

Pendle Local Plan Fourth Edition



Sustainability Appraisal Post Adoption Statement Pendle Local Plan Fourth Edition

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Report for

Neil Watson
Assistant Director Planning, Building Control
and Regulatory Services
Pendle Council
Town Hall
Market Street
Nelson
Lancashire
BB9 7LG

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Main Contributors

Craig Barnes
John Halton

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Issued by

John Halton
Principal Planning Officer (Policy)

Document Revisions

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| 1. Scoping Report | May 2022 |
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| 3. Publication Report | September 2024 |
| 4. Main Modifications | September 2025 |
| 5. Post Adoption Statement | December 2025 |
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1. Introduction

- 1.1 Pendle Borough Council (the Council) submitted the Pendle Local Plan Fourth Edition (the Local Plan) for its independent examination on 18 February 2025. Examination hearings took place over nine days during June and July 2025. Subject to modification the Local Plan was found sound and legally compliant by the appointed Inspector on 20 November 2025. The Local Plan was adopted by the Council at its meeting on 18 December 2025.
- 1.2 The Local Plan establishes the strategic approach to development and growth over the plan period 2021 to 2040. Its policies and proposals provide the starting point (alongside 'made' Neighbourhood Plans and the adopted Lancashire Joint Minerals and Waste Plan) for considering whether applications for planning permission should be approved or refused. Its policies supersede any remaining 'saved' policies from the Replacement Pendle Local Plan (2006), the Bradley Area Action Plan (2011) and the Pendle Core Strategy (2015).
- 1.3 The Sustainability Appraisal (SA), incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), has been an integrated part of the plan preparation process, assessing the likely effects of the Local Plan on defined social, economic and environmental objectives. It has been prepared in accordance with requirements of [Section 19 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004](#) and incorporates the requirements of [Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004](#) (Statutory Instrument 2004 No. 1633). Hereafter referred to as the SEA Regulations.
- 1.4 Following adoption of the Local Plan, SEA Regulations require the Council to publish a Post Adoption Statement to explain:
 - How environmental (and sustainability) considerations have been integrated into the Local Plan
 - How the SA Report has been taken into account during preparation of the Plan
 - The reasons for choosing the Plan as adopted, in light of the other reasonable alternatives dealt with
 - How the opinions expressed by the public and consultation bodies during consulting on the Plan and SA Report have been taken into account, and
 - The measures that are to be taken to monitor the significant effects identified for the Local Plan.
- 1.5 This is the purpose of this report.

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2. Integration of Environmental and Sustainability Considerations into the Local Plan

- 2.1 Environmental and sustainability issues have been considered through the SA appraisal Framework. The SA objectives outlined in the SA framework (14 in total) reflect the long-term aspirations for the Borough addressing social, economic and environmental considerations. It is against these SA objectives that the performance of Local Plan proposals, together with their reasonable alternatives, have been appraised. This appraisal has been undertaken iteratively, at all stages of plan preparation, as policy, site requirements and supporting evidence have evolved, taking into account comments received during the plan making process as well as dialog with statutory consultees through the Duty to Cooperate.
- 2.2 The 14 SA objectives with associated guide questions (Table 2.1) were first identified through the [SA Scoping Report](#) (2022). These objectives and guide questions have been derived following an assessment of the baseline conditions of Pendle, addressing matters including (but not limited to) housing need, condition and supply, economic growth, deprivation, regeneration, the built and natural environment, flooding, climate change, and transport. They also take into account a review of identified relevant plans and programmes published locally, regionally, nationally and internationally by the Council, neighbouring authorities, local bodies, town and parish councils, and interest groups, the county council, statutory consultees and providers, the UK government, and international bodies including the United Nations, and takes into account the targets, aspirations and thresholds of these publications.
- 2.3 The SA makes recommendations to help avoid, minimise and mitigate potential adverse, mixed or uncertain effects of policy decisions on assessed SA objectives. The assessment made through appraisal is judgement based taking into account available evidence, monitoring information, national planning policy and relevant legislation, and wider plans and programmes. The recommendations made by the SA have been considered by the Council through policy development. Its findings heavily influence the monitoring framework contained within the Local Plan (see Appendix 10).

Table 2.1 The SA Framework for Pendle Local Plan

SA Objective	Guide Questions	SEA Regulations Topic(s)
1. To meet the housing needs of all communities in the Pendle area and deliver decent homes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will it provide a range of housing types and tenures to meet current and emerging need for market and affordable housing? Will it promote improvements to the Borough's existing housing stock, particularly the older terraced housing located in the most deprived areas? Will it help to ensure the provision of good quality, well designed homes? 	Population

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SA Objective	Guide Questions	SEA Regulations Topic(s)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will it help enable delivery of pitches for Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople if required? 	
2. To achieve a strong and stable economy which offers high quality and well-located employment opportunities for everyone.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will it provide a supply of the right type and quality of employment land to meet the needs of existing businesses and attract inward investment? Will it maintain and enhance economic competitiveness? Will it support the high technology, aerospace and advanced manufacturing sectors? Will it help to diversify the local economy? Will it provide good quality, well paid employment opportunities that meet the needs of local people? Will it improve the physical accessibility of jobs? Will it promote a low carbon economy? Will it reduce out-commuting? Will it improve access to training to raise employment potential? Will it promote investment in educational establishments? Will it support rural diversification? Will it promote tourism and support the visitor economy? 	Population
3. To promote urban regeneration, support the vitality of rural areas, tackle deprivation and promote sustainable living.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will it support and enhance the Borough by attracting new commercial investment? Will it enhance the public realm? Will it enhance the viability and vitality of the Borough's town centres, local shopping centres and villages? Will it tackle deprivation and reduce inequalities in access to education, employment and services? Will it ensure people are not disadvantaged with regard to ethnicity, gender, age, disability, faith, sexuality, background or location? Will it foster social cohesion? Will it maintain and enhance community facilities and services? Will it increase access to schools and colleges? Will it enhance accessibility to key community facilities and services? Will it align investment in services, facilities and infrastructure with growth? Will it contribute to regeneration initiatives? Will it help tackle population decline in certain areas of the Borough? 	Population Human Health

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SA Objective	Guide Questions	SEA Regulations Topic(s)
4. To improve the health and wellbeing of those living and working in the Pendle area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it avoid locating development where environmental circumstances could negatively impact on people's health? • Will it protect and enhance the provision of open space, leisure and recreational facilities? • Will it maintain and improve access to open space, leisure and recreational facilities? • Will it promote healthier lifestyles? • Will it meet the needs of an ageing population? • Will it support those with disabilities? • Will it maintain and enhance healthcare facilities and services? • Will it align investment in healthcare facilities and services with growth? • Will it improve access to healthcare facilities and services? • Will it promote community safety? • Will it reduce actual levels of crime and anti-social behaviour? • Will it reduce the fear of crime? • Will it promote design that discourages crime? 	Population Human Health
5. To reduce the need to travel, promote more sustainable modes of transport and align investment in infrastructure with growth.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it reduce travel demand and the distance people travel for jobs, employment, leisure and services and facilities? • Will it reduce out-commuting? • Will it encourage a shift to more sustainable modes of transport? • Will it encourage walking, cycling and the use of public transport? • Will it help reduce traffic congestion? • Will it improve road safety and contribute towards a reduction in those killed and seriously injured (KSI)? • Will it deliver investment in transportation infrastructure that supports growth in the Pendle area? 	Population Human Health Air Climatic Factors
6. To encourage the efficient use of land and conserve and enhance soils.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it promote the use of previously developed (brownfield) land and minimise the loss of greenfield land? • Will it avoid the loss of agricultural land including best and most versatile land? • Will it reduce the amount of derelict, degraded and underused land? • Will it encourage the reuse of existing buildings and infrastructure? • Will it prevent land contamination and facilitate remediation of contaminated sites? 	Material Assets Soil

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SA Objective	Guide Questions	SEA Regulations Topic(s)
7. To conserve and enhance water quality and resources.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will it reduce water pollution and improve ground and surface water quality? Will it reduce water consumption and encourage water efficiency? Will it ensure that new water/wastewater management infrastructure is delivered in a timely manner to support new development? 	Water
8. To reduce the risk of flooding to people and property, taking into account the effects of climate change.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will it help to minimise the risk of flooding to existing and new developments/infrastructure? Will it manage effectively, and reduce the likelihood of, flash flooding, taking into account the capacity of sewerage systems? Will it discourage inappropriate development in areas at risk from flooding? Will it ensure that new development does not give rise to flood risk elsewhere? Will it deliver sustainable urban drainage systems (SUDS) and promote investment in flood defences that reduce vulnerability to flooding? 	Climatic Factors Water
9. To improve air quality.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will it maintain and improve air quality? Will it address air quality issues in the Colne Air Quality Management Area and prevent new designations of Air Quality Management Areas? Will it avoid locating development in areas of existing poor air quality? Will it minimise emissions to air from new development? 	Air Human Health
10. To minimise greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to the effects of climate change.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will it minimise energy use and reduce or mitigate greenhouse gas emissions? Will it plan or implement adaptation measures for the likely effects of climate change? Will it support the delivery of renewable and low carbon energy and reduce dependency on non-renewable sources? Will it promote sustainable design that minimises greenhouse emissions and is adaptable to the effects of climate change? 	Climatic Factors
11. To promote the waste hierarchy (reduce, reuse, recycle, recover) and ensure the sustainable use of natural resources.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will it minimise the demand for raw materials? Will it promote the use of local resources? Will it reduce minerals extracted and imported? Will it increase efficiency in the use of raw materials and promote recycling? Will it avoid sterilising minerals? Will it reduce waste arising? Will it increase the reuse and recycling of waste? 	Material Assets

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SA Objective	Guide Questions	SEA Regulations Topic(s)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will it support investment in waste management facilities to meet local needs? 	
12. To conserve and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity and promote improvements to the green infrastructure network.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will it conserve and enhance the international and nationally designated South Pennine Moors (designated as a Special Area of Conservation, Special Protection Area, and Site of Special Scientific Interest)? Will it conserve and enhance Local Nature Reserves (LNRs), Biological Heritage Sites (BHS) and Sites of Local Natural Importance (LNI)? Will it avoid damage to, and protect, geologically important sites – Local Geodiversity Sites (LGS)? Will it conserve and enhance priority species and habitats? Will it provide opportunities for new habitat creation or restoration and link existing habitats as part of the development process? Will it enhance ecological connectivity and maintain and improve the green infrastructure network? Will it protect and enhance the provision of, and access to, the green infrastructure network? 	Biodiversity, Fauna and Flora Human Health
13. To conserve and enhance the historic environment, heritage assets and their setting.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will it help to conserve and enhance the significance of the historic environment, heritage assets and their setting? Will it tackle heritage assets identified as being ‘at risk’? Will it protect or enhance the significance of non-designated heritage assets? Will it promote local cultural distinctiveness? Will it help to sustain and enhance historic buildings, places and spaces that contribute to local distinctiveness, character and appearance through sensitive adaptation and re-use? Will it improve and promote access to buildings and landscapes of historic/cultural value? 	Cultural Heritage Landscape
14. To conserve and enhance landscape character and townscapes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will it conserve and enhance the distinctive landscape character and townscapes of the Borough? Will it promote high quality design in context with its urban and rural landscape? Will it avoid inappropriate development in the Green Belt and ensure the Green Belt endures? Will it help to conserve and enhance the Forest of Bowland National Landscape? 	Landscape Cultural Heritage

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- 2.4 The extent to which the SA objectives encompass the range of issues identified in the SEA Regulations is set out in Table 2.2.

Table 2.2 The Appraisal Matrix

SEA Regulations Topic	SA Objective(s)
Biodiversity	12
Population *	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
Human Health	3, 4, 5, 9, 12
Fauna	12
Flora	12
Soil	6
Water	7, 8
Air	5, 9
Climate Factors	5, 8, 10
Material Assets*	6, 11
Cultural, Architectural and Archaeological Heritage	13, 14
Landscape	12, 14

Notes: * These terms are not defined clearly in the SEA Regulations

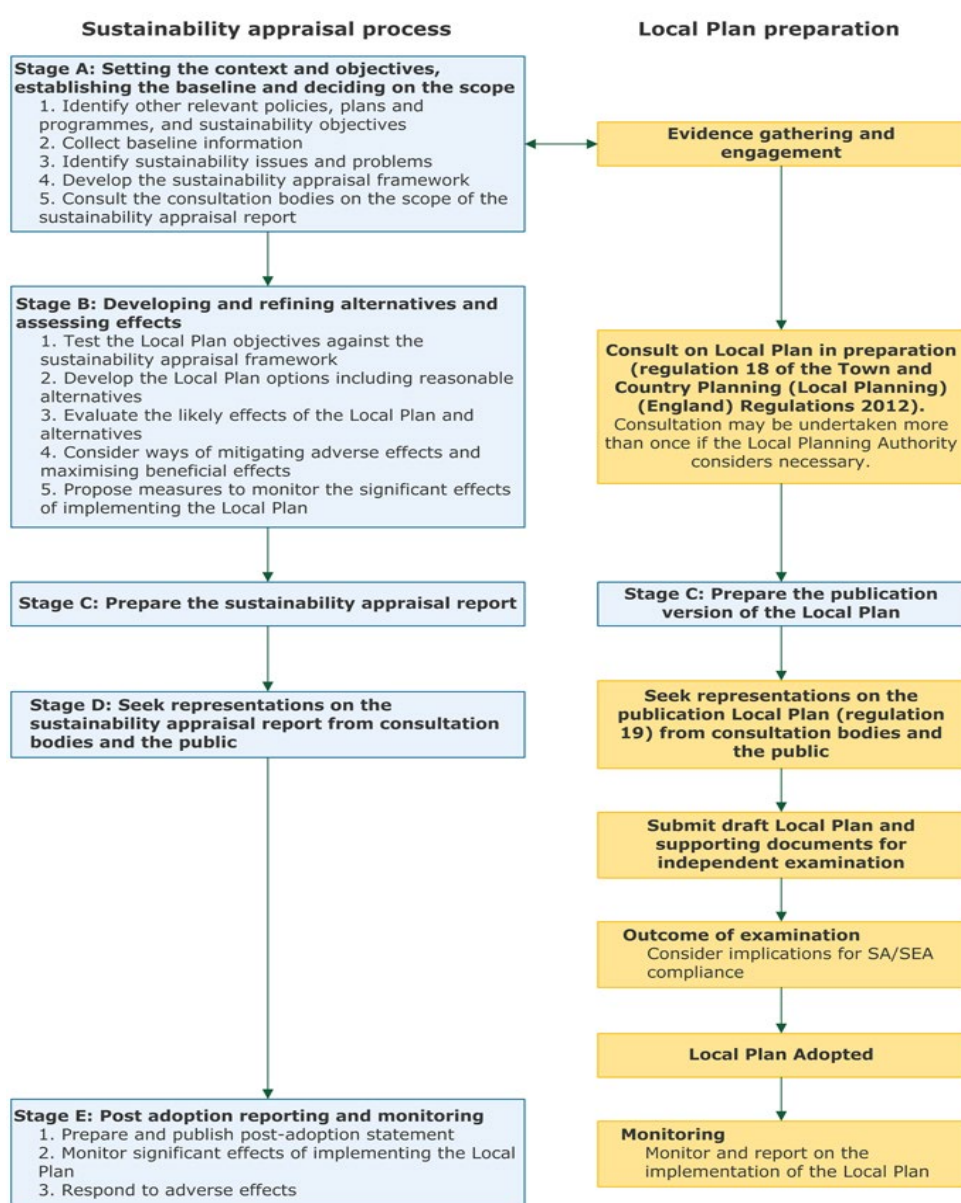
- 2.5 Guidance is provided within the SA on the interpretation of significance for the SA Framework including SA objectives and associated guide questions to be used in the appraisal of the Local Plan. Indicators for each objective are also included. In addition, to support the appraisal of sites, a set of thresholds have been developed to help identify the significance of potential effects. The thresholds aim to ensure consistency and transparency in the appraisal. The approach of these indicators and identified thresholds was subject to consultation at the scoping stage and has remained unaltered throughout the SA process.

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3 How SA Findings have been taken into account

- 3.1 The SA has been produced following the process set out in Planning Practice Guidance (PPG). There are five key stages to this process as confirmed in Figure 3.1, which feed into the development of the Local Plan.

Figure 3.1 The sustainability appraisal process and linkages to Local Plan preparation



Source: Planning Practice Guidance on Strategic environmental assessment and sustainability appraisal (Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government, 2015)

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- 3.2 Stage A involves the production of a Scoping Report. The scoping stage itself comprises five tasks that are listed below:
1. Review of other relevant policies, plans, programmes and strategies.
 2. Collation and analysis of baseline information.
 3. Identification of key sustainability issues.
 4. Development of the SA Framework.
 5. Consultation on the scope of the appraisal.
- 3.3 The Council consulted on the [SA Scoping Report](#) in parallel to the scoping report for the Local Plan in July 2022. The SA Scoping Report provides a thorough account of the baseline conditions of the plan area which provides the context for plan making in Pendle. A comprehensive review of relevant policies, plans, programmes and strategies including their key objectives and targets are included within the report. These form the basis of the identified key sustainability issues of the borough and have been important in defining the SA Framework which has been used to appraise policy options. The scoping report sets out how each SA objective is to be assessed, defining their significance, and indicating specific thresholds used to define policy performance.
- 3.4 Following the conclusion of scoping consultation, the SA Framework was amended to take account of responses to the consultation. [Appendix 9](#) of the Publication Draft SA confirms the changes that were made. Responses were received from the Environment Agency, Natural England and Historic England, as well as other consultees, local bodies, developers and residents.
- 3.5 At Stage B the revised SA Framework was used to appraise the effects of the key components of the emerging Preferred Options Report of the Local Plan (i.e. policies and site allocations, including any reasonable alternatives). At this stage the SA Report is continually evolving alongside the development and refinement of the Local Plan. It involves testing the sustainability strengths and weaknesses of the emerging Plan options that are under consideration, taking into account new evidence, changes to policy objectives, and changing needs. The Council consulted on the first draft of the Local Plan (and SA Report) at the Preferred Options stage for an extended period of eight (8) weeks from June to August 2023.
- 3.6 At this stage policy options were informed by those identified in evidence, or which provided a varied policy response in the context of available evidence, unless there was a clear legislative or national planning policy steer. Alternative options tested included:
- The amount of, distribution and delivery of new development over the plan period
 - The approach taken to development in the open countryside
 - The provision of car parking
- 3.7 The Council appraised all sites which had been submitted and considered for site allocation (for housing and/or employment) which had not been filtered out for their size (too small), their constraints (e.g. significant risk of flooding) or where it had been indicated that the site was no longer available. This appraisal is set out in Appendix 5 and 6 of the [SA Preferred Options Report](#).

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- 3.8 Stage C involves further changes to the SA Report to address the comments received in response to the Preferred Options consultation (Regulation 18). Comments received regarding the approach and/or specific wording of proposed policy, alternative policy options not previously considered which may be considered 'reasonable', and any site-specific evidence which had been submitted, including the submission of new sites for consideration for allocation, have been taken into account in preparing the final iteration of the SA Report (at Stage D). The Council's approach to this is summarised in [Regulation 18 Consultation Statement](#) (see [Appendix 1](#)).
- 3.9 In Stage D the final iteration of the SA Report is prepared to accompany the Submission Draft Local Plan. It tests the Publication Draft Local Plan, further evidence prepared in support of the Plan, any new plans and programmes that have come into effect, and changes to the baseline conditions. The [Publication SA Report](#) was made available for consultation alongside the Local Plan for six (6) weeks from October to December 2024 (Regulation 19). The Plan was then submitted for independent examination in February 2025, with the examination carried out by an independent planning inspector appointed by the Secretary of State.
- 3.10 Any significant changes that are required to the Local Plan through the examination may require further appraisal. An addendum to the SA was published appraising proposed Main Modifications against established sustainability objectives. This report was subject to a consultation lasting six (6) weeks alongside the Schedule of Main Modifications, Schedule of proposed amendments to the Policies Map, and the Schedule of Additional Modifications.
- 3.11 The [SA Addendum](#) screens each modification for further appraisal considering the significance of any alterations made in the context of the defined SA objectives. A focused appraisal is then carried out for any revised policy screened into the assessment against the relevant SA objectives. The resulting change and need for any mitigation or monitoring measures is considered along with the cumulative and synergistic effects of the changes with wider policies of the Local Plan. The alternations made to policies by the main modification have a relatively minor effect on the appraisal of the Local Plan's policies on SA objectives.
- 3.12 No further amendments were required to the SA as a result of comments received during the consultation on proposed main modifications. The final appraisal of policies and sites of the Local Plan as adopted is set out in Figure 3.2 (policies) and 3.3 (site allocations).
- 3.13 Stage E requires the Council, as soon as reasonably practicable after the adoption of the Local Plan, to issue a Post Adoption Statement. This report represents Stage E.
- 3.14 During the period of the Local Plan, and in accordance with the SEA Directive, the Council will monitor its implementation and any significant social, economic and environmental effects by applying the monitoring framework set out in Appendix 10 of the Local Plan. This framework closely reflects the recommendations for monitoring as set out in [Appendix 8](#) of the Publication version of the SA. This process seeks to ensure that any unexpected environmental effects are identified and addressed, to avoid significant environmental effects.

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Figure 3.2 Summary Appraisal of Local Plan Fourth Edition Policies (as adopted)

Policy No.	Sustainability Objectives													
	SA1	SA2	SA3	SA4	SA5	SA6	SA7	SA8	SA9	SA10	SA11	SA12	SA13	SA14
Strategic Policies														
SP01	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	+	0	+	0	0	0	+
SP02	+	+	++	++	+	+	0	0	+	+	0	+/-	?	+
SP03	+	+	++	++	+	+	0	0	+	+	0	+/-	?	+
SP04	0	-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+	+	0	+/-	+/-	+	0	?	+
SP05	0	++	+	+	+	+/-	0	0	+	0	+	-	-	-
SP06	~	+	+	+	+	+	~	0	0	+	~	+	?	?
SP07	-	-	++	++	+	++	+	+	+/-	+/-	0	+	0	++
SP08	+	+	+	+	~	+	+	~	+	+	+	+	+	+
SP09	-	-	+/-	+	~	+	++	++	+	++	~	+	~	+
SP10	-	-	+/-	+/-	~	+	+	+	+	+	~	++	+	++
SP11	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	~	?	~	0	0	?	+	+	++	++
SP12	+	+	++	++	++	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	?	+
SP13	+	+	+	+	++	+	~	+	+	+	+	+	?	?
SP14	+	+	+	+	+	?	+	+	+	+	+	+	~	~
Environmental Policies														
DM01	+/-	+/-	+/-	+	+	+	+	++	++	++	++	++	~	+
DM02a	-	-	+/-	+	~	+	++	++	+	++	~	+	~	+
DM02b	-	-	+/-	+	~	+	++	++	~	+	~	+	~	+
DM03	~	+	+	+/-	~	+	~	~	+	+	+/-	?	?	?
DM04	-	-	+/-	+/-	~	+/-	+	+	+	+	+/-	++	0	0
DM05	~	~	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+/-	++	+	+
DM06	0	0	+	++	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	++	+	++
DM07	0	0	+	+	~	+	+	+	+	+	~	++	0	++
DM08	0	0	0	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	++	0	++
DM09	0	0	+	+	+	++	0	+	+	+	+	+	?	+

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Policy No.	Sustainability Objectives													
	SA1	SA2	SA3	SA4	SA5	SA6	SA7	SA8	SA9	SA10	SA11	SA12	SA13	SA14
DM10	?	?	+	+	~	?	+	+	+	+	+	++	+	++
DM11	0	+	+	+	+	~	+	~	+	+	+	++	+	++
DM12	0	0	+	++	+	0	+	+	+	+	0	+	+	+
DM13	0	0	+/-	++	+	+	+	~	+	+	~	+	~	+
DM14	?	?	+/-	++	0	+	+	~	+	+	+/-	+	+/-	+/-
DM15	0	0	+	+	~	++	++	++	~	++	++	+	~	+
DM16	+	+	+	++	+	+	+	+	+	+	++	+	+	+
DM17	~	0	+	+	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	+	+
DM18	?	?	+	+	~	?	~	~	~	?	~	~	++	+
DM19	0	0	+	+	+	?	+	0	+	0	~	+	++	++
Social Policies														
DM21	+	+	++	++	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	+
DM22	+	+	+	+	?	+	?	~	?	?	~	0	0	0
DM23	+	+	+	+	0	+/-	0	?	0	0	~	0	0	0
DM24	+	0	+	+	0	+	+	+	0	+	+	0	0	0
DM25	+	0	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	+	+	0	+	+
DM26	+	+	+	+	0	+	0	0	0	0	+	0	+	+
DM27	+	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	~	0	?	0
DM28	+	+	+	+	+	0	~	~	+	0	~	0	0	0
DM29	+	~	+	+	+	~	~	0	0	0	+	0	0	0
DM30	+	+	+	++	+	+	+	~	+	+	?	+	~	~
DM31	0	0	+	++	+	0	0	+	+	+	0	++	?	+
DM32	~	~	+	++	++	+	~	~	++	++	~	~	~	~
DM33	~	0	+	++	~	~	~	~	~	~	0	~	+	+
DM34	~	~	+	+	+	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~
DM35	~	~	+	+	+	~	~	~	~	+	~	~	~	~
DM36	~	+	+	+	+	+	~	+	?	+	+	+	0	0
DM37	0	0	0	+	0	0	~	0	0	0	~	~	0	+
DM38	~	0	0	0	0	~	~	~	0	0	~	~	0	0

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Policy No.	Sustainability Objectives													
	SA1	SA2	SA3	SA4	SA5	SA6	SA7	SA8	SA9	SA10	SA11	SA12	SA13	SA14
DM39	~	+	+	0	+	~	~	~	+	+	~	0	0	0
Economic Policies														
DM41	0	++	+	+	++	++	0	0	0	0	+	0	?	0
DM42	+	++	++	+	+	++	0	0	+	+	+	+	+	+
DM43	+	+	+	++	++	+	~	0	+	+	~	0	+	+
DM44	~	+	++	+	0	+	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	0
DM45	~	+	+	0	-	0	0	0	0	0	~	0	0	0
DM46	~	+	+	+	-	+	~	0	~	~	+	0	0	0
Site Specific Policies														
AL01	+	+	+	+	+	+	+/-	+/-	+	+	+	0	0	+
AL02	~	+	+	+	+	+/-	-	-	0	0	+/-	-	0	+/-

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Figure 3.3 Summary Appraisal of Local Plan Fourth Edition Site Allocations (as adopted)

Site Allocation Reference	Sustainability Objectives													
	SA1	SA2	SA3	SA4	SA5	SA6	SA7	SA8	SA9	SA10	SA11	SA12	SA13	SA14
P013 (E)	~	+	+	+	+	-	-	--	0	0	0	-	0	-
P026 (H)	++	+	+	+	+	++	-	--	0	+	0	0	0	+
P052 (H)	+	0	+	+	+	++	-	-	0	+	0	-	+	+
P060 (H)	+	+	++	+	+	++	-	-	0	+	0	0	0	+
P064 (H)	+	+	+	+	+	++	-	--	0	+	0	0	+	+
P067 (H)	+	0	+	+	+	+/-	-	-	0	-	-	0	0	-
P237 (H)	++	+	0	0	+	+/-	-	-	0	0	-	0	0	0
P257 (H)	+	+	+	+	+	++	-	--	0	+	0	0	0	0
P267 (H)	+	+	++	+	+	++	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	+
P309 (E)	~	+	+	+	+	++	-	-	0	+	0	-	0	0
P326 (H)	+	+	+	0	+	++	0	-	0	+	0	0	0	0

Key: Housing site (H), Employment site (E)

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4 The reasons for choosing the Plan as adopted, in light of other reasonable alternatives

- 4.1 SEA Regulation 12(2) requires the assessment of the likely significant effects of the Local Plan and any reasonable alternatives taking into account the scope and objectives of the Local Plan. Guidance sets out that only realistic and relevant 'reasonable alternatives' should be considered and distinct enough to draw meaningful comparison. Alternatives that have been deemed as 'unreasonable' have therefore not been appraised through the SA. No reasonable alternatives were assessed at main modifications stage as these modifications had been deemed necessary by the appointed Inspector to find the Local Plan sound.
- 4.2 Tested reasonable alternatives reflect those options presented in evidence, represented 'reasonable' alternative approaches to meeting and managing development to the preferred policy, or responded to specific comments or evidence submitted during the plan preparation process. The appraisal undertaken demonstrates that the preferred strategy often performed best or comparatively well to those identified reasonable alternatives against the SA objectives. Mitigation measures and/or monitoring indicators have been identified where adverse effects may be likely or where the effect of the policy is uncertain or mixed. Their role is to avoid the occurrence of significant environmental effects.
- 4.3 The adopted preferred strategy has been selected for its responsiveness to the evidence base and baseline conditions which informs plan making in Pendle. It will help meet and address the vision and objectives of the Local Plan. Its strategy will be effective in responding to the needs and aspirations of residents and businesses of the borough taking into account environmental and market constraints, social conditions and infrastructure requirements in the context of national planning policy and guidance and legislation.
- 4.4 The SA demonstrates that the preferred strategy (as modified) represents an appropriate strategy, taking into account the reasonable alternatives. Moreover, the Local Plan as adopted by the Council, has been found to be sound and legally compliant by independent examination. It therefore represents a suitable approach to addressing the key planning issues of the Borough up to 2040.

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5 How opinions expressed during consultation have been taken into account

- 5.1 Preparation of the Local Plan has been an iterative process. It has been developed taking into account comments made through consultations undertaken during the plan making process on both the Local Plan and SA, as well as wider discussions and collaboration which has taken place in accordance with the Duty to Cooperate with neighbouring authorities, regional bodies and statutory consultees/providers (see the [Duty to Cooperate Statement of Compliance](#)).
- 5.2 The Local Plan has been prepared in accordance with an adopted [Local Development Scheme](#) and as a result has been subject to several rounds of public consultation. Each consultation event has been carried out in accordance with the Council's [Statement of Community Involvement](#) adopted in September 2022.
- 5.3 The SA has been published for consultation alongside the Local Plan at each key stage of the plan preparation process:
- [SA Scoping](#): June 2022. A minimum 4-week public consultation on the SA Scoping Report (alongside the Local Plan Scoping Report) which defines the basis and methodology for the appraisal made through the SA, including the SA objectives, the assessment of SA objectives, statements of significance, relevant plans, programmes and strategies, and an analysis of the baseline conditions providing the context to the preparation of the Local Plan. Comments received (including those from the Environment Agency, Historic England and Natural England) were considered in defining the next iteration of the SA and helped refine plan preparation as detailed in Appendix 9 of the Publication SA. Neither the Environment Agency, Historic England nor Natural England object to the SA or Local Plan as adopted.
 - [SA Preferred Options Report](#): June to August 2023. A minimum 6-week public consultation on the appraisal of the preferred options and their reasonable alternatives against defined SA objectives using the methodology consulted on at scoping stage as modified. Comments made at this stage influenced the appraisal of specific policies, sites and alternative options taking into account any issues of soundness raised, and any further sites or evidence submitted through representations.
 - [SA Publication Report](#): October to December 2024. A minimum 6-week public consultation on the appraisal of the policies and strategy of the publication version of the Local Plan against defined SA objectives. The publication plan was modified in response to comments raised at preferred options stage, with several policies and sites, including new alternatives, reappraised through the SA to ensure the Local Plan's soundness and legal compliance. A monitoring framework was included in Appendix 10 of the Local Plan to reflect recommendations of the SA and to respond to comments made in relation to the preferred options report.
 - [SA Addendum](#) (Main Modifications): September to October 2025. A minimum 6-week public consultation on the appraisal of policies as modified by proposed main modifications. The modifications varied in their significance and were therefore screened before a more detailed and focussed appraisal was undertaken. Reasonable alternatives were not considered at this stage as the main modifications had been identified by the Inspector in order to ensure that the Local Plan could be found sound. The addendum

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includes a full assessment of the cumulative and synergistic effects of the Local Plan policies as modified.

- 5.4 In addition to the above, the SA report has been subject to scrutiny through the Local Plan examination (including through public hearings), with the Inspector ultimately finding that the Local Plan is legally compliant and sound.
- 5.5 All comments and dialog with partners undertaken during each stage of the plan making process has been carefully considered. Details of how this collaboration has influenced the SA and informed subsequent policy decisions made by the Council is set out in:
- [Appendix 9](#) of the SA Publication Report, in relation to the SA Scoping Report
 - [Regulation 18 Consultation Statement](#)
 - [Regulation 22 \(1\)\(c\)\(v\) Consultation Statement](#)
 - [Duty to Cooperate Statement of Compliance](#)
- 5.6 Comments were also made in relation to the SA Addendum prepared to appraise proposed Main Modifications against SA objectives required by the appointed Inspector in order to make the Local Plan sound. An [Addendum](#) to the Regulation 22 (1)(c)(v) Consultation Statement has been prepared by the Council following the conclusion of the consultation which provides the Council's response to all comments received, including those which relate to the SA Addendum report. These comments, together with those made at Regulation 19 (Publication stage) and during the examination, have been taken into account by the Inspector through his report in his finding on the Local Plan's legal compliance and soundness.

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6 The measures to be taken to monitor the Local Plan

- 6.1 SEA Regulations outline the requirement for the Council to monitor the significant environmental effects of the implementation of the Local Plan with the purpose of identifying unforeseen adverse effects at an early stage and taking appropriate remedial action.
- 6.2 The monitoring framework is set out in Appendix 10 of the adopted Local Plan and is integral to the Local Plan's implementation. The monitoring framework is highly influenced by the findings of the SA and closely reflects the monitoring recommendations made in [Appendix 8](#) of the SA Publication Report. The monitoring framework establishes key performance indicators which assess the delivery of the plan's policies. Some indicators relate to a number of different policies where they are interrelated. There are strategic, environmental, social and economic indicators identified within the monitoring framework. Many of these include defined targets or thresholds to be achieved at specific intervals during of the plan period. The purpose of these targets and thresholds is to ensure delivery of the Local Plan as anticipated and to raise the awareness to the Council of the potential for undesirable sustainability effects enabling remediation measures to be identified and implemented. Each indicator will be monitored and reported each year through the Authority Monitoring Report (AMR). The Council will consider what actions are necessary to address any identified failures taking into account the AMRs analysis.
- 6.3 Outputs from the monitoring framework will help the Council understand whether the Local Plan has been successful in responding to the established vision and objectives, and addressing the key baseline issues identified for plan making as set out through the SA. It will identify the performance of mitigation measures recommended through the SA and adopted through the Local Plan and its monitoring framework. It will help understand any uncertain effects of the plan identified at the appraisal stage. It will identify and help the Council address any undesirable sustainability effects, ensuring early and effective mitigation measures are implemented in order to avoid significant environmental effects. It will help inform decisions made regarding policy development and delivery to be taken forward by the Council in future plan making.

Pendle Borough Council
Planning, Building Control and Regulatory Services
Town Hall
Market Street
Nelson
Lancashire
BB9 7LG

Tel: 01282 661330

Email: planningpolicy@pendle.gov.uk

Website: www.pendle.gov.uk/planning