic Development & Regeneration Highlight Report – Q2 (Sept 2024)

Historic Issues

- None

Current Quarter Issues

Planning & Building Control are showing an adverse variance of £0.9k

- Planning/Forward Planning staffing (inc agency/consultancy) costs are showing a favourable variance of £69.9k. Planning have 2 vacant posts
- Building Control staffing costs are projected to be on budget
- The Planning fee income is showing an under achievement of £6k, and pre-application fees an under achievement of £16.6k. This is in part due to a limit on applications being processed
- Building Control income are projecting a favourable variance of £3.2k.

Economic Regeneration has an adverse variance of £44.7k

- Staff Costs in Economic Regeneration are slightly over budget. Direct Costs for Professional Fees and subscriptions are overspent by £4k.
- The Q2 forecast shortfall on Income for Markets is £28.7k. Work has begun on Haslingden Market during 24-25 and Bacup Market Traders have been offered a rent free period until works on the site commence
- The Museum is projected to overspend by £9.7k, this will be closely monitored.
- Tourism at Q2 is within Budget.

Housing has an adverse variance of £114.1k

- Private Sector Renewal Team have a current vacancy which has not yet been appointed to at Q2 giving potential savings of £22.5k for the year. This will be reviewed if the position is filled
- Staffing underspends at Q2 generated by the Housing Options Team is £14.8k due to staff being appointed at below budgeted rate generating some savings against the budget.
- RBC are receiving additional funding resources within Housing in addition to the budgeted amount of £71.1k. In addition, RBC are in receipt of additional Housing Benefit from DWP to cover the direct costs charged to the Housing Options Team for Bed & Breakfast charges from the hotels. This covers circa 1/7th of the costs incurred
- Most other budgeted costs at Q2 for resources on Homelessness are projected to underspend. With the exception of the costs associated with Bed and Breakfast. Over the last few years these costs have significantly increased and this situation is being closely monitored and other temporary accommodation options are being reviewed. It is anticipated that demand for this service will at best remain static but is likely to increase

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- The forecasted overspend on temporary accommodation costs for 24-25 based on actual within Quarter 2 is £416.1k compared to £321.3k for 23-24 which is an estimated 40% increase in this current financial year. This is because housing benefit can only be recovered at the one bed Local Housing Allowance (LHA) rate for bed & breakfast costs incurred during the year. This is a national issue due to the increase in private rental costs and the fact that the LHA rate hasn't increased since 2020 until 2024 and is still not comparable to the Private Sector rent levels. The Housing Team are actively working to try to reduce this overspend:-
 - Officers are using the additional dispersed accommodation purchased
 - Additional properties have been purchased to reduce the number of families placed within B&B and the authority is looking to purchase additional properties in the year
 - More favourable rates have been negotiated with a B&B if a resident is placed for more than 6 weeks
 - Responsibility for some families has been reallocated to Children's Services

The Council is continuing to receive ring fenced grants during 2024/25 to help fund the increased costs of temporary accommodation. The situation will be closely monitored so decisions can be made as we progress through the year.

Property Services and Facilities Management is currently showing an adverse variance of £45.3k.

- Salary costs are showing a favourable variance of £31.7k. This is due to there being one vacant post
- Facilities running costs are showing a favourable variance of £9.5k
- The estates income is showing an overall adverse variance of £30.3k. The section is seeking new income streams and completing rent reviews to reduce this variance.
- Valuation Fees / professional fees are showing an over spend of £5.9k.
- Professional fees are showing an over spend of £18.9k due to enforcement advisory for evictions of Travellers
- The Business Centre room hire are projecting an under achievement of £8.1k. Property are looking to increase tenant occupancy which will seek to reduce this deficit.
- Spinning point departure charges are projected to under achieve by £5.8k
- Tree Felling across unmaintained land are projected to spend £30k

Future Issues

- The council has entered into a new contract for gas and electricity with a potential of reducing these costs

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Corporate Services Directorate

Period 6 (Sep)

Corporate Management	2024/25 Orig Budget £000	Virements Budget £000	2024/25 App Budget £000	2024/25 Q2 Outturn £000	2024/25 Variance (Adv)/Fav £000	Variance last reported £000	Change in Qtr 2 (Adv)/Fav £000
Corporate Management							
Executive Office	453.4	-	453.4	398.4	55.0	50.2	4.8
Corporate Contingency	30.2	-	30.2	30.2	-	-	-
Corporate Subscriptions	34.2	-	34.2	36.1	(1.8)	(1.8)	-
Legal Services	199.4	-	199.4	193.8	5.6	5.1	0.5
Land Charges	(4.9)	-	(4.9)	(17.1)	12.2	10.7	1.5
Democratic Services							
Electoral Registration	94.4	-	94.4	89.1	5.3	5.1	0.2
Elections	89.7	-	89.7	89.7	0.0	0.0	0.0
Democratic Support	373.0	-	373.0	313.8	59.2	72.9	(13.7)
Mayoralty & Civic Events	67.7	-	67.7	57.3	10.4	9.4	1.1
Town Twinning	2.5	-	2.5	2.5	0.0	0.0	0.0
Financial Services							
Treasury Management	200.3	-	200.3	244.4	(44.1)	2.7	(46.8)
Insurance, Risk & Audit Fees	64.7	-	64.7	48.9	15.7	15.7	-
Financial Services	504.9	-	504.9	480.0	24.9	35.9	(11.0)
People & Policy							
Human Resources	501.3	-	501.3	479.0	22.2	32.8	(10.5)
Corporate Support	295.9	-	295.9	270.8	25.1	9.2	15.9
Publicity	4.0	-	4.0	-	4.0	4.0	-
Leisure Services	(31.6)	-	(31.6)	23.5	(55.1)	(55.1)	(0.0)
Empty Homes Scheme	300.0	-	300.0	200.1	99.9	100.0	(0.1)
Total	3,179.0	-	3,179.0	2,940.5	238.5	296.8	(58.3)

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Key changes made during the period to the full year forecast	Variance Bfwd £000	Variance this Qtr £000	Full-Yr £000
Executive Office			
Salary variances	53.6	5.0	58.6
Other minor variances	(5.2)	(0.3)	(5.5)
Legal Services			
Salary variances	0.2		0.2
Professional fees	2.7		2.7
Legal Income	(1.7)	1.0	(0.7)
Other Legal Misc under/ over	4.0	0.3	4.3
Land Charges			
Salary variances	(2.4)		(2.4)
Search Income	12.6	1.5	14.1
Other minor variances	0.7		0.7
Democratic Services			
Salary variances Elections	5.0	(11.3)	(6.3)
Other Election Misc under/ over	(0.1)		(0.1)
Salary variances Democratic Support	41.1		41.1
Members Costs	33.5		33.5
Other Dem Misc under /over	7.5	(1.9)	5.6
Treasury Management			
Bank Charges / Bank interest	2.7	2.8	5.5
External Audit fees		(49.7)	(49.7)
Insurance, Risk & Audit Fees			
LCC Audit fees	15.7		15.7
Financial Services			
Salary variances - Accountants	23.4	(0.6)	22.8
Salary variances - Exchequer	14.5	(2.7)	11.8
CIVICA test data	(6.8)	(5.0)	(11.8)
Other misc under / (over) spends	5.0	(2.7)	2.3
Human Resources			
Salary variances	14.6	(9.8)	4.8
Authority wide Training	15.2		15.2
Other minor variances	3.5	(1.3)	2.2
Corporate Support			
Salary variances	8.5	16.4	24.9
Publicity	4.1		4.1
Empty Homes	100.0	-	100.0
Leisure	(55.1)	-	(55.1)
TOTAL	296.8	(58.3)	238.5

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Corporate Management Highlight Report – Q2 (Sept 2024)

Historic Issues

- None

Current Quarter Issues

The Corporate Management outturn is forecast to be a favourable variance of £238.5k, the main movements being: -

- Staffing cost projected variances at Q2 are showing a favourable variance of £155.5k.
 - Land Charges – are showing an adverse variance of £2.4k.
 - Democratic Services – are showing a favourable variance of £29.8k due to reduced working hours. An appointment has now been made to the vacant post.
 - Elections – are showing a favourable variance of £5k.
 - Corporate management – savings of £58.6k due to the vacancy of the Director of Communities position.
 - Financial Services – is showing a favourable variance of £34.6k.
 - People & Policy – is showing a favourable variance of £29.7k.
 - Legal salary costs are within budget
- Local Land Charges income is showing a favourable variance of £12.4k.
- Members costs are showing an underspend of £33.5k due to reduced number of councillors and cabinet members
- The Empty Homes scheme is estimated to have an underspend of £100k

Future Issues

None

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Corporate Services Directorate

Period 6 (Sep)

Non-Distributed Costs & Capital Financing	2024/25 Orig Budget £000	Virements Budget £000	2024/25 App Budget £000	2024/25 Q2 Outturn £000	2024/25 Variance (Adv)/Fav £000	Variance last reported £000	Change in Qtr2 (Adv)/Fav £000
Non Distributed Costs							
Employee & Pension Costs	95.2	-	95.2	115.2	(20.0)	(20.0)	-
Other Non-distributed Costs	10.8	-	10.8	9.9	0.9	0.4	0.5
Capital Financing							
Minimum Revenue Provision	644.1	-	644.1	644.1	-	-	-
Interest (net)	(10.8)	-	(10.8)	(210.8)	200.0	180.0	20.0
Total	739.3	-	739.3	558.4	180.9	160.4	20.5

Key changes made during the period to the full year forecast	Variance Bfwd £000	Variance this Qtr £000	Full-Yr Forecast £000
Employee & Pension Costs			-
Superann additional years/Contribution to Pension deficit	(20.0)		(20.0)
Other minor variances	0.4	0.5	0.9
Capital Financing			
Interest Receivable	180.0	20.0	200.0
MRP			-
TOTAL	160.4	20.5	180.9

Non-Distributed Costs & Capital Financing Highlight Report – Q2 (Sept 2024)

Historic Issues

- Savings on the pension costs fall into two areas; savings on historical pension costs as former employees pass away and the advance payment of pension costs at a discount, which reduce Council costs.

Current Quarter Issues

- Net interest for the year is a favourable variance of £200k as per the following:
 - Income relating to longer term, high interest, deposits had matured in this period.
 - Officers have been working hard to maximise interest receivable on the Council's cash balances.

Future Issues

A significant reduction in interest rates would reduce the amount of interest income that we receive.

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Earmarked Reserves

Earmarked Reserves (cash-backed items only)	Local Business Rates Retention Reserve	Transitional Budgetary Support	Response & Recovery Reserve	Rawtenstall Bus Station Committed sum	Directorate Reserves	MMI	General Reserves	Total Reserves
Balance at 01/04/2024	1,028.0	4,865.0	558.0	486.0	2,160.0	229.0	1,000.0	10,326.0
Funds Received 2024/25								
Collection Fund								0.0
Collection Fund - S31 Grants (NNDR3)		878.0						878.0
Collection Fund - Renewable Energy (NNDR1/3)		279.0						279.0
Business Rates Pooling net gain								0.0
New Homes Bonus		163.0						163.0
Services Grant		85.0						85.0
Funding Guarantee		290.0						290.0
Other Revenue income received								0.0
Total Funds Available	1,028.0	6,560.0	558.0	486.0	2,160.0	229.0	1,000.0	12,021.0
2024/25 Published Budget Utilisation								
Retained Business Rates								0.0
New Homes Bonus		(163.0)						(163.0)
Services Grant		(85.0)						(85.0)
Funding Guarantee		(290.0)						(290.0)
General budget support		(454.8)						(454.8)
2024/25 Other Utilisation Plans								
Transfers between Reserves		149.0	(149.0)					0.0
Other Commitments								0.0
Total Utilisation Commitment	0.0	(843.8)	(149.0)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	(992.8)
Reserve Estimates 31/3/2025	1,028.0	5,716.2	409.0	486.0	2,160.0	229.0	1,000.0	11,028.2

Current issues

The reserves balances as at 1st April 2024 are £10,326k as shown in the table above, and of this balance c£2,054k is ring-fenced. As noted on page 2, the forecast positive variance at Q2 of £107.6k will reduce the contribution required from the Transitional Reserve to support the budget.

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Grants Unapplied

Grants Unapplied (* denotes a capital grant)	Disabled Facilities Grants *	UK Shared Prosperity Grant (Revenue)	UK Shared Prosperity Grant (Capital) *	Capital Regeneration Programme (CRP)	On-Street Residential Charge Point Scheme (ORCS)	Local Authority Housing Fund (LAHF)	Total
	£000	£000	£000	£'000	£'000	£'000	
	AL030132	AL030142	AL030143	AL030143 CB030805	AL030143	AL030143	
Balance at 01/04/2024	2,645.3	30.0	21.0	670.5	128.7	687.8	4,183.3
New Funds Received 2024/25							
Grant due/received	1,265.3	866.0	815.3				2,946.6
Total Funds Available	3,910.6	896.0	836.3	670.5	128.7	687.8	7,129.9
Utilisation in 2024/25							
DFGs Outturn 2024/25	(1,265.0)						(1,265.0)
UKSPF Revenue & Capital Allocations		(896.0)	(836.3)				(1,732.3)
CRP Markets and Gyrotory				(670.5)			(670.5)
On-Street Residential Charge Point Scheme (ORCS)					(128.7)		(128.7)
Local Authority Housing Fund (LAHF)						0.0	0.0
Anticipated Balance 31/03/2025	2,645.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	687.8	3,333.4
Future Utilisation Plans							
2025/26 plans	(1,380.6)					(687.8)	(2,068.4)
2026/27 plans	(1,265.0)						(1,265.0)
Potential Reserve Balances	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

In addition to the £2,645k of unspent DFG grant brought forward 1st April 2024, the 2024/25 allocation of £1,265k has been confirmed, giving total DFG resources of £3,911k. For the purpose of the above table, future utilisation plans recognise an estimated profile of DFG grants received to date only, and do not include estimation of any future receipts from the Better Care Fund. The Council's approved Medium Term Capital Strategy assumes DFG grant receipts in the sum of £1,000k per year over the plan period and will be updated in due course to reflect the recent confirmation that the DFG allocation for the Council for 2024/25 is £1,265k.

The council has been granted a share of the UK Shared Prosperity Funds between 2022/23 – 2025/26, over 3 years. As at the 1st April 2024 the brought forward balances on the UKSPF for both Revenue and Capital were £30k and £21k respectively. There have been funds received at the start of the year of which have been receipted amounting to £866k on Revenue and £815.3k on Capital. The table above shows how this will be used during 2024/25 as all funding needs to be spent by 31st March 2025.

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Staff Costs, including agency

Net Employment Costs 2024/25 to end Sept 2024	YTD Budget £000	YTD Actual £000	YTD Variance (Adv)/Fav £000	Variance last Qtr (Adv)/Fav £000	Change this Qtr (Adv)/Fav £000	FTE Original Budget 2024/25	FTE Changes during 2024/25	Current Vacant Posts
Communities Directorate								
Customer Services	193	193	0	0	(0)	7.8	0.0	0
Operations Service	1,054	1,101	(47)	(25)	(22)	52.0	0.0	3
Parks & Cemeteries	423	387	36	20	16	21.8	0.0	2
Public Protection Unit	78	68	10	(5)	14	3.0	0.0	0
Environmental Health	129	138	(9)	7	(16)	5.0	0.0	1
Licensing & Enforcement	69	63	6	3	3	5.0	0.0	0
Communities Team	68	40	28	14	14	2.8	0.0	1
Economic Development Directorate								
Planning Services	277	282	(5)	12	(17)	10.6	0.0	2
Building Control Services	71	68	3	1	2	3.0	0.0	0
Regeneration	187	228	(41)	(6)	(36)	8.5	0.0	0
Property Services	86	53	33	21	11	4.0	0.0	0
Housing	199	162	37	13	23	8.5	0.0	1
Corporate Services								
Corporate Management	225	150	75	35	40	3.0	0.0	0
Legal Services	93	88	5	3	3	3.0	0.0	0
Local Land Charges	27	28	(1)	1	(2)	1.2	0.0	0
Democratic Services	139	113	26	13	13	6.4	0.0	0
Financial Services	250	234	17	0	16	10.5	0.0	0
People & Policy	390	335	56	39	16	16.4	0.0	1
Leisure Services	31	29	2	1	1	1.0	0.0	0
Empty Homes	35	33	2	1	1	1.8	0.0	0
Total	4,024	3,793	231	150	81	175.3	0.0	11.0
Adjust - Impact of the Pay award			(235)					
Additional Leave			25					
Total Staff Savings			21					
Original Savings Target			225					
Staff Variance			(204)					

The net employee underspend at Q2 is £231k excluding the pay award. Once the pay award (Estimated at £235k) is factored in, this has an adverse variance of £4k. Savings relating to additional leave of £25k makes the total staff saving of £21k. The target for the year is £225k leaving an estimated shortfall of £204k at Q2.

Whilst a saving against budget on salaries is beneficial from a financial perspective, there is a risk that this will have a negative impact on the workforce as workloads increase to cover the vacant posts.

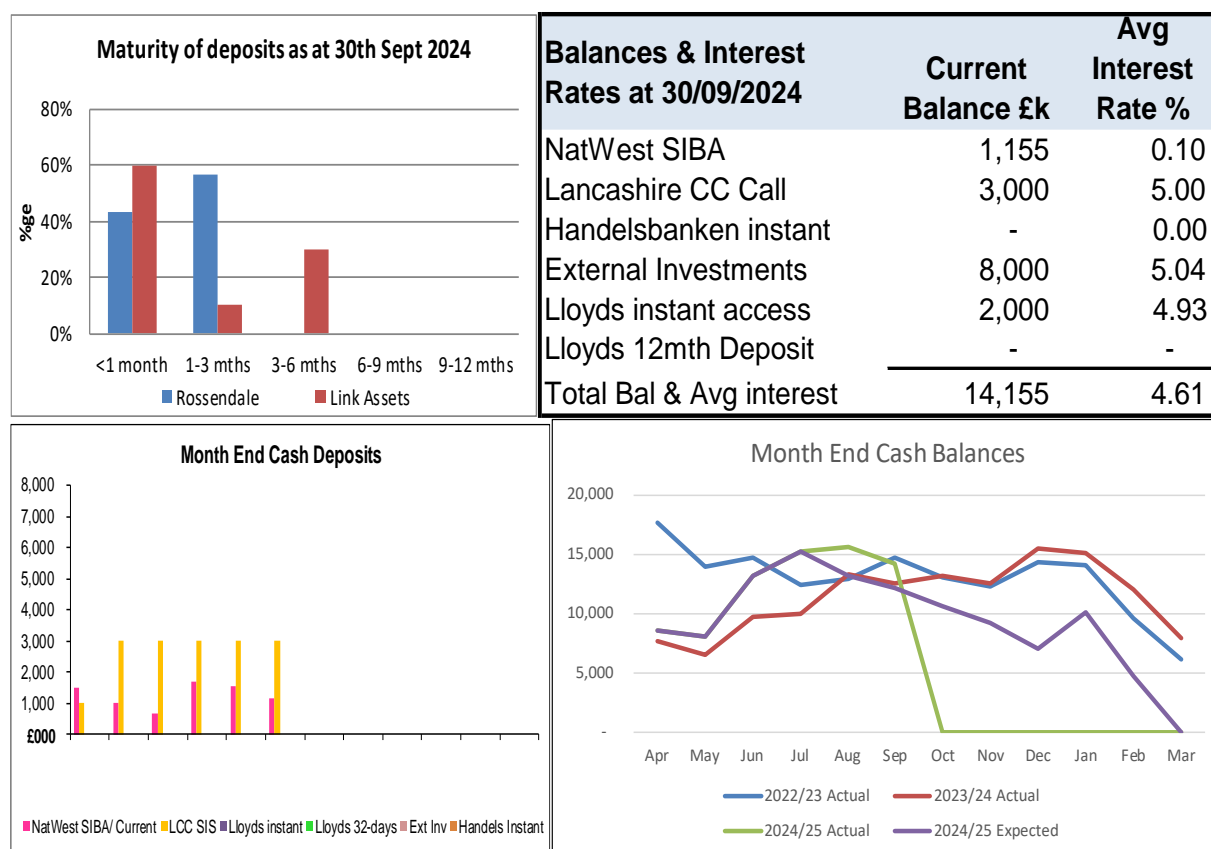
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Treasury Management & Cash Flow Monitoring

At the end of September the bank balances were £14.2m. This is lower than in previous years due to funds being used for internal borrowing for capital schemes and all residual Covid monies being returned to Government in the previous year.

Despite the recent drops in interest rates, over the last two years the Bank Rate has maintained consistently high levels. Given the high rate over the last two years, and the temporary cash balances available to invest, the Council has continued to take a more proactive approach to managing its cash balances in 2024/25 to maximise interest receivable, relative to its budget estimate, and to mitigate the impact of rising costs as far as possible, a result of historically high inflation pressures.



The Bank of England voted to increase the 'Bank Rate' for the final time on 3rd August 2023, increasing from 5.0% to 5.25%. The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) then decreased the bank rate in August 2024 by 0.25% back down to 5.0%. It is anticipated that the bank rate will decrease further in 2024. The full impact of the fall in rates is not likely to be felt until the second half of the year when cash balances are also anticipated to reduce.

The Council's strategy remains to retain a significant portion of its balances as liquid funds, to ensure it can respond promptly when required to meet its commitments as they fall due (revenue and capital expenditure).

Instant access arrangements typically return lower interest rates despite the recent increase in bank rate. In some cases there has been no uplift to interest rates on offer to the Council from its existing relationships. Officers are working to generate the highest level of interest income possible whilst maintaining the ability to access funds when needed.

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As per the commentary above, the Council is taking a more proactive approach to fixed and longer-term investments for a smaller proportion of its surplus balances. In accordance with the approved Treasury Management Strategy, these deposits will be placed with high quality Counterparties eg Central Government, Other Local Authorities. The strategy is considered prudent in the context of CIPFA's Prudential Code which prioritises Security and Liquidity over Yield (SLY).

At 30th September 2024, the Council's portfolio mix consists of £3m in an LCC call account, £2m in a Lloyds instant access account, £8m on deposit with the DMO for varying periods up to 3 months and liquid funds of £1.15m.

Interest Forecast	Budget 2024/25	Forecast 2024/25	Variance Fav/(Adv)	Change Fav/(Adv)
Revenue				
Interest payable (PWLB)	(109.0)	(109.0)	0.0	0.0
Other interest payable	(1.0)	(1.0)	0.0	0.0
Misc Interest income	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Bank Interest income	120.0	300.0	180.0	180.0
Net Interest	10.0	190.0	180.0	180.0

The average effective interest rate at the end of Q2 was 4.61%.

Interest Paid/Received

The budget for interest in 2024/25 is a net income of £3k, current estimates are that the outturn will exceed budget. The current estimated interest income is based on falling interest rates and reduced levels of available cash.

Borrowing

The Council has an identified a 'prudential' borrowing need to finance its Capital expenditure plans, in the sum of £6.2m, over the plan period to 2024/25 - 2026/27.

The increase to Bank Rate during the last financial year has affected the borrowing rates on offer from PWLB.

Given the updated cashflow forecast above, the Council's Capital plans, and in accordance with the approved Treasury Management Strategy, the Council continues to assess its borrowing options and timing of any external borrowing, given the delay to the repayment of sums to Government, and the positive impact on its working capital.

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Interest rate forward predictions

The Council's treasury management advisors, Link, have reviewed their interest rate forecast over the next 12 months following Bank Rate change at the end of Q, suggestions of future rate reductions in the short-term and corresponding falling inflation rates.

Link Group Interest Rate View	08.01.24												
	Mar-24	Jun-24	Sep-24	Dec-24	Mar-25	Jun-25	Sep-25	Dec-25	Mar-26	Jun-26	Sep-26	Dec-26	Mar-27
BANK RATE	5.25	5.25	4.75	4.25	3.75	3.25	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00
3 month ave earnings	5.30	5.30	5.00	4.50	4.00	3.50	3.30	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00
6 month ave earnings	5.20	5.10	4.80	4.30	3.80	3.30	3.20	3.10	3.10	3.10	3.10	3.10	3.10
12 month ave earnings	5.00	4.90	4.60	4.10	3.70	3.20	3.20	3.10	3.10	3.10	3.10	3.20	3.20
5 yr PWLB	4.50	4.40	4.30	4.20	4.10	4.00	3.80	3.70	3.60	3.60	3.50	3.50	3.50
10 yr PWLB	4.70	4.50	4.40	4.30	4.20	4.10	4.00	3.90	3.80	3.70	3.70	3.70	3.70
25 yr PWLB	5.20	5.10	4.90	4.80	4.60	4.40	4.30	4.20	4.20	4.10	4.10	4.10	4.10
50 yr PWLB	5.00	4.90	4.70	4.60	4.40	4.20	4.10	4.00	4.00	3.90	3.90	3.90	3.90

Link also provide their view of 25 year borrowing rates from the Public Works Loan Board (PWLB). This forecast is based on a concessionary rate reduction to the standard rate for new loans, known as the 'Certainty Rate'. This discount is currently equal to a 20 basis point reduction to the standard rate. For clarity, the above table includes the Certainty Rate.

The Council completed the annual application for access to the Certainty rate for 2025/26 to support its Capital borrowing plans on the most favourable terms available.

Treasury Management Practices (TMPs) and Prudential Indicators

The Council's Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2024/25 was approved by Council on 28th February 2024.

Prudential Indicators

The updated Prudential Indicators – taking into account the Q2 Monitoring position are shown below.

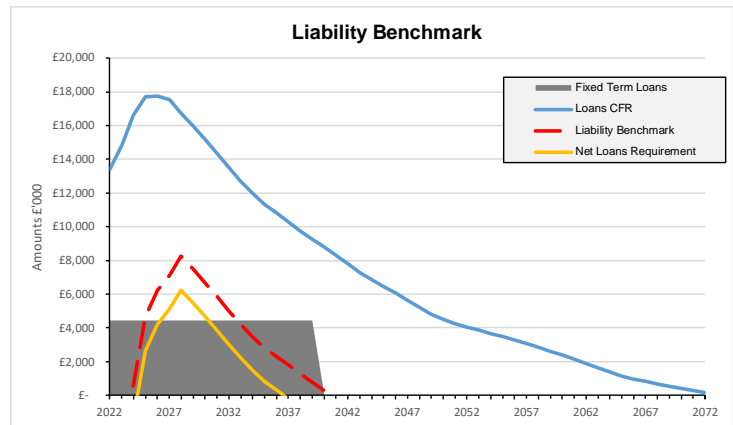
Capital Expenditure	Original 2024/25 £'000	Q2 Revised £'000	Financing of Capital Expenditure	Original 2024/25 £'000	Q2 Revised £'000
Climate Change	1,089	669	Capital Receipts	-	200
Corp Services & Buildings	700	1,152	Capital Grants	7,441	11,696
Housing	1,500	2,256	S106	-	274
Ops & Coms	2,544	3,390	Capital Reserves	-	-
Regeneration	5,576	7,121	Earmarked Reserves	-	-
Total	11,409	14,588	Total in-year resources	7,441	12,170
			Net Financing need for year	3,968	2,418

CFR	Original 2024/25 £'000	2024/25 Actual £'000	Operational Boundary & Authorised Limit	Original 2024/25 £'000	Revised 2024/25 £'000
Total CFR	20,040	19,820	Operational Boundary	21,000	21,000
			Authorised Limit	23,000	23,000

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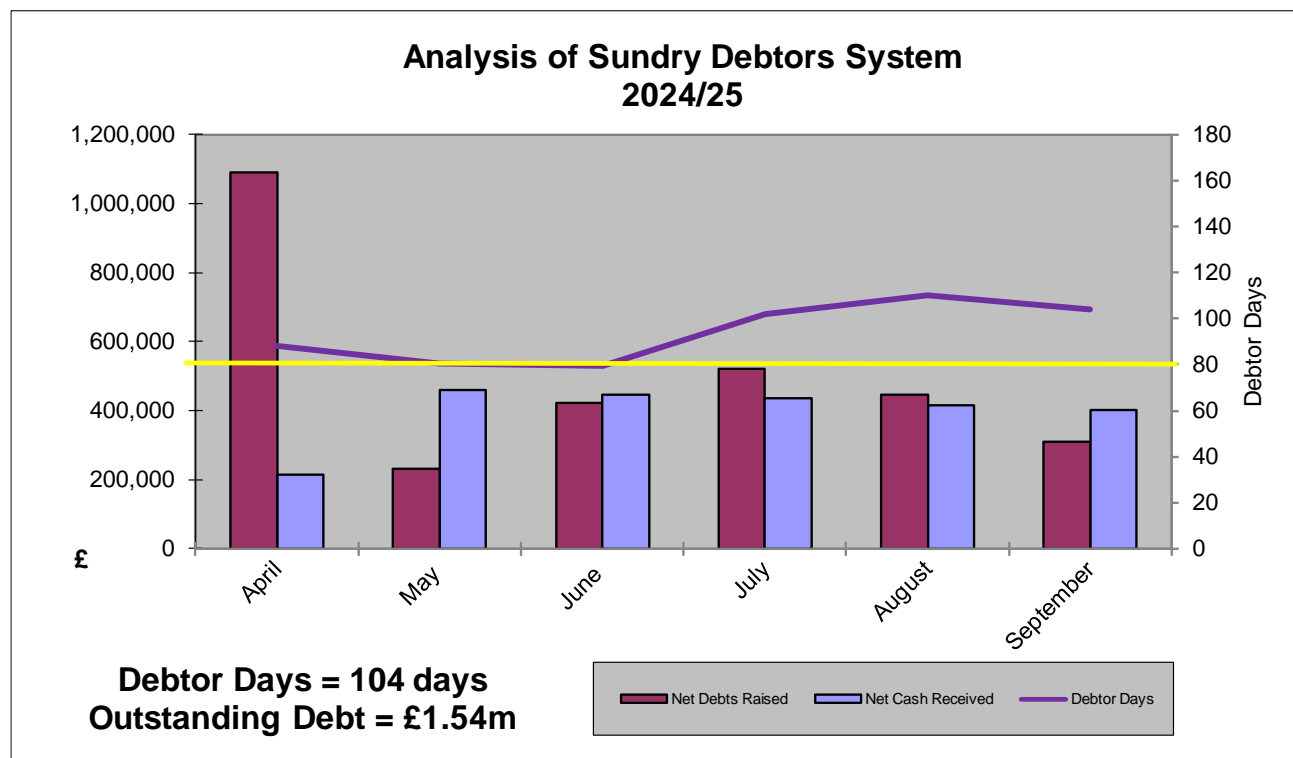
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Ratio of financing costs to net revenue stream	Original 2024/25 £'000	Revised 2024/25 £'000
Interest Payable - Services	109	109
Interest Receivable	(120)	(300)
Net cost of capital	(11)	(191)
Net Revenue Stream	10,256	9,361
Ratio of financing costs to net revenue stream	-0.11%	-2.04%



Sundry Debts Monitoring

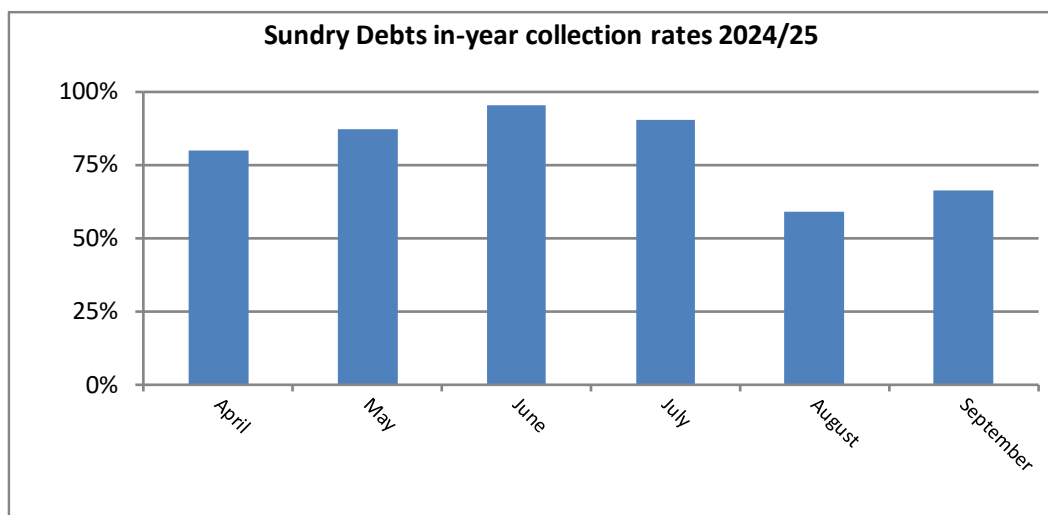
Invoices raised in the year, to the end of Q2 totalled £3,020k. As at September 2024, £606k (20%) of new debts raised in the year were considered outstanding or overdue giving a derived collection rate of 80%.



It should be noted that the high volume of Net Debts raised in April relates to the annual charges for Trade waste and rental of most industrial units.

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Doubtful debts

The debtor days in Q2, based on a rolling 12 month average has increased from 80 days to 104 days, for collection of sums due. The target average is 80 days.

The Council has set aside sufficient sums in the event of non-recovery of 'aged' debt. The Council will consider any decision to write-off sums in due course following an analysis of recovery attempts eg Debtor has 'gone away' or sums are considered uneconomical to pursue further. Any such decision will be reported to Cabinet in accordance with the Council's Constitution.

The Council had increased the level of cover for bad and doubtful debts by £300k during 2023/24, the Council has a provision of c83% for debts its considered to be at risk of going unpaid (impairment) and c50% for total debt issued and considered overdue.

Given the subsequent collection performance of Q4 debts into 2024/25, the current level of provision is therefore adequate but will be maintained under review throughout 2024/25, given the ongoing, challenging economic conditions for individuals and businesses.

The general impairment provision carried forward at 31 March 2024 is at £668k. An exercise is underway involving finance and legal to streamline debt recovery processes.

Of the sundry debts below, £35k are held on the Local Land Charges Register. The debts below exclude the Rossendale Leisure Trust Debt which stood at £1,285m as at 30th June 2024.

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Debts Outstanding	Mar 2024	Jun 2024	Sept 2024	Doubtful Debts at 30 Sep 2024	
	£000	£000	£000	Rate	£000
Earlier Debt	54.5	54.4	54.4	100%	54.4
2017/18 Debt	63.6	63.4	63.4	100%	63.4
2018/19 Debt	57.5	39.6	39.7	100%	39.7
2019/20 Debt	19.8	19.6	19.4	100%	19.4
2020/21 Debt	111.7	112.1	111.3	100%	111.3
2021/22 Debt	41.5	46.9	45.6	75%	34.2
2022/23 Debt	92.7	102.1	98.6	50%	49.3
2023/24 Debt :	717.6	345.3	315.3	15%	47.3
2024/25 Debt :		520.9	270.9	15%	40.6
Q2 Jul			49.4	15%	7.4
Q2 Aug			182.0	15%	27.3
Q2 Sept			104.0	15%	15.6
Total Debt o/s	1,158.9	1,304.3	1,354.0		509.9

Capital

Capital Resources

Table 1 - 2024/25 receipts

Major Receipts:	Original Budget £000	Year to Date £000	Variance Fav/(Adv) £000
Capital Receipts			
Land & Property Sales	50	43	(7)
Obsolete vehicles and kit	50	4	(46)
Net receipts to table 2	100	47	(53)

Table 2 - Useable Capital Resources

Useable Capital Resources	£ 000
Balance at April 2024	2,503
Capital Grants in 2024/25	9,696
Capital Receipts in 2024/25	47
	12,246
Revenue Contributions	
from Earmarked Reserves	-
from Revenue Operations	-
Total Capital Resources 2024/25	12,246
Capital Prog funding applied	(9,696)
Total Capital Resources March 2025	2,550
Capital Receipts Reserve (housing)	-
Capital Receipts Reserve (Whitworth)	38
Capital Receipts Reserve (Haslingden)	213
Capital Receipts Reserve (unalloc)	2,299

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Capital Programme

The Capital Programme for 2024/25 approved in February 2024 was £11,409k

This includes:

- £5,375k for the Capital Regeneration Programme
- £1,066k for projects relating to the UK Shared Prosperity Fund
- £740k for the replacement of Vehicles and Equipment
- £739k for the Food Waste Collection programme
- £627k for projects included in the Carbon Reduction Fund
- A provisional estimate of £1,000k for DFGs.

A further £7,166k (£2,529k DFG's) of slippage has been included in the year, relating to projects which were ongoing at the end of 2023/24 and prior year allocations not yet spent.

The following are Capital projects that have been approved in the current year (2024/25)

- £240k increase relating to the Whitaker Park improvements project, with additional funding from Lancashire Environmental Fund, FCC Community Action fund and Valencia to cover the additional spend.
- £136k relating to Victoria Park Improvements, with additional funding from Lancashire Environment Fund and FCC Community Action fund.
- £130k relating to Fairview Recreation Ground with a contribution from Section 106 monies received.
- £99k relating to Edgeside Wheeled Sports Facility, with additional funding from FCC Community Action fund.

The original 2024/25 estimate for DFGs included in the programme was £1,000k. The actual grant received in the year is £1,265k, so an additional £265k has been added to the base programme.

Items of estimated slippage and the associated funding arrangements are shown in the table below.

The revised Capital Programme over the life of the MTFs will be amended to reflect the timing variation as outlined above and finalisation of slippage adjustments

Financing the Capital Programme

The Useable Capital Receipts Reserve holds the balance of the funds generated by the sale of Council assets; the estimated balance brought forward at 1st April 2024 is £2,506k. This represents the most effective method of financing the planned Capital spend in 2024/25. This figure is still subject to any effects of post-audit amendments to the 2018/19 accounts and their impact on subsequent years.

The total grant income expected for the approved capital programme is £8,812k (including DFGs). Current funding for the slippage carried forward into the 2024/25 capital programme and the additional projects in 2024/25 consists of a mixture of resources, namely grants, capital receipts and (internal) borrowing. The most effective method of funding the Council's capital programme will be determined by the end of the financial year.

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Current issues

The costs of maintaining and repairing council buildings and of specialised Fleet vehicles continuing to rise, putting increased pressure on the budget.

Capital Programme Spending

Capital Programme 2024/25	Original Cap Prog	Revised Cap Prog	Spent	Full-Year Forecast	Variance (Adv)/Fav	Estimated Slippage	Adj Variance (Adv)/Fav	Indicative Funding Arrangements			
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	Grants/Contrib'n	Capital Receipts	S106/Reserves/RCCO	RBC Int Borrow
IT Software & Equipment	-	35	4	39	(4)	(4)	-	-	-	-	39
Operations	890	890	1,214	1,110	(220)	(220)	-	-	200	-	910
Communities	356	1,288	223	1,283	5	5	-	967	-	201	115
Housing	1,500	4,359	1,230	2,261	2,098	2,098	-	2,000	-	56	205
Stubbylee Hall	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Henrietta Street Depot Improvements	-	97	137	137	(40)	(40)	-	-	-	-	137
Futures Park	-	33	-	-	33	33	-	-	-	-	-
Town Square	-	20	-	-	20	20	-	-	-	-	-
Property Repairs & Maint	100	114	35	114	-	-	-	-	-	-	114
Environ Improvement Programme (PRIDE)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Car Parks General 22-26 MTFS	30	131	17	39	92	92	-	-	-	-	39
The Ashworth, Civic Hall Whitworth	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Stubbylee Skate Park	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bacup Historic England	-	-	(6)	9	(9)	(9)	-	-	-	-	9
Haslingden 2040 NLHF	-	1,762	300	300	1,462	1,462	-	300	-	-	-
Rawtenstall Town Square Public Realm	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Museum Improvements	-	-	4	4	(4)	(4)	-	-	-	-	4
Mechanics Hall, Bacup	-	-	36	36	(36)	(36)	-	-	-	-	36
Haslingden Market (UKSPF)	450	490	499	499	(9)	(9)	-	290	-	-	209
Waterfoot (UKSPF)	300	300	30	270	30	30	-	270	-	-	-
Rawtenstall Market Electrical Works	101	101	-	20	81	81	-	20	-	-	-
Rawtenstall Market External Cabins	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Stubbylee Tennis Courts	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whitaker Park Tennis Courts	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hareholme Viaduct	-	110	144	144	(34)	(34)	-	25	-	-	119
Carbon Reduction Fund	627	1,000	190	250	750	750	-	250	-	-	-
Christmas Lighting Catenary	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Marl Pits - Running Track	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whitaker Park Drainage	-	100	96	100	-	-	-	-	-	-	100
Stubbylee Park Drainage	40	40	-	40	-	-	-	-	-	-	40
Edgeside Pump Track	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Trickett's Memorial Ground	129	129	118	129	-	-	-	112	-	17	-
Electric Vehicle Charge Points	172	172	-	129	43	43	-	129	-	-	-
Food Waste Collections	739	739	-	421	318	318	-	421	-	-	-
Waste Transfer Station	130	225	107	225	-	-	-	-	-	-	225
Leisure Various	370	478	47	407	71	71	-	290	-	-	117
Legacy Liabilities	100	265	-	-	265	265	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Regeneration Projects (LUF)	5,375	6,622	1,540	6,622	-	-	-	6,622	-	-	-
	11,409	19,500	5,966	14,588	4,912	4,912	-	11,696	200	274	2,418

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Slippage items bfwd at end of 2023/24	Costs '£000	Indicative Funding Arrangements			
		Grants/ Contrib'n	Capital Receipts	RCCO (reserves or S106)	RBC Int Borrow
Communities Directorate					
Playgrounds Improvements	3				3
Pathways Improvements	18				18
Victoria Park Improvements	59				59
Edgeside Park	34				34
UKSPF	198	198			
Sub-total Communities	312	198	-	0	114
Economic Development Directorate					
Carbon Reduction Fund	373	373			
Hareholme Viaduct	110	25			85
Leisure Facilities upgrade 22-23	108				108
Spinning Point - Build Phase 1 (Bus St	20				20
Haslingden 2040 NLHF	1,762	1,762			
Car Parks General 22-26 MTFS	71				71
Whitaker Parking (Includes Stubblee	30				30
Whitaker Park (Drainage Project)	100				100
General Building Renovations & Mainte	14				14
Henrietta Street Depot Improvements	97				97
Waste Transfer Station	95				95
Futures Park Infrastructure	33				33
Legacy Liabilities (Various Schemes)	200				200
Sub-total Econ Devmt	3,013	2,160	-	-	853
Housing					
DFG'S - Mandatory Grants	2,529	2,529			
Clare House, Rawtenstall (1 Queen St)	9				9
Supported Accommodation	56			56	
Sub-total Housing	2,594	2,529	-	56	9
Levelling Up Fund					
Bacup Market	183	183			
Union Street	185	185			
Rawtenstall Market	210	210			
Gyratory	219	219			
Rawtenstall Connected	250	250			
The Bridge	200	200			
Sub-total Levelling Up Fund	1,247	1,247	-	-	-
Total	7,166	6,134	-	56	976

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Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP)

Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP)	MRP Budget 2024/25	MRP Required 2024/25	(Additions) / Underspend 2024/25
	£000	£000	£000
Corporate	644	644	0
	644	644	0

MRP is the annual revenue repayment of internal funds used to support capital work.

The MRP cost is currently estimated to be on budget.

Section 106 Receipts Monitoring

The value of S106 agreements brought forward on the 1st April was £868.7k. To the end of September 2024, there have been no new S106 deposits and £83.9k of monies held have been applied to fund expenditure.

<u>Section 106 Agreements 2023/24</u>	Third Party Projects	RBC Revenue Projects	RBC Capital projects	Total Held
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Balance bfwd at 1st April 2024	290.8	74.9	503.1	868.7
Deposits received in 2024/25				0.0
Deposits applied in 2024/25	(56.9)	(10.0)	(17.0)	(83.9)
Current Balance	233.9	64.9	486.1	784.8

<u>Section 106 Agreements in detail</u>	Third Party Projects	RBC Revenue Projects	RBC Capital projects	Total Held
Balance bfwd at 1st April 2024	290.8	74.9	503.1	868.7
Douglas Rd		(10.0)		(10.0)
Croft End Mill	(56.9)			(56.9)
Land off Oaklands Dr, Rawtenstall			(4.7)	(4.7)
Land at Station Rd, Whitworth			(12.3)	(12.3)
	233.9	64.9	486.1	784.8

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Council Tax & NNDR Collection Rates

Cumulative Collection	Council Tax						Business Rates					
	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
April	10.51	10.04	10.90	10.44	10.11	10.09	12.22	10.24	8.60	12.78	12.79	12.17
May	19.70	18.96	19.70	19.44	19.48	19.04	21.07	18.89	16.20	31.81	21.29	20.42
June	28.63	27.62	28.70	28.35	28.19	27.89	28.68	25.62	24.30	28.16	28.19	28.00
July	37.86	36.56	37.66	37.21	37.09	36.96	37.37	33.92	33.96	35.83	36.52	36.83
August	46.90	45.24	46.71	46.21	46.01	45.05	50.82	48.55	47.63	47.86	51.19	49.1
September	56.01	54.29	55.43	55.64	54.92	54.93	58.34	57.84	56.05	55.54	58.11	58.14
October	65.23	63.29	71.16	64.55	64.03		67.52	68.97	64.90	64.73	65.99	
November	74.78	72.30	78.43	73.49	72.93		74.26	77.15	73.09	74.88	74.92	
December	83.33	80.90	82.12	82.25	81.50		82.70	85.92	81.41	81.91	81.93	
January	92.48	89.90	90.96	91.22	91.05		90.91	90.17	89.30	94.79	90.27	
February	94.60	92.37	93.43	93.85	93.37		95.00	93.66	95.13	94.73	94.23	
March	96.32	95.72	95.59	95.95	95.75		97.78	94.19	98.15	98.85	98.60	

Collection rates for Council Tax are recovering but are not yet back at pre-pandemic levels with collection performance for 2024/25 slightly below that of 2021/22 (-1.49%). This remains an area of focus into 2024/25 given the 'Cost of Living Crisis' and potential impact on future collection.

For Business Rates however, the situation is harder to gauge as collection rates were distorted in 2022/23 by the Covid relief the Government distributed. 2023/24 were also distorted by the transitional reliefs given to businesses due to the Business Rates revaluation, which kicked in from April 2023. As at end September 2024 the collection rates in 2024/25 are broadly in line with previous years which is positive.

Council Tax Collection Fund

At the time of this report the estimated surplus on the Council Tax collection fund is forecast at £1,800k. This includes a £500k contribution for doubtful debts. It must be noted, we are only halfway through the year and based on the current economic climate this position could change significantly as the year progresses. This year RBC's share of the Council Tax is 13.56%, equating to £240k of the forecast surplus.

Council Tax Forecast 2024/25	Q1 £'000	Q2 £'000
Council Tax Collectable (after Discounts & Exemptions)	50,996	50,626
less Doubtful Debt Provision	(500)	(500)
	50,496	50,126
less Precepts for 2023/24		
Lancashire County Council	(34,539)	(34,539)
Police	(5,503)	(5,503)
Fire	(1,770)	(1,770)
Rossendale Borough Council	(6,444)	(6,444)
Whitworth Town Council	(70)	(70)
	(48,325)	(48,325)
Surplus / (Deficit)	2,171	1,800
RBC Share = 13.56%	294	240

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Local retention of Business Rates (NNDR)

Under the business rates scheme, variances from the original budgets fall into two categories – those arising from changes to the collection fund and those arising from grants and levies received or charged to the General Fund.

Business Rates Collection Fund 2024/25 (50% Pool)		NNDR1 £000	Q1 £000	Q2 £000
Net Liability Due		13,297	14,275	14,392
Use of Appeals Provision		0	0	0
Less Cost of Collection Allowance		(97)	(97)	(97)
Less Doubtful Debt Provision		(300)	(300)	(300)
Less Appeals Provision		(500)	(500)	(500)
Less Renewables 100% to RBC		(279)	(279)	(279)
Net NNDR due	A	12,120	13,099	13,216
Transitional reliefs	B	861	861	766
Less Precepts		(15,310)	(15,310)	(15,310)
Cash Surplus/(Deficit)	C	(2,329)	(1,350)	(1,328)
RBC Share = C x 40%	D	(932)	(540)	(531)
Central Government share 50%			(675)	(664)
LCC and Fire share 10%			(135)	(133)

The business rates collection fund is now predicting a deficit of £1,328k in 2024/25, the Council retains a local share of any surplus or deficit arising at year-end from activity on the fund, in the sum of 40%, thus the Council's share of the deficit would be £540k. This is largely due to the rebasing exercise which took place in 2023/24. As a result of this, it is anticipated that there will be an increase in appeals. Whilst there is an appeals provision within the Collection fund to cover the cash refund due on any appeals, the rateable value reduction of any successful valuation appeals will adversely affect the Council's in-year cashflow, because although the net liability due from the businesses has decreased, under existing legislation, the Council is required to make good its payments to major preceptors as originally assumed, despite a reduction in Collection Fund income.

RBC General Fund / Pooling gains		NNDR1 £000	Q1 £000	Q2 £000
Business Rates Income	A+B	12,981	13,960	13,982
RBC Share = 40%		5,192	5,584	5,593
less tariff paid to Lancashire Pool		(3,459)	(3,459)	(3,459)
add S31 Grants (for Levy calculation)	E	2,943	997	997
Subtotal		4,676	3,122	3,131
RBC Baseline Funding Level used in Budget		2,261	2,261	2,261
Surplus for Levy Calculations	F	2,415	861	870
Levy due for non Pool membership 50%		(1,208)	(430)	(435)
Levy payable as Pool member 10% of above	G	(121)	(43)	(43)
Retained Levy through Pool membership		1,087	387	391

The Council, is part of the Lancashire Business Rates Pool, each year the Council is subject to a levy payment of 50% of calculated business rates growth, above its baseline funding level, as determined annually in the Local Government Finance Settlement. Membership of the Pool restricts this levy to 10% (of the 50% levy) and allows the Council to hold the balance as 'retained levy' thus reducing the total value of sums paid over to central Government, to apply

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locally. Therefore in addition to the anticipated deficit the Council will generate as above, a pooling gain is estimated of £870k. The February 2024 MTFS included a contribution of an estimated pooling gain of £500k, whilst we are still early in the year if the current forecast materialises it will result in a £370k surplus against that income budget.

Central government also gives authorities Section 31 grants to cover small business reliefs and other government-backed schemes. In the NNDR1 budget submission in January 2024 the estimate for those grants totalled £2,942k.

Business Rates Summary		NNDR1	Q1	Q2
		£000	£000	£000
Business Rates Surplus/(Deficit) 2023/24	F	2,415	861	870
less Lancashire Pooling Levy	G	(121)	(43)	(43)
Renewable Energy		279	279	279
Overall Gain/(loss)	H	2,574	1,097	1,106
Business Rates Retention Reserve Bfwd		1,028	1,028	1,028
Business Rates Cash Surplus/(Deficit) 2023/24		(804)	(804)	(804)
Business Rates Cash Surplus/(Deficit) 2023/24	H	2,574	1,097	1,106
Less Budgeted Utilisation		0	0	0
Total Retained Business Rates Resources Cfwd		2,798	1,321	1,330

The table shows the potential impact on the Business Rates Retention Reserve. At the end of Q2 it is anticipated that RBC will achieve an additional £532k (40% of £1,330k) in overall NNDR Gain. This is primarily due to government awards to cover inflationary pressures which had not been accounted for in the MTFS. This is net of the gain on net renewable energy which RBC have previously taken to the Energy reserve and it is anticipated the same will happen in 2024/25.

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Glossary

Accrual

An adjustment at year-end to charge costs or income due in the old year, regardless of whether the cash has been paid or received. Accounts are prepared on an accruals basis in order to match the income for each financial year with the costs attributable to the same time period.

Capital expenditure

Spending on the acquisition or maintenance of assets either directly by the Council or indirectly in the form of grants to other persons or bodies. Expenditure that does not fall within the definition must be charged to a revenue account.

Capital Grants Received in Advance

Grants received in cash during the year, but not spent or committed, are held on the Balance Sheet in the Short-term Liabilities area as Capital Grants Received in Advance, acknowledging the potential requirement to pay these grants back should the related project not go ahead or underspend.

Capital Receipts

Proceeds from the sale of fixed assets, such as land or buildings, or the repayment of capital grants or advances. These funds form part of the Council's Useable Reserves, though they are ring-fenced for capital projects rather than revenue costs.

Cash & Cash Equivalents

Cash deposits are those which provide instant access to the funds without significant penalty or loss of interest. For the Council this is the balance on the NatWest accounts and two other instant access accounts with Lloyds and Handelsbanken. This is in comparison to short- and long-term *Investments* in which funds are untouchable during the life of the deposit.

Collection Fund

Rossendale Borough council collects funds on behalf of other precepting bodies, Lancashire County Council, Fire and Police as well as central government and Whitworth Town Council from domestic and commercial properties in the borough. These amounts are formally ring fenced in the Collection Fund and then distributed amongst the precepting bodies in line with their demands as set in the February budget setting meeting. At the end of the year each precepting body has their share of the arrears, the doubtful debt provision or appeals provision and the accumulated surplus or deficit. Rossendale Borough Council accounts for its own share, but holds the other preceptors shares separately on an agency basis. Hence, within the Council Tax and Business Rates monitoring members will see the overall position and the RBC share clearly identified.

Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO)

Compulsory acquisition of key properties in accordance with the Council's regeneration agenda. Compensation must be paid to the property owners, but where they cannot be traced the Council must deposit the funds with the courts for a minimum of 12 years.

Consumer Price Index (CPI)

The consumer price index (CPI) is a measure estimating the average price of consumer goods and services purchased by households. It is a price index determined by measuring the price of a standard group of goods meant to represent the typical market basket of a typical urban consumer and how this changed in the previous 12 months.

Earmarked Reserves

Cash-backed funds identified to fund specific projects in the future.

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Full Time Equivalent (FTE)

Each full-time post within the Council works 37 hours per week. Part-time posts are expressed in relation to this, for example a post working 4 days a week would be 0.8FTE.

General Fund

The main revenue fund of the Council.

Grants Unapplied

Unlike Capital Grants Received in Advance, there is no requirement to repayment of these grants. The unspent balance will be released into capital or revenue in the coming years as projects come online. These funds form part of the Council's Useable Reserves.

Homes and Communities Agency (HCA)

The Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) is the non-departmental public body which helps to fund new affordable housing in England. It was established by the Housing and Regeneration Act 2008 as one of the successor bodies to the Housing Corporation, and became operational on 1 December 2008. In 2012 the HCA approved the East Lancashire Empty Homes Scheme.

Investments

The Council invests surplus cash in short- and long-term deposits in accordance with the Treasury Management Strategy and Practices revised in February each year. In this context short-term includes anything up to 365 days, and long-term is for more than one year. Funds deposited in such investments are not accessible until the end of the agreed terms.

Link Asset Services (formerly Capita & Sector)

Link Asset Services (formerly Capita & Sector) is the company which provides the Council with Treasury Management advice, including daily market reports and predictions, credit rating updates, interest rate forecasts and annual reviews of our strategy and practices ahead of the February reports to Full Council.

Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS)

The Council's financial planning document for the foreseeable future.

Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP)

The minimum amount which must be charged to the Council's revenue account each year and set aside as provision for credit liabilities, as required by the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.

Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG)

The former Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) has been redesignated as the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, or MHCLG.

National non-domestic rates - now Business Rates (NNDR)

National non-domestic rates for commercial premises are set annually by the government and collected by all local authorities. The localisation of business rates in April 2013 meant that the National pool no longer exists, but the acronym NNDR is still widely used in local government circles.

Provision

Cash 'put aside' for expenditure on an intended project which has not commenced or is not complete at the year-end, but which has been contractually committed.

Provisional

Best forecast given current knowledge.

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Public Works Loans Board (PWLB)

The PWLB is a central government statutory body which lends funds to local authorities with advantageous interest rates. Interest rates are published daily and local authorities provide the PWLB with annual estimates of cash requirements in return for certainty on the availability of funds and the interest rates being charged.

Reserve

Amounts included in one financial year's accounts to provide for payment for goods or services, whether revenue or capital, in a future financial year.

Revenue account

An account that records an authority's day-to-day expenditure and income on such items as salaries and wages and other running costs of services.

Section 106 Agreement

Planning agreement whereby developers make a contribution towards specific projects linked to their development as a condition of planning application approval. Deposits may be for revenue or capital schemes, but application of the funds are dependent on firstly the developer, and then the Council, pursuing the projects specified within the agreement.

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Subject:	Performance Management Report Quarter 2 2024 (July, August and September)	Status:	For Publication
Report to:	Cabinet	Date:	20 th November 2024
Report of:	Head of People and Policy	Lead Member:	Environment and Corporate Services
Key Decision:	<input type="checkbox"/> Forward Plan <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	General Exception	<input type="checkbox"/> Special Urgency <input type="checkbox"/>
Equality Impact Assessment:	Required: No	Attached:	No
Biodiversity Impact Assessment:	Required: No	Attached:	No
Contact Officer:	Clare Law	Telephone:	01706 252557
Email:	clarelaw@rossendalebc.gov.uk		

1. RECOMMENDATION

- 1.1 Cabinet to note and consider the Council's performance during Quarter 2 (Q2) 2024-25 as detailed in this report and Appendix 1.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1
- The Q2 Performance Management Report details the Council's performance in relation to the [Valley Plan 2021-25 \(Our Place, Our Plan\)](#) during the months July, August and September 2024.
 - The report provides an update in relation to the Council's performance measures, action summaries and recommendations for improvement, compliments and complaints, and corporate risks.
 - The report concludes 11 performance measures reported as 'red' and 2 corporate risks reported as 'red' on the RAG status.
 - During Q2, the Council received 23 compliments, 44 complaints and 3 Local Government Ombudsman enquiries.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 This report aims to summarise the Council's performance during Q2 2024-25 for Cabinet. Cabinet play a strong role in scrutinising the Council's performance to highlight issues that may require further action.
- 3.2 The Performance Management Framework was reviewed by the Corporate Management Team at the start of 2024-25 and slight changes were made to the performance measures and action objectives sitting under the 4 priorities. Reporting managers were consulted as part of the review to ensure the report effectively evaluates the impact and delivery of the Council's Valley Plan 2021-25.
- 3.3 The Council continues to use the Red, Amber, Green (RAG) rating status and an arrow indicator to monitor performance and demonstrate performance trend in comparison to previous outturns.
- 3.4 The reviewed performance measures continue to be split down into two tiers. Tier 1 measures are high-level strategic targets that constitute the Valley Plan 2021-25 – Our Place,

Our Plan. Tier 2 measures are targets addressing performance within service areas at an operational level. A 'Higher or Lower' column is included to provide clarity to whether the performance should be operating either higher or lower than the target to increase/improve the Council's performance.

- 3.5 Where applicable, performance measures will provide a wider comparison to the 'National Local Authority' (NLA) average and the Council's comparable authorities - 'Family Group' (FG) average. The comparable information is drawn from the LG Inform Platform, which provides the most up to date and accessible information in relation to local authority performance measures.
- 3.6 The Q2 Performance Management Report is attached as Appendix 1.

4. DETAILS

- 4.1 The Council's performance is assessed quarterly via performance measures, action summaries and recommendations for improvement. Further details are included within the Q2 Performance Management Report, pages 3-15.
- 4.2 The below provides a summary of the performance measures reported under each priority.

RAG	Green	Amber	Red	N/A
Thriving Local Economy	2	1	2	2
A High Quality Environment	11	4	2	3*
Healthy and Proud Communities	7	1	3	3
Effective and Efficient Council	16	3	3	3

N/A – performance measures reported within a specific quarter/annually, or no information available during the quarter.

*The performance and RAG status of 2 performance measures are currently unknown and are pending confirmation from Lancashire County Council.

4.3 Priority 1 – A Thriving Local Economy

Work to develop Rossendale's main town centres has continued. Details continue to be scrutinised in preparation for the Bacup Market planning application and Haslingden Public Realm. Communication has been maintained with Rawtenstall Market Traders and consultations on the Waterfoot Masterplan have concluded.

Additionally, Stubblelee and Moorlands Park (Bacup) and Rawtenstall Library Gardens have been judged and awarded the Green Flag award for 2024-25.

- 4.4 During Q2, 2 performance measures were reported within the 'green' RAG status and 2 performance measures were reported within the 'red' RAG status.

4.5 Priority 2 – A High Quality Environment

The proposed Waste Transfer Station at Henrietta Street is progressing. A working group has been established to monitor this project and work will be delivered in partnership with Caulmert, who will lead on the planning action submissions. Bartec, the back-office

management system, has been rolled out to the frontline waste/recycling service. Further work is required to expand the system into other operational services.

Fly-tipping enforcement remains proactive, with several prosecutions and clean-up efforts undertaken. Community groups have been supported in preparation for their Britain in Bloom judging, while Trickett's Memorial Garden in Waterfoot has been restored.

A Climate Change Action Group has been established, and Rossendale has expanded its Electric Vehicle infrastructure. Planning for the Net Zero Terraced Streets project is underway with ongoing community engagement efforts.

4.6 During Q2, 11 performance measures were reported within the 'green' RAG status and 2 performance measures were reported within the 'red' RAG status.

4.7 **Priority 3 – Healthy and Proud Communities**

The annual target for 'new' and 'affordable new' homes has been exceeded, with 201 new homes built.

The Leisure Facilities working group has focused on projects including the Marl Pits Pavilion and a capital request to Sport England. The Physical Activity and Sport Strategy is under development, and a Healthy Weight Programme group has been established.

Over 2,200 residents have been assisted through the Household Support Fund, and Ukraine families are receiving ongoing support. Workshops on affordable warmth and food access have continued to shape the "Better Lives" Strategy for vulnerable residents.

4.8 During Q2, 7 performance measures were reported within the 'green' RAG status and 3 performance measures were reported within the 'red' RAG status.

4.9 **Priority 4 – Effective and Efficient Council**

The Benefit notification portal has been developed and successfully passed testing, while the Bartec system continues to be integrated into the Council's website to enhance customer service experience.

The annual staff Health and Wellbeing day was held in September to promote staff wellness, and the staff Health and Wellbeing Strategy is being developed. The Health and Safety 4-year action plan continues to be progressed and is on track. The Corporate Risk Management Strategy is currently being reviewed to ensure the Council embeds a robust risk management approach across all departments.

4.10 During Q2, 16 performance measures were reported within the 'green' RAG status and 3 performance measures were reported within the 'red' RAG status.

4.11 **Compliments and Complaints**

Compliments and complaints are referred to in the Q2 Performance Management Report, page 16.

4.12		Q2 2023-24	Q1 2024-25	Q2 2024-25
	Number of Compliments	23	12	23
	Highest nature of Compliments	61% (14) Staff member/team	100% (12) Staff member/team	100% (23) Staff member/team
	Highest Service Area with Compliments	Operations – 13	Operations – 7	Operations – 11

The number of compliments has increased by 11 when compared to the previous quarter. During Q2, 100% of compliments were in relation to 'staff member/team', 11 of these compliments were for the Operations team.

Other compliments received during Q2 relate to Corporate Support, Communities, Housing, Economic Development, Legal and Democratic Services, and People and Policy.

4.13 Examples of compliments received during Q2:

- *'Had a gentleman on the phone regarding a Bulky Collection. The gentleman had a fall and the crew was very helpful, he wanted to thank them.'*
- *'Massive thanks to the Housing Options Team, complex client could have died.'*
- *'Thank you for this information (location of grave) this means very much to my sister and I.'*

4.14		Q2 2023-24	Q1 2024-25	Q2 2024-25
	Number of Complaints	28	38	44
	Highest nature of Complaints	21% (6) Bins/bin collection	16% (6) Bins/bin collection	32% (14) Other
	Highest Service Area with Complaints	Operations – 15	Operations – 15	Capita – 13

The number of complaints received has increased by 6 when compared to the previous quarter and has increased by 16 when compared to Q2 last year.

4.15 **Local Government Ombudsman (LGO) Enquiries**

During Q2, 3 new enquiries were received from the LGO. The 3 enquiries will be carried over into Q2.

4.16 **Corporate Risk Register**

An additional risk has been added to the Corporate Risk Register:

- Corporate Risk 10 – Staffing Provision within Economic Development

This risk will monitor the staffing provision within Economic Development to ensure the Council is able to allocate and manage resources to effectively monitor ongoing projects and capital programmes.

- 4.17 Corporate Risk 3 – Incident resulting in death or serious injury or HSE investigation has been updated to reflect legislation and compliance that may impact staff, financial loss, and/or enforcement action.
- 4.18 The Council continues to review and monitor the Corporate Risk Register. 2 Corporate Risks were reported within the ‘red’ RAG status during Q2.

- Corporate Risk 1 – Sustainability of the Medium-Term Financial Strategy
- Corporate Risk 9 – Financial Sustainability of Council Owned Leisure Assets

5. RISK

- 5.1 The Council’s Corporate Risk Register continues to be monitored by the Corporate Management Team on a regular basis and is referred to within the Q2 Performance Management Report, pages 17-27.

6. FINANCE

- 6.1 Financial implications and risks arising are identified within this report.

7. LEGAL

- 7.1 There are no immediate legal considerations attached to the recommendations within this report.

8. POLICY AND EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 Effective performance management is important to the Council, and the Council is committed to improving its services. In completing this report, consultation has been undertaken with the Corporate Management Team and Portfolio Holder for Resources.

9. REASON FOR DECISION

- 9.1 Monitoring the Council’s performance will enable Cabinet to identify and consider any service actions, projects, performance measures or corporate risks requiring further action.

Background Papers	
Q2 Performance Management Report	Appendix 1
Q2 Performance Management Dashboard	Appendix 2



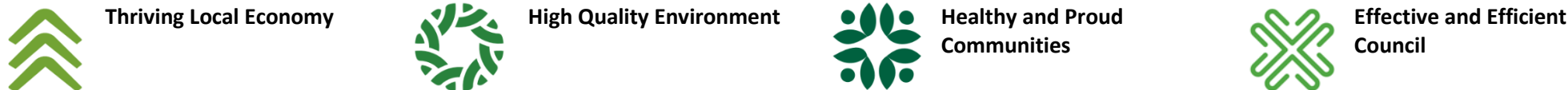
Performance Management Report

Quarter 2 - 2024-25



Performance Management Report – Quarter 2 2024/25

Rossendale Borough Council (the Council) has four priorities within the Valley Plan 2021-25 – Our Place, Our Plan. These priorities represent the Council’s main aims to achieve the Council’s overarching vision.



This report captures the Council’s performance in relation to the outlined priorities and includes; Performance Measures, Performance Summary and Actions for Improvement, Compliments and Complaints and Corporate Risks. To deliver the outlined priorities, the Council revised the objectives within the Council’s annual action plan at the start of 2023/24. The information included within this report relates to Quarter 2 (Q2) 2023/24 – **July, August and September 2024**.

A strong and robust approach to performance management and data quality processes will deliver a high quality service and drive service improvements. This report compiles information from the Council’s different service areas and ensures the information included is accurate, reliable and provided in a timely manner. The Council reviews its performance measures on an annual basis to ensure the targets are appropriate. A Red, Amber, and Green (RAG) rating status is used to monitor overall performance, and an arrow rating status has been introduced to demonstrate the performance trend in comparison to previous outturns.

To provide a clear understanding of how the Council is performing, the performance measures are split into Tier 1 and Tier 2 measures and where available will be compared to the ‘National Local Authority’ (NLA) average and the Council’s comparable authorities - ‘Family Group’ (FG) average. The comparable information is drawn directly from the LG Inform Platform (LGA- id), which provides the most up to date and accessible information in relation to local authority performance measures.

Performance RAG Rating Status		Performance Trend Status	
Indicator	Status	Indicator	Status
GREEN	On track, no substantial issues or risks which require action from the Council.		Performance has increased.
AMBER	Some issues or risks which require action from the Council.		Performance has decreased.
RED	Serious issues or risks needing urgent action.		Performance has continued with no increase or decrease / cannot be measured.
ANNUAL/ UNKNOWN	The status cannot be calculated.		

Tier 1 – A set of high-level strategic measures and targets that constitute the Valley Plan 2021-25 – Our Place, Our Plan.

Tier 2 – A set of performance measures and targets to address key priority areas of performance within Directorates/ Service Areas linked to the business planning process and the Valley Plan 2021-25 – Our Place, Our Plan.

Higher or Lower – Indicating whether the reported performance should be operating either higher or lower than the target to increase/improve the Council’s performance.

Priority 1 - A Thriving Local Economy

Outcomes

- To support Bacup, Haslingden and Rawtenstall town centres as better places to provide their unique offers and a destination for local shoppers and visitors.
- To have secured inward investment in the borough creating a sustainable economy, matching local skills provision with future job and career opportunities.
- Having a thriving visitor economy which is more widely known with enhanced attractions and a much improved accommodation offer.

Performance Measures	2023-24 Outturn	Higher or Lower	2024-25 Target	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Trend	Comparative Performance
Tier 1									
Percentage of empty shops across the borough per annum, cumulative figure	22%	Lower	14%	23.4%	21.35%	-	-	RED ↑	N/A
Increase the attractiveness of Rossendale's main town centres by 5% per annum, reported during Q3 (Resident Survey).	27%	Higher	32%	-	-	-	-	-	N/A
Increase the vibrancy of Rossendale's main town centres by 5% per annum, reported during Q3 (Resident Survey).	21%	Higher	26%	-	-	-	-	-	N/A
Productivity of local businesses measured through the revenue generated by each employee per annum, reported during Q1 (Office for National Statistics)	£45,685	Higher	£54,500	£52,767	-	-	-	AMBER ↑	N/A
Number of economically inactive residents engaged through the Rossendale Works Programme per annum, cumulative figure	110	Higher	60	43	68	-	-	GREEN ↓	N/A
Reduce the borough's unemployment rate per annum, cumulative figure (LGA – id:5472)	4%	Lower	3%	4%	4.2%	-	-	RED ↓	4TH QUARTILE FG – 3.2% (Q2 2024) NLA – 3% (Q2 2024)
Tier 2									
Number of business support referrals per annum, cumulative figure	147	Higher	120	36	77	-	-	GREEN ↑	N/A
Performance Summary									
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Bacup Market planning application is on hold due to a technical issue with the location of a culvert and River Irwell identified by United Utilities. Contractors will confirm their location early October, before the application can be progressed. This delay is not expected to impact the planned demolition of the current market in January 2025. 									

- Regular communication has been maintained with Bacup Market traders and relocation grants have been offered to support the transition whilst the new market is being developed. An open day event has been organised for early October, with potential market operators invited to discuss the new market offer and current proposal.
- The Haslingden Public Realm designs have been developed to incorporate elements of active travel, including a prominent cycle route, and a mural designed by a local South Asian Women's group. The works will be published and re-tendered via a framework to appoint a contractor during Q3. The Haslingden Connected Public Realm Strategy continues to be developed by Layer Studio and engagement activities are being established to gather community input.
- 18, 41, 51, and 53 Deardengate (Haslingden) have now been fully restored via the National Lottery Heritage Fund. To maximise the grants, a range of engagement activities will be submitted to the National Lottery for approval. These will include buildings within the project boundary that are not listed as priority or reserve, as well as buildings outside the boundary that hold significant value in Haslingden.
- Site progress has been made in the delivery of Haslingden Market, including full drainage replacement, electricity upgrades, installation of the steel framework, and paving. New and existing market traders have been kept updated throughout the process and remain committed to the market once it reopens.
- All consultations for the Rawtenstall Masterplan are complete. A summary report has been published and agreed by Full Council. Rawtenstall Gyrotory works are due to commence late October, and will focus on the Tup Bridge junction and subway. Officers will work closely with any affected businesses.
- The Long-Term Plan for Towns Board is exploring potential projects and is preparing an investment plan.
- Cabinet have approved the relocation of Rawtenstall Market to the town square whilst work is delivered to the existing market site, formal planning permission is expected early October. Market traders have been consulted throughout the proposal and officers continue to develop transitional arrangements, feasibility studies, and cost planning.
- The Waterfoot Masterplan consultation was completed during Q2, with 547 online responses and 300 residents attending the 'drop-in' session at Waterfoot Old Library. Feedback from the consultation was constructive and amendments have been made to the draft Masterplan.
- Three projects have been identified to allocate the £300k UK Shared Prosperity Funding in Waterfoot. The projects include; acquisition of a commercial unit within Trickett's Arcade, microgrants scheme for artists, and a public realm area adjacent to the playground in the town's centre. A report will present the proposals to Cabinet during Q3 for decision.

- During Q2, eight business start-up sessions have been delivered and the 60-Minute Business Blast sessions continue to attract interest, with 30 businesses attending the September session. Partnerships with Northern Reach and Enterprise Nation and Digital Boost will provide local businesses with diagnostic tool, mentoring support, and technology support.
- In partnership with Valley Heritage, a project to review Rossendale's derelict buildings has been agreed. Initial site visits have taken place to review the project's scope and an official launch event has been organised to take place during Q3.
- Rossendale Works have collaborated with Haslingden Community Link to provide drop-in sessions supporting asylum seekers and refugees in Rossendale. In July, the team hosted a NEET (Not in Education, Employment, or Training) event to showcase the local support available. Additionally, the project has been working with the Housing Options Team to secure emergency accommodation for homeless people and has been actively engaging with people at local foodbanks to offer further support.
- Improving Rossendale's visitor economy, Stubblelee and Moorlands Park (Bacup) and Rawtenstall Library Gardens were awarded the Green Flag in August. Masterplans for Rossendale's other parks will be reviewed to increase the borough's profile of Green Flag areas.

Actions for Improvement

- The percentage of empty shops has slightly improved with retail openings in Waterfoot town centre, this reducing the percentage of Waterfoot empty shops from 39% to 36.8%. Bacup (24%) and Haslingden (22%) continue to impact Rossendale's overall percentage of empty shops.

Priority 2 - A High Quality Environment

Outcomes

- A high quality 'clean and green' local environment where people feel proud to live.
- Reduced our carbon footprint.
- Improved waste recycling rate across the borough.

Performance Indicator	2023-24 Outturn	Higher or Lower	2024-25 Target	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Trend	Comparative Performance
Tier 1									
Increase the household waste recycling rate per quarter (LGA id: 46)	32.3%	Higher	34%	33.8%	LCC TBC	-	-	TBC	4TH QUARTILE FG – 38.1% (2022/23) NLA – 43.2% (2022/23)
Residual household waste collection rate per annum, cumulative figure (LGA id: 45)	510.6kg	Lower	540kg per household	125.4kg	LCC TBC	-	-	TBC	4TH QUARTILE FG – 491kg (2022/23) NLA – 439.2kg (2022/23)
Increase resident satisfaction in relation to the cleanliness of Rosendale's main town centers by 5% per annum, reported during Q3 (Resident Survey)	65%	Higher	70%	-	-	-	-	-	N/A
Average removal time of fly-tipping per quarter	4 days	Lower	5 days	4.4 days	4.6 days	-	-	GREEN ↓	N/A
Initial investigation of fly-tipping per quarter	4 days	Lower	5 days	4 days	4 days	-	-	GREEN █	N/A
Initial investigation of abandoned vehicles per quarter	4 days	Lower	5 days	5 days	4 days	-	-	GREEN ↑	N/A
Initial investigation of trade waste issues per quarter	4 days	Lower	5 days	4 days	4 days	-	-	GREEN █	N/A
Tier 2									
Percentage of general waste bins collected as per schedule per quarter	99%	Higher	95%	99%	99%	-	-	GREEN █	N/A
Percentage of trade waste bins collected as per schedule per quarter	99%	Higher	95%	99%	99%	-	-	GREEN █	N/A
Percentage of public litter bins emptied as per schedule per quarter	99%	Higher	95%	100%	99%	-	-	GREEN ↓	N/A

Install additional/replacement bin per annum, cumulative figure	80 bins	Higher	60 bins	7 bins	19 bins	-	-	AMBER ↑	N/A
Percentage of main roads swept as per schedule per quarter	98%	Higher	95%	98%	100%	-	-	GREEN ↑	N/A
Percentage of side roads swept as per schedule per quarter	100%	Higher	95%	100%	100%	-	-	GREEN █	N/A
Percentage of amenity grass cut as per schedule per quarter	100%	Higher	95%	93%	78%	-	-	RED ↓	N/A
Percentage of park grass cut as per schedule per quarter	100%	Higher	95%	100%	92%	-	-	AMBER ↓	N/A
Percentage of bowling green, football pitches and memorial gardens cut as per schedule per quarter	100%	Higher	95%	100%	90%	-	-	AMBER ↓	N/A
Percentage of play areas inspected as per schedule per quarter	100%	Higher	80%	100%	100%	-	-	GREEN █	N/A
Percentage of cemeteries inspected as per schedule per quarter	100%	Higher	80%	100%	75%	-	-	RED ↓	N/A
Percentage of requested bulky waste collections completed within 5 working days per quarter	NEW	Higher	95%	88%	91%	-	-	AMBER ↑	N/A
Percentage of requested bins delivered within 5 working days per quarter	NEW	Higher	95%	78%	94%	-	-	GREEN ↑	N/A

Performance Summary

- An outline for the proposed Waste Transfer Station at Henrietta Street has been agreed. A working group has been established to monitor this project and work will be delivered in partnership with Caulmert, who will lead on the planning action submissions. The current depot has expanded into the Heys Street unit to promote service efficiencies within the wider team.
- Bartec, a back-office management system, is now operational in the frontline waste/recycling service, data gathered from the service will help review the current fleet routes to maximise efficiencies and prepare for the introduction of food waste collections. To further support the introduction of food waste collections, four new vehicles have been ordered.
- Proactive enforcement continues to tackle fly-tipping across Rossendale. During Q2, ten cases were submitted to the court system, and two additional cases went prosecution cases resulted in fines, surcharges and costs proven. A major discovery of 30 tonnes of waste by the Environment Agency resulted in a further prosecution.

- Operationally, the refuse crews have maintained the removal of reported fly-tipping within 5 working days and continue to support fly-tipping investigations. Promoting a high-quality environment, the Street Cleansing team has focused their regular clean-up days on terraced areas in Haslingden including; Prinny Hill, Coal Hey, and Townsend Street.
- The Parks and Open Spaces team has supported local community groups in preparation for the Green Flag and Britain in Bloom judging. The Britain in Bloom results for Rawtenstall and Bacup will be announced during Q3.
- Trickett's Memorial Garden (Waterfoot) has been restored in partnership with Profitts – Investing in Communities, and Waterfoot Forward Community Group. Developments include; upgraded pathing, additional planting, restoration of the entrance, and safer steps to the commemorative stone honouring those who served and lost their lives since WWI.
- The 'Unpave the Way' garden, originally featured at the RHS Tatton Flower Show, has been relocated to Whitaker Park (Rawtenstall). The garden incorporates elements to combat flooding and improve environmental resilience, serving as both a relaxing space for visitors and an educational tool for sustainable living and flood management. A launch event will take place early October to commemorate the garden's relocation.
- A Climate Change Action Group has been established and consists of Council officers and councillors to share ideas and discuss decarbonisation to support the implementation of the Climate Change Action Plan across the Council.
- Rossendale's Electric Vehicle (EV) infrastructure has been developed via the On Streets Residential Charging Scheme. Seven council-owned car parks now host multiple EV chargepoints. The chargepoint installations are now complete and live in five of the seven car parks.
- Planning applications for the three demonstrator properties within the Net Zero Terraced Streets project are currently being prepared. Engagement efforts have focused on residents living nearby, and a landlord focus group has been arranged to discuss the project. Additionally, a webinar is scheduled for Q3, with 166 people registered to date.

Actions for Improvement

- Further work is required to embed and develop the Bartec system and expand its use to monitor bulky waste collections, missed bins, fly-tipping and bin delivered. The system will be introduced to Corporate Support to provide live information to customers, enhancing the customer service experience.
- Following the Government announcement of the proposed food waste collections, new burdens funding for capital spend has been allocated from Lancashire County Council. The allocated funding is considered insufficient and is currently being appealed. In the interim, recycling campaigns are

being rolled out to schools, and work is being undertaken to evaluate the size of bins and frequency of collections to ensure the Council is able to maximise the benefits of food waste collections once introduced.

- The percentage of grass cutting and maintenance carried out as per schedule has slightly reduced due to staff vacancies and wet weather conditions. Two positions have been advertised as part of the recruitment process.

Priority 3 – Healthy and Proud Communities

Outcomes

- To have delivered more new homes and a good mix of housing tenures.
- Improved the health of residents through access to better leisure facilities and health services.
- A more joined up approach to physical and mental wellbeing which is more rapidly reducing health inequalities.
- Residents share a sense of pride in their immediate community and the wider borough.

Performance Indicator	2023-24 Outturn	Higher or Lower	2024-25 Target	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Trend	Comparative Performance
Tier 1									
Homeless decisions made within 5 days of the 57 th day, when a case is priority need in the relief duty	NEW	Lower	70%	85%	90%	-	-	GREEN ↑	N/A
Percentage of Disables Facilities Grants completed within 12 months per quarter	96%	Higher	95%	100%	100%	-	-	GREEN █	N/A
Determine major planning applications within 13 weeks per quarter (LGA id: 17482)	100%	Higher	60%	100%	100%	-	-	GREEN █	1ST QUARTILE FG – 97% (Q4 2023/24) NLA – 91% (Q4 2023/24)
Determine minor and other planning applications within 8 weeks per quarter (LGA id: 17487)	98%	Higher	75%	98%	97%	-	-	GREEN ↓	1ST QUARTILE FG – 90% (Q4 2023/24) NLA – 88% (Q4 2023/24)
Number of ‘new’ and ‘affordable new’ homes delivered within the Local Plan per annum, reporting in Q2	111	Higher	135	-	201	-	-	GREEN ↑	N/A
Initial response to housing complaints per quarter	4 days	Lower	7 days	6 days	15 days	-	-	RED ↓	N/A
Initial response to food hygiene complaints per quarter	6 days	Lower	10 days	6 days	6 days	-	-	GREEN █	N/A
Increase the percentage of residents feeling safe in their local area during the day by 5% per annum, reported during Q3 (Resident Survey).	92%	Higher	97%	-	-	-	-	-	N/A
Increase the percentage of residents feeling safe in their local area after dark by 5% per annum, reported during Q3 (Resident Survey).	70%	Higher	65%	-	-	-	-	-	N/A
Prevalence of overweight (including obesity) year 6 children per annum, reported in Q4.	38.1%	Lower	37%	-	-	-	-	-	N/A

Tier 2									
Number of Disabled Facilities Grants awarded per annum, cumulative figure	126	Higher	80	19	36	-	-	RED ↓	N/A
Processing of Disabled Facilities Grants – Referral to Approval days per quarter	51 days	Lower	110 days	49 days	49 days	-	-	GREEN █	N/A
Processing of Disabled Facilities Grants - Approval to Completion days per quarter	131 days	Lower	80 days	121 days	112 days	-	-	RED ↑	N/A
Number of Food Standards Agency food inspections per annum, cumulative figure	246	Higher	320	51	132	-	-	AMBER ↑	N/A

Performance Summary

- The annual target of ‘new’ and ‘affordable new’ homes has been exceeded, 201 new homes, including 42 affordable dwellings, have been built. Planning will seek to continue to grant sufficient numbers of planning permissions to enable policy compliant new house building to take place, as well as regularly review housing delivery in the borough.
- The Leisure Facilities working group has continued to meet during Q2, focusing on several priorities including the ongoing review of the pavilion at Marl Pits, the establishment of an athletics steering group, and the submission of a capital request paper to Sport England to enable the delivery of Rossendale’s community health and wellbeing plan. Additional work has focused on agreeing a lease for New Hall Hey.
- The Physical Activity and Sport Strategy continues to be developed. Once agreed, will be submitted to Full Council for formal approval.
- Commissioned by Lancashire County Council, a Healthy Weight Programme working group has been established and the terms of reference agreed. Additionally, a Valley Vitality Festival was held in partnership with local organisations and voluntary sector partners during July, and a Family Weight PASTA workshop was held in September. The programme will be regularly reviewed to ensure activities align with the programme’s priorities.
- Partnerships with health partners and voluntary sectors continues to progress. Support has been provided to Lancashire County Council in their BID to reduce pressures on their Adult Social Care help line. The Rossendale Connected group has also undergone an external evaluation, with a positive conclusion on the health and wellbeing system changes in the Borough.
- 2,265 local residents have been supported via the Household Support Fund Round 5. The next funding round will be launched during October.
- Two further Ukraine families have been supported into private accommodation and one family has been supported with school enrolment. During August, a Ukraine Independence Day event was delivered at St Mary’s Church and was attended by over 50 Ukrainian guests and hosts.

- Developing the drafted 'Better Lives' Strategy, workshops focusing on affordable warmth and access to food have been delivered to identify the support available for vulnerable residents.

Actions for Improvement














- The initial response to housing complaints has performed below target during Q2. A vacant post has impacted the Environmental Health team's capacity. Two attempts to recruit to the vacancy have failed to appoint a suitable candidate. Work is ongoing to review the current Environmental Health provision to ensure resources and priorities align to the business need.
- The processing of disabled facilities grants remains below target. The department has appointed a new member of staff, providing further capacity to deal with the increased workload and to tackle the more complex cases creating backlogs.
- The number of Food Agency Standards Inspections is on track to achieve the target however, the number of businesses that close, or new ones that open, is out of the Council's control. The figure will be monitored throughout the year to ensure an appropriate target is set within the new year.

Priority 4 – Effective and Efficient Council

Outcome

- Provide good quality and responsive services embracing new technologies.
- Be a financially sustainable Council with a commercial outlook whilst always considering social value.
- Provide sound governance to enable key decisions and major projects to be progressed in an efficient and professional way.
- Have a skilled and happy workforce, where we are able to retain and attract good staff.

Performance Indicator	2023-24 Outturn	Higher or Lower	2024-25 Target	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Trend	Comparative Performance
Tier 1									
Time taken to process Housing Benefit new claims per quarter (LGA id: 299)	11 days	Lower	17.5 days	12.9 days	11.2 days	-	-	GREEN ↑	1ST QUARTILE FG – 16 (Q4 2023/24) NLA – 18 (Q4 2023/24)
Time taken to process Housing Benefit change in circumstances per quarter (LGA id: 300)	1.7 days	Lower	4 days	4 days	3.1 days	-	-	GREEN ↑	2ND QUARTILE FG – 2 (Q1 2023/24) NLA – 3 (Q1 2023/24)
Time taken to process Council Tax benefit new claims per quarter	15.7 days	Lower	15 days	13.9 days	13.4 days	-	-	GREEN ↑	N/A
Time taken to process Council Tax benefit change in circumstances per quarter	2.4 days	Lower	4 days	3.2 days	3.2 days	-	-	GREEN ↑	N/A
Increase resident satisfaction of the Council’s website by 5% per annum, reported during Q3 (Resident Survey).	25%	Higher	30%	-	-	-	-	-	N/A
Payment of undisputed invoices within 30 days per quarter	87%	Higher	92%	94%	94%	-	-	GREEN ▬	N/A
Number of Ombudsman Enquiries upheld per annum, cumulative figure	0	Lower	0	0	0	-	-	GREEN ▬	N/A
Number of employee leavers in line with the national average, 15% per annum (7 employee leavers per quarter)	6	Lower	7	3	8	-	-	RED ↓	N/A
Number of days lost due to sickness absence per full time equivalent employee per annum, cumulative figure	13.3 days	Lower	8 days	2.8 days	5.3 days	-	-	RED ↓	N/A
Percentage of staff who have completed an annual appraisal per annum, cumulative figure.	95%	Higher	100%	24%	85%	-	-	AMBER ↑	N/A
Percentage of staff who have completed mandatory training per quarter	91%	Higher	100%	80%	N/A	-	-	-	N/A

RIDDOR reportable accidents and incidents per annum, cumulative figure	3	Lower	< 5	0	0	-	-	GREEN 	N/A
Tier 2									
Percentage of Council Tax collected per annum, cumulative figure (LGA id: 199)	95.8%	Higher	96%	27.9%	54.4%	-	-	GREEN 	4TH QUARTILE FG – 97.1% (2023/24) NLA – 97.1% (2023/24)
Percentage of NNDR collected per annum, cumulative figure	98%	Higher	98.4%	28%	56.9%	-	-	GREEN 	N/A
Percentage of accurate processing of a Housing Benefit claim per annum, cumulative figure	95.3%	Higher	95%	96%	94.7%	-	-	GREEN 	N/A
Secured garden waste subscribers per annum, cumulative figure	7203	Higher	7000	6788	7067	-	-	GREEN 	N/A
Secured commercial waste subscribers per annum, cumulative figure	409	Higher	440	413	420	-	-	AMBER 	N/A
Secured number of bulky waste collection requests per annum, cumulative figure	NEW	Higher	3000	805	848	-	-	RED 	N/A
Increase the number of electronic service request forms completed by residents by 15% per annum, reported in Q4	10,114	Higher	11,600	-	-	-	-	-	N/A
Distribute 12 positive new stories per quarter	20	Higher	12	21	15	-	-	GREEN 	N/A
Percentage of FOIs responded to within 20 days per quarter	90%	Higher	95%	90%	91%	-	-	GREEN 	N/A
Percentage of complaints responded to within 10 working days per quarter	65%	Higher	95%	63%	69%	-	-	AMBER 	N/A
Percentage of Member enquiries responded to within 10 working days per quarter	75%	Higher	95%	100%	100%	-	-	GREEN 	N/A
Percentage of MP enquiries responded to within 10 working days per quarter	70%	Higher	95%	64%	91%	-	-	GREEN 	N/A
Number of Health and Safety reports received per annum, cumulative figure	87	Lower	95	27	44	-	-	GREEN 	N/A

Performance Summary

- The Benefit notification portal has been developed and fully integrated into the website, passing system and user acceptance testing. The new application will support residents viewing their information online.

- Further work has focused on integrating the Bartec system into the Council's website. Once fully embedded, the Bartec system should significantly improve customer services and support customer expectations through live monitoring of operational services.
- Tenders have been advertised for four public convenience sites in Edenfield, Waterfoot, Stacksteads, and Newchurch, seeking creative proposals for their future use. This initiative will capitalise on an income generation opportunity while reducing the number of unused sites in Rossendale.
- The staff annual Health and Wellbeing day was delivered early September and encouraged all staff to take part in activities to enhance their physical and mental, health and wellbeing. Additionally, the Health and Wellbeing Strategy continues to be developed and will aim to support a positive health and wellbeing culture within the Council.
- Actions from the 4-year Health and Safety Action Plan continue to be progressed to support staff safety and welfare. The Corporate Risk Management Strategy is currently under reviewing to ensure the Council embeds a robust risk management approach across all departments.

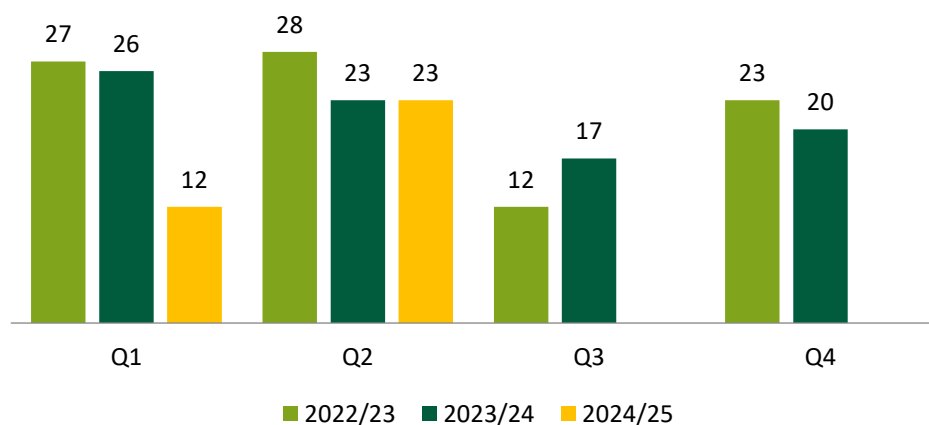
Actions for Improvement

- During Q2, there has been an increase in the number of employee leavers, with a total of 7 members of staff leaving (1 employee was dismissed and 1 employee resigned due to ill health). Exit interviews for employee leavers are carried out by HR to identify any patterns or concerns in relation to the reasons for leaving. The main reason for employee leavers is career progression.
- The main cause of long-term absence is musculo-skeletal and short-term absence is infections, colds and flu. Sickness absence is managed under the Council's Absence Management Policy and staff are invited to attend regular sickness welfare meetings and advice is provided from Occupational Health to support their return to work. Flu jabs have been offered to all staff to mitigate future absences during the colder months and physiotherapy sessions have been offered to support musculo-skeletal absences.

Compliments and Complaints

Compliments

Compliment Trend	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
2022-23	27	28	12	23
2023-24	26	23	17	20
2024-25	12	23	-	-
Number of Compliments	Compliment Detail			
23	Staff member/team			



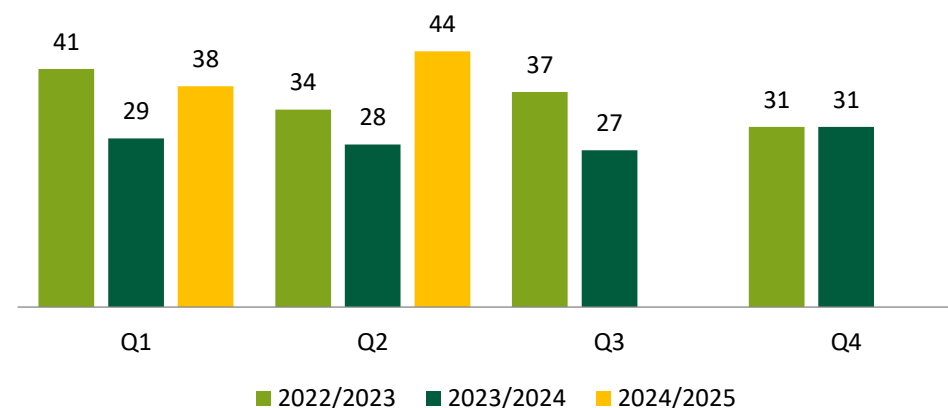
Ombudsman Enquiry

Ombudsman Enquiry	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
2022-23	2	3	0	0
2023-24	2	0	1	0
2024-25	3	2	-	-

During Q1, two new enquiries were received from the Local Government Ombudsman, none were upheld.

Complaints

Complaints Trend	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
2022-23	41	34	37	31
2023-24	29	28	27	31
2024-25	38	44	-	-
Number of Complaints	Complaint Detail			
1	Advice/information given			
1	Benefit processing			
6	Bins/bin collection			
4	Council decision			
10	Council Tax charges/decision			
3	Customer service			
1	Grass cutting			
1	Litter/debris/fly-tipping			
14	Other			
2	Staff member/team			
1	Weeds			



Corporate Risk Register

Risks are those things which might present a barrier to us delivering the things we have undertaken to achieve. Each year the Council reviews the potential risks it is facing and looks at what it might do to minimise the occurrence of such risks. This information is then regularly monitored and reviewed.

We profile our risks using a matrix (shown below) which is based on our making two judgments about each potential risk faced by the Council. The definition of the likelihood and impact can be found in the Council's Risk Management Strategy 2016.

The Council's Risk Matrix

Likelihood	A					
	B					
	C					
	D					
	E					
	F					
		5	4	3	2	1
	Impact					

Likelihood

How likely is it that the risk may occur (rated A-F, A being the most likely)

Impact

How serious might the consequences of the impact be (rated 1-5, 1 being the highest consequence).

Therefore, a risk rated A1 is the highest risk rating and a risk of F5 is the lowest risk rating.

Risk RAG (Red, Amber and Green) rating status indicators	
Risk Status	Status description
GREEN	The likelihood and impact of the risk is low
AMBER	The likelihood and impact of the risk is medium
RED	The likelihood and impact of the risk is high

Risk 1 – Sustainability of the Medium Term Financial Strategy

Responsible Officer - Chris Warren

Description

The Council's latest Medium Term Financial Strategy update indicates an underlying funding gap of c£600k per annum from 2023/24 onwards. The Council must take appropriate action in order to balance its annual expenditure against its available annual income and other revenue resources. The Council has a legal obligation to publish an annual balanced budget; this means its budget expenditure must equal its available income and any available reserves. Council reserves are limited and equate to only circa 3 years given the anticipated funding gap. Therefore, additional income must be identified or annual costs reduced in future years. The current cost of living crisis may also add to the pressure on the Medium Term Financial Strategy through pay award, utility costs, contract inflation and Council Tax/NNDR collection rates.

Risk Consequence

If the Council is not able to prepare a balanced budget there would be legal ramifications, but would ultimately impact on the level of services the Council is able to deliver to Rossendale residents and would result in major reputational damage.

Initial risk assessment RAG status (without mitigation)

Likelihood	Impact	Overall Risk	Status
B	2	B2	RED

Mitigation

The Medium Term Financial Strategy does not indicate a significant narrowing of the gap in the next four years. New income generating opportunities will need to be identified to generate additional revenue, along with improved efficiency and effectiveness of service delivery. Departments across the council will need to be challenged to become more effective.

Risk assessment RAG status (after mitigation)

Likelihood	Impact	Overall Risk	Status
C	2	C2	AMBER

Q2 Update

The Council is in the process of zero basing its budget in collaboration with budget holders to more effectively deploy expenditure and align resources to meet business need. We also continue to monitor the likelihood of positive commercial activity and ensure the impacts of these are reflected prudently and noted within the Medium Term Financial Strategy updates.

Uncertainty around the national funding picture remains, and so the risk will remain at its current evaluated level.

Q2 risk assessment RAG status (current)

Likelihood	Impact	Overall Risk	Status
B	2	B2	RED

Risk 2 – Major Disaster affecting the Delivery of Council Services

Responsible Officer - Clare Law

Description

The Council has statutory duties under the Civil Contingencies Act (2004) and to carry out emergency planning and business continuity management activities to minimise the impact of a civil emergency or business interruption on people living, working and visiting the borough.

Risk Consequence

Failure to have robust contingency plans in place could result in the failure to deliver Council services, such as, the collection of residential and trade waste, burial services and payment of suppliers and benefits.

Initial risk assessment RAG status (without mitigation)

Likelihood	Impact	Overall Risk	Status
C	1	C1	AMBER

Mitigation

A robust Council Emergency and Business Continuity Plan is in place. Service continuity plans are updated and tested regularly through a quarterly Emergency Planning meeting. The plans are embedded with the Corporate Management Team as critical working documents to support the continued delivery of essential council services. All managers have a copy of the overall plan and their service plan and keep them under review. The Council is a member of Lancashire County Council Local Resilience Forum. Officers attend meetings and undertake regular training exercises. The council plans are available on the Resilience Direct website. Mutual aid agreements are in place with all Local Authorities across Lancashire.

Risk assessment RAG status (after mitigation)

Likelihood	Impact	Overall Risk	Status
C	2	C2	AMBER

Q2 Update

The Emergency Plan and Flood Plan are regularly reviewed to ensure processes and contacts are up to date. Both plans are available to the internal Emergency Planning Team to aid any emergency response.

The Emergency Planning Team continues to meet quarterly to discuss any current issues relating to response and business continuity, the last meeting being in July 2024. IT systems for business continuity are tested regularly, with the next test scheduled for Q3.

Officers continue to attend relevant Lancashire Resilience Forum meetings to ensure that emergency planning activities are co-ordinated with the rest of Lancashire. The Council now has access to an emergency radio on loan which is connected to the Emergency Radio Area Link Network, to enable communications if the mobile network or internet is down. The Lancashire Mutual Aid Agreement is under review and is expected to be signed by all Local Authority Chief Executives during Q3.

Q2 risk assessment RAG status (current)

Likelihood	Impact	Overall Risk	Status
C	2	C2	AMBER

Risk 3 – Incident resulting in Death or Serious Injury or HSE Investigation

Responsible Officer - Clare Law

Description

Under the Health and Safety at Work Act (1974), the Council has a duty of care towards the health, safety and wellbeing of its employees and others who may be affected by our work. In the event of a RIDDOR reportable accident, there is a risk of a Health and Safety Executive investigation and potential for a civil claim for damages.

Risk Consequence

Failure to comply with current legislation and demonstrate compliance may result in harm to staff and others, financial loss and enforcement action.

Initial risk assessment RAG status (without mitigation)

Likelihood	Impact	Overall Risk	Status
D	2	D2	AMBER

Mitigation

The Council has health and safety policies and procedures including a Health and Safety Incident Reporting Procedure in place along with a safe working culture. Actions need to be completed to address and implement a consistent approach across the Council in order to secure compliance.

Risk assessment RAG status (after mitigation)

Likelihood	Impact	Overall Risk	Status
E	2	E2	GREEN

Q2 Update

The implementation of the Health and Safety 4-year action plan has continued on target.

Consultation on health and safety has continued through the Joint Consultative Committee and Operations Health and Safety Committee. A lunchtime learning session was delivered to encourage reporting of incidents and hazards using the Council's 'Report-It' card incident reporting process. Progress on the implementation of risk management systems has stalled as it is reliant on the Corporate Risk Management Strategy, which is currently being refreshed ready for approval.

Q2 risk assessment RAG status (current)

Likelihood	Impact	Overall Risk	Status
D	2	D2	AMBER

Risk 4 – Changes to Government policy on the delivery of the Council’s services

Responsible Officer - Rob Huntington

Description

Like all local authorities the Council is a statutory body that is subject to changes being consulted upon and or implemented by central government that might affect how we operate and serve our residents/businesses.

Risk Consequence

The risk that the Council fails to react and be prepared for any changes being proposed or implemented by central government.

Initial risk assessment RAG status (without mitigation)

Likelihood	Impact	Overall Risk	Status
E	2	E2	GREEN

Mitigation

The Council is a member of the Local Government Association and District Councils Network who keep us informed of government policy and consultations and lobby on behalf of councils to mitigate the impact of any change. The Council is also signed up to receive daily emails from Local Government Information Unit who provide daily government news and other Local Government Information Unit policy briefings. The Chief Executive and Leader of the Council meets regularly with our two MPs. The Council’s Corporate Management Team monitor and assess government’s position on funding to be distributed to local authorities and other Government announcements that impact funding.

Risk assessment RAG status (after mitigation)

Likelihood	Impact	Overall Risk	Status
E	2	E2	GREEN

Q2 Update

The Council is a member of both the Local Government Association and District Councils Network. The Corporate Management Team and Policy and Performance Officer receive regular policy bulletins and updates in relation to legislation and government departments. A weekly policy/horizon scanning bulletin is shared to the Senior Leadership Team and cascaded to officers where relevant.

‘Horizon Scanning and Policy’ is an agenda item on the Corporate Management Team’s weekly meeting to promote ongoing discussions in relation to recent announcements, funding opportunities and other relevant information from government departments, to determine if any action required is required. Staff attend various webinars and meetings in relation to their service area and the Chief Executive regularly attends the North West Chief Executive, and Lancashire Chief Executive meetings, both having representation from the Local Government Association.

Q2 risk assessment RAG status (current)

Likelihood	Impact	Overall Risk	Status
E	2	E2	GREEN

Risk 5 – Sustainable Workforce

Responsible Officer - Clare Law

Description

There is a requirement to have a sustainable workforce to deliver the Council services to residents and customers.

Risk Consequence

Failure to have a fully resourced, trained staff could result in the failure to deliver statutory and non-statutory service in a safe and professional manner to residents and customers.

Initial risk assessment RAG status (without mitigation)	Likelihood	Impact	Overall Risk	Status
	D	3	D3	AMBER

Mitigation

The Council has robust HR policies and procedures, an agreed Authorised Establishment, performance management framework and Service Area Business Continuity Plans in place to mitigate any staffing challenges such as loss of staff due to the impact of an epidemic or pandemic. HR will work with managers to develop workforce succession planning. The Council provides an attractive benefit package including final pension scheme, flexible working, generous annual leave, a purchase leave scheme, free onsite parking, family friendly policies, discounted gym memberships and a cycle scheme to attract and retain staff.

Risk assessment RAG status (after mitigation)	Likelihood	Impact	Overall Risk	Status
	E	3	E3	GREEN

Q2 Update

During Q2, there has been an increase in the number of employee leavers; one employee resigned during a disciplinary investigation, one employee leaver moved house and secured a job closer to their new home, one employee was on sickness absence and resigned due to ill health, the five remaining employee leavers have left to further their careers (with the exception of two employees) within local government. Exit interviews were carried out to identify any patterns or concerns in relation to the reasons for leaving.

The level of sickness absence has slightly reduced during Q2, and has significantly reduced when compared to the Q2 2023-24 performance (7.02 days per FTE). Five employees (2.70 days per FTE) are absent due to long-term other musculo-skeletal stated as the main cause of absence, these being managed under the Council's Absence Management Policy. Two employees have now returned to work and one employee has resigned.

The main reason for short term sickness absence (2.60 days per FTE) is infections, colds, and flu. Flu jabs have been offered to all staff to mitigate further absences during the colder months.

Q2 risk assessment RAG status (current)	Likelihood	Impact	Overall Risk	Status
	E	3	E3	GREEN

Risk 6 – Insufficient data and cyber security

Responsible Officer - Andrew Buckle

Description

Cyber security presents one of the most challenging areas for both the public and private sectors. With the proliferation and severity of attacks constantly increasing this represents a major threat.

Risk Consequence

Cyber-attack resulting in a complete loss of all systems coupled with malware being spread across the entire network. Data breach resulting in information loss causing reputational damage and resulting in a financial penalty due to non-compliance with statutory requirements such as General Data Protection Regulation, Payment Card Industry Data Security.

Initial risk assessment RAG status (without mitigation)

Likelihood	Impact	Overall Risk	Status
C	1	C1	AMBER

Mitigation

To protect against a data breach the Council, host all council data in Tier 3 Data Centres located in different geographical regions and are backed up daily. The Council's Data Centres hold the following accreditations: ISO27001:2013 and the Payment Card Industry Data Security. The Council adopts a Risk Insight approach to determine the treat Landscape and more importantly its evolution. The Council has received notification of meeting the Public Services Network which means the Councils' infrastructure met all the security requirements to allow connection to the Public Services Network. A cyber security training is to be provided for all staff.

Risk assessment RAG status (after mitigation)

Likelihood	Impact	Overall Risk	Status
D	1	D1	AMBER

Q2 Update

Recently there have been a number of targeted cyber-attacks against high-risk individuals in the UK, to attempt to gain access to their accounts and devices. This has resulted in the theft and publication of sensitive information, which can also cause reputational damage. As part of our security approach and ongoing continual development. The Council has continued to develop its cyber security and compliance to protect systems against any potential data breaches or attacks. Progress during Q2 includes:

- A multi-factor authentication (Cisco DUO) has been implemented for all users, including Capita staff, to promote greater security when accessing Council systems.
- A new security gateway has been installed for both Henrietta Street and the Futures Park tenants following the increased bandwidth being deployed.
- Active directory accounts have been reviewed ensuring strong passwords are in place for all active directory accounts.
- Preparation for the Q3 security audit has commenced.
- The review of all data sources and legal gateways has been completed and submitted to the Department for Work and Pensions.

Q2 risk assessment RAG status (current)

Likelihood	Impact	Overall Risk	Status
D	1	D1	AMBER

Risk 7 – Poor communications and public relations

Responsible Officer - Clare Law

Description

Good communication and public relations is essential to inform, maintain and develop relationships with residents, customers and partners to provide effective and efficient Council services.

Risk Consequence

Failure to communicate and respond to issues as they develop and inadequately or inappropriately communicating could lead to a major loss of reputation for the Council on a local, regional and national level. A loss of reputation can damage staff morale, trust between the Council and residents and impair the relationship between the Council and its partners meaning projects and services delivery is damaged.

Initial risk assessment RAG status (without mitigation)

Likelihood	Impact	Overall Risk	Status
B	1	B1	RED

Mitigation

Communication methods are in place to support face to face, mail or electronic communications with a developed website and social media channels to provide 24/7 communication service. The Council has an experienced public relation and communications function to support officers to deal with communications in a timely manner and promote the work of the Council.

Risk assessment RAG status (after mitigation)

Likelihood	Impact	Overall Risk	Status
D	1	D1	AMBER

Q2 Update

Viva PR has continued to deliver the agreed communications including updates to the Council's website and social media posts to residents, businesses and communities.

The Corporate Management Team receive a weekly update, which includes horizon scanning and potential risks. 15 positive press releases have been issued resulting in 93 pieces of further media coverage. There has also been positive coverage on ITV Granada Reports and BBC Radio Lancashire. All of these pro-active positive releases help to promote the Council externally.

Q2 risk assessment RAG status (current)

Likelihood	Impact	Overall Risk	Status
E	1	E1	GREEN

Risk 8 – Non – Delivery of Corporate Programmes

Responsible Officer - Rob Huntington

Description

The Council has agreed the 6 corporate programmes for 2023/24 to support the delivery of Corporate Plan.

Risk Consequence

Failure to deliver the corporate programmes would have a detrimental impact on the delivery of the Council’s Valley Plan 2021-25, Our Place, Our Plan, and result in a reputational risk to the Council’s commitment to the residents. The failure to deliver the corporate programmes could potentially have a negative impact on the council’s revenue budgets (by failure to deliver income generating projects) and delivery of the medium term financial strategy, and the associated economic and social benefits may not be realised.

Initial risk assessment RAG status (without mitigation)

Likelihood	Impact	Overall Risk	Status
C	2	C2	AMBER

Mitigation

Each corporate project has a Project Sponsor (member of the Corporate Management Team), a Project Manager and Finance Officer. Each corporate programme will have a robust project plan and live risk register. The Programme Sponsor will be responsible for the strategic overview of the corporate programme, and the Programme Manager will be responsible for the day-to-day management of the corporate programme. The Council’s Programme Board meets quarterly to review the progress of the corporate programmes. The Programme Sponsor will be responsible for highlighting any concerns to the Corporate Management Team throughout the life of the corporate programme.

Risk assessment RAG status (after mitigation)

Likelihood	Impact	Overall Risk	Status
E	2	E2	GREEN

Q2 Update

A revised programme to support the delivery of the Valley Plan 2021-25 (Our Place, Our Plan) has been embedded. The Programme Board now reports on the Council’s six overarching programmes, individual projects are monitored at an operational level. The Corporate Management Team, Programme Sponsors and the Policy and Performance Officer attend Programme Board on a quarterly basis. Programme Managers are invited by exception if required by the Programme Sponsor.

The previous meeting was held on 13th August 2024. Two programmes were reported in the 'red' RAG status. The risks within these programmes are monitored regularly and any issues are reported within the weekly Corporate Management Team meeting.

Q2 risk assessment RAG status (current)

Likelihood	Impact	Overall Risk	Status
E	2	E2	GREEN

Risk 9 – Financial Sustainability of Council Owned Leisure Assets

Responsible Officer – Chris Warren

Description

National lockdowns due to Covid-19 resulted in Council owned leisure facilities closing for extended periods. During closure no income was received and outside of lockdown periods, income was significantly reduced. The cost of living crisis will have a significant negative impact on utility and salary costs for the Trust. This has impacted the financial sustainability of the Trust.

Risk Consequence

If the Council owned leisure assets are to be sustained in the longer term, the operators of the facilities have little recourse to additional funding to survive other than through the Council. This financial impact was managed in 2021/22 through additional government grants and Council support, however the real impact is likely to be felt in 2022/23, 2023/24 and continues in 2024/25.

Initial risk assessment RAG status (without mitigation)	Likelihood	Impact	Overall Risk	Status
	A	2	A2	RED

Mitigation

A report on the impact of all facilities has been produced by KKP and recommendations to minimise impact have been implemented. Senior Council officers are attending the Trust Board to ensure we work together to minimise costs and an intensive monitoring process is in place. Funding through a Covid-19 specific Sport England Fund has been received though this is limited in its amount and did not cover retrospective losses. Constant monitoring of future business plans and work in partnership to maximise income and reduce costs continues.

Risk assessment RAG status (after mitigation)	Likelihood	Impact	Overall Risk	Status
	A	2	A2	RED

Q2 Update

We have engaged with the management of Rossendale Leisure Trust and have obtained further segmented detail from the Trust on its Q1 performance and have requested more forward-looking information from Q2 onwards.

Q1 performance was more encouraging showing a slight surplus, although the activity needs to remain under review and we need to ensure that there is a clear route to a sustainable business model with provision to pay down the existing debt out of operating cash flows. This will need to be in accordance with desired leisure/health outcomes. Until this is developed and deployed the risk will remain as currently evaluated.

Q2 risk assessment RAG status (current)	Likelihood	Impact	Overall Risk	Status
	A	2	A2	RED

Risk 10 – Staffing provision within Economic Development

Responsible Officer – David Smurthwaite

Description

There is an over reliance on short-term contracted staff to support the Council’s Economic Development provision and project delivery.

Risk Consequence

Failure to have sufficient resources to effectively manage the Council’s ongoing projects and capital programme. This leading to late or non-delivery of projects, cost overruns and/or inappropriate spend against external funder conditions. As well as resulting in poor outcomes for the borough and non-delivery of Council priorities.

Initial risk assessment RAG status (without mitigation)

Likelihood	Impact	Overall Risk	Status
B	2	B2	RED

Mitigation

The Council has a single source collaborative plan review document which will be updated and actioned on a monthly basis. A permanent resource requirement is being assessed for the Economic Development team and will feed into the budget setting process for 2025-26. On the assumption that this is accepted, recruitment of permanent, qualified staff will support delivery.

Risk assessment RAG status (after mitigation)

Likelihood	Impact	Overall Risk	Status
E	4	E4	GREEN

Q2 Update

During Q2, the Council has recruited a Programme Manager following the resignation from the current position holder. Recruitment to this post has alleviated immediate concern in relation to programme delivery. The successful recruitment ensures a handover period between the current and new post holder, allowing for the transfer of historical information and knowledge to ensure a smooth transition.

Economic Development are currently working with Finance to review the current budget for service delivery, and are seeking resources to implement a new, more permanent structure.

Q2 risk assessment RAG status (current)

Likelihood	Impact	Overall Risk	Status
C	3	C3	AMBER

Thriving Local Economy

■ GREEN ■ AMBER ■ RED ■ N/A

Performance Measures

29% of performance measures were reported in the **green** RAG status, 14% **amber**, 29% **red**, and 29% not applicable.



Four buildings have been fully restored via external funding.

847

Residents consulted as part of the Waterfoot Masterplan consultation.



77 businesses engaged and support since April 2024.

Area for Improvement



The planning application for Bacup Market has been paused due to a technical issue of the location of a culvert and River Irwell. This delay is not expected to impact timescales however, will need to be managed closely.

Healthy and Proud Communities

■ GREEN ■ AMBER ■ RED ■ N/A

Performance Measures

50% of performance measures were reported in the **green** RAG status, 7% **amber**, 21% **red**, and 21% not applicable.



201

'New' and 'affordable new' homes delivered within the Local Plan.



100% of major planning applications determined within the statutory deadline.

2,265

Residents supported via the Household Support Fund Round 5.

Area for Improvement



The processing of disabled facilities grants continued to underperform. The department has appointed a new member of staff to provide extra capacity to help to mitigate the current underperformance.

High Quality Environment

■ GREEN ■ AMBER ■ RED ■ N/A

Performance Measures

58% of performance measures were reported in the **green** RAG status, 21% **amber**, 11% **red**, and 16% not applicable.



Awarded the Green Flag for two Rossendale parks.

100%

Of main roads and side roads swept as per schedule.



Electric Vehicle chargepoints installed on seven car parks.

Area for Improvement



Insufficient new burdens funding for capital spend has been allocated for the introduction of food waste collections. The allocated funding is currently being appealed.

Effective and Efficient Council

■ GREEN ■ AMBER ■ RED ■ N/A

Performance Measures

64% of performance measures were reported in the **green** RAG status, 12% **amber**, 12% **red**, and 12% not applicable.



7,067

Residents subscribed to the garden waste collection.



The annual Health and Wellbeing day delivered to support staff.

15

Positive new stories released to promote the Council.

Area for Improvement



Sickness absence and number of employee leavers has increased. Absence management meetings and exit interviews will continue to be carried out to identify any patterns in relation to staff wellbeing.