

Oldham

Local Plan

Publication Plan: Integrated Assessment

January 2026



Oldham
Council

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Availability

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1 ABBREVIATIONS

1.1 The following is a list of abbreviations used in this IA report.

BEA – Business and Employment Areas

BNG – Biodiversity Net Gain

DLUHC – Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities

DPD - Development Plan Document

EIA - Equality Impact Assessment

GMCA - Greater Manchester Combined Authority

GMEU - Greater Manchester Ecology Unit

HIA - Health Impact Assessment

Ha – Hectare

IA - Integrated Assessment

HMOs – Houses in Multiple Occupation

HRA - Habitats Regulations Assessment

LACW - Local Authority Collected Waste

LGS – Local Green Space

LNRS – Local Nature Recovery Strategy

LSE – Likely Significant Effect

NEET - Not in Education, Employment or Training

Nox – Oxides of Nitrogen

ODPM - Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (now DCLG)

PDNP – Peak District National Park

PfE – Places for Everyone

PROW - Public Rights of Way

S106 – Section 106

SA - Sustainability Appraisal

SAC - Special Area of Conservation

SBI - Site of Biological Importance

SEA - Strategic Environmental Assessment

SHLAA – Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment

SPA - Special Protection Areas

SPD – Supplementary Planning Document

SQM – Square Metres

SUDS - Sustainable Drainage Systems

2 INTRODUCTION

Local Plan Review

2.1 This report is the Integrated Assessment (IA) for the Local Plan review: Publication Plan. A separate non-technical summary has also been prepared.

2.2 Oldham's Joint Core Strategy and Development Management Policies Development Plan Document (DPD) was adopted on 9 November 2011.

2.3 Since then work started on Places for Everyone (PfE). Places for Everyone is the joint development plan of nine Greater Manchester local authorities (Bolton, Bury, Manchester, Oldham, Rochdale, Salford, Tameside, Trafford, and Wigan) dealing with strategic planning issues including jobs, homes, transport, and natural environment.

2.4 All nine authorities adopted the PfE Plan and PfE became part of the statutory development plan for each of the nine PfE authorities, on 21 March 2024.

2.5 PfE does not cover everything that a Local Plan would cover and therefore there is still a need to produce a Local Plan for Oldham. This gives us the opportunity to ensure that we address issues that are specific to Oldham, that matter to our residents and businesses and provide a positive local planning framework to address those issues. The Local Plan is required to be in general conformity with PfE.

2.6 The focus on Oldham's Local Plan is on development management policies that will support PfE and guide development in the borough up to 2039. Upon adoption it will replace the Core Strategy and any saved Unitary Development Plan (UDP) planning policies that have not been superseded by PfE or the Greater Manchester Minerals and Waste Plans.

2.7 Underpinning the Local Plan will be the principles of sustainable development. It will meet the needs of Oldham and its residents while also achieving high-quality design, addressing climate change and increasing accessibility for all.

2.8 Oldham's Local Plan will apply to the whole borough, except for that part of the borough that is the planning responsibility of the Peak District National Park Authority.

Sustainable Development

2.9 Sustainable development is defined in NPPF as meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

2.10 NPPF highlights that the purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development and has three overarching objectives, which are interdependent and need to be pursued in mutually supportive ways (so that opportunities can be taken to secure net gains across each of the different objectives):

- **an economic objective** – to help build a strong, responsive and competitive economy, by ensuring that sufficient land of the right types is available in the right places and at the right time to support growth, innovation and improved productivity; and by identifying and coordinating the provision of infrastructure;
- **a social objective** – to support strong, vibrant and healthy communities, by ensuring that a sufficient number and range of homes can be provided to meet the needs of present and future generations; and by fostering a well-designed, beautiful and safe places, with accessible services and open spaces that reflect current and future needs and support communities' health, social and cultural well-being; and

- **an environmental role** – to protect and enhance our natural, built and historic environment; including making effective use of land, improving biodiversity, using natural resources prudently, minimising waste and pollution, and mitigating and adapting to climate change, including moving to a low carbon economy.

2.11 NPPF recognises that Local Plans should be informed throughout their preparation by a sustainability appraisal that meets the relevant legal requirements. This should demonstrate how the plan has addressed relevant economic, social and environmental objectives (including opportunities for net gains). Significant adverse impacts on these objectives should be avoided and, wherever possible, alternative options which reduce or eliminate such impacts should be pursued. Where significant adverse impacts are unavoidable, suitable mitigation measures should be proposed (or, where this is not possible, compensatory measures should be considered).

2.12 The SA will be incorporated into an IA of the Local Plan review.

3 PURPOSE OF AN INTEGRATED ASSESSMENT

3.1 In recognition that there will be linkages across the various assessments undertaken on the Local Plan, the SA, Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA) and Health Impact Assessment (HIA) will all form part of the 'Integrated Assessment' (IA). Each element of the IA is explained below. It will assess the economic, social and economic performance of the plan.

Sustainability Appraisal / Strategic Environmental Assessment

3.2 The role of a SA is to promote sustainable development through assessing the emerging Local Plan against economic, environmental and social objectives (including opportunities for net gain). Significant adverse effects should be avoided and wherever possible, alternative options which reduce or eliminate such impacts should be pursued. Where significant adverse impacts are unavoidable, suitable mitigation measures should be proposed (or, where this is not possible, compensatory measures should be considered).

3.3 The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004) requires the council to carry out a SA of each of the proposals in a Local Plan and to prepare a Local Plan with the objective of contributing to the achievement of sustainable development.

3.4 The council is also required under European Directive 2001/42/EC (the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive) and The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 to carry out an environmental assessment.

3.5 SAs incorporate the requirements of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 so that the potential environmental effects are given full consideration.

3.6 Therefore the IA for the Oldham Local Plan: Publication Plan will incorporate the requirements of the Directive and its Regulations.

3.7 An IA has been undertaken and developed for each stage of the Local Plan review. This report is the IA for the Publication Plan.

Environmental Outcomes Report

3.8 On 17 March 2023, the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) published a new approach to environmental assessment. The consultation sought views on a proposed new system of environmental assessment ('Environmental Outcomes Reports') to replace the current EU-derived environmental assessment processes of Strategic Environmental Assessment and Environmental Impact Assessment.

3.9 Through the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill, government are seeking to secure the necessary powers to bring forward a new domestic framework for all the environmental assessment regimes which originate from the EU Environmental Impact Assessment Directive (EIA) and Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes (Strategic Environmental Assessment or SEA) Directive. These reforms will ensure the value and rigour of environmental assessment is retained whilst allowing us to push for better environmental outcomes.

3.10 However at present the current system remains unchanged.

Equalities Impact Assessment

3.11 As a local authority, we are required by the Equality Act 2010 to comply with the Public Sector Equality Duty (contained in section 149 of the Act). This means that we need to carry out an equality analysis of our services and any proposals for change. We need to ensure that all our strategies, policies, services and functions, both current and proposed, give proper consideration and due regard to the needs of diverse groups to:

- eliminate discrimination;
- advance equality of opportunity and access; and
- foster good relations between different groups in the community.

3.12 The Public Sector Equality Duty requires us to have due regard to several equality considerations when exercising our functions. This should be carried out prior to implementing a policy, with a view to identifying its potential impact on equality. Whilst they are not required by law, they are a way of facilitating and evidencing compliance with the Public Sector Equality Duty.

3.13 The protected characteristics considered are:

- Age
- Disability
- Gender reassignment
- Marriage and civil partnership
- Pregnancy and maternity
- Race
- Religion or belief
- Sex
- Sexual orientation.

3.14 The equality duty is addressed through the council's Impact Assessment Tool. In addition to the protected characteristics the tool also considers impacts on Care leavers.

3.15 The Oldham Impact Assessment Tool helps to ensure the decisions made within Oldham Council fit with the council's visions and priorities within the council's Corporate Plan 'Ready for the Future'.

3.16 The Impact Assessment Tool was completed by planning policy. The outcome of the assessment is summarised in section 8, and the full findings are contained within Appendix 18 of the IA.

3.17 The IA also includes an objective relating to inclusive communities.

Health Impact Assessment

3.18 The role of the HIA is to assess the potential health and well-being impacts of the Local Plan.

3.19 The HIA has been undertaken by the planning policy team at Oldham Council, making use of the London Healthy Urban Development Units (HUDU): Rapid Health Impact Assessment Tool.

3.20 The HIA can be seen in Appendix 18, and a summary is contained within section 8 of this IA.

Habitats Regulations Assessment

3.21 The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) requires that a Local Development Document must be subject to a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) (to be taken at least through the screening stage). This includes a Local Plan.

3.22 The purpose of a HRA of land use plans is to ensure that protection of the integrity of European protected sites is an integral part of the planning process at the regional and local level.

3.23 The HRA of the Oldham Local Plan: Publication Plan has been prepared by the Greater Manchester Ecology Unit (GMEU). The findings of the HRA have been integrated into the IA.

3.24 A summary of the HRA is contained within section 8 of this IA and the full HRA can be seen in Appendix 19.

4 INTEGRATED ASSESSMENT PROCESS

4.1 The council has undertaken the IA internally, with the exception of the HRA which was carried by GMEU. In the preparation of the IA the council has referred to guidance contained in A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (ODPM, 2005). Although this guidance was prepared some time ago it is still considered to be very useful in setting out the stages on IA and ensuring that the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive requirements are covered. The council has also referred to guidance in Planning Practice Guidance.

4.2 The stages of the IA are set out below.

DPD: EVIDENCE GATHERING AND ENGAGEMENT

STAGE A: SETTING THE CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES, ESTABLISHING THE BASELINE AND DECIDING ON THE SCOPE

1. Identify other relevant policies, plans and programmes, and sustainability objectives
2. Collect baseline information
3. Identify sustainability issues and problems
4. Develop the IA appraisal framework
5. Consult the consultation bodies on the scope of the IA report

DPD: PRODUCTION AND CONSULTATION IA STAGES AND TASKS

STAGE B: DEVELOPING AND REFINING OPTIONS AND ASSESSING EFFECTS

1. Test the DPD objectives against the IA framework
2. Develop the DPD options including reasonable alternatives
3. Evaluate the likely effects of the DPD and alternatives
4. Consider ways of mitigating adverse effects and maximising beneficial effects
5. Propose measures to monitor the significant effects of implementing the DPD

STAGE C: PREPARING THE IA REPORT AND THE PUBLICATION VERSION OF THE DPD

STAGE D: SEEK REPRESENTATIONS ON THE IA REPORT AND THE PUBLICATION DPD FROM CONSULTATION BODIES AND THE PUBLIC

DPD: SUBMIT DRAFT DPD AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS FOR INDEPENDENT EXAMINATION

DPD: OUTCOME OF EXAMINATION

1. Consider implications for SA/SEA compliance

DPD: LOCAL PLAN ADOPTED

STAGE E: POST ADOPTION REPORTING AND MONITORING

1. Prepare and publish post adoption statement
2. Monitor significant effects of implementing the Local Plan
3. Respond to adverse effects

4.3 This IA report is Stage C of the IA process. It has appraised the vision, plan objectives and policies in the Publication Plan stage of the Local Plan review.

4.4 A summary of the Scoping Report (Stage A) is included below.

Scoping Report

4.5 A Scoping Report has been produced as part of the Integrated Assessment (IA) of Oldham's Local Plan (stage A). It was first prepared in 2017 as part of the Regulation 18 consultation. It was then updated for the Issues and Options stage (Update 1) in July 2021 and Draft Plan stage (Update 2) in 2023. The Scoping Report has been updated a final time for the Publication Plan (Update 3) to ensure the IA framework is still appropriate.

4.6 The Scoping Report has:

- Identified other relevant policies, plans and programmes, and sustainability objectives
- Collected baseline information
- Identified sustainability issues and problems
- Developed the IA framework

4.7 Consultation has taken place on each version of the Scoping Report and amendments have been made in response to these comments, where appropriate. The comments made and changes to the Scoping Report are outlined in each update version of the Scoping Report.

Table 1: Key changes to the IA Scoping Report

Scoping Report Version	Date	Local Plan version	Key changes made to the Scoping Report
Original Scoping Report	2017	Regulation 18 Notification	<p>In response to the original scoping report, update 1 was amended to respond to key points raised:</p> <p>In response to Historic England more information was added on the historic environment, the importance of local character and identity and cultural heritage within the issues section. Landscape was separated out from the historic environment. Landscape character types were added to the baseline and the IA objectives and indicators were updated.</p> <p>An advice note on Inland waterways was incorporated into appendix 1 to address the Canal and River Trust comments and the contribution that waterways network can make was noted. The improvement of footpaths and cycle routes was also incorporated. It was also made clear that the canal is a historic asset. An IA objective on transport was amended and an indicator on sustainable transport modes added.</p>

Scoping Report Version	Date	Local Plan version	Key changes made to the Scoping Report
			<p>In response to Natural England an ecological map was added, and the issues were expanded on ensuring ecological networks are not compromised. IA objectives on contaminated land and soil and transport were reworded. Additional indicators relating to biodiversity were added.</p> <p>In relation to Environment Agency comments text was added regarding water quality, riparian development, green infrastructure and Sustainable Drainage Systems (SUDS). IA objectives on biodiversity and water resources were amended. An additional indicator was added on water quality and the SUDS indicator was amended.</p> <p>In relation to Lancashire Gardens Trust text was added regarding registered parks and gardens and preparation of a local list.</p>
Scoping Report Update 1	July 2021	Local Plan Issues and Options	<p>There were fewer comments requesting changes to the Scoping Report Update 1 as issues raised on the original Scoping Report had been addressed through Update 1.</p> <p>In relation to the main IA report the IA objectives have been numbered in the assessment tables for ease to address Historic England comments.</p>
Scoping Report Update 2	December 2023	Draft Local Plan	<p>Comments were made by Natural England. In response the Scoping Report Update 3 was updated to make reference to best and most versatile agricultural land; the Local Nature Recovery Strategy and irreplaceable habitats; the Peak District National Park (PDNP); Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) Impact Zones; the National Character Area; and analysis from the Green Infrastructure Strategy. Links between Biodiversity and other SEA topics were strengthened; reference to peat was added; links between climate change resilience and nature-based solutions offered from peatland; IA objectives 1 and 13 were amended; and presentational changes were made.</p>
Scoping Report Update 3	December 2025	Publication Plan	<p>This is the final Scoping Report for the Publication Plan and reflects the above changes.</p>

4.8 A summary of each stage of the Scoping Report Update 3 is shown below.

Stage A1: Identify other relevant policies, plans and programmes, and sustainability objectives: Purpose of the task

4.9 The SEA Directive requires:

- The "relationship (of the plan or programme) with other relevant plans and programmes" (Annex I(a))
- "the environmental protection objectives, established at international, (European) Community or (national) level, which are relevant to the plan or programme and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation" (Annex I(e))

4.10 This stage is summarised in section 9 of the Scoping Report Update 3 and the review of plans and programmes is contained in Appendix 1 of the Scoping Report Update 3.

Stage A2: Collect baseline information

4.11 The SEA requires:

- the "relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme"; and
- "the environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected" (Annex I (b), (c)).

4.12 The purpose of collecting baseline information is to provide a basis to predict and monitor environmental effects. It identifies environmental problems and alternative ways of dealing with them.

4.13 Annex I of the Directive lists aspects of the baseline to be considered. The IA focusses only on those where significant effects are likely. The aspects of the baseline to be considered are:

- Biodiversity;
- Population;
- Human health;
- Fauna;
- Flora;
- Soil;
- Water;
- Air;
- Climatic factors;
- Material assets;
- Cultural heritage, including architectural and archaeological heritage; and
- Landscape.

4.14 Section 10 and Appendix 2 of the Scoping Report Update 3 covers this stage.

Stage A3: Identify sustainability issues and problems

4.15 The SEA requires:

- Any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to Directives 79/409/EEC and 92/43/EEC (Annex I (d)).

4.16 By identifying the sustainability problems through the identification of other relevant objectives (Appendix 1 of the Scoping Report) and collection of baseline information (Appendix 2 of the Scoping Report) a range of key issues are identified which help to define the IA objectives.

4.17 This section is summarised in section 11 and 12 in Scoping Report Update 3. A summary of the issues and problems is outlined below.

BIODIVERSITY / FAUNA / FLORA / SOIL

4.18 There is a need to:

- protect and enhance a multi-functional green infrastructure network including biodiversity, geodiversity and nature recovery networks
- protect and enhance soils and remediate contaminated land

LANDSCAPES (AND TOWNSCAPES / DESIGN)

4.19 There is a need to:

- ensure that development makes a positive contribution to landscape and townscapes, local distinctiveness and sense of place
- ensure land and buildings are used in an effective and efficient manner, maximising the use of brownfield land
- promote high-quality design

CULTURAL HERITAGE (HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT)

4.20 There is a need to:

- protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment, including its wider setting and to preserve and conserve archaeological heritage

POPULATION

4.21 There is a need to:

- provide for a sustainable housing land supply and an appropriate mix of sizes, types and tenures to meet local housing needs
- provide an appropriate provision of supporting infrastructure to meet development needs
- promote inclusive sustainable communities and community cohesion

4.22 There is a need to:

- improve education and skills attainment
- promote economic growth
- enhance the vitality and viability of the borough's centres
- promote sustainable tourism and recreation

HUMAN HEALTH

4.23 There is a need to:

- improve health and well-being and reduce health inequalities across the borough
- promote quality and accessible open spaces
- protect and improve local environmental quality

WATER

4.24 There is a need to:

- avoid and mitigate against flood risk
- sustainably manage water resources and protect and enhance water quality
- adapt and be resilient to climate change

AIR / CLIMATIC FACTORS

4.25 There is a need to:

- continue improving air quality
- reduce energy use, promote energy efficiency, and promote renewable and low carbon energy
- promote access to key services to reduce the need to travel
- encourage walking and cycling
- promote a sustainable low emission, integrated, efficient transport system that supports growth in the borough

MATERIAL ASSETS

4.26 There is a need to:

- promote sustainable waste management through the waste hierarchy
- manage minerals sustainably

Stage A4: Develop the Integrated Assessment Framework

4.27 The SEA requires:

- *“The environmental protection objectives, established at international, community or national level, which are relevant to the plan or programme and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation (Annex I (e))”*

4.28 The guidance explains that the IA objectives are a way of considering effects of the Local Plan and comparing the effects of alternatives. They serve a different purpose than the Local Plan objectives although they are very likely to overlap. IA objectives help to show

whether the objectives of the plan are beneficial for the environment, to compare the environmental effects or alternatives or to suggest improvements.

4.29 The table in Appendix 3 of the Scoping Report Update 3 translates the identified issues into proposed IA objectives with corresponding indicators so that the issues and problems can be assessed and monitored.

4.30 The proposed IA objectives and indicators are set out below, which have been refined through consultation on the Scoping Report.

Proposed IA objectives and indicators

Table 2 IA Objectives and Indicators

IA Objective	IA indicator(s)
IA1) To protect, conserve and enhance a high quality multifunctional green infrastructure network, including biodiversity, priority species, habitats and geodiversity to become more ecologically connected	<p>Single data list 160-00 Proportion of local sites where positive conservation management is being or has been implemented</p> <p>Change in areas of biodiversity designations (i.e. SBI updates)</p> <p>% of sites designated for nature in active management for nature conservation</p> <p>Percentage of tree canopy cover</p> <p>In addition, Biodiversity Duty Reports will be prepared including information on Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG).</p>
IA2) To promote quality and accessible open spaces.	<p>Number of planning applications that result in the gain or loss of identified on-site open space</p> <p>Number of S106 Planning Obligations for new or enhanced open space provision</p>
IA3) To protect and enhance the character and appearance of landscapes and townscape, maintaining and strengthening local	<p>Number of major developments refused on landscape grounds.</p> <p>Number and type of development permitted</p>

IA Objective	IA indicator(s)
distinctiveness and sense of place.	<p>within Local Green Spaces</p> <p>Number and type of developments permitted in the Green Belt</p>
IA4) To protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment, heritage assets and their setting.	<p>Number of heritage assets on the National Heritage List for England</p> <p>Number of listed buildings and number of buildings in conservation areas lost through new development proposals</p> <p>Number and type of developments permitted on non-designated Mills.</p> <p>PfE - Increase percentage of buildings on the “at risk register” with a strategy for their repair and re-use</p>
IA5) To promote high-quality design that meets local design expectations.	<p>Number of approved applications for strategic developments with a masterplan or framework and design code</p>
IA6) To ensure land and buildings are used in an effective and efficient manner, maximising the use of brownfield land.	<p>Number and type of developments permitted in the Green Belt</p> <p>Number and type of developments permitted within Local Green Spaces</p> <p>Total amount of employment floorspace (office, industry and warehousing) developed on previously developed land by type (sqm) gross</p> <p>New and converted dwellings – on previously developed land</p>

IA Objective	IA indicator(s)
	<p>Number of planning applications approved achieving the minimum density requirements as appropriate</p> <p>Number of vacant properties</p>
<p>IA7) To ensure appropriate provision of supporting infrastructure to meet development needs.</p>	<p>Infrastructure Funding Statement: Total amount of money received secured through s106; Total amount of s106 receipts collected before the reported year but which have not been allocated; and Total amount of s106 expenditure for the reported year (including transferring it to another person to spend).</p> <p>Number of S106 Planning Obligations for new or enhanced open space provision</p> <p>State funded primary and secondary school capacity and forecasts</p> <p>Number of planning applications approved for education related facilities</p>
<p>IA8) To improve health and well-being and reduce health inequalities.</p>	<p>Number of planning applications that result in the gain or loss of identified on-site open space</p> <p>Number of S106 Planning Obligations for new or enhanced open space provision</p> <p>Life Expectancy</p> <p>Proportion of physically active adults</p> <p>Childhood obesity rates</p>

IA Objective	IA indicator(s)
	<p>The percentage of areas in Oldham among the 10% most deprived areas in England</p> <p>The number of new hot food takeaways and fast-food outlets approved within 400 metres of a primary or secondary school, or places where children and young people congregate (as defined in Policy CO7)</p>
IA9) To minimise and mitigate against flood risk and adapt to the effects of flood risk.	<p>PfE: Number of planning permissions approved against EA advice (on flood risk grounds)</p> <p>Number of new developments agreed with the council incorporating Natural Flood Management (NFM).</p>
IA10) To protect and improve the quality of water bodies and river corridors and availability of water resources.	Number of planning permissions granted contrary to Environment Agency advice on water quality grounds
IA11) To protect and improve soil quality, best and most versatile agricultural land, and remediate contaminated land.	Number of planning applications with conditions attached relating to contaminated land.
IA12) To minimise energy use, promote energy efficiency and the use of renewable and low carbon energy.	<p>PfE: % of net additional residential development completed with an Energy Performance Certificate rating of A and B</p> <p>% of households living in fuel poverty</p>
IA13) To ensure communities, infrastructure and biodiversity are resilient to the effects of climate change	<p>Percentage of tree canopy cover</p> <p>PfE: Number of planning permissions approved against EA advice (on flood risk grounds)</p>

IA Objective	IA indicator(s)
IA14) To protect and improve air quality.	<p>Number of days in Greater Manchester where air pollution was moderate or higher</p> <p>Annual mean nitrogen dioxide</p> <p>Per capita emission estimates, industry, domestic and transport sectors</p>
IA15) To protect and improve local environmental quality.	<p>Number of days in Greater Manchester where air pollution was moderate or higher</p> <p>Annual mean nitrogen dioxide</p> <p>Per capita emission estimates, industry, domestic and transport sectors</p> <p>Number of pedestrian or cycling casualties per year</p> <p>The number of new hot food takeaways and fast-food outlets approved within 400 metres of a primary or secondary school, or places where children and young people congregate (as defined in Policy CO7)</p>
IA16) To promote an integrated and improved transport system that provides sustainable transport choices and improves connectivity, including the walking and cycling network and the protection and enhancement of the PROW Network.	<p>Number of travel plans secured as a condition of planning permission</p> <p>Per capita emission estimates, industry, domestic and transport sectors</p>
IA17) To promote accessibility to key services and reduce the need to travel.	<p>Number / percentage of new homes approved that achieve Greater Manchester Accessibility Level (GMAL) 4 or above</p>
IA18) To promote regeneration and reduce levels of deprivation and	<p>Total amount of additional floorspace (office, industry and warehousing) by type (square</p>

IA Objective	IA indicator(s)
disparity.	<p>metres gross)</p> <p>Total amount of employment floorspace (office, industry and warehousing) developed on previously developed land by type (square metres gross)</p> <p>Employment land available by type (hectares)</p> <p>Total amount of employment land (office, industry and warehousing) developed by type hectares (ha) gross</p> <p>The percentage of areas in Oldham among the 10% most deprived areas in England</p> <p>Unemployment rate</p> <p>Youth unemployment rate</p> <p>PfE: % of working age population with Higher Level (4+) qualification(s) and % of working age population with sub-Level 2 qualification.</p>
IA19) To promote sustainable economic growth and job creation.	<p>Total amount of additional floorspace (office, industry and warehousing) by type (square metres gross)</p> <p>Total amount of employment floorspace (office, industry and warehousing) developed on previously developed land by type (square metres gross)</p>

IA Objective	IA indicator(s)
	<p>Employment land available by type (hectares)</p> <p>Total amount of employment land (office, industry and warehousing) developed by type hectares (ha) gross</p> <p>The percentage of areas in Oldham among the 10% most deprived areas in England</p> <p>Unemployment rate</p> <p>Youth unemployment rate</p> <p>PfE: % of working age population with Higher Level (4+) qualification(s) and % of working age population with sub-Level 2 qualification.</p>
IA20) To protect and enhance the vitality and viability of Oldham Town Centre and the centres of Chadderton, Failsworth, Hill Stores, Lees, Royton, Shaw and Uppermill.	<p>Number of homes completed within the borough's centres</p> <p>Number of planning applications granted in Oldham Town Centre and the borough's other centres, for main town centre uses</p>
IA21) To promote sustainable tourism and leisure.	<p>Number of day visits and staying visits to Oldham borough</p> <p>Number of planning applications granted in Oldham Town Centre and the borough's other centres, for main town centre uses</p>
IA22) To improve education attainment and skill levels.	<p>State funded primary and secondary school capacity and forecasts</p> <p>Number of planning applications approved for</p>

IA Objective	IA indicator(s)
	<p>education related facilities</p> <p>PfE: % of working age population with Higher Level (4+) qualification(s) and % of working age population with sub-Level 2 qualification.</p>
<p>IA23) To provide a sustainable housing land supply and an appropriate mix of sizes, types and tenures to meet local housing needs.</p>	<p>Plan period and housing targets; Net additional dwellings -in previous years; Net additional dwellings -for the reporting year; Net additional dwellings -in future years; and Managed delivery target</p> <p>New and converted dwellings – on previously developed land</p> <p>Number of planning applications approved achieving the minimum density requirements as appropriate</p> <p>Total housing completions by size and type on major sites</p> <p>Number of completions for new-building affordable housing by tenure, type and size</p> <p>Total number of planning applications approved for specialist housing provision</p> <p>Number of planning applications approved for Homes in Multiple Occupation</p> <p>Net additional pitches (Gypsy and Traveller)</p> <p>PfE also includes indicators on housing.</p>
<p>IA24) To ensure the prudent use and</p>	<p>The GM Minerals Development Plan</p>

IA Objective	IA indicator(s)
sustainable management of minerals.	Document sets out indicators which are monitored by GMCA.
IA25) To manage waste sustainably in line with the waste hierarchy.	The GM Waste Development Plan Document sets out indicators which are monitored by GMCA.
IA26) To promote mixed, balanced and inclusive sustainable communities.	It is considered that the plan as a whole and therefore all indicators will help achieve this objective.

4.31 Section 17 of the Scoping Report Update 3 outlines the IA assessment approach for the vision, plan objectives and plan policies incorporating the IA objectives.

4.32 Scores were expressed as:

Key:

++ = significantly positive

+ = positive

? = uncertain

-- = neutral

X = potentially negative

XX = potentially significantly negative

S = Short term (less than 5 years)

M = Medium Term (5 to 10 years)

L = Long term (over 10 years)

L = Local

CB = Cross boundary

P = Permanent

4.33 Each score is justified by commentary. The assessment also takes account of any significant environmental effects including secondary (indirect effects) and cumulative / synergistic (where effects interact to produce a total greater effect).

4.34 Any assumptions and uncertainties will also be expressed.

Stage A5: Consulting on the scope of the Integrated Assessment

4.35 The SEA requires:

- *"...The authorities...Which, by reason of their specific environmental responsibilities, are likely to be concerned by the environmental effects of implementing plans and programmes ...Shall be consulted when deciding on the scope and level of detail of the information which must be included in the environmental report" (Article 5.4 and 6.3)*

4.36 The council has consulted the following three consultation bodies on the scope and level of detail in each version of the IA Scoping Report. The consultation bodies are:

- Historic England;
- Natural England; and
- Environment Agency.

4.37 Scoping Report Update 1 (section 7) outlines the comments received on the original Scoping Report and how these have been considered.

4.38 Scoping Report Update 2 (section 8) outlines the comments received on the Scoping Report Update 1 and how these have been considered.

4.39 Scoping Report Update 3 (section 7) outlines the comments received on the Scoping Report Update 2 and how these have been considered.

4.40 Scoping Report Update 3 is available, alongside this IA and the Publication Plan as part of the Regulation 19 consultation on the Oldham Local Plan. Please see statement of availability for further details.

5 APPRAISAL OF THE OLDHAM LOCAL PLAN

5.1 This IA is now looking at Stage C of the IA process (preparing the IA report). In reaching this milestone some of the steps in Stage B are repeated, including evaluating the effects of the DPD (step 3); considering ways of mitigating effects and maximising beneficial effects (step 4) and proposing measures to monitor the significant effects (step 5), as outlined below.

DPD: Production and consultation

IA Stages and tasks

Stage B: Developing and refining options and assessing effects

- 1: Test the DPD objectives against the IA framework
- 2: Develop the DPD options including reasonable alternatives
- 3: Evaluate the likely effects of the DPD and alternatives
- 4: Consider ways of mitigating adverse effects and maximising beneficial effects
- 5: Propose measures to monitor the significant effects of implementing the DPD

5.2 The SEA requires:

Stage B:

“...an environmental report shall be prepared in which the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme, and reasonable alternatives taking into account the objectives and the geographical scope of the plan or programme, are identified, described and evaluated” (Article 5.1). Information to be provided in the Environmental Report includes “an outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with” (Annex I (h));

Stage C:

“The environmental report shall include information that may reasonably be required taking into account current knowledge and methods of assessment, the contents and level of detail in the plan or programme, (and) its stage in the decision-making process” (Article 5.2).

Information to be provided in the Environmental Report includes:

“the likely significant effects on the environment, including on issues such as biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors. These effects should include secondary, cumulative, synergistic, short, medium and long term, permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects” (Annex I (f) and footnote).

“an outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with” (Annex I (h))

“the measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme” (Annex I (g))

Integrated Assessment objectives

5.3 Stage A4 above outlines the IA objectives that have been used to assess the vision, plan objectives and policies of the Oldham Local Plan: Publication Plan.

5.4 Section 17 of the Scoping Report Update 3 sets out the approach to carrying out the IA using the objectives and the scoring system.

5.5 Overall conclusions have been made highlighting any changes needed to mitigate significant effects or to enhance positive effects. The HRA screening has been incorporated.

5.6 This IA report includes the outcomes of the IA of the Issues and Options for completeness and the outcomes of the IA appraisal of the Draft Local Plan stage¹. It then presents the outcomes of the IA appraisal at Publication Plan stage. This allows readers to see how the Local Plan has progressed over time informed by the IA in one report.

¹ Please note at Draft Plan stage site allocations were proposed. This IA report does not include a summary of the IA completed on the site allocations as site allocations are no longer proposed. Please see previous versions of the IA for the appraisal of site allocations.

6 IA APPRAISAL AT ISSUES AND OPTIONS STAGE

Stage B: Developing and refining options and assessing effects

- 1: Test the DPD objectives against the IA framework
2. Develop the DPD options including reasonable alternatives
- 3: Evaluate the likely effects of the DPD and alternatives
- 4: Consider ways of mitigating adverse effects and maximising beneficial effects

Vision and DPD objectives appraisal

6.1 An IA appraisal of the vision and each plan objective at Issues and Options was carried out.

6.2 The summary results of this are shown below. For the full appraisal please see the IA for the Issues and Options stage.

Vision

6.3 The vision in the Issues and Options scored a mixture of neutral, positives and significantly positive scores.

Table 3: IA of vision at Issues and Options stage

Scoring system	++	+	-	?	X	XX
Vision score	9	12	5	0	0	0

Mitigating adverse effects

6.4 No adverse effects were identified therefore no changes were required to mitigate adverse effects.

Maximising beneficial effects:

6.5 The vision was enhanced through the IA process with the inclusion of references to education facilities; mitigating, adapting and being resilient to climate change; multi-functional Green Infrastructure and the Nature Recovery Network; historic environment; townscapes; and accessible open spaces.

Plan Objectives:

6.6 The top line of each plan objective is included to give an indication of its content. For the full plan objective wording please see the Issues and Options Plan document.

6.7 The scores were considered the same for short to long term. The appraisal also has identified direct and secondary (indirect effects).

Plan Objective 1 Building quality homes to meet the local need and diversify the housing offer by

Table 4: IA of plan objective 1 at Issues and Options stage

Scoring system	++	+	-	?	X	XX
Plan Objective 1 score	5	12	8 One neutral also had a ? giving a mixed score	2 One ? also had a neutral giving a mixed score	0	0

Mitigating adverse effects

6.8 No adverse effects were identified therefore no mitigation was required.

6.9 IA objective 1 scored an uncertain as the plan objective was screened in by the HRA and was therefore subject to further screening as the Local Plan developed through to Draft Plan stage. At this stage no mitigation was identified.

6.10 Another uncertain was the impact of the plan objective on economic growth, however the justification highlights that the objective is likely to have secondary indirect positive effects.

Maximising beneficial effects:

6.11 No enhancements identified. The plan objective scored positively / significantly positive against 17 IA objectives where it would have a beneficial impact.

PO2 Providing opportunities to learn and gain new skills by...

Table 5: IA of plan objective 2 at Issues and Options stage

Scoring system	++	+	-	?	X	XX
Plan Objective 2 score	3	5	18 One of the neutral scores was a mixed	1 This ? is a mixed score with a neutral	0	0

			score with a ?.			
--	--	--	-----------------	--	--	--

Mitigating adverse effects

6.12 No adverse effects were identified therefore no mitigation was required.

6.13 IA objective 2 scored an uncertain as the plan objective was screened in by the HRA and was therefore subject to further screening as the Local Plan developed through to Draft Plan stage. At this stage no mitigation was identified.

Maximising beneficial effects

6.14 The plan objective was enhanced by making reference to high quality suitable developments in relation to IA5, IA12, IA13, IA15 and IA16. The plan objective scored positively / significantly positive against 8 IA objectives where it would have a beneficial impact.

PO3 Providing opportunities to grow local businesses and create jobs by...

Table 6: IA of plan objective 3 at Issues and Options stage

Scoring system	++	+	-	?	X	XX
Plan Objective 3 score	3	9	14 One of the neutral scores was a mixed score with a ?	1 This ? is a mixed score with a neutral	0	0

Mitigating adverse effects

6.15 No adverse effects were identified therefore no mitigation was required.

6.16 IA objective 3 scored an uncertain as the plan objective was screened in by the HRA and was therefore subject to further screening as the Local Plan developed through to Draft Plan stage. At this stage no mitigation was identified.

Maximising beneficial effects

6.17 The plan objective was enhanced by making reference to supporting the expansion of green technologies in relation to IA12 and IA13 and connectivity to an integrated transport system in relation to IA16.

6.18 The plan objective scored positively / significantly positive against 12 IA objectives where it would have a beneficial impact.

PO4 Supporting thriving Town Centres by...

Table 7: IA of plan objective 4 at Issues and Options stage

Scoring system	++	+	-	?	X	XX
Plan Objective 4 score	10	9	7	1 This ? is a mixed score with a ++	0	0

Mitigating adverse effects

6.19 No adverse effects were identified therefore no mitigation was required.

6.20 IA objective 4 scored an uncertain as the plan objective was screened in by the HRA and was therefore subject to further screening as the Local Plan developed through to Draft Plan stage. At this stage no mitigation was identified.

Maximising beneficial effects

6.21 No enhancements were identified. The plan objective scored positively / significantly positive against 19 IA objectives where it would have a beneficial impact.

PO5 Ensuring Oldham is a greener borough by...

Table 8: IA of plan objective 5 at Issues and Options stage

Scoring system	++	+	-	?	X	XX
Plan Objective 5 score	15	7	4	0	0	0

Mitigating adverse effects

6.22 No adverse effects were identified therefore no mitigation was required.

Maximising beneficial effects

6.23 No enhancements were identified. The plan objective scored positively / significantly positive against 22 IA objectives where it would have a beneficial impact.

PO6 Embedding sustainability, energy efficiency and low (zero) carbon by...

Table 9: IA of plan objective 6 at Issues and Options stage

Scoring system	++	+	-	?	X	XX
Plan Objective 6 score	7	10	9	0	0	0

Mitigating adverse effects

6.24 No adverse effects were identified therefore no mitigation was required.

Maximising beneficial effects

6.25 No enhancements were identified. The plan objective scored positively / significantly positive against 17 IA objectives where it would have a beneficial impact.

PO7 Improving life-chances and the health and well-being of our residents and local communities by...

Table 10: IA of plan objective 7 at Issues and Options stage

Scoring system	++	+	-	?	X	XX
Plan Objective 7 score	9 One of the ++ was a mixed score with a ?	6	11	1 This ? is a mixed score with a ++	0	0

Mitigating adverse effects

6.26 No adverse effects were identified therefore no mitigation was required.

6.27 IA objective 7 scored an uncertain as the plan objective was screened in by the HRA and was therefore subject to further screening as the Local Plan developed through to Draft Plan stage. At this stage no mitigation was identified.

Maximising beneficial effects

6.28 No enhancements were identified. The plan objective scored positively / significantly positive against 15 IA objectives where it would have a beneficial impact.

PO8 Improving and valuing a better environment, including the borough's historic environment, by ...

Table 11: IA of plan objective 8 at Issues and Options stage

Scoring system	++	+	-	?	X	XX
Plan Objective 8 score	5	14	7	0	0	0

Mitigating adverse effects

6.29 No adverse effects were identified therefore no mitigation was required.

Maximising beneficial effects

6.30 No enhancements were identified. The plan objective scored positively / significantly positive against 19 IA objectives where it would have a beneficial impact.

PO9 Ensuring our residents and workforce have fit for purpose, modern connectivity by...

Table 12: IA of plan objective 9 at Issues and Options stage

Scoring system	++	+	-	?	X	XX
Plan Objective 9 score	4	12	10	0	0	0

Mitigating adverse effects

6.31 No adverse effects were identified therefore no mitigation was required.

Maximising beneficial effects

6.32 No enhancements were identified. The plan objective scored positively / significantly positive against 16 IA objectives where it would have a beneficial impact.

DPD Options: Spatial Options

6.33 At Issues and Options stage, several spatial options were assessed including reasonable alternatives.

6.34 The likely effects of each of these options / alternatives were assessed and any mitigation / enhancements to maximise beneficial effects were outlined.

6.35 The scores were considered the same for short to long term at this stage. The appraisal also has identified direct and secondary (indirect effects).

Affordable Housing

Table 13: IA of Affordable Housing Spatial Options at Issues and Options stage

Spatial option	Appraisal summary	Amendments made to option as a result of the IA
Affordable Housing Option A: Should an affordable housing requirement be applied borough-wide?	++ (2) + (4) --(20) ? (0) X (0) Xx (0)	N/A. At this point draft policy wording was not available.
Affordable Housing Option B: Should there be a different affordable housing requirement for different parts of the borough, depending on their need?	++ (4) + (2) --(20) ? X Xx	N/A. At this point draft policy wording was not available.

6.36 Spatial Option B (targeted approach to affordable housing) resulted in more significantly positive outcomes and therefore potentially greater beneficial effects overall than Spatial Option A (boroughwide approach).

6.37 No adverse effects were identified therefore no mitigation was required.

Homes in Multiple Occupation

Table 14: IA of Homes in Multiple Occupation Spatial Options at Issues and Options stage

Spatial option	Appraisal summary	Amendments made to option as a result of the IA
HMO Option A: If there is found to be a concentration of HMOs within a particular area, would you agree with the introduction of an Article 4 direction to remove permitted development rights for HMOs in specific areas, as necessary?	++ (0) + (6) --(20) ? (0) X (0) Xx (0)	N/A. At this point draft policy wording was not available.
HMO Option B: If there is found to be a concentration of HMOs within a particular area, would you agree with the introduction of an Article 4 direction to remove permitted development rights for HMOs boroughwide?	++ (0) + (6) --(20) ? (0) X (0) Xx (0)	N/A. At this point draft policy wording was not available.

6.38 The IA appraisal for HMO Spatial Options A and B both scored the same. No adverse effects were identified therefore no mitigation was required.

Housing Allocations:

Table 15: IA of Housing Allocations Spatial Options at Issues and Options stage

Spatial option	Appraisal summary	Amendments made to option as a result of the IA
Option A: Should Oldham focus the identification of housing allocations within the urban area – in Oldham Town Centre, the borough's other centres, key public transport corridors, on previously developed land, vacant and under-utilised buildings (including the re-use of employment sites and mills, where appropriate)?	++ (8) + (11) -(7) ? (2) X (0) Xx (0) Option scored a couple of uncertainties as townscape, distinctiveness and the historic environment will need to be managed in relation to scale of development.	N/A. At this point draft policy wording was not available to suggest mitigation.
Option B: Should Oldham focus the identification of housing allocations within the urban area as in Option A, but also include within the scope open spaces (where identified as surplus to requirements through the council's open space study), land currently designated as Other Protected Open Land where it does not meet Local Green Space (LGS) criteria, and previously developed land in the Green Belt where this meets national planning policy.	++ (2) + (14) -(8) ? (12) X (1) Xx (0) Option scored several uncertainties as townscape, distinctiveness and the historic environment and other considerations will need to be managed in relation to scale of development and any necessary mitigation. Health was a potentially negative score as open land may be used for recreation.	N/A. At this point draft policy wording was not available to suggest mitigation.

6.39 The IA of the housing allocation options showed at this stage generally there were more uncertainties around Option B, whilst Option A scored more positive overall.

6.40 Any uncertainties and potential adverse impacts would need to be further appraised and mitigated where required, for either option.

Employment Allocations

Table 16: IA of Employment Allocations Spatial Options at Issues and Options stage

Spatial Option	Appraisal summary	Amendments made to option as a result of the IA
Option A: To focus more on the connectivity to our existing employment sites and neighbouring districts key employment sites.	++ (5) + (15) -(5) ? (1) X (0) Xx (0) Option scored uncertain for local environmental quality as each site would need to be assessed.	The spatial option was enhanced in the Issues and Options Report as a result of the IA by making reference to sustainable connectivity. At this point draft policy wording was not available to identify further mitigation or enhancements.
Option B: A combination of providing some new employment land and improving connectivity to existing and neighbouring districts key employment sites.	++ (3) + (17) -(5) ? (10) X (0) Xx (0) Option scored several uncertainties as the location of development was not known to assess impacts on green infrastructure and the wider natural and built environment.	The spatial option was enhanced in the Issues and Options Report as a result of the IA by making reference to sustainable connectivity. At this point draft policy wording was not available to identify further mitigation or enhancements.

6.41 The IA of the employment allocation options shows that Option A scores more significantly positive scores. Whereas at this stage there are more uncertainties with Option B, which if taken forward would need further assessment and mitigation may be required.

6.42 The spatial options were enhanced by making reference to sustainable connectivity in relation to IA14.

Health and Well Being

Table 17: IA of Health and Well Being Spatial Options at Issues and Options stage

Spatial option	Appraisal summary	Amendments made to option as a result of the IA
Option A: Should there be a policy which restricts the location of hot food takeaways within 400m of a school?	++ (0) + (4) -(22) ? (0) X (0) Xx (0)	N/A. At this point draft policy wording was not available.
Option B: Should there be a policy which restricts the location of hot food takeaways in areas with high levels of obesity?	++ (1) + (3) -(22) ? (0) X (0) Xx (0)	N/A. At this point draft policy wording was not available.
Option C: Should there be a policy which restricts the location of hot food takeaways within 400m of a school and in areas with high levels of obesity?	++ (3) + (1) -(22) ? (0) X (0) Xx (0)	N/A. At this point draft policy wording was not available.

6.43 The IA of Option A, B and C scored neutral against most IA objectives. However, Option B and C scored a significantly positive impact against the IA objective 'To improve health and well-being and reduce health inequalities'. Option C scored significantly positive against a further two IA objectives relating to local environmental quality and centres and therefore results in potentially greater beneficial effects overall.

Propose measures to monitor the significant effects of implementing the DPD

6.44 The IA indicators have been established through Stage A of the IA process (Scoping Report) and have been amended in response to consultation responses. At Issues and Options stage these were set out within Section 15 of the Scoping Report Update 1.

Equalities Impact Assessment of Issues and Options Stage

6.45 The Equalities' Impact Assessment (EIA) that was carried out on the Issues and Options plan document is contained within Appendix 1 in the IA (2021).

6.46 The overall impact of the Issues and Options on groups and communities was 'None / Minimal'. It was concluded that a full EIA assessment was not required.

6.47 In coming to the decision, it was considered that the Local Plan Issues and Options should have a positive impact on members of public from different age groups, ethnic backgrounds and those on lower incomes as it draws on a large evidence base including Sustainability Appraisals, council statistics, public consultation and monitoring to identify the planning issues facing Oldham.

6.48 The Issues and Options seeks to provide options that aim to improve the lives of all residents and groups in Oldham. For example, the Local Plan may have a positive impact on different age groups and those on lower incomes by setting out how the council will provide a range of housing to meet their needs. It seeks to improve local public transport and walking and cycling connections and make sure there is a range of accessible employment opportunities. It also plans to safeguard and improve the local natural environment which would again benefit all people in Oldham through improved air quality for example.

Health Impact Assessment at Issues and Options Stage

6.49 The Health Impact Assessment (HIA) Screening that was carried out on the Issues and Options plan document is contained within Appendix 2 in the IA (2021).

6.50 An Assessment of each plan objective was carried out. The HIA showed a positive response overall in relation to the plan objectives.

Habitats Regulations Assessment at Issues and Options Stage

6.51 A separate Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) on the Issues and Options was prepared by GMEU. A summary was provided in Section 11 of the Issues and Options IA.

6.52 The HRA Screening of Issues and Options screened the plan including the vision and plan objectives.

6.53 The parts of the Plan which could cause harmful Effects, and which have been Screened in, were:

- Plan Objectives 1, 2, 3, 4 and 7.
- Issues and Options on Homes, Economy and Employment, Centres and Infrastructure.

6.54 The HRA noted the need to carry out further screening and possible assessment as the Local Plan progresses.

7 IA APPRAISAL OF DRAFT PLAN

7.1 The IA of the Draft Local Plan repeated Stage B. It:

1: Tested the DPD objectives against the IA framework

3: Evaluated the likely effects of the DPD and alternatives

4: Considered ways of mitigating adverse effects and maximising beneficial effects

7.2 However, the developing DPD options including reasonable alternatives (task 2) task has already been completed as part of the Issues and Options stage, so this task is not repeated again.

7.3 Instead, the Draft Local Plan presented the preferred spatial options in the form of draft policies resulted from the spatial options.

Vision and DPD objectives appraisal

7.4 An IA appraisal of the vision and each plan objective at Draft Local Plan stage has been carried out.

7.5 The summary results of this are shown below. For the full appraisal please see Appendix 1 in the IA for the Draft Local Plan.

Vision

7.6 The vision in the Draft Local Plan scored a mixture of neutral, positives and significantly positive scores.

Table 18: IA of vision at Draft Local Plan stage

Scoring system	++	+	-	?	X	XX
Vision score	17	7	2	0	0	0

Mitigating adverse effects

7.7 No adverse effects were identified therefore no changes were required to mitigate adverse effects.

Maximising beneficial effects:

7.8 No enhancements were identified to the vision. The vision scored positively / significantly positive against 24 IA objectives where it would have a beneficial impact.

7.9 In comparison to the vision at Issues and Option stage where the vision scored positively against 21 IA objectives and enhancements were made, the vision at draft plan stage has resulted in more positive scores.

Plan Objectives:

7.10 The top line of each plan objective (PO) is included to give an indication of the content of each plan objective. For the full plan objective wording please see the Draft Local Plan document or IA Appendix 2.

7.11 The scores were considered the same for short to long-term at this stage. The appraisal also has identified direct and secondary (indirect effects).

PO1 Building quality homes to meet local needs and diversify the housing offer by...

Table 19: IA of plan objective 1 at Draft Local Plan stage

Scoring system	++	+	-	?	X	XX
Plan Objective 1 score	5	12	9	0	0	0

Mitigating adverse effects

7.12 No adverse effects were identified therefore no changes were required to mitigate adverse effects.

Maximising beneficial effects:

7.13 No enhancements were identified to plan objective 1. The plan objective scored positively / significantly positive against 17 IA objectives where it would have a beneficial impact.

7.14 In comparison to the housing plan objective at Issues and Option stage where the objective scored positively against 18 IA objectives, plan objective 1 at Draft Local Plan stage has resulted in one more neutral score. This is as a result of reflecting on the objective further.

PO2 Providing opportunities to learn and gain new skills by:

Table 20: IA of plan objective 2 at Draft Local Plan stage

Scoring system	++	+	-	?	X	XX
Plan Objective 2 score	4	4	18	0	0	0

Mitigating adverse effects

7.15 No adverse effects were identified therefore no changes were required to mitigate adverse effects.

Maximising beneficial effects:

7.16 The plan objective scored positively / significantly positive against 8 IA objectives where it would have a beneficial impact. The objective scored a lot of neutrals given its specific nature.

7.17 The plan objective was enhanced as a result of the IA process in relation to IA6 on the efficient use of land. This was to clarify that the plan objective applies to existing facilities and not just new facilities. Wording was amended from 'new sites' to 'suitable sites'.

7.18 The plan objective is not comparable to the plan objective at Issues and Options stage due to the objective on education at Issues and Options stage being split between two plan objectives (PO2 and PO7) and merged with other plan objective aims.

PO3 Boosting northern competitiveness by providing access to employment opportunities and growing local businesses by:

Table 21: IA of plan objective 3 at Draft Local Plan stage

Scoring system	++	+	-	?	X	XX
Plan Objective 3 score	3	10	13	0	0	0

Mitigating adverse effects

7.19 No adverse effects were identified therefore no changes were required to mitigate adverse effects.

Maximising beneficial effects:

7.20 No enhancements were identified to plan objective 3. The plan objective scored positively / significantly positive against 13 IA objectives where it would have a beneficial impact.

7.21 In comparison to plan objective 3 at Issues and Options stage the IA objective has scored one more positive.

PO4 Supporting the regeneration of Oldham Town Centre and creating thriving centres by:

Table 22: IA of plan objective 4 at Draft Local Plan stage

Scoring system	++	+	-	?	X	XX
Plan Objective 4 score	12	11	3	0	0	0

Mitigating adverse effects

7.22 No adverse effects were identified therefore no changes were required to mitigate adverse effects.

Maximising beneficial effects:

7.23 No enhancements were identified to plan objective 4. The plan objective scored positively / significantly positive against 23 IA objectives where it would have a beneficial impact.

7.24 In comparison to plan objective 4 at Issues and Options stage the IA objective has scored four more positives.

PO5 Protecting and enhancing Oldham's landscapes by:

Table 23: IA of plan objective 5 at Draft Local Plan stage

Scoring system	++	+	-	?	X	XX
Plan Objective 5 score	12	7	7	0	0	0

Mitigating adverse effects

7.25 No adverse effects were identified therefore no changes were required to mitigate adverse effects.

Maximising beneficial effects:

7.26 No enhancements were identified to plan objective 5. The plan objective scored positively / significantly positive against 19 IA objectives where it would have a beneficial impact.

7.27 The plan objective is not comparable to the objective at Issues and Options stage as objective 5 regarding the borough's environment has been split into two so that the objectives are clearer and better defined. Objective 5 now deals with the borough's landscape and objective 6 deals with protecting, restoring and enhancing the natural environment.

PO6 Protecting, restoring and enhancing the natural environment by:

Table 24: IA of plan objective 6 at Draft Local Plan stage

Scoring system	++	+	-	?	X	XX
Plan Objective 6 score	12	11	3	0	0	0

Mitigating adverse effects

7.28 No adverse effects were identified therefore no changes were required to mitigate adverse effects.

Maximising beneficial effects

7.29 No enhancements were identified to plan objective 6. The plan objective scored positively / significantly positive against 23 IA objectives where it would have a beneficial impact.

7.30 The plan objective is not comparable to the objective at Issues and Options stage as since the IA of the Issues and Options, Objective 5 regarding the borough's environment has been split into two, so that the objectives are clearer and better defined. Objective 5 now deals with the borough's landscape and objective 6 deals with protecting, restoring and enhancing the natural environment.

PO7 Promoting sustainable development that mitigates and adapts to climate change by:

Table 25: IA of plan objective 7 at Draft Local Plan stage

Scoring system	++	+	-	?	X	XX
Plan Objective 7 score	9	8	9	0	0	0

Mitigating adverse effects

7.31 No adverse effects were identified therefore no changes were required to mitigate adverse effects.

Maximising beneficial effects

7.32 No enhancements were identified to plan objective 7. The plan objective scored positively / significantly positive against 17 IA objectives where it would have a beneficial impact. This is the same number of positive scores for the plan objective (PO6) at Issues and Options stage.

PO8 Uplifting the health and well-being of our residents and local communities by:

Table 26: IA of plan objective 8 at Draft Local Plan stage

Scoring system	++	+	-	?	X	XX
Plan Objective 8 score	9	11	6	0	0	0

Mitigating adverse effects

7.33 No adverse effects were identified therefore no changes were required to mitigate adverse effects.

Maximising beneficial effects

7.34 No enhancements were identified to plan objective 8. The plan objective scored positively / significantly positive against 20 IA objectives where it would have a beneficial impact.

7.35 The revised plan objective scores five more positives than the plan objective (PO7) at Issues and Options stage.

PO9 Improving and valuing a better built environment, by:

Table 27: IA of plan objective 9 at Draft Local Plan stage

Scoring system	++	+	-	?	X	XX
Plan Objective 9 score	6	10	10	0	0	0

Mitigating adverse effects

7.36 No adverse effects were identified therefore no changes were required to mitigate adverse effects.

Maximising beneficial effects

7.37 No enhancements were identified to plan objective 9. The plan objective scored positively / significantly positive against 16 IA objectives where it would have a beneficial impact.

7.38 The revised plan objective scores three fewer positives than the plan objective (PO8) at Issues and Options stage. This may be due to the plan objectives at Issues and Options stage being more detailed. At Draft Local Plan stage they have been refined further.

PO10 Promoting accessible and sustainable transport choices, by:

Table 28: IA of plan objective 10 at Draft Local Plan stage

Scoring system	++	+	-	?	X	XX
Plan Objective 10 score	9	6	11	0	0	0

Mitigating adverse effects

7.39 No adverse effects were identified therefore no changes were required to mitigate adverse effects.

Maximising beneficial effects

7.40 No enhancements were identified to plan objective 10. The plan objective scored positively / significantly positive against 15 IA objectives where it would have a beneficial impact.

7.41 The revised plan objective scores one fewer positive than the plan objective (PO9) at Issues and Options stage. This may be due to further consideration.

Plan Policies Appraisal

7.42 Each plan policy in the Draft Local Plan was appraised. The full IA appraisal can be seen in Appendix 3 to 16 of the Draft Plan IA, which also shows whether effects are temporary or permanent and local or cross boundary (cross boundary was assumed to include local effects too).

7.43 A summary of the appraisal is given below. The long-term scores have been shown below for ease, however the 'variation in scores' notes where there may have been any differences in scores over the short to long-term. For short-and medium-term scores please see the full IA appraisal in the appendix. The variation in scores also notes any mixed scores.

7.44 Any mitigation and / or enhancements are also shown where the policy wording was amended as a result of the IA.

7.45 However, generally mitigation is provided through other plan policies either in Places for Everyone (PfE) or those in Draft Local Plan as the plan should be read as a whole.

7.46 Examples of the policies that would help provide mitigation have been expressed in the full IA in the relevant appendix.

Homes

Table 29: IA of Homes policies at Draft Local Plan stage

Scoring system	++	+	--	?	X	XX	Variations in score	Mitigation	Enhancement
Policy H1: Delivering a Diverse Housing Offer	5	7	13	0	1	0	None	<p>A negative score was given as sites in the housing land supply could include open spaces. Mitigation would be provided through Policy CO1.</p> <p>The policy has been screened in by the HRA as additional houses could result in increases in population, resulting in increased air pollution (from road traffic) and recreational disturbance effects. The HRA identifies mitigation measures to address any likely significant effects.</p>	None
Policy H2: Housing Mix	3	9	14	0	0	0	None	<p>The HRA has screened the policy as additional houses could result in increases in population, resulting in increased air pollution (from road traffic) and recreational disturbance effects.</p>	None

Scoring system	++	+	--	?	X	XX	Variations in score	Mitigation	Enhancement
								The HRA identifies mitigation measures to address likely significant effects.	
Policy H3: Density of New Housing	4	10	12	0	0	0	None	The HRA has screened the policy as additional houses could result in increases in population, resulting in increased air pollution (from road traffic) and recreational disturbance effects. The HRA identifies mitigation measures to address likely significant effects.	None
Policy H4: Homes for Older People	4	7	15	0	0	0	None	The HRA has screened the policy as additional houses could result in increases in population, resulting in increased air pollution (from road traffic) and recreational disturbance effects. The HRA identifies mitigation measures to address likely significant effects.	None
Policy H5: Homes for Disabled People	4	6	16	0	0	0	None	The HRA has screened the policy as additional houses could result in increases in population, resulting in increased	In relation to IA17 the IA identified that the policy reasoned justification could reference accessibility to key services and public transport to

Scoring system	++	+	--	?	X	XX	Variations in score	Mitigation	Enhancement
								air pollution (from road traffic) and recreational disturbance effects. The HRA identifies mitigation measures to address likely significant effects.	improve effectiveness. Reference to accessibility and policies H1 and CO9 was added to the reasoned justification of the policy.
Policy H6: Homes for Children and Care Leavers	3	9	14	0	0	0	None	The HRA has screened the policy in as additional houses could result in increases in population, resulting in increased air pollution (from road traffic) and recreational disturbance effects. The HRA identifies mitigation measures to address likely significant effects.	None
Policy H7: Affordable Housing	4	4	18	0	0	0	None	The HRA has screened the policy in as additional houses could result in increases in population, resulting in increased air pollution (from road traffic) and recreational disturbance effects. The HRA identifies mitigation measures to address likely significant effects.	None

Scoring system	++	+	--	?	X	XX	Variations in score	Mitigation	Enhancement
Policy H8: Vacant Building Credit	3	7	16	0	0	0	None	None	None
Policy 9: Rural Exception Sites	2	1	17	6	1	0	There was a mixed score of +/- against IA 18 (regeneration)	<p>A negative score was given as rural exception sites are likely to be in the Green Belt and possibly including greenfield sites. However, policy OL2 would need to be met.</p> <p>The HRA has screened the policy in as additional houses could result in increases in population, resulting in increased air pollution (from road traffic) and recreational disturbance effects. The HRA identifies mitigation measures to address likely significant effects.</p>	None
Policy H10: Houses in Multiple Occupation	3	8	15	0	0	0	None	The HRA has screened the policy in as additional houses could result in increases in population, resulting in increased air pollution (from road traffic) and recreational disturbance effects.	None

Scoring system	++	+	--	?	X	XX	Variations in score	Mitigation	Enhancement
								The HRA identifies mitigation measures to address likely significant effects.	
Policy H11: Custom / Self-Build and Community-led Housing	2	4	20	0	0	0	None	The HRA has screened the policy in as additional houses could result in increases in population, resulting in increased air pollution (from road traffic) and recreational disturbance effects. The HRA identifies mitigation measures to address likely significant effects.	None
Policy H12: Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople	3	4	19	0	0	0	None	The HRA has screened the policy in as additional houses could result in increases in population, resulting in increased air pollution (from road traffic) and recreational disturbance effects. The HRA identifies mitigation measures to address likely significant effects	None
Policy H13: Housing and Mixed-Use Allocations	5	9	9	3	2	0	A X/? score was given against IA 1 (green)	No mitigation required as Policies N1 to N3	None

Scoring system	++	+	--	?	X	XX	Variations in score	Mitigation	Enhancement
							infrastructure), and a +/- score was given for IA11 (soil) due to loss of soil / green infrastructure as some sites may include greenfield sites / open space.	and CO1 mitigates loss of open space. The HRA has screened the policy in as additional houses could result in increases in population, resulting in increased air pollution (from road traffic) and recreational disturbance effects. The HRA identifies mitigation measures to address likely significant effects.	

Economy and Employment

Table 30: IA of Economy and Employment policies at Draft Local Plan stage

Scoring system	++	+	--	?	X	XX	Variations in score	Mitigation	Enhancement
Policy E1 – Business and Employment Areas	5	4	17	0	0	0	None	<p>The HRA has screened the policy in as there may be possible impacts on European sites arising from air pollution effects (increased traffic flows).</p> <p>There may also be possible direct impacts on the Rochdale Canal SAC from development within 200m of the Canal.</p> <p>The HRA has also screened in Business Employment Areas (BEAs) (which this policy relates to) as they could result in increased road traffic resulting in increases in air pollution. In addition, Hollinwood Business District; Wrigley Street and Greengate / Broadgate BEAs are close to the</p>	None

Scoring system	++	+	--	?	X	XX	Variations in score	Mitigation	Enhancement
								<p>Rochdale Canal SAC (within 200m) and development could result in direct impacts on the Canal.</p> <p>The HRA identifies mitigation measures to address likely significant effects.</p>	
Policy E2 – Exceptions within Business and Employment Areas and other existing employment sites	2	3	20	1	0	0	None	<p>The HRA has screened the policy in as there may be possible impacts on European sites arising from air pollution effects (increased traffic flows).</p> <p>There may also be possible direct impacts on the Rochdale Canal SAC from development within 200m of the Canal.</p> <p>The HRA identifies mitigation measures to address likely significant effects.</p>	None
Policy E3 – Reuse and redevelopment of Mill Buildings	3	2	21	0	0	0	None	The HRA has screened the policy in as there may be possible	None

Scoring system	++	+	--	?	X	XX	Variations in score	Mitigation	Enhancement
								<p>impacts on European sites arising from air pollution effects (increased traffic flows).</p> <p>There may also be possible direct impacts on the Rochdale Canal SAC from development within 200m of the Canal.</p> <p>The HRA identifies mitigation measures to address likely significant effects.</p>	
Policy E4 – Office, Industry and Warehousing Allocations	4	1	20	1	0	0	None	<p>The HRA has screened the policy in due to possible impacts on European sites arising from air pollution effects.</p> <p>There may also be possible direct impacts on the Rochdale Canal SAC from development within 200m of the Canal.</p> <p>The HRA identifies mitigation measures to</p>	None

Scoring system	++	+	--	?	X	XX	Variations in score	Mitigation	Enhancement
								address likely significant effects.	

Tourism

Table 31: IA of Tourism policies at Draft Local Plan stage

Scoring system	++	+	--	?	X	XX	Variations in score	Mitigation	Enhancement
Policy TM1 – Tourism	8	8	10	0	0	0	None	The HRA has screened the policy in due to possible cause of increase in recreational disturbance, both to the Canal and to the South Pennine Moors. The HRA identifies mitigation measures to address likely significant effects.	None
Policy TM2 – Farm Diversification	2	4	19	1	0	0	None	None	None

Centres

Table 32: IA of Centres policies at Draft Local Plan stage

Scoring system	++	+	--	?	X	XX	Variations in score	Mitigation	Enhancement
Policy C1 – Our Centres	6	7	13	0	0	0	None	None	None
Policy C2 – Local Services and Facilities	3	6	17	0	0	0	None	None	None
Policy C3 – Retail and Leisure Impact Assessments and Sequential Tests	4	6	16	0	0	0	None	None	None
Policy C4 – Changes of use and redevelopment within the borough's centres	7	6	13	0	0	0	In relation to IA18 (regeneration) and IA19 (economic growth) the effects increase from + in the short term to ++ in the long term.	None	None

Oldham Town Centre

Table 33: IA of Oldham Town Centre policies at Draft Local Plan stage

Scoring system	++	+	--	?	X	XX	Variations in score	Mitigation	Enhancement
Policy OTC1: Oldham Town Centre	14	9	3	0	0	0	IA6 (Efficient use of land); IA15 (local environmental quality); IA18 (regeneration); IA19 (economic growth); IA20 (centres); IA21 (tourism) and IA26 (inclusive communities) increased in effects over time from + in the short term to ++ in the long term.	None	None
Policy OTC2: Protecting and Enhancing Oldham Town Centre Conservation Area	8	10	8	0	0	0	None	None	Policy amended from 'appropriate greening' to 'appropriate multi-functional green infrastructure' to ensure many benefits are delivered from greening against IA objectives 1 on green infrastructure, IA2 on open space and IA9 on flood risk.
Policy OTC3: Creating a Better Public Realm for	12	4	10	0	0	0	None	None	None

Scoring system	++	+	--	?	X	XX	Variations in score	Mitigation	Enhancement
Oldham Town Centre									
Policy OTC4 - Green Infrastructure within and around Oldham Town Centre	11	9	6	0	0	0	None	None	None
Policy OTC5 - Creating better vehicular parking and drop off facilities in Oldham Town Centre	7	2	17	0	0	0	None	None	None

Addressing Climate Change

Table 34: IA of Addressing Climate Change policies at Draft Local Plan stage

Scoring system	++	+	--	?	X	XX	Variations in score	Mitigation	Enhancement
Policy CC1 – Sustainable Construction, Energy Efficiency and Retrofitting	8	6	13	0	0	0	IA8 (health), IA14 (air quality) and IA18 (regeneration and disparity) scored + in the short term to ++ in the long time.	None	None
Policy CC2 Renewable & Low Carbon Energy	4	9	13	0	3	0	Mixed scores of --/x were given against IA2 (open space) and IA11 (soil) as the policy partially met the objective. IA18 also scored --/x as minerals is not included within the criteria. IA18 (energy) scored + in the short term to ++ in the long term.	For IA2 the policy was mitigated by ensuring that open space is included within the criteria. For IA11 the policy was mitigated by ensuring that loss of high-quality soil and agricultural land was included within the criteria. For IA24 a new criterion referring to Minerals Safeguarding Areas has been added.	None
Policy CC3 - Managing Flood Risk	5	7	14	0	0	0	None	None	None

Scoring system	++	+	--	?	X	XX	Variations in score	Mitigation	Enhancement
Policy CC4 - Sustainable Drainage – Foul and Surface Water	4	7	15	0	0	0	None	None	None
Policy CC5 - Water Efficiency	2	7	17	0	0	0	None	None	None
Policy CC6 Groundwater Source Protection Zones	1	3	22	0	0	0	None	None	None

Open Land

Table 35: IA of Addressing Natural Environment and Open Land policies at Draft Local Plan stage

Scoring system	++	+	--	?	X	XX	Variations in score	Mitigation	Enhancement
Policy OL1 Consideration for the Peak District National Park	0	8	17	0	1	0	None	IA12 scored negative as policy could constrain renewable energy, in particular wind energy, however mitigation is not required as this area is unlikely to be acceptable for wind turbines and other plan policies address energy.	None
Policy OL2 Protecting and enhancing Oldham's Green Belt	3	14	8	2	1	0	IA12 (energy) scored a mixed score of X/? as the policy could constrain some types of low carbon energy in the Green Belt. IA16 scored a mixed score of +/? As the policy may enhance the Green Belt including walking and cycling routes but	For IA12 mitigation is not needed as it may not be acceptable for renewable schemes, particularly wind turbines, to be permitted and proposals needs to be determined on their own merits in line with plan policies. Other policies address energy including CC1 and CC2.	None

Scoring system	++	+	--	?	X	XX	Variations in score	Mitigation	Enhancement
							specific improvements are not identified.		
Policy OL3 Extensions and alterations to existing buildings within the Green Belt	0	4	22	0	0	0	None	None	For clarity, in relation to IA4 design was mentioned twice in the policy criteria and therefore to remove repetition reference to design was removed from criterion 1.
Policy OL4 Local Green Space	6	12	8	0	0	0	None	None	None
Policy OL5 Protecting dark skies and tranquillity	3	6	17	0	0	0	None	None	None

Addressing the Biodiversity Emergency

Table 36: IA of Addressing the Biodiversity Emergency policies at Draft Local Plan stage

Scoring system	++	+	--	?	X	XX	Variations in score	Mitigation	Enhancement
Policy N1 Protecting Nature	4	8	14	0	0	0	None	None	None
Policy N2 Restoring Nature	8	5	12	1	0	0	None	None. Uncertainty was expressed as there may be overlap between BNG and minerals. Any offset sites would not be able to be worked for minerals but wouldn't necessarily sterilise as such. Therefore, no mitigation needed and Minerals DPD addresses minerals.	None
Policy N3 Enhancing Green Infrastructure through development	12	9	5	0	0	0	IA13 (resilience) scores + in the short term to ++ in the long term.	None	None
Policy N4 Tree Replacement	2	9	15	0	0	0	IA8 (health), IA9 (flood risk), IA11 (soil quality), IA13 (climate change) and IA14 (air quality) scored neutral in the short term to positive in the medium and long	None	None

Scoring system	++	+	--	?	X	XX	Variations in score	Mitigation	Enhancement
							term as in the short term, any tree loss that is compensated will not give significant benefits when first planted to health, flood risk mitigation, soil quality, climate change resilience and air quality.		

Oldham's Historic Environment

Table 37: IA of Oldham's Historic Environment policies at Draft Local Plan stage

Scoring system	++	+	--	?	X	XX	Variations in score	Mitigation	Enhancement
Policy HE1 – The Historic Environment	7	10	9	0	0	0	None	None	None
Policy HE2 Securing the Preservation and Enhancement of Oldham's Heritage Assets	6	10	10	0	0	0	None	None	None
Policy HE3 Development proposals affecting conservation areas	6	6	14	0	0	0	IA20 (centres) scored + in the short term to ++ in the medium and long term as conservation areas should be enhanced over time).	None	None
Policy HE4 Oldham's Mills	7	6	13	0	0	0	None	None	None
Policy HE5 Canals	6	9	11	0	0	0	None	None	In relation to IA1 (biodiversity and green infrastructure) and IA2 (open space) the policy wording was amended from open space to green infrastructure.

Creating a Better and Beautiful Oldham

Table 38: IA of Creating a Better and Beautiful Oldham policies at Draft Local Plan stage

Scoring system	++	+	-	?	X	XX	Variations in score	Mitigation	Enhancement
Policy D1 – A Design-Led Approach for Residential & Residential-Led Mixed-Use Development	17	1	8	0	0	0	Effects increase from + to ++ over time against IA1 (green infrastructure); IA7 (infrastructure; IA8 (health); IA9 (flood risk); IA13 (climate change); IA17 infrastructure; IA20 (centres); and IA23 (housing).	None	None
Policy D2 – A Design Led Approach to Non-Residential, Commercial and Employment Developments	15	1	10	0	0	0	Effects increase from + to ++ over time against IA1 (green infrastructure); IA7 (infrastructure; IA8 (health); IA9 (flood risk); IA13 (climate change); IA17 infrastructure; and IA18 (regeneration);	None	None

Scoring system	++	+	-	?	X	XX	Variations in score	Mitigation	Enhancement
Policy D3 - Design Scrutiny	15	2	9	0	0	0	Effects increase from + to ++ over time against IA1 (green infrastructure); IA2 (open spaces); IA7 (infrastructure; IA12 (energy); IA13 (climate change); and IA16 (transport).	None	None
Policy D4 – Creating Better Views, Gateways and Taller Buildings	7	1	18	0	0	0	Effects increase from + to ++ over time against IA17 infrastructure; and IA18 (regeneration); IA 20 (centres); and IA26 (inclusive communities).	None	None
Policy D5 – Improving the Quality of Advertisements and Signage in Oldham	4	0	22	0	0	0	Effects increase from + to ++ over time against IA 20 (centres); and IA26.	None	None
Policy D6 – Creating a Better Public Realm in Oldham	12	4	10	0	0	0	Effects increase from + to ++ over time against IA9 (flood risk); IA13 (climate change); and IA14 (air quality).	None	None

Scoring system	++	+	-	?	X	XX	Variations in score	Mitigation	Enhancement
Policy D7 - Development within the curtilage of a dwellinghouse	5	1	20	0	0	0	None	None	None

Creating a Sustainable, Active, Accessible Network for Oldham

Table 39: IA of Creating a Sustainable, Active, Accessible Network for Oldham policies at Draft Local Plan stage

Scoring system	++	+	--	?	X	XX	Variations in score	Mitigation	Enhancement
Policy T1 – Delivering Oldham's Transport Priorities	11	3	12	0	0	0	None	None	None
Policy T2 – Creating Sustainable Streets	15	2	9	0	0	0	Effects increase from + to ++ over time against IA1 (green infrastructure); IA2 (open space); IA9 (flood risk); IA13 (climate change); IA15 (environmental quality); IA18 (regeneration); IA19 (economic growth); IA20 (centres); and IA26 (inclusive communities).	None	None
Policy T3 – Car Parking Standards in Oldham	11	1	14	0	0	0	Effects increase from + to ++ over time against IA5 (design); IA6 (efficient use of land); IA7 (infrastructure); IA9 (flood risk); IA8 (health); IA14 (air	None	None

Scoring system	++	+	--	?	X	XX	Variations in score	Mitigation	Enhancement
							quality); IA17 (access to key services); IA20 (centres); IA21 (tourism); and IA26 (inclusive communities).		
Policy T4 – Providing for electric vehicle charging points	5	1	20	0	0	0	Effects increase from + to ++ over time against IA7 (infrastructure); IA15 (local environmental quality); and IA16 (sustainable transport).	None	None
Policy T5 – Transport Statements, Assessments and Travel Plans in New Development	9	1	16	0	0	0	None	None	None

Communities

Table 40: IA of Communities policies at Draft Local Plan stage

Scoring system	++	+	--	?	X	XX	Variations in score	Mitigation	Enhancement
Policy CO1 - Protection of Existing Open Spaces	9	10	7	0	0	0	None	None	None
Policy CO2 - New and Enhanced Open Spaces	9	10	7	0	0	0	None	None	None
Policy CO3 - Open Space Standards	10	8	8	0	0	0	None	None	None
Policy CO4 Cultural, Community and Health Facilities	10	0	16	0	0	0	Effects increase from + to ++ over time against IA3 (landscapes and townscapes); IA4 (heritage); IA8 (health); IA18 (regeneration); IA19 (economic growth); IA20 (centres); IA21 (tourism); IA22 (education); and IA26 (inclusive communities).	None	None
Policy CO5: Education and Skills	7	6	13	0	0	0	None	None	None
Policy CO6: Securing Educational Places	3	3	20	0	0	0	None	None	None

Scoring system	++	+	--	?	X	XX	Variations in score	Mitigation	Enhancement
through New Residential Development									
Policy CO7 – Health Impact Assessments in New Development	2	6	18	0	0	0	None	None	None
Policy CO8 Hot Food Takeaways	1	4	21	0	0	0	None	None	None
Policy CO9 Creating Sustainable and Accessible Communities	2	9	15	0	0	0	None	None	None

Protecting our Local Environment

Table 41: IA of Protecting our Local Environment policies at Draft Local Plan stage

Scoring system	++	+	--	?	X	XX	Variations in score	Mitigation	Enhancement
Policy LE1 - Noise Pollution and Vibration in New Development	2	0	24	0	0	0	Effects increase from + to ++ over time against IA8 (health) and IA15 (environmental quality).	None	None
Policy LE2 - Ground Conditions and Contaminated Land	3	5	18	0	0	0	Effects increase from + to ++ over time against IA18 (regeneration);	None	None
Policy LE3 - Air Quality	4	5	17	0	0	0	Effects increase from + to ++ over time against IA7 (infrastructure).	None	None

Infrastructure and Delivery in Oldham

Table 42: IA of Infrastructure and Delivery in Oldham policies at Draft Local Plan stage

Scoring system	++	+	--	?	X	XX	Variations in score	Mitigation	Enhancement
Policy IN1 Digital Infrastructure and Telecommunications	1	3	22	0	0	0	None	None	None
Policy IN2 – Planning Obligations	9	12	5	0	0	0	None	None	None
Policy IN3 - Delivering Social Value and Inclusion	6	1	19	0	0	0	None	None	None

8 IA Appraisal of Publication Plan

8.1 The IA of the Publication Local Plan repeats Stage B. It has:

- 1: Tested the DPD objectives against the IA framework
- 3: Evaluated the likely effects of the DPD and alternatives
- 4: Considered ways of mitigating adverse effects and maximising beneficial effects

8.2 However, the developing DPD options including reasonable alternatives (task 2) task has already been completed as part of the Issues and Options stage, so this task is not repeated again.

8.3 Instead, the Publication Local Plan presents the preferred spatial options in the form of policies which have resulted from the spatial options. This was also the case with the Draft Plan. It should be noted that over time the plan has evolved, and site allocations are no longer being proposed as part of the Local Plan and therefore spatial options in relation to allocations have not been taken forward (see Table 68).

Vision and DPD objectives appraisal

8.4 An IA appraisal of the vision and each plan objective at Publication stage of the Local Plan has been carried out.

8.5 The summary results of this are shown below. For the full appraisal please see Appendix 1 in the IA for the Publication Local Plan.

Vision

8.6 The vision in the Publication Local Plan scored a mixture of neutral, positives and significantly positive scores.

Table 43: IA of vision at Publication Local Plan stage

Scoring system	++	+	-	?	X	XX
Vision score	17	7	2	0	0	0

Mitigating adverse effects

8.7 No adverse effects were identified therefore no changes were required to mitigate adverse effects.

Maximising beneficial effects:

8.8 The vision scored positively / significantly positive against 24 IA objectives where it would have a beneficial impact. Minor amendments had been made to the vision since Draft Plan stage, and it was considered that wording should be added back to the vision to link to local environmental quality (IA15) to support the score given. The vision has been amended to refer to a “clean, green and healthy environment”.

8.9 In comparison to the vision at Issues and Option stage where the vision scored positively against 21 IA objectives and enhancements were made, the vision at Publication plan stage has resulted in more positive scores and the same number of positive scores in comparison to Draft Plan stage.

Plan Objectives:

8.10 The top line of each plan objective (PO) is included to give an indication of the content of each plan objective. For the full plan objective wording please see the Publication Local Plan document or IA Appendix 2.

8.11 The scores were considered the same for short to long-term at this stage. The appraisal also has identified direct and secondary (indirect effects).

PO1 Building quality homes to meet local needs and diversify the housing offer by...

Table 44: IA of plan objective 1 in the Publication Local Plan

Scoring system	++	+	-	?	X	XX
Plan Objective 1 score	5	12	9	0	0	0

Mitigating adverse effects

8.12 No adverse effects were identified therefore no changes were required to mitigate adverse effects.

Maximising beneficial effects:

8.13 No enhancements were identified to plan objective 1. The plan objective scored positively / significantly positive against 17 IA objectives where it would have a beneficial impact.

8.14 In comparison to the housing plan objective at Issues and Option stage where the objective scored positively against 18 IA objectives, plan objective 1 at Draft Local Plan stage has resulted in one more neutral score. This is as a result of reflecting on the objective further. The scores at Publication Plan stage stayed the same.

PO2 Providing opportunities to learn and gain new skills by:

Table 45: IA of plan objective 2 in the Publication Local Plan

Scoring system	++	+	-	?	X	XX
Plan Objective 2 score	4	4	18	0	0	0

Mitigating adverse effects

8.15 No adverse effects were identified therefore no changes were required to mitigate adverse effects.

Maximising beneficial effects:

8.16 The plan objective scored positively / significantly positive against 8 IA objectives where it would have a beneficial impact. The objective scored mostly neutrals given its specific

nature. No enhancements were identified. Between Draft plan stage and Publication plan stage there were no changes to the scores.

PO3 Boosting northern competitiveness by providing access to employment opportunities and growing local businesses by:

Table 46: IA of plan objective 3 in the Publication Local Plan

Scoring system	++	+	-	?	X	XX
Plan Objective 3 score	4	10	12	0	0	0

Mitigating adverse effects

8.17 No adverse effects were identified therefore no changes were required to mitigate adverse effects.

Maximising beneficial effects:

8.18 No enhancements were identified to plan objective 3. The plan objective scored positively / significantly positive against 14 IA objectives where it would have a beneficial impact.

8.19 In comparison to plan objective 3 at Issues and Options stage the IA objective has scored one more positive and in comparison, to Draft Plan stage a further significant positive score.

PO4 Supporting the regeneration of Oldham Town Centre and creating thriving centres by:

Table 47: IA of plan objective 4 in the Publication Local Plan

Scoring system	++	+	-	?	X	XX
Plan Objective 4 score	12	11	3	0	0	0

Mitigating adverse effects

8.20 No adverse effects were identified therefore no changes were required to mitigate adverse effects.

Maximising beneficial effects:

8.21 No enhancements were identified to plan objective 4. The plan objective scored positively / significantly positive against 23 IA objectives where it would have a beneficial impact.

8.22 In comparison to plan objective 4 at Issues and Options stage the IA objective has scored four more positives and in comparison, to Draft Plan stage scored the same.

PO5 Protecting and enhancing Oldham's landscapes by:

Table 48: IA of plan objective 5 in the Publication Local Plan

Scoring system	++	+	-	?	X	XX
Plan Objective 5 score	12	7	7	0	0	0

Mitigating adverse effects

8.23 No adverse effects were identified therefore no changes were required to mitigate adverse effects.

Maximising beneficial effects:

8.24 No enhancements were identified to plan objective 5. The plan objective scored positively / significantly positive against 19 IA objectives where it would have a beneficial impact.

8.25 The plan objective is not comparable to the objective at Issues and Options stage as objective 5 regarding the borough's environment was split into two at Draft Plan stage. In comparison to Draft Plan stage the plan objective scored the same.

PO6 Protecting, restoring and enhancing the natural environment by:

Table 49: IA of plan objective 6 in the Publication Local Plan

Scoring system	++	+	-	?	X	XX
Plan Objective 6 score	14	9	3	0	0	0

Mitigating adverse effects

8.26 No adverse effects were identified therefore no changes were required to mitigate adverse effects.

Maximising beneficial effects

8.27 No enhancements were identified to plan objective 6 as a result of the IA. The plan objective scored positively / significantly positive against 23 IA objectives where it would have a beneficial impact.

8.28 The plan objective is not comparable to the objective at Issues and Options stage as the objective was split into two at Draft Plan stage.

8.29 However, between Draft Plan stage and Publication stage the IA objective was amended to reflect the Local Nature Recovery Strategy more and as such IA15 and IA18 have increased from positive to significantly positive as the LNRS recognises the amenity benefits an enhanced nature network can bring such as noise regulation and its contribution towards reducing inequalities and tackling deprivation. Therefore, the IA of plan objective 6

at publication stage has scored two more significantly positives compared to Draft Plan stage.

PO7 Promoting sustainable development that mitigates and adapts to climate change by:

Table 50: IA of plan objective 7 in the Publication Local Plan

Scoring system	++	+	-	?	X	XX
Plan Objective 7 score	10	8	8	0	0	0

Mitigating adverse effects

8.30 No adverse effects were identified therefore no changes were required to mitigate adverse effects.

Maximising beneficial effects

8.31 No enhancements were identified to plan objective 7. The plan objective scored positively / significantly positive against 18 IA objectives where it would have a beneficial impact. This is one more positive score for PO7 in comparison to the relevant plan objective at Issues and Options stage and Draft Plan stage.

8.32 This is because between Draft Plan stage and Publication Plan stage the objective was amended to make reference to peat. As such:

- IA3 regarding landscapes has increased from – to + as the plan objective has been amended to include reinstating restorable peat and it seeks to manage flood risk using integrated water management; and
- IA11 regarding soil quality has increased from + to ++ as the plan objective now refers to protecting and reinstating restorable peat.

PO8 Uplifting the health and well-being of our residents and local communities by:

Table 51: IA of plan objective 8 in the Publication Local Plan

Scoring system	++	+	-	?	X	XX
Plan Objective 8 score	9	11	6	0	0	0

Mitigating adverse effects

8.33 No adverse effects were identified therefore no changes were required to mitigate adverse effects.

Maximising beneficial effects

8.34 No enhancements were identified to plan objective 8. The plan objective scored positively / significantly positive against 20 IA objectives where it would have a beneficial impact.

8.35 At Draft plan stage the revised plan objective scored five more positives than the plan objective (PO7) at Issues and Options stage. Between Draft plan stage and Publication plan stage there were no changes to the scores.

PO9 Improving and valuing a better historic and built environment, by:

Table 52: IA of plan objective 9 in the publication Local Plan

Scoring system	++	+	-	?	X	XX
Plan Objective 9 score	6	12	8	0	0	0

Mitigating adverse effects

8.36 No adverse effects were identified therefore no changes were required to mitigate adverse effects.

Maximising beneficial effects

8.37 No enhancements were identified to plan objective 9. The plan objective scored positively / significantly positive against 18 IA objectives where it would have a beneficial impact.

8.38 At Draft Plan stage the revised plan objective scored three fewer positives than the plan objective (PO8) at Issues and Options stage. This may be due to the plan objectives at Issues and Options stage being more detailed. At Draft Local Plan stage they were refined.

8.39 At Publication plan stage, only minor amendments were made referencing textile mills. However, PO9 scored two more positives than Draft Plan stage as:

- IA14 was amended regarding air quality from -- to + as on reflection high quality design should lead to buildings and places that encourage ventilation, active travel and green infrastructure therefore improving air quality.
- IA16 was amended from – to + as improved wayfinding in Oldham Town Centre, including its conservation area, and restoration of waterways such as canals which forms a sustainable transport route for walking, wheeling and cycling will therefore on reflection help achieve this.

PO10 Promoting accessible and sustainable transport choices, by:

Table 53: IA of plan objective 10 in the Publication Local Plan

Scoring system	++	+	-	?	X	XX
Plan Objective 10 score	9	8	9	0	0	0

Mitigating adverse effects

8.40 No adverse effects were identified therefore no changes were required to mitigate adverse effects.

Maximising beneficial effects

8.41 No enhancements were identified to plan objective 10. The plan objective scored positively / significantly positive against 17 IA objectives where it would have a beneficial impact.

8.42 The revised plan objective scores one fewer positive than the plan objective (PO9) at Issues and Options stage but two more positives compared to Draft Plan stage.

Plan Policies Appraisal

8.43 Each plan policy in the Publication Plan has been appraised. The full IA appraisal can be seen in Appendix 3 to 16, which also shows whether effects are temporary or permanent and local or cross boundary (cross boundary was assumed to include local effects too).

8.44 A summary of the appraisal is given below. The long-term scores have been shown below for ease, however the 'variation in scores' notes where there may have been any differences in scores over the short to long-term. For short-and medium-term scores please see the full IA appraisal in the appendix. The variation in scores also notes any mixed scores.

8.45 Any mitigation and / or enhancements are also shown where the policy wording was amended as a result of the IA. However, at this stage, amendments were minimal as more changes were made at previous stages of the Local Plan review.

8.46 However, generally mitigation is provided through other plan policies either in Places for Everyone (PfE) or those in the Publication Plan as the plan should be read as a whole.

8.47 Examples of the policies that would help provide mitigation have been expressed in the full IA in the relevant appendix.

Homes

Table 54: IA of Homes policies at Publication Local Plan stage

Scoring system	++	+	--	?	X	XX	Variations in score	Mitigation	Enhancement
Policy H1: Delivering a Diverse and Sustainable Housing Offer	6	6	13	0	1	0	None	<p>A negative score was given for IA2 as sites in the housing land supply could include open spaces. Mitigation would be provided through Policy CO1.</p> <p>The policy has been screened in by the HRA with possible impacts from direct land take; increases in diffuse air and water pollution and increases in recreational impacts.</p> <p>The HRA identifies mitigation measures to address any likely significant effects.</p>	None
Policy H2: Density of New Housing	4	10	12	0	0	0	None	The HRA has screened the policy out.	None
Policy H3: Housing Mix	3	9	14	0	0	0	None	The HRA has screened the policy out.	None
Policy H4: Providing for Local Housing Needs	4	7	15	0	0	0	None	The HRA has screened the policy out.	None

Scoring system	++	+	--	?	X	XX	Variations in score	Mitigation	Enhancement
Policy H5: Affordable Housing	4	4	18	0	0	0	None	The HRA has screened the policy out.	None
Policy H6: Houses in Multiple Occupation	3	9	14	0	0	0	None	The HRA has screened the policy out.	None
Policy H7: Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople	3	5	18	0	0	0	None	The HRA has screened the policy out.	None

Economy and Employment

Table 55: IA of Economy and Employment policies at Publication Local Plan stage

Scoring system	++	+	--	?	X	XX	Variations in score	Mitigation	Enhancement
Policy E1 – Employment Floorspace Requirements	2	4	20	0	0	0	None	The HRA has screened the policy in as there may be possible impacts from direct land take and increases in diffuse air and water pollution. The HRA identifies mitigation measures to address any likely significant effects.	None
Policy E2 – Business and Employment Areas	5	3	18	0	0	0	IA14 (air quality) increases from positive in the short and medium term to significantly positive in the long term.	None. The HRA has screened the policy out.	None
Policy E3 – Exceptions within Business and Employment Areas	2	4	19	1	0	0	None	The policy scored an uncertain against IA23 (housing) as non-employment uses may be permitted, including housing if policy exceptions are met. No mitigation is required for this as other plan	None

Scoring system	++	+	--	?	X	XX	Variations in score	Mitigation	Enhancement
								<p>policies provide the decision-making framework.</p> <p>The HRA has screened the policy out.</p>	
Policy E4 – Employment sites outside of Business and Employment Areas	2	3	20	1	0	0	None	None. The HRA has screened the policy out.	None
Policy E5 – Reuse and redevelopment of Mill Buildings	3	3	20	0	0	0	None	None. The HRA has screened the policy out.	None

Our Centres

Table 56: IA of Centres policies at Publication Plan stage

Scoring system	++	+	--	?	X	XX	Variations in score	Mitigation	Enhancement
Policy C1 – Our Centres	6	8	12	0	0	0	In relation to IA18 (regeneration) and IA19 (economic growth) the effects increase from positive in the short term to significantly positive in the medium and long term.	None. The HRA has screened the policy out.	None
Policy C2 – Protecting the vitality of our centres	4	6	16	0	0	0	None	None. The HRA has screened the policy out.	None
Policy C3 – Changes of use and redevelopment within the borough's centres	7	6	13	0	0	0	In relation to IA18 (regeneration) and IA19 (economic growth) the effects increase from positive in the short term to significantly positive in the	None. The HRA has screened the policy out.	None

Scoring system	++	+	--	?	X	XX	Variations in score	Mitigation	Enhancement
							medium and long term.		
Policy C4 – Local Services and Facilities	3	7	16	0	0	0	None	None. The HRA has screened the policy out.	None

Oldham Town Centre

Table 57: IA of Oldham Town Centre policies at Publication Local Plan stage

Scoring system	++	+	--	?	X	XX	Variations in score	Mitigation	Enhancement
Policy OTC1: Oldham Town Centre	15	4	7	0	0	0	IA6 (Efficient use of land); IA15 (local environmental quality); IA18 (regeneration); IA19 (economic growth); IA20 (centres); IA21 (tourism) and IA26 (inclusive communities) increased in effects over time from positive in the short term to significantly positive in the long term.	None. The HRA has screened the policy out.	None
Policy OTC2: Protecting and Enhancing Oldham Town Centre Conservation Area	8	10	8	0	0	0	IA1 (biodiversity) increased in effects over time from positive in the short and medium term to significantly positive in the long term.	None. The HRA has screened the policy out.	None

Scoring system	++	+	--	?	X	XX	Variations in score	Mitigation	Enhancement
Policy OTC3: Creating a Better Public Realm for Oldham Town Centre	9	8	9	0	0	0	None	None. The HRA has screened the policy out.	None
Policy OTC4 - Green Infrastructure within and around Oldham Town Centre	11	9	6	0	0	0	IA14 (air quality) increased in effects over time from positive in the short and medium term to significantly positive in the long term.	None. The HRA has screened the policy out.	It was noted during the IA that the policy did not explicitly refer to 'multi-functional' Green Infrastructure and therefore the first sentence of the policy was amended to enhance it to refer to 'multi-functional'. This is reflected in IA1, IA9 and IA13. This amendment did not affect scoring.

Addressing Climate Change

Table 58: IA of Addressing Climate Change policies at Publication Plan stage

Scoring system	++	+	--	?	X	XX	Variations in score	Mitigation	Enhancement
Policy CC1 Renewable and Low Carbon Energy	4	10	12	0	0	0	IA18 (energy) scored positive in the short and medium term to significantly positive in the long term.	<p>The HRA has screened the policy in due to potential impacts from direct land take (wind farms and solar farms), indirect disturbance and loss of functionally linked land.</p> <p>The HRA identifies mitigation measures to address any likely significant effects.</p>	None
Policy CC2 - Managing Flood Risk	5	7	14	0	0	0	None	None. The HRA has screened the policy out.	None
Policy CC3 - Sustainable Drainage – Foul and Surface Water	4	7	15	0	0	0	None	<p>None. The HRA has screened the policy out.</p> <p>However, the HRA recommends that any development proposals which have the potential to cause foul and surface water discharges to water-sensitive designated</p>	None

Scoring system	++	+	--	?	X	XX	Variations in score	Mitigation	Enhancement
								<p>sites should be subject to project-level HRA.</p> <p>This has been added to Policy CC3.</p>	
Policy CC4 - Water Efficiency	2	7	17	0	0	0	None	None. The HRA has screened the policy out.	None
Policy CC5 Groundwater Source Protection Zones	1	3	22	0	0	0	None	None. The HRA has screened the policy out.	None

Natural Environment and Open Land

Table 59: IA of Open Land policies at Publication Plan stage

Scoring system	++	+	--	?	X	XX	Variations in score	Mitigation	Enhancement
Policy OL1 Consideration for the Peak District National Park	4	4	17	0	1	0	IA1, IA3, IA4 and IA21 scored positive in the short and medium term to significantly positive in the long term to reflect opportunities to further the national park purposes.	IA12 scored negative as policy could constrain renewable energy, in particular wind energy, however mitigation is not required as this area is unlikely to be acceptable for wind turbines and other plan policies address energy. The HRA has screened the policy out.	None
Policy OL2 Oldham's Green Belt	2	15	8	1	1	0	IA12 (energy) scored a mixed score of negative / uncertain as the policy could constrain some types of low carbon energy in the Green Belt.	For IA12 mitigation is not needed as it may not be acceptable for renewable schemes, particularly wind turbines, to be permitted and proposals needs to be determined on their own merits in line with plan policies. Other policies address energy including Local Plan policy CC2.	None

Scoring system	++	+	--	?	X	XX	Variations in score	Mitigation	Enhancement
								The HRA has screened the policy out.	
Policy OL3 Extensions and alterations to existing buildings within the Green Belt	0	4	22	0	0	0	None	None. The HRA has screened the policy out.	None
Policy OL4 Local Green Spaces	6	12	8	0	0	0	None	None. The HRA has screened the policy out.	None
Policy OL5 Protecting dark skies and tranquillity	3	6	17	0	0	0	None	None. The HRA has screened the policy out.	None

Addressing the Biodiversity Emergency

Table 60: IA of Addressing the Biodiversity Emergency policies at Publication Plan stage

Scoring system	++	+	--	?	X	XX	Variations in score	Mitigation	Enhancement
Policy N1 Protecting Nature	4	8	14	0	0	0	None	None. The HRA has screened the policy out.	None
Policy N2 Restoring Nature	10	8	7	1	0	0	IA3 (landscapes) scores positive in the short term to significantly positive in the long term.	None. Uncertainty was expressed as there may be overlap between BNG and minerals. Any offset sites would not be able to be worked for minerals but wouldn't necessarily sterilise as such. Therefore, no mitigation needed and the Minerals DPD addresses minerals. The HRA has screened the policy out.	None
Policy N3 Enhancing Green Infrastructure through development	12	9	5	0	0	0	None	None. The HRA has screened the policy out.	None
Policy N4 Trees	9	3	14	0	0	0	IA8 (health) and IA9 (flood risk) scored neutral in the short term, positive in the medium term and significantly	None. The HRA has screened the policy out.	None

Scoring system	++	+	--	?	X	XX	Variations in score	Mitigation	Enhancement
							<p>positive in the long term.</p> <p>IA11 (soil quality), scored neutral in the short term to positive in the medium and long term.</p> <p>IA13 (climate change) scored neutral in the short term to significantly positive in the medium and long term.</p> <p>IA14 (air quality) scores positive in the short term to significantly positive in the medium and long term.</p> <p>IA20 (centres) scores positive in the short and medium term to significantly</p>		

Scoring system	++	+	--	?	X	XX	Variations in score	Mitigation	Enhancement
							positive in the long term.		

Oldham's Historic Environment

Table 61: IA of Oldham's Historic Environment policies at Publication Plan stage

Scoring system	++	+	--	?	X	XX	Variations in score	Mitigation	Enhancement
Policy HE1 – The Historic Environment	7	10	9	0	0	0	None	None. The HRA has screened the policy out.	None
Policy HE2 Securing the Preservation and Enhancement of Oldham's Heritage Assets	6	10	10	0	0	0	None	None. The HRA has screened the policy out.	None
Policy HE3 Development proposals affecting conservation areas	6	6	14	0	0	0	IA20 (centres) scored positive in the short term to significantly positive in the medium and long term as conservation areas should be enhanced over time.	None. The HRA has screened the policy out.	None
Policy HE4 Oldham's Mills	7	6	13	0	0	0	None	None. The HRA has screened the policy out.	None
Policy HE5 Canals	6	10	10	0	0	0	None	The HRA has screened the policy in due to potential impacts on the Rochdale Canal SAC during any restoration. The HRA identifies mitigation measures to	None

Scoring system	++	+	--	?	X	XX	Variations in score	Mitigation	Enhancement
								address any likely significant effects.	

Achieving High Quality Design

Table 62: IA of Achieving high quality design policies at Publication Plan stage

Scoring system	++	+	-	?	X	XX	Variations in score	Mitigation	Enhancement
Policy D1 Achieving high quality design	10	8	8	0	0	0	None	None. The HRA has screened the policy out.	None
Policy D2 – Advertisements, Signage and Shop Fronts	4	1	21	0	0	0	Effects increase from positive to significantly positive over time against IA 20 (centres).	None. The HRA has screened the policy out.	None
Policy D3 – Creating a Better Public Realm in Oldham	9	7	10	0	0	0	None	None. The HRA has screened the policy out.	None
Policy D4 – Extensions and alternations to, and development within the curtilage of a dwellinghouse	3	3	20	0	0	0	None	None. The HRA has screened the policy out.	None

A Sustainable, Active, Accessible Network for Oldham

Table 63: IA of A Sustainable, Active, Accessible Network for Oldham policies at Publication Plan stage

Scoring system	++	+	--	?	X	XX	Variations in score	Mitigation	Enhancement
Policy T1 – Delivering Oldham's Transport Priorities	10	5	11	0	0	0	None	None. The HRA has screened the policy out.	None
Policy T2 – Travel Hubs and Park and Ride Facilities	4	7	15	0	0	0	None	None. The HRA has screened the policy out.	None
Policy T3 – Parking provision	3	8	15	0	0	0	None	None. The HRA has screened the policy out.	None
Policy T4 – Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure	3	3	20	0	0	0	IA7 (infrastructure) increases from positive in the short and medium term to significantly positive in the long term.	None. The HRA has screened the policy out.	None
Policy T5 – Vision-led Transport Statements, Transport Assessments and Travel Plans in New Development	3	11	12	0	0	0	None	None. The HRA has screened the policy out.	None

Communities

Table 64: IA of Communities policies at Publication Plan stage

Scoring system	++	+	--	?	X	XX	Variations in score	Mitigation	Enhancement
Policy CO1 -The Protection of Open Space, Sport and recreation Provision	9	10	7	0	0	0	IA13 (climate change) increases from positive in the short and medium term to significantly positive in the long term.	None. The HRA has screened the policy out.	None
Policy CO2 - New and Improved Open Space. Sport and Recreation Provision	9	10	7	0	0	0	IA13 (climate change) increases from positive in the short and medium term to significantly positive in the long term.	None. The HRA has screened the policy out.	None
Policy CO3 Community Facilities	2	13	11	0	0	0	None	None. The HRA has screened the policy out.	None
Policy CO4: Education and Skills	7	7	12	0	0	0	None	None. The HRA has screened the policy out.	None
Policy CO5: Securing Educational Places through New Residential Development	2	3	21	0	0	0	None	None. The HRA has screened the policy out.	None
Policy CO6 – New development and health	3	10	13	0	0	0	None	None. The HRA has screened the policy out.	None

Scoring system	++	+	--	?	X	XX	Variations in score	Mitigation	Enhancement
Policy CO7 Hot Food Takeaways and fast-food outlets	3	3	20	0	0	0	None	None. The HRA has screened the policy out.	None

Protecting Our Local Environment

Table 65: IA of Protecting Our Local Environment policies at Publication Plan stage

Scoring system	++	+	--	?	X	XX	Variations in score	Mitigation	Enhancement
Policy LE1 – Ensuring a High Standard of Amenity in New Development	2	0	24	0	0	0	Effects increase from positive to significantly positive over time against IA8 (health) and IA15 (environmental quality).	None. The HRA has screened the policy out.	None
Policy LE2 - Ground Conditions and Contaminated Land	3	5	18	0	0	0	Effects increase from positive to significantly positive over time against IA18 (regeneration).	None. The HRA has screened the policy out.	None
Policy LE3 - Air Quality	4	5	17	0	0	0	Effects increase from positive to significantly positive over time against IA7 (infrastructure).	None. The HRA has screened the policy out.	None

Infrastructure and Delivery

Table 66: IA of Infrastructure and Delivery policies at Publication Plan stage

Scoring system	++	+	--	?	X	XX	Variations in score	Mitigation	Enhancement
Policy IN1 Digital Infrastructure and Telecommunications	0	7	19	0	0	0	None	None. The HRA has screened the policy out.	None
Policy IN2 – Planning Obligations	9	12	5	0	0	0	None	None. The HRA has screened the policy out.	None
Policy IN3 - Delivering Social Value and Inclusion	6	1	19	0	0	0	None	None. The HRA has screened the policy out.	None

Monitoring

Table 67: IA of Monitoring policy at Publication Plan stage

Scoring system	++	+	--	?	X	XX	Variations in score	Mitigation	Enhancement
Policy M1 – Monitoring Framework	0	24	2	0	0	0	None	None. The HRA has screened the policy out.	None

Difference the IA has made to the Publication Local Plan

8.48 Scoping Report Update 1, Update 2 and Update 3 all include details of the comments received on the previous Scoping Report and the council's response to those comments and any amendments made.

8.49 The IA at Issues and Options Stage outlines what enhancements to maximise positive benefits were made to the vision, plan objectives 2 and 3 and the spatial option on employment allocations within the Issues and Options Report.

8.50 The IA process has considered options and reasonable alternatives (spatial options).

8.51 The options that were presented were in relation to policy areas and allocations and these were the reasonable alternatives to the approach taken in the Draft Local Plan. Comments received on the Issues and Options were taken into account when drafting the preferred policies. No other reasonable alternatives were proposed.

8.52 The Draft Plan was appraised by the IA framework and enhancements were made to plan objective 2 and policies H5 Homes for Disabled People, OTC2 Protecting and Enhancing Oldham Town Centre Conservation Area, CC2 Renewable and Low Carbon Energy and HE5 Canals.

8.53 Since the Draft Plan was published, the decision has been taken to not include site allocations as the Oldham Local Plan has been amended to focus on development management policies that support PfE. The housing requirement and employment needs set out in PfE will be met through the boroughs employment and housing land supply.

8.54 The Publication Plan therefore does not include site allocations. The IA framework has been used to assess the vision, plan objectives and plan policies. Enhancements were made to the Vision and OTC4 'Green Infrastructure within and around Oldham Town Centre' at Publication Plan stage.

8.55 Below is a summary of the options, the outcome of the IA process and how the options informed the preferred approach at Publication Plan stage.

Table 68: Assessment of options (including reasonable alternatives) and how this has led to the preferred option

Spatial Option	IA results from Issues and Options stage of options and reasonable alternatives	How this has informed the Publication Local Plan
<p>Affordable Housing Option A: Should an affordable housing requirement be applied borough-wide?</p> <p>Affordable Housing Option B: Should there be a different affordable housing requirement for different parts of the</p>	<p>Option B (targeted approach to affordable housing) results in more positive outcomes overall than Option A (boroughwide approach).</p>	<p>The preferred approach is outlined in the Publication Plan in Policy H5 Affordable Housing.</p> <p>The policy requires all residential developments of 10 homes or more to provide at least 20% of the site capacity as affordable housing.</p> <p>Whilst Option B scored higher the policy has evolved and has been informed by the Local Housing Needs Assessment. The 20% is a minimum and it may be</p>

Spatial Option	IA results from Issues and Options stage of options and reasonable alternatives	How this has informed the Publication Local Plan
borough, depending on their need?		<p>that as part of some schemes more affordable housing is provided in some parts of the borough.</p> <p>In the IA of the Publication Local Plan Policy H5 has scored neutral, positives and significantly positives scores.</p>
<p>Homes in Multiple Occupation (HMO)</p> <p>If there is found to be a concentration of HMOs within a particular area, would you agree with the introduction of an Article 4 direction to remove permitted development rights for HMO:</p> <p>Option A in specific areas, as necessary?; or</p> <p>Option B: boroughwide?</p>	<p>The IA appraisal for Homes in Multiple Occupation (HMO) Spatial Options A and B both scored the same.</p>	<p>The approach to HMOs is outlined in Policy H6 Houses in Multiple Occupation.</p> <p>The IA did not indicate a stronger performing option.</p> <p>The policy sets out criteria for HMOs to meet. In addition, permission will not be granted where the proportion of HMOs result in them representing 10% or more of residential properties within a 50m radius measured from the centre of the application site. This boroughwide approach would reflect Spatial Option B.</p> <p>There is further policy stated for Oldham Town Centre, which recognises that HMOs are best suited to locations that are well-connected to services, facilities and public transport.</p> <p>In relation to the Article 4 Direction, the council introduced a boroughwide non-immediate Article 4 Direction removing the permitted development right to convert a dwellinghouse (Use Class C3) into a House in Multiple Occupation (HMO) (Use Class C4) for up to six residents (small HMO). Representations were sought between 6 October until 16 November 2025. The Article 4 Direction came into effect on 1 January 2026.</p> <p>Policy H6 scored a mixture of neutral, positive and significantly positive scores.</p>
<p>Housing allocations:</p> <p>Option A: Should Oldham focus the identification of</p>	<p>The IA of the housing allocation spatial options showed at that stage there were more uncertainties around Option B (brownfield /</p>	<p>The Local Plan no longer includes site allocations and so this option is not relevant.</p> <p>However, the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA)</p>

Spatial Option	IA results from Issues and Options stage of options and reasonable alternatives	How this has informed the Publication Local Plan
<p>housing allocations within the urban area – in Oldham Town Centre, the borough's other centres, key public transport corridors, on previously developed land, vacant and under-utilised buildings (including the re-use of employment sites and mills, where appropriate)?</p> <p>Option B: Should Oldham focus the identification of housing allocations within the urban area as in Option A, but also include within the scope open spaces (where identified as surplus to requirements through the council's open space study), land currently designated as Other Protected Open Land where it does not meet LGS criteria, and previously developed land in the Green Belt where this meets national planning policy.</p>	<p>urban area plus greenfield) than Option A (brownfield / urban area), which would need to be further appraised and mitigated where required, if this option was selected.</p>	<p>outlines the housing land supply. The majority of sites identified within the SHLAA are brownfield, however there are also a number of sites which are made up of both brownfield and greenfield land, and also some greenfield sites. It is important in meeting our housing requirement and addressing local needs, that we deliver all sites within our housing land supply.</p> <p>In this context Option B has been applied.</p> <p>It incorporates Option A and makes the most of sites in the urban areas, whilst ensuring that we are identifying a sufficient variety of sites through the inclusion of some greenfield sites where appropriate.</p>
<p>Employment Allocations</p> <p>Option A: To focus more on the connectivity to our existing employment sites and neighbouring</p>	<p>The IA of the employment allocation options shows that at that stage there were more uncertainties with Option B, which if taken forward as an option would need further assessment and</p>	<p>The Local Plan no longer includes site allocations and so this option is not relevant.</p> <p>The employment land supply is made up of land designated for employment in PfE, sites with planning permission and come sites that were previously</p>

Spatial Option	IA results from Issues and Options stage of options and reasonable alternatives	How this has informed the Publication Local Plan
<p>districts key employment sites.</p> <p>Employment Allocations</p> <p>Option B: A combination of providing some new employment land and improving connectivity to existing and neighbouring districts key employment sites.</p>	<p>mitigation if required in comparison to Option A.</p> <p>The spatial options were enhanced by making reference to sustainable connectivity.</p>	<p>allocated in the joint DPD for employment.</p> <p>The majority of sites identified within the employment land supply are brownfield, however there are also a small number of sites which are greenfield land. To contribute towards achieving the overall employment floorspace requirements set out in PfE, it is important that we deliver all sites within our employment land supply.</p> <p>In this context Option A has been applied as we are focussing on making the best use of our existing employment land supply.</p>
<p>Health and Wellbeing –</p> <p>Should there be a policy which restricts the location of hot food takeaways:</p> <p>Option a. within 400m of a school; or Option b. in areas with high levels of obesity; or Option c. both?</p>	<p>Option A, B and C scored neutral against most IA objectives.</p> <p>However, Option B and C scored a significantly positive impact against the IA objective 'To improve health and well-being and reduce health inequalities'.</p> <p>Option C scored significantly positive against a further two IA objectives relating to local environmental quality and centres and therefore higher overall.</p>	<p>The preferred approach is outlined in Policy CO7 Hot Food Takeaways and fast-food outlets.</p> <p>The policy sets out the parameters for approving hot food takeaways.</p> <p>Outside of Oldham Town Centre permission for such uses will not be granted where they are within 400m of a primary or secondary school; or they are within 400m of places where children and young people congregate.</p> <p>The policy also requires that applications for hot-food takeaways must be supported by a Health Impact Assessment (HIA).</p> <p>Since preparation of the Draft Plan, an updated version of NPPF was published in December 2024. The approach to hot-food takeaways and fast-food outlets is set out in paragraph 97 of NPPF. It states that applications should be refused for such uses where they are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) within walking distance of schools and other places where children and young people congregate, unless the location is within a designated town centre; or b) in locations where there is evidence that a concentration of such uses is

Spatial Option	IA results from Issues and Options stage of options and reasonable alternatives	How this has informed the Publication Local Plan
		<p>having an adverse impact on local health, pollution or anti-social-behaviour.</p> <p>Evidence shows that outside of Oldham Town Centre much of the borough is within walking distance (defined through the Local Plan as being 400m) of schools and other places where children and young people congregate. As such and given that it is either a) or b), those locations where there is evidence that a concentration of such uses having an adverse impact on local health, pollution or anti-social-behaviour have not been identified.</p> <p>The approach taken in the Publication Plan is considered a reasonable alternatives options A, B and C considered at Issues and Options stage.</p> <p>The IA undertaken on this preferred approach has scored a mixture of neutral, positive and significantly positive scores.</p>

8.56 Section 8 also outlines outcomes from the HRA, HIA and EIA.

Propose measures to monitor the significant effects of implementing the DPD

8.57 The IA indicators were established at Stage A of the IA process (Scoping Report). They have been amended over time in response to consultation responses and through reviewing any new indicators available.

8.58 These can be seen within Section 15 of the Scoping Report Update 3 alongside the IA objective that they help to monitor. For ease the indicators are outlined below.

Table 69 IA Objectives and Indicators

IA Objective	IA indicator(s)
IA1) To protect, conserve and enhance a high quality multifunctional green infrastructure network, including biodiversity, priority species, habitats and geodiversity to become more ecologically connected	<p>Single data list 160-00 Proportion of local sites where positive conservation management is being or has been implemented</p> <p>Change in areas of biodiversity designations (i.e. SBI updates)</p> <p>% of sites designated for nature in active management for nature conservation</p> <p>Percentage of tree canopy cover</p> <p>In addition, Biodiversity Duty Reports will be prepared including information on BNG.</p>
IA2) To promote quality and accessible open spaces.	<p>Number of planning applications that result in the gain or loss of identified on-site open space</p> <p>Number of S106 Planning Obligations for new or enhanced open space provision</p>
IA3) To protect and enhance the character and appearance of landscapes and townscape, maintaining and strengthening local distinctiveness and	<p>Number of major developments refused on landscape grounds.</p> <p>Number and type of development permitted within Local Green Spaces</p>

IA Objective	IA indicator(s)
sense of place.	Number and type of developments permitted in the Green Belt
IA4) To protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment, heritage assets and their setting.	<p>Number of heritage assets on the National Heritage List for England</p> <p>Number of listed buildings and number of buildings in conservation areas lost through new development proposals</p> <p>Number and type of developments permitted on non-designated Mills.</p> <p>PfE - Increase percentage of buildings on the “at risk register” with a strategy for their repair and re-use</p>
IA5) To promote high-quality design that meets local design expectations.	Number of approved applications for strategic developments with a masterplan or framework and design code
IA6) To ensure land and buildings are used in an effective and efficient manner, maximising the use of brownfield land.	<p>Number and type of developments permitted in the Green Belt</p> <p>Number and type of developments permitted within Local Green Spaces</p> <p>Total amount of employment floorspace (office, industry and warehousing) developed on previously developed land by type (sqm) gross</p> <p>New and converted dwellings – on previously developed land</p>

IA Objective	IA indicator(s)
	<p>Number of planning applications approved achieving the minimum density requirements as appropriate</p> <p>Number of vacant properties</p>
<p>IA7) To ensure appropriate provision of supporting infrastructure to meet development needs.</p>	<p>Infrastructure Funding Statement: Total amount of money received secured through s106; Total amount of s106 receipts collected before the reported year but which have not been allocated; and Total amount of s106 expenditure for the reported year (including transferring it to another person to spend).</p> <p>Number of S106 Planning Obligations for new or enhanced open space provision</p> <p>State funded primary and secondary school capacity and forecasts</p> <p>Number of planning applications approved for education related facilities</p>
<p>IA8) To improve health and well-being and reduce health inequalities.</p>	<p>Number of planning applications that result in the gain or loss of identified on-site open space</p> <p>Number of S106 Planning Obligations for new or enhanced open space provision</p> <p>Life Expectancy</p> <p>Proportion of physically active adults</p> <p>Childhood obesity rates</p>

IA Objective	IA indicator(s)
	<p>The percentage of areas in Oldham among the 10% most deprived areas in England</p> <p>The number of new hot food takeaways or fast-food outlets approved within 400 metres of a primary or secondary school, or places where children and young people congregate</p>
IA9) To minimise and mitigate against flood risk and adapt to the effects of flood risk.	<p>PfE: Number of planning permissions approved against EA advice (on flood risk grounds)</p> <p>Number of new developments agreed with the council incorporating Natural Flood Management (NFM).</p>
IA10) To protect and improve the quality of water bodies and river corridors and availability of water resources.	Number of planning permissions granted contrary to Environment Agency advice on water quality grounds
IA11) To protect and improve soil quality, best and most versatile agricultural land, and remediate contaminated land.	Number of planning applications with conditions attached relating to contaminated land.
IA12) To minimise energy use, promote energy efficiency and the use of renewable and low carbon energy.	<p>PfE: % of net additional residential development completed with an Energy Performance Certificate rating of A and B</p> <p>% of households living in fuel poverty</p>
IA13) To ensure communities, infrastructure and biodiversity are resilient to the effects of climate change	<p>Percentage of tree canopy cover</p> <p>PfE: Number of planning permissions approved against EA advice (on flood risk</p>

IA Objective	IA indicator(s)
	grounds)
IA14) To protect and improve air quality.	<p>Number of days in Greater Manchester where air pollution was moderate or higher</p> <p>Annual mean nitrogen dioxide</p> <p>Per capita emission estimates, industry, domestic and transport sectors</p>
IA15) To protect and improve local environmental quality.	<p>Number of days in Greater Manchester where air pollution was moderate or higher</p> <p>Annual mean nitrogen dioxide</p> <p>Per capita emission estimates, industry, domestic and transport sectors</p> <p>Number of pedestrian or cycling casualties per year</p> <p>The number of new hot food takeaways or fast-food outlet approved within 400 metres of a primary or secondary school, or places where children and young people congregate</p>
IA16) To promote an integrated and improved transport system that provides sustainable transport choices and improves connectivity, including the walking and cycling network and the protection and enhancement of the PROW Network.	<p>Number of travel plans secured as a condition of planning permission</p> <p>Per capita emission estimates, industry, domestic and transport sectors</p>
IA17) To promote accessibility to key services and reduce the need to travel.	Number / percentage of new homes approved that achieve Greater Manchester Accessibility Level (GMAL) 4 or above
IA18) To promote regeneration and reduce	Total amount of additional floorspace (office, industry and warehousing) by type

IA Objective	IA indicator(s)
levels of deprivation and disparity.	<p>(square metres gross)</p> <p>Total amount of employment floorspace (office, industry and warehousing) developed on previously developed land by type (square metres gross)</p> <p>Employment land available by type (hectares)</p> <p>Total amount of employment land (office, industry and warehousing) developed by type hectares (ha) gross</p> <p>The percentage of areas in Oldham among the 10% most deprived areas in England</p> <p>Unemployment rate</p> <p>Youth unemployment rate</p> <p>PfE: % of working age population with Higher Level (4+) qualification(s) and % of working age population with sub-Level 2 qualification.</p>
IA19) To promote sustainable economic growth and job creation.	<p>Total amount of additional floorspace (office, industry and warehousing) by type (square metres gross)</p> <p>Total amount of employment floorspace (office, industry and warehousing) developed on previously developed land by type (square metres gross)</p>

IA Objective	IA indicator(s)
	<p>Employment land available by type (hectares)</p> <p>Total amount of employment land (office, industry and warehousing) developed by type hectares (ha) gross</p> <p>The percentage of areas in Oldham among the 10% most deprived areas in England</p> <p>Unemployment rate</p> <p>Youth unemployment rate</p> <p>PfE: % of working age population with Higher Level (4+) qualification(s) and % of working age population with sub-Level 2 qualification.</p>
<p>IA20) To protect and enhance the vitality and viability of Oldham Town Centre and the centres of Chadderton, Failsworth, Hill Stores, Lees, Royton, Shaw and Uppermill.</p>	<p>Number of homes completed within the borough's centres</p> <p>Number of planning applications granted in Oldham Town Centre and the borough's other centres, for main town centre uses</p>
<p>IA21) To promote sustainable tourism and leisure.</p>	<p>Number of day visits and staying visits to Oldham borough</p> <p>Number of planning applications granted in Oldham Town Centre and the borough's other centres, for main town centre uses</p>
<p>IA22) To improve education attainment</p>	<p>State funded primary and secondary</p>

IA Objective	IA indicator(s)
and skill levels.	<p>school capacity and forecasts</p> <p>Number of planning applications approved for education related facilities</p> <p>PfE: % of working age population with Higher Level (4+) qualification(s) and % of working age population with sub-Level 2 qualification.</p>
IA23) To provide a sustainable housing land supply and an appropriate mix of sizes, types and tenures to meet local housing needs.	<p>Plan period and housing targets; Net additional dwellings -in previous years; Net additional dwellings -for the reporting year; Net additional dwellings -in future years; and Managed delivery target</p> <p>New and converted dwellings – on previously developed land</p> <p>Number of planning applications approved achieving the minimum density requirements as appropriate</p> <p>Total housing completions by size and type on major sites</p> <p>Number of completions for new-building affordable housing by tenure, type and size</p> <p>Total number of planning applications approved for specialist housing provision</p> <p>Number of planning applications approved for Homes in Multiple Occupation</p>

IA Objective	IA indicator(s)
	<p>Net additional pitches (Gypsy and Traveller)</p> <p>PfE also includes indicators on housing.</p>
IA24) To ensure the prudent use and sustainable management of minerals.	The GM Minerals Development Plan Document sets out indicators which are monitored by GMCA.
IA25) To manage waste sustainably in line with the waste hierarchy.	The GM Waste Development Plan Document sets out indicators which are monitored by GMCA.
IA26) To promote mixed, balanced and inclusive sustainable communities.	It is considered that the plan as a whole and therefore all indicators will help achieve this objective.

Equalities Impact Assessment at Publication Plan Stage

8.59 The EIA is addressed through the Impact Assessment Tool. The Impact Assessment Tool has been developed by Oldham Council to assess the impact of proposed policies and projects on equalities characteristics, including Care leavers, as well as our corporate priorities.

8.60 The Impact Assessment Tool was completed by planning policy. The outcome of the assessment is shown below (please see Appendix 17 for full assessment).

Table 70: Impact Assessment Tool at Publication Plan stage

Equality Characteristic	Impact Score	Comment
Age	8 – Strong positive	<p>Oldham's Local Plan will have a strong positive effect on all ages but specifically the borough's young people and ageing population in the following ways:</p> <p>Firstly, the Plan seeks to promote a diverse housing offer to meet the differing needs of all Oldham's residents. This includes supporting the development of homes suitable for older people through Policy H4 – Providing for Local Housing Needs, which seeks to ensure that housing choices are available for Oldham's growing older population so that they can find suitable homes with easy access to community facilities, local services and public transport, that are well integrated within the wider neighbourhood. This could be through the provision of age-restricted general market housing, extra-care housing, sheltered housing / assisted living and nursing and care homes.</p> <p>In addition, Policy H4 requires all provision for older people to meet the design standards as set out in Policy D1 and several key principles including ease of movement, being sustainably located and having an accessibly designed built environment. The Local Plan also seeks to ensure that new homes are energy efficient and adaptable to address changing needs.</p> <p>In addition, Places for Everyone (which forms part of Oldham's Local Plan) Policy JP-H3 requires all new homes to be built to the 'accessible and adaptable' standard in Part M4(2) of the Building Regulations unless specific site conditions make this impracticable.</p> <p>In support of young adults and students, Policy H5 – Affordable Housing supports the attraction and retention of young professionals as in some parts of the borough there are not suitable affordable homes for people to live in the area in which they grew up, leading to an out-migration of these households to neighbouring boroughs.</p>

		<p>Policy H6 – Houses in Multiple Occupation also supports this demographic as HMOs can be a valuable source of housing to meet the local housing needs of students and young adults.</p> <p>With regards to other aspects of the Plan:</p> <p>All young people should get the education that they deserve and have access to a good school which is promoted through Policy CO4 – Education and Skills which supports development proposals for education where they are located within the community it is intended to serve, provides high-quality facilities and is designed to minimise the impacts of associated traffic.</p> <p>Policy CO5 – Securing Educational Places through New Residential Development also seeks to address the unmet need, proportionate to the number of people aged 0-19, that a development is likely to generate. Access to adequate, affordable, and high-quality childcare (pre-school and school-age) provisions can play a key role in children's development alongside determining where and how the additional capacity to support new growth should be provided for meeting the needs of existing and new communities across the borough (CO4, CO5).</p> <p>Ensuring young people lead healthy lives is also promoted by the Local Plan. For example, Policy CO7 Hot food takeaways and Fast-food Outlets states that planning permission will not be granted for such uses where they are within 400m of a primary or secondary school and from places where children and young people congregate to prevent the promotion of adverse impacts on local health, pollution, and anti-social behaviour.</p> <p>Policy CO3 Community Facilities also seeks to maintain and improve access to a range of community (as defined in national planning policy) facilities in the borough, many of which support younger populations (for example youth centres, childcare centres and children's nurseries) as well as ageing populations through providing a network of integrated health and community resources. In addition, where the demand resulting from a major residential development will create, or exacerbate, a shortfall in health provision the council will seek the provision of new or improved health facilities to address the unmet need generated by the development as appropriate as outlined by Policy CO6 – New Development and Health.</p>
Disability	8 - Strong Positive	<p>Oldham's Local Plan will have a strong positive effect on the borough's disabled population. The Plan seeks to promote a diverse housing offer to meet the</p>

		<p>differing needs of all Oldham's residents. This includes supporting the development of homes suitable for disabled people through Policy H4 - Providing for Local Housing Needs, which seeks to ensure that appropriate provision of housing is provided for disabled people, including those with physical disabilities, learning disabilities and mental health needs. This could be through the provision of supported housing (of various degrees) and accessible and adaptable homes.</p> <p>In addition, Policy H4 requires all provision for disabled people to meet the design standards as set out in Policy D1 and several key principles - Promoting ease of movement on foot and with mobility aids; Being sustainably located, with access to public transport, local services and facilities (including a hospital or GP practice) and accessible to the development via active travel means; Featuring parking spaces and setting down points in proximity to entrances; and having accessible and appropriately designed built environments, including seating areas, step free spaces and gentle approaches suitable for wheelchair users and people with visual or mobility impairments.</p> <p>With regards to other policy areas:</p> <p>Policy H1 - Delivering a Diverse and Sustainable Housing Offer further supports the borough's disabled population as it seeks to promote a diverse housing offer that ensures new homes are built in sustainable and accessible locations. This is supported through Greater Manchester Accessibility Levels (GMAL) which provide a detailed and accurate measure of accessibility reflecting the number of services (bus, Metrolink and Rail) available within the catchment; the level of service at the public transport access points - i.e. average waiting time; and the operating areas of Local Link (flexible transport) service.</p> <p>Policy T1 – Delivering Oldham's Transport Priorities also seeks to maintain safe and suitable access for all users by improving accessibility. This could be through making it easier for people to get to services they need for their personal well-being and the things that will help them live healthier lives and through designing a safer, more accessible and environmentally sustainable transport system.</p> <p>The Local Plan also seeks to ensure that new homes are energy efficient and adaptable to address changing needs. For example, Places for Everyone (which forms part of Oldham's Local Plan) Policy JP-H3 requires all new homes to be built to the</p>
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		<p>'accessible and adaptable' standard in Part M4(2) of the Building Regulations unless specific site conditions make this impracticable. Policy CO3 – Community Facilities also seeks to maintain and improve access to a range of cultural, community (as defined in national planning policy) and health facilities in the borough.</p> <p>Policy CO6 - New Development and Health aims to improve the quality and accessibility of health and social care facilities. As such, where the demand resulting from a major residential development will create, or exacerbate, a shortfall in health provision the council will seek the provision of new or improved health facilities to address the unmet need generated by the development as appropriate.</p> <p>Finally, criterion 6 of Policy D1 - A Design-Led Approach for Residential & Residential-Led Mixed-Use Development, supports the creation of inclusive neighbourhoods by embedding inclusive design within them.</p>
Gender Reassignment	0 – Neutral	
Marriage and civil partnership	0 – Neutral	
Pregnancy and maternity	0 – Neutral	
Race	0 – Neutral	
Religion or belief	0 – Neutral	
Sex	0 – Neutral	
Sexual orientation	0 – Neutral	
Care leavers	2 – Moderate Positive	<p>Oldham's Local Plan will have a moderate positive effect on the borough's care leavers. The Plan seeks to promote a diverse housing offer to meet the differing needs of all Oldham's residents.</p> <p>Policy H4 - Providing for Local Housing Needs will support residential development for looked after children and care leavers, where the proposed development is compliant with other policies in PFE and the Local Plan.</p> <p>In deciding applications for new children's homes and semi-independent supported-living facilities, Policy H4 states that the council will seek to ensure that new provision:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is in a sustainable and accessible location, with easy access to education facilities, public transport and open space, sport and recreation; 2. Provides appropriate accommodation for the number of proposed occupiers and their needs; and

		<p>3. Gives priority to children and young people from the Oldham area in the first instance, in line with local needs.</p> <p>With regards to criterion 2) for the development of all specialist housing provision, early discussions with the council through pre-application advice are encouraged to discuss local housing needs. Regard should be had to the evidence of housing need set out within the LHNA, and other local evidence, for specialist need groups.</p> <p>Applications for all children's residential care homes uses are required to provide a Statement of Community Engagement and Impact Assessment.</p> <p>Policy H1 - Delivering a Diverse and Sustainable Housing Offer further supports the borough's care leavers as it seeks to promote a diverse housing offer that ensures new homes are built in sustainable and accessible locations for all housing need groups.</p> <p>Policy CO3 - Community Facilities also seeks to maintain and improve access to a range of community (as defined in national planning policy) facilities in the borough, many of which support care leavers (for example youth centres and community centres).</p>
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8.61 No negative scores were identified for the Local Plan in the Impact Assessment Tool for equalities characteristics.

8.62 In addition, the Impact Assessment Tool also resulted in strong positive scores for the Local Plan against Corporate priorities on 'Green and Growing', 'A Great Place to Live' and 'Happier Healthier Lives'.

Health Impact Assessment for the Publication Plan

8.63 The Health Impact Assessment (HIA) that was carried out on the Publication Local Plan is contained within Appendix 18 in the IA.

8.64 The HIA assesses the potential health and wellbeing impacts of the Local Plan. Guided by the London Healthy Urban Design Unit (HUDU) Rapid Health Impact Assessment tool and the Healthy Urban Planning Checklist, the planning policy team has carried out the HIA.

8.65 The HIA has assessed the Publication Local Plan against the following themes:

- Housing design and affordability;
- Social infrastructure and accessibility;
- Access to open space and nature;
- Air Quality, noise and neighbourhood amenity;
- Accessibility and active travel;
- Crime reduction and community safety;
- Access to healthy food;
- Access to work and training;
- Social cohesion and inclusive design;
- Minimising the use of resources; and
- Climate Change.

8.66 Each of the above themes is supported by corresponding questions (assessment criteria). The HIA has identified where the Local Plan addresses each theme and assessment criteria.

8.67 The potential health impacts of the Oldham Local Plan: Publication Plan are considered positive, together with the strategic framework set by PfE. There are no gaps where the Publication Local Plan has not addressed the above themes and so it can be concluded that health impacts have been sufficiently addressed by the Local Plan to support the need to improve health and well-being and reduce health inequalities.

8.68 In the context of this HIA, the assessment concludes that the Oldham Local Plan: Publication Plan seeks to:

- Deliver good quality, well designed and affordable homes that meet our local housing needs, including those of older people and disabled people.
- Provide for social infrastructure and accessibility to meet future growth, including health facilities, school places, and open space, sport and recreation provision.
- Create healthier, greener and accessible neighbourhoods with easy access to green/blue infrastructure and opportunities for active travel.
- Ensure new development proposals minimise noise and odour pollution and impacts on air quality.
- Deliver sustainable and accessible development, improve connectivity across the borough and increase opportunities for walking and cycling.
- Incorporate design approaches that will assist in improving health and wellbeing, improving access and movement, design out crime and help people feel secure.
- Improve access to healthy food and restrict hot food takeaways and fast-food outlets within a set distance of schools and other places where children and young people congregate.
- Tackle health and income inequalities across the borough through providing access to work and training opportunities.

- Encourage social interaction and inclusive design that provides opportunities for healthy lifestyles, contributes to the creation of healthier communities, and helps to reduce health inequalities.
- Ensure to best and most efficient use of previously developed land, including seeking higher densities in appropriate sustainable and accessible locations.
- Tackle climate change through the use of renewable and low carbon energy and adopting natural flood mitigation such as sustainable drainage.

Habitats Regulations Assessment of the Oldham Local Plan (Publication Plan stage)

8.69 A Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) on the Publication Local Plan has been prepared by GMEU. This can be seen in Appendix 19 of the IA.

8.70 The HRA consists of a Screening and Appropriate Assessment to fulfil the council's duties with regards to Article 6(3) of Council Directive 92/42/EEC (transposed into UK law by the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2002 (as amended)).

8.71 It provides an opinion and assessment of whether the Publication Local Plan may have a significant effect on the special interest of any European designated protected site. It also gives opinion and assessment on whether any identified effects can be avoided or mitigated or whether any actions proposed in the plan need adjustment.

8.72 From the Screening process the following European sites have been screened in owing to proximity to Oldham or because there are pathways between Oldham and the designated sites:

- Manchester Mosses SAC (diffuse air pollution impacts),
- Rochdale Canal SAC (direct and indirect impacts),
- South Pennines Moors SAC/SPAs Parts 1 and 2 (direct and indirect impacts).

Initial Screening Option

8.73 The first stage of the HRA is a test of Likely Significant Effect (LSE) (Screening of Effects). This is essentially a risk assessment to decide whether a particular policy can be effectively 'screened out' from further, more detailed assessment or needs to go forward for more detailed Assessment.

8.74 The essential question to ask is:

"Is the Policy or the Site, either alone or in combination with other relevant Policies and Plans, likely to result in a significant effect upon the integrity of European sites?"

8.75 The Policies² that have been 'Screened In' are:

- Policy H1: Delivering a Diverse and Sustainable Housing Offer;
- Policy E1: Employment Floorspace Requirements;
- Policy CC1: Renewable and Low Carbon Energy; and
- Policy HE5: Canals

8.76 The Policies have been Screened In because they are considered to have some potential to cause effects through:

- direct habitat losses;
- increased habitat and species disturbance;
- increases in diffuse air pollution;
- increases in diffuse water pollution;
- increases in recreational pressures;
- disturbance to functionally linked land;

² Please note that some policy names may differ slightly between the HRA and the Publication Plan

- visual and noise disturbance; and
- introduction of invasive plant species.

Appropriate Assessment

8.77 The appropriate assessments looked at these sources in more detail:

Air Quality

8.78 The air pollutants most likely to have a significant effect on European sites are the oxides of nitrogen (NOx) resulting from traffic emissions.

8.79 Manchester Mosses SAC, in particular Holcroft Moss, is considered to be sensitive to changes in air quality. Policy H1 and E1 were screened in as they promote economic growth and housing growth.

8.80 Air quality modelling was undertaken for the PfE plan. This modelling concluded that developments within Greater Manchester (including Oldham) when acting in combination with developments in Warrington could cause LSE on Holcroft Moss by increasing emissions from traffic flow along the M62. In response to this mitigation for air quality impacts was proposed in the form of a Supplementary Planning Document “[Holcroft Moss Planning Obligations Joint Supplementary Planning Document](#)³ – May 2025” by the nine Places for Everyone authorities in consultation with Natural England.

8.81 This SPD provides guidance on when mitigation in the form of developer contributions to the positive management of the Manchester Mosses SAC will be required for Holcroft Moss as a result of additional vehicle movements along the M62 corridor past Holcroft Moss. (between junction 11 Birchwood and Junction 12 Worsley). The triggers are 100 vehicles or 20 HGV’s per day.

8.82 As Oldham has already adopted this SPD, alongside the other eight PfE authorities, and the PfE plan has already accounted for the quantum of development anticipated for Oldham up to 2039, it is reasonable to use the same criteria to assess housing and employment figures set out in the Oldham Local Plan. Any development likely to increase traffic in excess of 100 vehicles or 20 HGV’s should there provide mitigation as agreed in the SPD.

8.83 Policies in the Plan including Policies N1, N2 and LE3 will also act to protect European sites from air pollution effects.

8.84 The HRA also concluded that no likely significant effect will occur to South Pennine Moors SPA/SAC from any reduction in air quality resulting from the Plan in isolation.

Recreational Pressure:

8.85 In relation to the South Pennine Moors SAC / SPA Natural England have stated that there is insufficient evidence to demonstrate that recreational activities are having any effect on the special interest of the South Pennine Moors designated sites (ref. letter dated 7th August 2024 from Natural England to the GMCA, [South Pennine Moors Special Area of](#)

³ The Holcroft Moss Planning Obligations Joint SPD is available at <https://www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/what-we-do/planning-and-housing/strategic-planning/places-for-everyone/joint-supplementary-planning-documents/holcroft-moss-planning-obligations-spd/adoption/>

Conservation (SAC) / Special Protection Areas (SPAs) Joint Supplementary Planning Document)⁴.

8.86 It is also concluded in the HRA that no LSEs will be caused to the Manchester Mosses SAC by increased recreational development arising from development in Oldham.

8.87 The HRA considered that in relation to the Rochdale Canal no LSEs will be caused by increased recreational development arising from development in Oldham.

Water Quality

8.88 Negative effects on European sites can be due to a lowering of water quality i.e. pollution leading to higher mortality of qualifying species, food sources they are reliant on or through accumulation of pollutants; changes in nutrient status such as raised levels of nitrate or phosphate, leading to a change in the vegetation structure of the European site and potentially any qualifying species and; changes in water clarity through increase sediment load or increase levels of algae in the water.

8.89 In the case of the Rochdale Canal SAC Policies N1, CC2 and CC3 will act to adequately mitigate for any possible harm to the Canal.

8.90 In the case of the South Pennine Moors, water flow is from the Moors down into more urban areas. There is no possibility of contaminated water flowing into the designated site from new developments, and currently no new development is planned for within the designated sites.

8.91 Policies N1, CC2 and CC3 will act to adequately mitigate for any possible harm which could arise from water pollution effects in any future developments.

Direct Habitat Losses

8.92 No new significant development is planned within Oldham which could lead to direct habitat losses to European sites.

8.93 Should any development be proposed in future within designated sites leading to direct habitat losses, Policies N1, CC2 and CC3 will act to adequately mitigate for any possible harm.

Functionally Linked Land:

8.94 Functionally linked land is land utilised by significant numbers of the qualifying species associated with a European site on a regular basis that is not part of the European site.

8.95 With regards to the Oldham Local Plan (publication stage), only birds are screened in as mobile species most likely associated with designated sites (most particularly the South Pennine Moors SPA/SAC). It is reasonable to assume that functionally linked land will be close to the boundary of designated sites and will not be close to significant settlements or substantive built development.

⁴ The South Pennines SPD can be found at <https://www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/what-we-do/planning-and-housing/strategic-planning/places-for-everyone/joint-supplementary-planning-documents/south-pennine-moors-spd/adoption/>

8.96 [The South Pennine Moors Special Area of Conservation \(SAC\) / Special Protection Areas \(SPAs\) Joint Supplementary Planning Document](#)⁵ prepared and adopted by Oldham Council, Rochdale Council and Tameside Council in 2025 provides safeguards for developments within 2.5 km of the Moors and requires development within this area to carry out project-based surveys and assessments. In addition, Policy JP-G5 (criterion 7) of the Places for Everyone Plan will act to mitigate effects on functionally linked land.

8.97 Policy N1 will also serve to mitigate for any potential impacts on functionally linked land.

8.98 It is concluded that sufficient mitigation is in place to avoid any LSE on functionally linked land within Oldham.

Habitat and Species Disturbance:

8.99 This impact which could affect plant communities in the Rochdale Canal SAC will be effectively mitigated by Policy N1.

Spread of invasive species

8.100 This impact which could affect plant communities in the Rochdale Canal SAC will be effectively mitigated by Policy N1.

Light spillage and shading

8.101 This impact which could affect plant communities in the Rochdale Canal SAC will be effectively mitigated by Policy N1.

Consideration of 'In Combination' Effects with Other Plans and Proposals

8.102 Cumulative effects for air quality, recreational pressure, water quality, hydrology and in-direct effects on functionally linked land have been considered. There are unlikely to be cumulative effects for direct loss of functionally linked land, light spillage and shading, spread of invasive species or disturbance.

8.103 In relation air quality and the South Pennines SAC/SPA PfE concluded that the cumulative impact of the Plan could result in slight increases in airborne pollution to parts of this extensive site along the A6024, A627 and A57. The A57 and A6024 are the Snake and Woodhead Passes across the Pennines. However, the PfE HRA also concluded that the increases in airborne pollutants would not affect any notable habitats and species associated with European sites.

8.104 Integrated Policies N1 and LE3 within the Plan will also mitigate any possible air pollution effects. The HRA therefore concludes no likely significant in-combination to the South Pennines SAC/SPA as a resulting from traffic generated by the Oldham Publication Plan.

8.105 In relation to air quality and Manchester Mosses SAC PfE screened in air quality for the Manchester Mosses SAC, accepting that critical loads were already breached for Holcroft Moss and that the additional development across the nine PfE and Warrington Districts would add to this.

⁵ The South Pennines SAC / SPA SPD is available at <https://www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/what-we-do/planning-and-housing/strategic-planning/places-for-everyone/joint-supplementary-planning-documents/south-pennine-moors-spd/adoption/>

8.106 However the Holcroft Moss Planning Obligations Joint SPD has been produced by the nine local authorities involved in PfE, including Oldham Council, which provides measures to mitigate for the increased traffic movements resulting from development proposals in PfE and the Warrington Local Plan. As Oldham Council has adopted this SPD, which has been agreed with Natural England, providing that the agreed measures in the SPD are applied to development in Oldham no likely significant effects on the Manchester Mosses SAC will occur in-combination.

8.107 In relation to recreational pressure it is concluded that in-combination effects resulting from recreational pressure will not occur.

8.108 In relation to water quality integrated Policies CC2, CC3 and N1 will serve to control water pollution in the Rochdale Canal SAC. There will therefore be no cumulative effects. Given the remoteness of the South Pennine Moors designated sites, given that water flows are away from the Moors, and the operation of integrated Policies CC2, CC3 and N1, the HRA concludes that no cumulative effects will occur.

8.109 The South Pennine Moors Joint SPD prepared by Oldham Council, Rochdale Council and Tameside Council will effectively mitigate for any potential in-combination indirect effects on functionally linked land. The HRA concludes that there are no likely significant in-combination effect to functionally linked land as a result of in-combination disturbance with the Oldham Local Plan.

Summary and Recommendations

8.110 The HRA has screened in European designated sites which could be impacted by a number of screened in policies within the Oldham Publication Plan by different sources.

8.111 Mitigation for identified LSE is available, comprising –

- Holcroft Moss Planning Obligations Joint SPD;
- South Pennine Moors SAC/ SPA Joint SPD;
- Integrated Plan Policies N1, N2, N3, CC2, CC3 and LE3; and
- Places for Everyone Policies including JP-G5 and JP-C8.

8.112 Following consideration of the available mitigation it has been concluded that, providing the available mitigation is applied appropriately, the operation of the Publication Local Plan will not have any effects on the integrity of any European designated sites.

8.113 It is recommended that if any changes are made to the Policies in the Plan as a result of either the public consultation or during the Examination in Public, then the HRA will need to be revisited and revised to ensure that these changes would not result in effects on the integrity of any European designated sites.

8.114 It is recommended that any development proposals which have the potential to cause foul and surface water discharges to water-sensitive designated sites should be subject to project-level HRA.

9 CONCLUSIONS

9.1 The IA has incorporated the SEA/SA requirements and also the EIA, HRA and HIA. Together these demonstrate that the Oldham Publication Plan results in many positive outcomes which should lead to a net gain in sustainability benefits.

9.2 Some enhancements as part of the IA process have been identified for the vision and Policy OTC4 'Green Infrastructure within and around Oldham Town Centre' at Publication Plan stage. Generally, however mitigation, where required, would be provided through PfE and other policies in the Local Plan. The Local Plan must be read as a whole.

9.3 The HRA has screened the Publication Plan and identified the mitigation already in place which if applied appropriately will ensure that the Oldham Local Plan will not have any effects on the integrity of any European designated sites.

9.4 The HRA has also recommended that any development proposals which have the potential to cause foul and surface water discharges to water-sensitive designated sites should be subject to project-level HRA. Additional text has been added to Policy CC3.

10 APPENDICES

10.1 The below appendices form part of the IA. However, they are being published as separate documents due to the size of the IA.

Appendix 1: IA of Vision

Appendix 2: IA of Plan Objectives

Appendix 3: IA of Homes Policies

Appendix 4: IA of Economy and Employment Policies

Appendix 5: IA of Our Centres Policies

Appendix 6: IA of Oldham Town Centre Policies

Appendix 7: IA of Addressing Climate Change Policies

Appendix 8: IA of Natural Environment and Open Land Policies

Appendix 9: IA of Addressing the Biodiversity Emergency Policies

Appendix 10: IA of Oldham's Historic Environment Policies

Appendix 11: IA of Achieving High Quality Design

Appendix 12: IA of A Sustainable, Active, Accessible Network for Oldham

Appendix 13: IA of Communities Policies

Appendix 14: IA of Protecting Our Local Environment Policies

Appendix 15: IA of Infrastructure and Delivery in Oldham Policies

Appendix 16: IA of Monitoring Policy

Appendix 17: Oldham Impact Assessment (incorporating Equalities Impact Assessment)

Appendix 18: Health Impact Assessment

Appendix 19: Habitats Regulations Assessment