Pendle Borough Council

Non-Technical Summary

Introduction

This document is the Non-Technical Summary of the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) for Pendle Borough Council's Core Strategy (Preferred Options Report). The non-technical summary sets out the sustainability appraisal process and describes the key sustainability effects anticipated as a result of implementing the preferred policy options. It seeks to do this using plain English, avoiding the use of technical terms.

The production of this non-technical summary is a requirement of the EU Directive known as the 'SEA Directive'.

Pendle Borough Council Core Strategy

Pendle Borough Council is preparing a set of planning documents which will set out the strategy, policies and proposals against which all new development proposals will be assessed. In addition these documents will provide a long-term planning vision for the Borough. The collection of documents is known as the Local Development Framework.

The Core Strategy sits at the heart of the Local Development Framework. The Core Strategy will outline:

- What development you want to see;
- Where it should be located;
- How much is needed;
- When it is required; and
- Who will make it happen?

The emerging Core Strategy has been informed by a body of work which started with the You Choose consultation event in summer 2007 and subsequent Issues and Options consultation in summer 2008. These consultations have informed the development of the preferred options, which are the subject of this appraisal and are set out in Table 1.

Table 1   Core Strategy Preferred Options

Spatial Strategy
SDP 1 Spatial Development Principles
SDP 2 Housing Distribution
SDP 3 Employment Distribution
SDP 4 Retail Distribution
SDP 5 Future Infrastructure Requirements
SDP 6 Sequential Approach to Development
ENV 1 Protecting and Enhancing our Natural and Historic Environments
ENV 2 Achieving Quality in Design and Conservation
ENV 3 Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Generation
ENV 4 Transport and Accessibility
ENV 5 Pollution
ENV 6 Waste Management
ENV 7 Water Management
LIV 1 Housing Provision, Phasing and Delivery
LIV 2 Housing Needs
LIV 3 Affordable Housing
LIV 4 Designing Better Places to Live
WRK 1 Strengthening the Local Economy
WRK 2 Employment and Land Supply
WRK 3 Retailing and Town Centres
WRK 4 Tourism, Leisure and Culture
WRK 5: Designing Better Places to Work
SUP 1 Community Facility Provision
SUP 2 Health and Well-Being
SUP 3 Education and Training
SUP 4 Designing Better Public Places

Themes

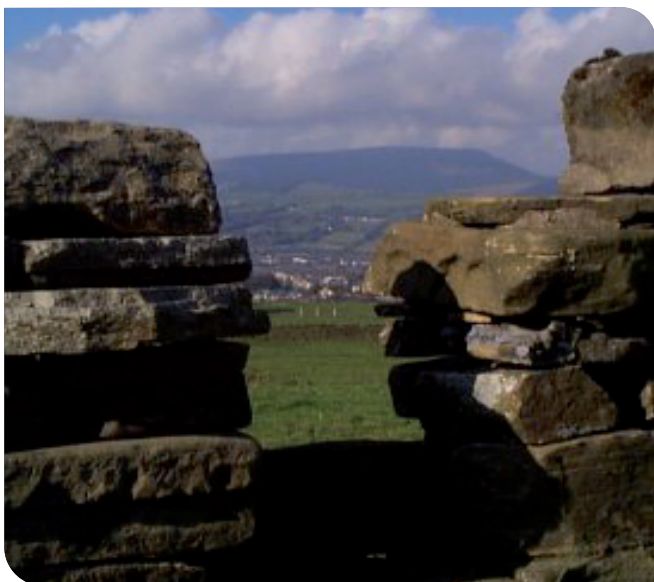| Spatial Development	Improving the Environment We Live In	Creating a Vibrant Housing Market	Creating a Dynamic and Competitive Local Economy	Supporting: Creating Healthy and Confident Communities

Sustainable Development

It is very important to ensure that the policies and proposals contained in the Local Development Framework contribute to the aims of sustainable development. This is commonly defined as ensuring that there is a better quality of life for everyone both now and in the future. Sustainable development seeks to strike a balance between economic, environmental and social factors to enable people to meet their needs whilst minimising their impact, nor compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs.
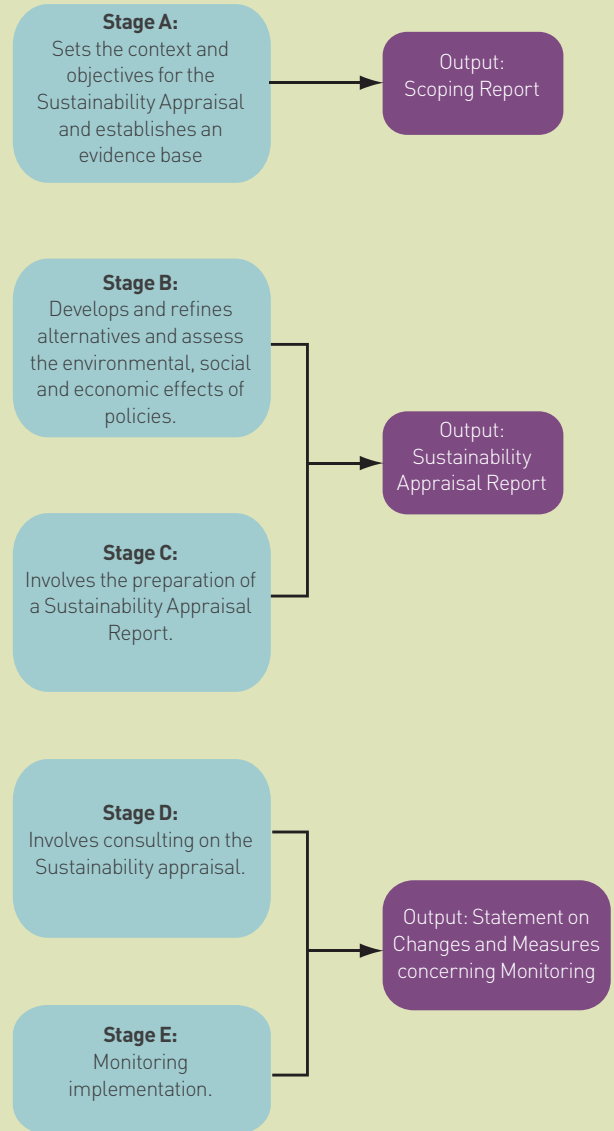
Why Sustainability Appraisal?

Sustainability Appraisal (SA) is mandatory under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 for the production of Local Development Framework documents. The mandatory requirement of SA means that local planning bodies in producing their core strategies need to demonstrate how they have considered the wider social, environmental and economic effects that its implementation may have on existing conditions.

In addition to the mandatory requirement to undertake SA, Pendle Borough Council, like all planning bodies, is also required under a European Directive to carry out a Strategic Environmental Appraisal (SEA). Whilst the requirements to produce a SA and SEA are distinct, Government guidance considers that it is possible to satisfy the two requirements through a single approach.

A scoping report for the SA of the Pendle Borough Council Core Strategy and Land Use Allocations Development Plan Documents (DPDs) was produced in September 2006 and was subject to consultation with the identified Statutory Consultees (the Environment Agency, Natural England and English Heritage). The scoping report identified key sustainability issues and characteristics and outlined the SA framework to be used to carry out the appraisal. A total of 18 SA Objectives were identified covering a range of environmental, social and economic factors. These objectives are supported by appraisal criteria, which are more detailed questions used to assess the Core Strategy.

Sustainability Appraisal

Stage A: Sets the context and objectives for the Sustainability Appraisal and establishes an evidence base → **Output: Scoping Report**

Stage B: Develops and refines alternatives and assess the environmental, social and economic effects of policies.

Stage C: Involves the preparation of a Sustainability Appraisal Report.

→ **Output: Sustainability Appraisal Report**

Stage D: Involves consulting on the Sustainability appraisal.

Stage E: Monitoring implementation.

→ **Output: Statement on Changes and Measures concerning Monitoring**

Table 2   Sustainability Appraisal Objectives

Pendle Borough Sustainability Appraisal Objectives		
H1	To help meet the housing needs of the whole community
H2	To improve health and reduce health inequalities in Pendle
E1	To improve health and reduce health inequalities in Pendle
E2	To secure economic inclusion and develop and maintain a healthy labour market
E3	To develop strategic transport, communication and economic infrastructure
E4	To deliver urban/rural renaissance
C1	To Reduce crime and the fear of crime and to reduce anti-social behaviour
C2	To improve access to and use of basic goods, services and amenities
C3	To protect places, spaces, landscapes and buildings of historic, cultural and archaeological value
C4	To protect and improve local environmental quality
C5	To develop strong and positive relationships between people from different backgrounds and communities and to value the diversity, of cultural traditions found in Pendle
P1	To minimise the requirement for energy use, promote efficient energy use and increase the use of energy from renewable sources
P2	To address the need to limit and adapt to climate change
P3	To ensure the sustainable management of existing natural resources through consideration of depletion, waste minimisation recycling and recovery
P4	To reduce contamination, regenerate degraded environments, maintain soil resources and minimise development on Greenfield sites
P5	To improve water quality and meet the requirements of the Water Framework Directive
P6	Reduce the risk of flooding and conserve water resources
P7	To protect and enhance biodiversity and protect European sites

What are the Key Sustainability Issues Affecting Pendle?

Information has been collected about the characteristics of Pendle and about other plans and programmes which might affect the Core Strategy. Using this information a number of issues have been identified, which have been summarised in Table 3.

Table 3   Key Sustainability Issues Affecting Pendle

Environmental
There is a need to protect features of landscape or townscape value and also to enhance areas in decline.
The South Pennine Moors are designated as being of ecological importance at a National and International Level.
The Borough has a high percentage of its housing stock identified as being vacant.
River quality within the Borough is identified as being good.
There are 25 Conservation Areas within Pendle and 3 Grade I and II* Buildings.
Social
There is a high proportion of residents identifying that there health is 'not good' as such there is a need to promoting healthy sustainable lifestyles.
Ensuring good access to services for all.
Improving the quality and sustainability of the existing building stock.
Reducing Deprivation, improving health and wellbeing.
Meeting the needs of a diverse population.
Economy
Improving employment levels and diversifying the employment sectors.
There is a need to improve qualification levels and skill levels within the Borough and in particular to address those challenges along the M65 corridor..
Less than 10% of the population travel further than 20km to work.
Need to redress the closure of rural textile mills and help diversify the rural economy beyond small locally owned business and seasonal working opportunities.

Appraisal Results

Each of policies in the Core Strategy has been appraised against the above objectives. The relative sustainability of each, and the likely significance of the effects leading from them, were recorded on matrices using an eight tier system (see Table 4 below), with a commentary which considered cumulative effects as well as recommendations for improvement.

Table 4   Possible Alignments between the Options/Policiesand the Sustainable Development Objectives

Alignment	Description	Symbol
Move away significantly	The proposed option / policy detracts significantly from the achievement of the objective.	$\leftarrow\leftarrow$
Move away marginally	The proposed option / policy detracts from the achievement of he objective but not significantly.	$\leftarrow$
No impact	The proposed option / policy does not have any effect on the achievement of the objective.	0
Move towards marginally	The proposed option / policy contributes to the achievement of the objective but not significantly.	$\rightarrow$
Move towards significantly	The proposed option / policy contributes to the achievement of the objective.	$\rightarrow\rightarrow$
Positive impact	The proposed option / policy has a positive effect on the achievement of the objective.	+
Negative impact	The proposed option / policy has a negative effect on the achievement of the objective	-
Uncertain	The proposed option / policy has an uncertain relationship to the objective or the relationship is dependent on the way in which the aspect is managed. In addition, insufficient information may be available to enable an assessment to be made.	?

The results indicate that implementing the Core Strategy is likely to contribute to the wider sustainable development objectives of Pendle Borough.

Summary of the Sustainability Appraisal

The Sustainability Appraisal has concluded that the Core Strategy policies are broadly sustainable. In general they are likely to have beneficial effects across a range of issues: economic, environmental and social. A summary of the appraisal is provided in Table 5 below, with full details the appraisal contained within Part 4 and Appendix A of the SA Report.

Table 5   Sustainability Advantages

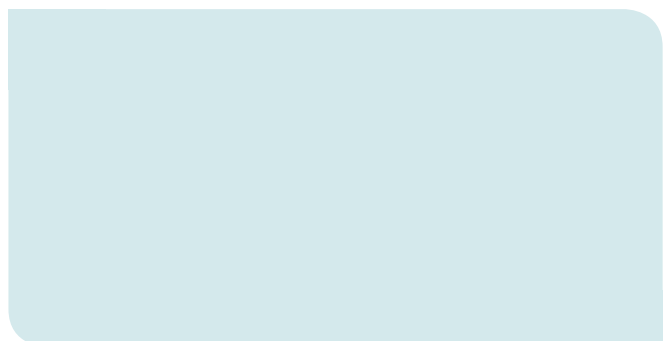| Sustainability Advantages |
|---|
| **SPD1 Spatial Development Principles and SPD6 Sequential Approach to Development**   The policies sets out the location priorities and development principles in order to help sustainable growth in Pendle. Concentrating development in identified key locations should help to improve accessibility to jobs, retail and community facilities particularly for those living within urban areas. |
| **SDP 2 Housing Distribution.**   The policy sets out a key principle for the distribution of housing across the borough. It is considered that this policy will assist in helping the local community to meet their housing needs, securing economic inclusion and improving accessibility to services within urban areas in accordance with policy SDP1. |
| **SDP 3 Employment Distribution.**   The policy supports the focus of new development within those areas identified as being of greatest demand or able to support rural diversification. This will assist in promoting employment close to the main urban settlements in accessible locations, which will potentially help to reduce private vehicle trips and facilitate the increased use of public transport. |
| **SDP 4 Retail Distribution.**   Supports the retention and development of retail and service provision within the three main urban centres of Nelson, Colne and Barnoldswick. This will ensure that retail uses predominate within town and local shopping centres, helping to contribute to their vitality and viability. |
| **SDP 5 Future Infrastructure Requirements.** The policy provides for the delivery of infrastructure necessary to facilitate development in the Borough. |
| **ENV 1 Protecting and Enhancing our Natural and Historic Environments.**   Policy is likely to offer significant benefits in relation to conserving the natural and historic environment and promoting the creation of new habitats. |
| **ENV 2 Achieving Quality in Design and Conservation.**   This policy seeks to deliver the highest possible standards of design, in form and sustainability. It seeks to promote accessibility, protect or enhance features of heritage value and encourage the reuse of existing buildings. |
| **ENV 3 Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Generation.**   This policy requires new residential and commercial developments to generate 10% of their predicted energy use from renewable or low carbon sources (where viable). This approach contributes towards meeting renewable targets and reducing greenhouse gases and the conservation of energy over the plan period. |
| **ENV 4 Transport and Accessibility.**   This policy accords with the strategy identified within SDP 1-4 inclusive by seeking to promote accessibility and reduce reliance upon the private car in tandem with the development of new pedestrian and cycling links in order to help reduce CO_2 emissions. The policy also includes for the provision of the A56 villages bypass and/or the reinstatement of the former Colne to Skipton railway line, as a means of reducing the negative impact of large volumes of vehicle movements and improving highway safety. |
| **ENV 5 Pollution.**   This policy seeks to minimise air, water, noise and light pollution and address risks from contaminated land and hazardous substances. It is considered that the implementation of this policy will have benefits for human health as well as environmental benefits through the remediation of contaminated land. |
| **ENV 6 Waste Management.**   The policy seeks to support the waste framework as required by the Lancashire Minerals and Waste Development Framework. There is also provision within the policy to encourage the provision of energy from waste and increasing recycling across the borough. |
| **ENV 7 Water Management.**   The policy accords with the requirements of PPS25 which seeks to avoid development within the floodplain and to minimise increasing the risk of flooding elsewhere. |
| **LIV 1 Housing Provision, Phasing and Delivery.**   The policy provides strategic guidance on the amount of new housing to be delivered and the phasing of this delivery. |
| **LIV 2 Housing Needs and LIV 3 Affordable Housing.**   The policy's primary aim is to meet the housing needs of all sectors of the community. The implementation of this policy will help to address existing deficiencies in housing provision and facilitate the reduction of overcrowding. Appropriate mixes of housing may also assist in creating mixed communities with people from different backgrounds living alongside one another. |
| **LIV 4 Designing Better Places to Live.**   In addition to the general design principles set out in Policy ENV2, the policy sets out the criteria which will be taken into consideration to encourage the provision of well designed housing to meet the needs of Pendle's population. Due regard will be had to various design principles and guidance including the Code for Sustainable Homes and Building for Life Standards. The policy sets out a general guide, on a borough wide scale, for the size and type of market housing required and the size of affordable that is needed. This policy is considered to perform very well against those objectives which relate to meeting housing needs, protecting environmental quality, minimising energy use, adapting to climate change, reducing the risk of flooding and protecting and enhancing biodiversity. |

WRK 1 Strengthening the Local Economy and WRK 2 Employment and Land Supply. These policies seek to bring forward employment land over the plan period which will strengthen and diversify the local economy, as such the policies are considered to perform well against those objectives relating to economic development and training.
WRK 3 Retailing and Town Centres. This policy sets out the strategy for retail development in town centres to provide a vibrant shopping experience, with the main focus being within Nelson and Colne. Barnoldswick and the rural service centres will be the primary focus for new retail provision to serve the needs of the rural community.
WRK 4 Tourism, Leisure and Culture. The policy seeks to improve and increase existing tourism, leisure and cultural facilities as means of increasing investment in the Borough. The preferred option will assist in providing employment opportunities, delivering a high standard of design and promoting sustainable tourism associated with cycling, walking, waterways and the built and natural environment.
WRK 5 Design Better Places to Work. Adapting existing workplaces for new employment uses will help to support the reuse of vacant buildings helping to minimise the need to develop on Greenfield land. The policy will also promote mixed use and shared spaces in new developments. The policy also provides further support for rural diversification.
SUP 1 Community Facility Provision and SUP 2 Health and Well-Being. The provision of community facilities and improvement of health and well-being will assist in tackling the levels of deprivation identified in certain parts of Pendle.
SUP 3 Education and Training. Supporting opportunities to improve educational and training opportunities within Pendle will help to address problems associated with lower levels of qualifications, skills and training within the borough. This will enhance the skills within the workforce and help to tackle deprivation within the Borough.
SUP 4 Designing Better Public Places. Improvements to the public realm and public buildings are will promote sustainable development and create a built environment that is more adaptive to climate change. The policy may also deliver social improvements associated with improving residents sense of place, neighbourhood identify and community wellbeing. In addition the policy also seeks to promote a pattern of land use and facilities which will encourage walking and cycling; leisure, recreation and play, which have tangible benefits for peoples health and fitness.

Mitigation and Monitoring

Mitigation

In order to avoid any adverse effects associated with the Core Strategy policies it is necessary, where possible, to identify possible mitigation measures. The SA has identified a limited number of minor adverse effects and no significant adverse effects. Many of the policies in the Core Strategy are of a strategic nature making it less likely that adverse effects can be readily identified. It is anticipated that as these policies evolve into detailed proposals through future DPD's their performance will be amplified and that further mitigation measures may need to be developed. However, for the purposes of this assessment, the following mitigation measures (Table 6) have been identified.

Table 6   Suggested Recommendations for Mitigation

Significant Effect	Mitigation/ Enhancement
Policy ENV 3 Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Generation (SO E1 (c))	Encourage renewable energy development to be located in the most sustainable locations minimising any potential adverse effects on local well-being and specifically areas of local environmental / heritage importance and value, or which are of specific tourist interest.
Policy ENV 3 Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Generation (SO C5 (a))	Communities are likely to oppose large scale wind farms. Good public relations will require early engagement and consultation with those communities affected in order to assess, evaluate and address their needs and concerns.
Policy ENV 3 Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Generation (SO P7 (a) and (b))	Wind turbines should be sited carefully, with areas of local environmental / heritage importance and value being avoided wherever possible.
Policy ENV 4 Transport and Accessibility (SO P4 (a) and (b))	Construction of key strategic transport schemes should seek to site such schemes in the most sustainable locations.
Policy ENV 4 Transport and Accessibility (SO P7 (a) and (b))	As far as practicable the large scale infrastructure projects to create the A56 by-pass and / or the reinstatement of the Colne to Skipton railway line should avoid areas of environmental / biodiversity / landscape importance when their routes are planned. Where it is not possible to do so, replacement habitats should be provided nearby.

Monitoring

The SA Report sets out an approach towards monitoring that is linked to the production of an Annual Monitoring Report, previously required for the Local Development Framework. A number of indicators are suggested based on information collected during this Sustainability Appraisal and these are set out in Section 5 of the SA Report.

How Has the Appraisal Improved the Plan

The SA Report is an integral part of the process of preparing and developing the Pendle Core Strategy.

As an iterative process, SA will continue to improve the sustainability of the Core Strategy and thereafter any

additional documents to be included in the Local Development Framework. Consultation on the SA Report will allow stakeholders to analyse the Core Strategy with regards to sustainability objectives. This will help to highlight issues with regard to the performance of the Core Strategy against these objectives and associated indicators.

Next Steps

The Core Strategy will be subject to a period of public consultation between 28th October and 12th December 2011, along with the SA Report. We would welcome your views on the SA Report. All comments received by the closing date will be carefully considered and the SA Report will be amended as appropriate.

How to Comment

We hope that you have found the information in this Non-Technical Summary useful.

Further information can be obtained from the Planning Policy and Conservation team at Pendle Borough Council at the address below:

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Email: ldf@pendle.gov.uk - Tel: 01282 661330

The Core Strategy can also be viewed on-line at
www.pendle.gov.uk/corestrategy

amec.com/ukenvironment