



INDIVIDUAL CABINET MEMBER AND OFFICER DELEGATED DECISIONS

FRIDAY, 11 APRIL 2025

Please find enclosed Decision Notices in connection with the following:

ICMD28 HALTON-WITH-AUGHTON NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN (Pages 2 - 14)

ICMD29 PROCUREMENT OF REFUSE COLLECTION VEHICLES (Pages 15 - 19)

Please note that these are subject to call-in.

Queries regarding these documents

Please contact Liz Bateson, Democratic Support - email ebateson@lancaster.gov.uk.

Democratic Support,
Town Hall,
Dalton Square,
Lancaster,
LA1 1PJ

Published on FRIDAY, 11 APRIL 2025

**EXECUTIVE DECISIONS TAKEN BY CABINET PORTFOLIO HOLDER OR DELEGATED OFFICER
 NOTICE OF DECISION**

HALTON-WITH-AUGHTON NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN			
NAME OF DECISION TAKER:		COUNCILLOR TYLDESLEY	
POSITION AND RESPONSIBILITY HELD:		CABINET MEMBER FOR PLANNING	
CONTACT OFFICER:		FIONA CLARK	
TELEPHONE:		01524 582222	
E-MAIL:		fjclark@lancaster.gov.uk	
Details of Decision:			
<p>(1) That the content of the Council's response to the Halton-with-Aughton Neighbourhood Development Plan (as set out in Appendix A of the Report) is noted and the submission of the response to help inform the independent examination is approved.</p> <p>(2) The submission of the Halton-with-Aughton Neighbourhood Development Plan for independent examination is approved.</p>			
Reasons for the decision:			
<p>Halton-with- Aughton Parish Council are undertaking a consultation on the draft Halton-with-Aughton Neighbourhood Development Plan. It is the duty of the Council to provide advice and guidance to neighbourhood plan groups in order to give them the best opportunity of preparing a plan which will be found sound at examination. It is considered important that a response is provided so that any issues can be adequately considered by the independent examiner.</p> <p>The Council has a legal duty to submit the Halton-with-Aughton Neighbourhood Development Plan for independent examination.</p>			
IS THE DECISION URGENT			
No			
<p>I confirm that I have taken account of the options proposed by officers, the various implications set out in the report and the comments of the Monitoring and Section 151 Officers and am authorising the decision as set out above.</p>			
SIGNATURE OF DECISION TAKER:		Cllr S Tyldesley	
DATE:		11.4.25	
<i>THIS SECTION TO BE COMPLETED BY DEMOCRATIC SERVICES</i>			REF NO.
			ICMD28
DATE DECISION TAKEN:	11.4.25	DATE RECEIVED BY DEMOCRATIC SERVICES:	11.4.25
DATE DECISION PUBLISHED:	11.4.25	IMPLEMENTATION DATE (publication day + 5 working days):	23.4.25

INDIVIDUAL CABINET MEMBER DECISION

Halton-with-Aughton Neighbourhood Development Plan

Report of the Chief Officer – Planning and Climate Change

PURPOSE OF REPORT				
To request authorisation for the submission of the Halton-with-Aughton Neighbourhood Development Plan for independent examination and endorsement of the Council's response to the Regulation 16 Consultation.				
Key Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-Key Decision	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Referral from Cabinet Member
Date of notice of forthcoming key decision	N/A			
This report is public				

RECOMMENDATIONS OF COUNCILLOR TYLDESLEY

- (1) That the content of the Council's response to the Halton-with-Aughton Neighbourhood Development Plan (as set out in Appendix A of this Report) is noted and submission of the response to help inform the independent examination is approved.
- (2) The submission of the Halton-with-Aughton Neighbourhood Development Plan for independent examination is approved.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Neighbourhood planning is promoted in accordance with the Localism Act 2011 as a method for communities to address planning matters at a very local level through the preparation of a neighbourhood plan. A neighbourhood plan can allow the community to plan positively for future growth allowing them to identify how and where new development should be promoted and tackle a range of planning issues which are pertinent to their area.
- 1.2 The preparation of a neighbourhood plan involves consultation with the local community and a range of other stakeholders, examination by an independent examiner to test it against basic conditions set out in paragraph 8(2) of Schedule 4b of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended). The basic conditions are:
 - (a) Having regard to national policies and advice contained in guidance issued by the Secretary of State, it is appropriate to make the order.
 - (b) The making of the neighbourhood plan contributes to the achievement of sustainable development.

- (c) The making of the neighbourhood plan is in general conformity with the strategic policies contained in the development plan for the area of the authority (or any part of that area).
- (d) The making of the neighbourhood plan does not breach, and is otherwise compatible with, EU obligations.
- (e) The prescribed conditions are met in relation to the neighbourhood plan and prescribed matters have been complied with in connection with the proposal. The prescribed condition in relation to Plans is:
 - The making of the neighbourhood plan does not breach the requirements of Chapter 8 of Part 6 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (Habitat Regulation Assessment) in relation to the examination of neighbourhood development plans.

- 1.3 The independent examiner will recommend amendments where they are considered necessary to meet the basic conditions and to create a neighbourhood plan fit for purpose. On completion of the independent examination and once the necessary amendments have been made, a parish referendum will be held. If over 50% of those voting are in favour of the neighbourhood plan, it will become part of the Local Development Plan for the district and will be a material consideration in the decision-making process.

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Halton-with-Aughton is one of twelve areas within the district which have been designated for the purposes of Neighbourhood Planning. This designation was proposed by the Halton-with-Aughton Parish Council (Parish Council) in March 2015 and subsequently approved by Lancaster City Council (Council) in October 2015.
- 2.2 Since designation the Parish Council has been working on the preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan for their area, seeking to tackle a range of planning issues important to the community. The Parish Council have been assisted by external planning consultations and the Council who have provided planning support and advice.
- 2.3 In July 2024 the Parish Council published a draft Halton-with-Aughton Neighbourhood Development Plan (Neighbourhood Plan) for consultation in accordance with Regulation 14 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012. The Council prepared an informal response to the draft Neighbourhood Plan. This response was provided to help the Parish Council address potential issues as they sought to finalise their Neighbourhood Plan.
- 2.4 The Parish Council has now finalised their Neighbourhood Plan and have submitted it to the Council in accordance with Regulation 15 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012. The Council is now carrying out the formal Regulation 16 consultation as required. This consultation began on 10th March 2025 and will last for a 6-week period, concluding on 28th April 2025. As part of the process the Council is expected to provide a response to help inform the independent examiner and produce a Neighbourhood Plan that will form a positive addition to the Development Plan.
- 2.5 Once the Regulation 16 Consultation is complete the Council is under an obligation to submit the Neighbourhood Plan for independent examination.

3.0 SUMMARY OF THE DRAFT RESPONSE

- 3.1 The Council is not required to assess whether the Neighbourhood Plan meets the basic conditions at this stage. That is the role of the independent examination. The response is intended to provide support to the independent examiner.
- 3.2 The Neighbourhood Plan is considered to provide a robust and appropriate response to planning matters in accordance with national and local plan policies. The Neighbourhood Plan policies build upon those within the Local Plan and reflect the designation of the settlements within the Parish, either a 'Sustainable Rural Settlement' (Halton) or a 'Rural Village' by policy SP2 of the Strategic Policies and Land Allocations DPD. The Neighbourhood Plan supports development to meet identified needs and the development of infill and previously developed sites thus contributing to sustainable development and conforming with the strategic policies within the Local Plan.
- 3.3 Around half of the Parish is within the Forest of Bowland National Landscape. The Neighbourhood Plan includes policies which seek to conserve and enhance this area in conformity with national and local policies. Policies also address the historic environment.
- 3.4 Policies support flood risk mitigation and reduction, encourage high quality sustainable design and active travel and seek to protect open green spaces and community facilities that are important to the community. These policies are consistent with national and local plan policies.
- 3.5 There are some areas of the Neighbourhood Plan which are considered to require amendment to improve the clarity and there are concerns about some of the justification for proposed Local Green Spaces. These issues have been raised in the attached response.
- 3.6 A copy of the draft response is attached at Appendix A.

4.0 SUBMISSION FOR INDEPENDENT EXAMINATION

- 4.1 On receipt of a neighbourhood plan and Council should check that the submission includes the necessary documents and that it has been prepared in accordance with the required procedure. It is considered that these requirements have been met. More information is available in the draft response attached at Appendix A.
- 4.2 If the submission meets the legal requirements, a Council is obligated to submit the neighbourhood plan for independent examination.

5.1 OPTIONS AND OPTIONS ANALYSIS (including Risk Assessment)

- 4.1 Once a neighbourhood plan is submitted and the Council have ascertained the submission includes the necessary documents and it has been produced in accordance with the legislation, the Council is under a legal duty to publicise the neighbourhood plan and submit it for independent examination.
- 4.2 Failure to publicise and submit the Halton-with-Aughton Neighbourhood Plan for independent examination would be a breach of the legislative requirements. It is therefore considered necessary that the Neighbourhood Plan is submitted for independent examination on completion of the Regulation 16 consultation.

- 4.3 The Council has a duty to provide advice and guidance to neighbourhood plan groups. The extent of the advice and guidance is not prescribed so the Council have the option whether to provide comments at this stage. Should the Council decide not to provide a response it is likely that the examiner will request the Council clarify their position as part of the examination process. There is a risk that if the Council fails to set out their position prior to the examination, any issues and concerns will not be addressed and the Council will be left to make use of a neighbourhood plan which is not fully fit for purpose in terms of determining future development and planning applications.
- 4.4 The Council has a duty to provide advice and guidance to neighbourhood plan groups to give them the best opportunity of preparing a plan which will meet the basic condition. It is therefore considered important that a response is provided so that any issues can be adequately considered by the independent examiner.

5. CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 It is hoped that the response to the Neighbourhood Plan will ensure that any outstanding matters of concern can be fully considered by the independent examiner and be satisfactorily addressed.

RELATIONSHIP TO POLICY FRAMEWORK

Neighbourhood Planning contributes to the Council's corporate plan priorities, in particular, sustainable economic growth.

Once adopted, neighbourhood plans form part of the Council's Lancaster District Local Plan.

CONCLUSION OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT

(including Health & Safety, Equality & Diversity, Human Rights, Community Safety, HR, Sustainability and Rural Proofing)

A neighbourhood plan will directly impact local communities. However, this impact will be subject to the plans focus e.g. housing, local facilities, open space etc. Equality and diversity and sustainability impact assessments will be required as part of the neighbourhood plan development process.

Neighbourhood planning provides rural communities with an opportunity to shape future development in their area, as well as helping to protect and conserve their heritage and environment (in line with the District's Local Plan and national planning policy guidance).

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

The Council's Legal duties are set out within the body of this Report and within the relevant sections of the Localism Act 2011.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no immediate financial implications associated with the request to endorse the content of the Council response to the Halton-with-Aughton Neighbourhood Plan. Staff time has been/will be covered from within existing resources.

As noted in the original report back in 2015, the referendum stage will incur costs for the Council. These are funded by MHCLG and will be subject to a further report prior to commencement.

OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Human Resources:

Officer support has been put in place for neighbourhood planning.

Information Services:

None.

Property:

None.

Open Spaces:

None.

SECTION 151 OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The Section 151 Officer has been consulted and has no further comments to add.

MONITORING OFFICER'S COMMENTS

Whilst consultations are normally responded to by Council Business Committee the Monitoring Officer is satisfied that the response to the Neighbourhood Plan sits better with the portfolio holder for planning as it forms part of the decision to submit the plan itself for inspection.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Appendix A - Halton-with-Aughton
Neighbourhood Development Plan Lancaster
City Council Response to Regulation 16
Consultation April 2025.

Contact Officer: Fiona Clark

Telephone: 01524 582222

E-mail: fjclark@lancaster.gov.uk

Halton-with-Aughton Neighbourhood Development Plan

Lancaster City Council Response to Regulation 16 Consultation

April 2025

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Lancaster City Council (Council) welcomes the submission of the Halton-with-Aughton Neighbourhood Development Plan (referred to as 'the Plan' from this point forward) and recognises the significant amount of time, effort and work the local community has put into its production to date, taking a positive and proactive approach to plan-making. The council have been fully supportive of the Halton-with-Aughton's Parish Council's (the Parish) decision to prepare a neighbourhood plan for their area and have provided support to aid the group's preparation of the plan.
- 1.2 Through dialogue with the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group since the initial designation in October 2015, the Council have been aware of the wide variety of consultation events that have been held with the community. These events have helped identify issues which are important in the locality, gain consensus and draw conclusions to how such matters can be addressed.
- 1.3 This document forms the Council's response to the Regulation 16 consultation and is intended to support the Parish Council and the Independent examiner. For ease of reference, the comments set out in Section 4 of this response are according to the relevant sections of the Plan.

2. LEGAL REQUIREMENTS AND NATIONAL POLICY

Legal Requirements

- 2.1 When a qualifying body, in this case Halton-with-Aughton Parish Council, submits a neighbourhood plan, the local authority is required to consider whether the legal process has been followed, whether the submission meets the requirements, to publicise the neighbourhood plan and arrange for independent examination.
- 2.2 The Halton-with-Aughton Neighbourhood Plan Area was designated on 27th October 2015 following the consultation process which was required at the time. The Parish Council has followed the required processes including pre-submission Regulation 14 consultation and publicity between 15th July 2024 to 8th September 2024.
- 2.3 The submission must include:
 - A map or statement identifying the area to which the plan relates;
 - The Neighbourhood Plan;
 - A Consultation Statement;
 - A Basic Conditions Statement (a statement on how the plan fulfils the basic conditions).

- 2.4 All the above documents have been submitted together with supporting evidence. The Consultation Statement and Basic Conditions Statement are considered to fulfil the requirements for their content.
- 2.5 The local authority is not required to assess whether the neighbourhood plan meets the basic conditions. That is the role of the independent examination. It is however expected to provide advice and support to help produce a plan that does meet the requirements. The basic conditions set out in paragraph 8(2) of Schedule 4b of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) are as follows:
- (a) Having regard to national policies and advice contained in guidance issued by the Secretary of State, it is appropriate to make the order.
 - (b) The making of the neighbourhood plan contributes to the achievement of sustainable development.
 - (c) The making of the neighbourhood plan is in general conformity with the strategic policies contained in the development plan for the area of the authority (or any part of that area).
 - (d) The making of the neighbourhood plan does not breach, and is otherwise compatible with, EU obligations.
 - (e) The prescribed conditions are met in relation to the neighbourhood plan and prescribed matters have been complied with in connection with the proposal. The prescribed condition in relation to Plans is:
 - The making of the neighbourhood plan does not breach the requirements of Chapter 8 of Part 6 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (Habitat Regulation Assessment) in relation to the examination of neighbourhood development plans.

National Planning Policy

- 2.6 The National Planning Policy Framework (referred to as 'the NPPF' from this point forward) was published in December 2024. Changes have also been made to the Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) and further changes are expected. The Plan refers to the former NPPF dated December 2023 and should be updated through the examination prior to referendum.
- 2.7 The NPPF sets out the Government's planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied. In doing so, it sets out the requirements for preparation of neighbourhood plans. All plans should promote a sustainable pattern of development that seeks to: meet the development needs of their area, align growth and infrastructure, enhance the environment, mitigate and adapt to climate change. Paragraph 30 of the NPPF states,

'Neighbourhood planning gives communities the power to develop a shared vision for their area. Neighbourhood plans can shape, direct and help to deliver sustainable development, by influencing local planning decisions as part of the statutory development plan. Neighbourhood plans should not promote less development than set out in the strategic policies for the area, or undermine those strategic policies'.

- 2.8 Within the overarching roles that the planning system ought to play, neighbourhood plans should also have regard to the core planning principles that underpin plan-making set out in paragraph 16 of the NPPF. The key principles highlight that plans should be prepared with the objective of contributing to the achievement of sustainable development; be positively prepared (in a way that is aspirational but deliverable); be shaped by early, proportionate and effective engagement between plan-makers and communities, local organisations, businesses, infrastructure providers and operators and statutory consultees; contain policies

that are clearly written and unambiguous so it is evident how a decision maker should react to development proposals; be accessible through the use of digital tools to assist public involvement and policy presentations and serve a clear purpose, avoiding unnecessary duplication of policies that apply to a particular area.

- 2.9 A large proportion of the Parish is located within the Forest of Bowland National Landscape, where the NPPF requires great weight to be given to conserving and enhancing the landscape and scenic beauty.

3. LANCASTER DISTRICT LOCAL PLAN

- 3.1 The Council adopted a Local Plan for Lancaster District in July 2020 (Local Plan). This was then the subject of a partial review to ensure the plan better reflected the Council's objectives in respect of climate change. The Local Plan (climate emergency review) was adopted in January 2025. The Local Plan consists of two key components, the Strategic Policies and Land Allocations (climate emergency review) DPD (SPLADPD) which sets out a series of strategic policies which will guide future development, in terms of scale, location and growth. The DPD also contains a series of land allocations to identify where future growth needs will be met and land which has been protected for its environmental, social or economic value. The second part is the Development Management (climate emergency review) DPD (DMDPD) which sets out a series of generic planning policies which are used by the Council to determine planning applications. The policies of the DPD are applicable to all development proposals across the entire district (unless the plan directs otherwise).
- 3.2 The Neighbourhood Plan was completed prior to the adoption of the Local Plan in January 2025. As the Local Plan (climate emergency review) was anticipated when the submission version of the Neighbourhood Plan was being drafted, its adoption does not materially affect the content of the Neighbourhood Plan. For clarity the Neighbourhood Plan should be updated prior to referendum to refer to the correct policies and references in the adopted Local Plan (climate emergency review).
- 3.3 Following the withdrawal of funding for major infrastructure, it became unclear how some of the objectives of the Local Plan, including a new settlement in South Lancaster, could be achieved. To address this, the Council has begun to review the Local Plan. The review will revisit all strategic matters, including the scale and spatial distribution of development, what areas should be protected and how the key issues such as the Council's ambitions on action of the climate emergency can be addressed.
- 3.4 Policy SP3 of the SPLADPD sets out the development strategy for Lancaster District. The policy aims to meet the development needs of the district by promoting an urban-focussed approach towards development, supplemented with additional large strategic development sites in greenfield locations. The development strategy is further supported by development in 'sustainable settlements' as defined by the settlement hierarchy set out in Policy SP2 of the same DPD. Settlements in Halton-Aughton Parish are designated by the hierarchy as follows:
- Halton is designated as a 'Sustainable Rural Settlement Outside Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty' which will provide the focus of growth for Lancaster district outside the main urban areas.
 - There are several small settlements within the Parish that fall within the 'All Other Settlements/Rural Village' category. These are settlements that are not considered to be sustainable locations for future development where development will only be support for small-scale development where there is a clearly demonstrated and evidenced local need.

- 3.5 A very small area at the western end of the Parish is allocated for development by policy SG9: North Lancaster Strategic Site. Policy H2: Housing Delivery in Rural Areas of the District allocates 4 sites for residential development in Halton.
- 3.6 The SPLADPD protects areas within the Parish from development. Policy EN4: identifies the extent of the North Lancashire Green Belt and includes small part of the Parish to the west of the M6. The Green Belt will be reviewed as part of the current Local Plan review taking into account the recent revisions in the NPPF and PPG. Policy EN6: Areas of Separation identifies an area between the strategic allocation at SG9 and the M6 to ensure that Lancaster and Halton remain 2 distinct settlements. Most of the Parish falls within areas designated as 'Open Countryside' by policy EN3. Policy SC3: Open Space, Recreation and Leisure identifies several spaces in Halton for protection.

4. HALTON-WITH-AUGHTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

- 4.1 This section sets out the comments which the Council have on the Plan. The Council recognise and welcome some amendments which have been made to the Plan in light of responses made at previous stages.
- 4.2 The Plan sets out a positive approach to development within the Parish given its context as a rural settlement. The Plan does not seek to curtail the sites allocated for development in the Local Plan, promotes housing development that meets identified needs and promotes infill sites, previously developed land and conversion. It also sets out policies which reflect the location of a roughly half of the parish within the Forest of Bowland National Landscape.

Vision and Objectives

- 4.3 The City Council supports the objectives of the Plan which are consistent with the spatial strategy for the district. The objectives promote conservation, protection and enhancement of the local landscape, biodiversity, green spaces and community facilities, seek to ensure new housing meets local needs, promote sustainable transport, and measures to reduce flood risk.

Landscape, Natural Environment and Conservation

- 4.4 A small proportion of the Parish to the west of the M6 is located within the North Lancaster Green Belt. As the Plan does not contain policies in relation to the Green Belt, its content is not materially affected by the changes to national Greenbelt policy in the NPPF. However, the background text at paragraph 4.2 does outline the national policy constraints and this should be amended to reflect the most recent NPPF.
- 4.5 Policies 'HA-1 Conserving and Enhancing Local Landscape Character', 'HA-2 Protecting and Enhancing Wildlife and Geodiversity' and 'HA-6 Protecting Historic Character' respond positively to local character, the natural environment and heritage, and are supported.

Area of Separation

- 4.6 Policy HA-3 seeks to reiterate the protection afforded to the Area of Separation by Policy EN6: Areas of Separation of the Local Plan. While it is considered unnecessary to duplicate the Local Plan policy, the inclusion of HA-3 in the Plan is in general conformity with strategic policies. If the policy is to remain, a map showing the extent of the area covered by the policy is required.

- 4.7 It should be noted that Policy EN6 will be reviewed as part of the Local Plan review. The Neighbourhood Plan will be taken into account during the review but if changes are made, Policy HA-3 will no longer be in conformity and will necessitate review of the Plan.

Local Green Spaces

- 4.8 Policy 'HA-4 Local Green Spaces' seeks to designate and protect Local Green Spaces. The Local Green Spaces Assessment Report provides the explanation and justification for the sites the policy seeks to protect. The Consultation Statement explains the engagement carried out with landowners who have been given the opportunity to make representations in accordance with the PPG. Amendments have been made through the process to address representations where the Parish Council deemed these necessary (the number of sites has been reduced and the explanation/justification have been revised).
- 4.9 The Council has concerns about the duplication of protection proposed for some of the sites and some of the justification. It is recommended that LGS A, C, D and E are removed for the following reasons:

Site	Council Comments
LGS A – St Wilfrid's Park	The site is already designated under Local Plan Policy SC3. While historical significance has been mentioned, it is not clear how this site is demonstrably special in comparison to other play areas across the district to warrant a Local Green Space designation. Whilst historical significance has been added to the conclusion as to why the site is considered suitable, the overall assessment suggests the reason for designation relates more to concerns around land ownership.
LGS B – Lune Riverbank – Halton Bridge to Halton Mill	The assessment is considered to demonstrate how the site fulfils the Local Green designation and is supported.
LGS C – Wooded Bank – Quarry Road to The Centre	The site is already designated under Local Plan policy SC3. The Council is not clear why this site warrants the additional designation as a Local Green Space.
LGS D – Town End Farm Field	Whilst the heritage value of this site is recognised, the NPPF is clear that a Local Green Space needs to be demonstrably special to the community it serves and hold a particular local significance. The location of the boundary of the site is not a clearly defined edge, and why this boundary has been chosen is not clear. Whilst not disputing the value of this field the Council is not clear why this particular area warrants the designation of a Local Green Space for historic significance in comparison to other similar areas adjacent to listed buildings.
LGS E – Forge Wood	The site has the character of a green corridor on the edge of the settlement with access amongst most of the site's length limited to the path. The site boundaries are unclear and it is indicative of an extensive tract of land. The Council is not clear why this particular area is demonstrably special and warrants the designation of a Local Green Space.

Flood Risk

- 4.10 Policy 'HA-5 Flooding' seeks to safeguard land for potential future flood mitigation opportunities in accordance with paragraph 172b of the NPPF and in conformity with strategic policies 'CC1: Responding to Climate Change and Creating Environmental Sustainability' and 'SP8: Protecting the Natural Environment' of the SPLADPD. The Jacobs Flood Risk Management Study 2020 provides robust evidence and justification to support the areas proposed for safeguarding.
- 4.11 The policy fails to include a plan of the proposed areas therefore requires consultation of additional documents to determine the areas to be protected. This results in a policy that is not clear or easy to navigate. Previous versions of the Plan included maps, while these were of poor quality, they did at least show the general location of the area. It is recommended that for ease of use, good quality clear maps showing the areas are included within the Plan.
- 4.12 The wording of the policy has been amended since the Reg14 Plan to address some of the issues raised by the Local Lead Flood Authority. The resulting wording creates a policy which is not wholly clear on what the requirements are. For example, 'design flood is referred to' but the definition is not clarified. The policy includes reference to 'may' in various places, this raised questions over what is expected of a development for it to meet the policy requirements. The aim of the policy to ensure that development mitigates and takes opportunities to reduce flood risk is supported. In particular, the policy aims to generate delivery and/or contributions to the delivery of schemes within the Jacobs Flood Risk Management Study. The wording does not make clear what the expectations are for development management purposes or that such contributions would need to meet the tests in paragraph 58 of the NPPF. The policy would benefit from some clearer wording to ensure that it provides a clear basis for development management purposes.

Development Needs

- 4.13 Policy 'HA-7 Meeting Local Needs' supports housing development in accordance with the development strategy and hierarchy in the Local Plan and policies which aim to meet an identified need.
- 4.14 The aim of policy 'HA-8 Halton Urban Development' to support development in the built-up area is consistent with the Local Plan. However, bullet point 2 is not considered necessary as addressing constraints is an integral part of an assessment of any proposal. The reference to viability assessment is also misleading as it is not necessary to show constraints can be overcome.

Housing Opportunity Sites

- 4.15 The section relates to opportunity sites but provides no assessment of them or related policy. As a policy is not proposed and the text will not materially affect decision making, the section is considered unnecessary.

Design, Sustainability and Transport

- 4.16 Policies 'HA-9 High Quality Design and Sustainability' and 'HA-10 Active Travel' support the national and Local Plan policies which seek high quality sustainable design and active travel. The inclusion of these policies is supported.

Community Facilities

- 4.17 Policy 'HA-11 Community Facilities' is supported.

Policies Map

- 4.18 It is recommended that a single policy map is either included within or published alongside the Plan. This will ensure that the areas covered by designations are easy to determine and relate to the appropriate policies.

Monitoring Framework

- 4.19 The inclusion of guidance on how the Plan will be monitored is welcomed. There appears to be a discrepancy in the timescale proposed for monitoring, both 1 and 3 years periods are mentioned. It is recommended that the monitoring report be prepared annually for consideration by the Parish Council. This would ensure that the Group was aware of the effectiveness of policies with opportunity for action should this be required. A triennial monitoring report is not considered sufficient.

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA)

- 4.20 SEA and HRA screenings were carried out on the Plan (v14 dated December 2024) prior to submission. The HRA screening concluded that the Plan would not have an adverse effect on the integrity of designated sites either alone, or in combination with other plans and policies. The SEA screening concluded that the Plan is unlikely to result in significant environmental effects. The 3 statutory bodies have confirmed these conclusions.

Conclusion

- 4.21 The Council supports the policies in the Plan and consider that they are in conformity with national and local plan policies and meet the requirements of the basic conditions. Notwithstanding this, there are some issues in relation to clarity that the Council have highlighted for the Examiner and Steering Group's consideration.
- 4.22 Should the examiner require further information, evidence or discussion on any of the matters raised in the response the Council will be happy to assist in this matter.

LANCASTER CITY COUNCIL

Promoting City, Coast & Countryside

EXECUTIVE DECISIONS TAKEN BY CABINET PORTFOLIO HOLDER OR DELEGATED OFFICER NOTICE OF DECISION

TITLE OF DECISION:			
PROCUREMENT OF REFUSE COLLECTION VEHICLES FOR MIXED WASTE COLLECTION			
NAME OF DECISION TAKER:		COUNCILLOR PAUL HART	
POSITION AND RESPONSIBILITY HELD:		CABINET MEMBER WITH PARTICULAR RESPONSIBILITY FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AND PLACE	
CONTACT OFFICER:		SCOTT CUNNINGHAM	
TELEPHONE:		07920379031	
E-MAIL:		scunningham@lancaster.gov.uk	
Details of Decision: For the Council to carry out a competition under the YPO Framework Purchase, Lease and Hire of Specialist Vehicles (1170) for the provision of refuse waste collection vehicles for the collection of weekly waste collection across the district. Following the approval and the completion of the successful procurement exercise to then delegate the award of the contract to the to the Chief Executive in consultation with the s151 officer.			
Reasons for the decision: Due to the ever-increasing age of the Refuse fleet, maintenance and operational cost have risen significantly, due to the age of the current vehicles they are more prone to mechanical failures, requiring frequent repairs and expensive part replacements, all of which increases vehicle down time. Additionally, aging fleets become less fuel efficient, leading to higher fuel consumption and increased emission, further contributing to rising costs.			
IS THE DECISION URGENT No			
I confirm that I have taken account of the options proposed by officers, the various implications set out in the report and the comments of the Monitoring and Section 151 Officers and am authorising the decision as set out above.			
SIGNATURE OF DECISION TAKER:		Councillor Paul B. Hart	
DATE:		10 th April 2025.	
THIS SECTION TO BE COMPLETED BY DEMOCRATIC SERVICES			REF NO.
DATE DECISION TAKEN:			ICMD29
10.4.25		DATE RECEIVED BY DEMOCRATIC SERVICES:	11.4.25
DATE DECISION PUBLISHED:		IMPLEMENTATION DATE (publication day + 5 working days):	23.4.25
11.4.25			

Document is Restricted