

## PAS LOCAL PLAN ROUTE MAPPER TOOLKIT PART 1: LOCAL PLAN REVIEW ASSESSMENT

### Assessment (December 2019) of Adopted West Lancashire Local Plan 2012-2027

	Matters to consider	Agree / Disagree	Extent to which the local plan meets this requirement
<b>A</b>	<b>PLAN REVIEW FACTORS</b>		
<b>A1.</b>	<p><b>The plan policies still reflect current national planning policy requirements.</b></p> <p><b>PROMPT:</b> As set out above in the introductory text, in providing your answer to this statement consider if the policies in your plan still meet the ‘content’ requirements of the current NPPF (completing Part 2 of the toolkit will help you determine the extent to which the policies in your plan accord with relevant key requirements in national policy).</p>	<b>Mixed</b>	<p>The attached Part 2 of the Local Plan Route Mapper Toolkit checks the adopted Local Plan against the most up-to-date requirements of the NPPF (February 2019). It finds that, in many areas of policy, the Local Plan is continuing to meet the NPPF requirements, but there are several key areas where it is not, or it is at least questionable whether it is. These key areas are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policies for the Economy of West Lancashire</li> <li>• Policies for the supply of Housing</li> <li>• Planning Policy for Travellers</li> <li>• Planning Policy for Wind Energy (and Low Carbon / Renewable Energy in general)</li> </ul>
<b>A2.</b>	<p><b>There has not been a <u>significant</u> change in local housing need numbers from that specified in your plan (accepting there will be some degree of flux).</b></p> <p><b>PROMPT:</b> Look at whether your local housing need figure, using the standard methodology as a starting point, has gone up significantly (with the measure of significance based on a comparison with the housing requirement set out in your adopted local plan).</p> <p>Consider whether your local housing need figure has gone down significantly (with the measure of significance based on a comparison with</p>	<b>Disagree</b>	<p>The housing requirement in the Adopted Local Plan is based on a combination of the DCLG interim 2011-based household projections for West Lancashire, Household growth modelling submitted by a representor and meeting the shortfall in housing provision in West Lancashire against the previous target in the North West Regional Strategy. It resulted in an average annual housing requirement of 324 dwellings a year.</p> <p>Since then, three sets of household projections have been released (2012-, 2014- and 2016-based), a Liverpool City Region Strategic Housing and Employment Land Market Assessment has been completed (March 2018) and a new "standard methodology" for calculating Local Housing Need (LHN) has</p>

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	<p>the housing requirement set out in your adopted local plan). You will need to consider if there is robust evidence to demonstrate that your current housing requirement is deliverable in terms of market capacity or if it supports, for example, growth strategies such as Housing Deals, new strategic infrastructure investment or formal agreements to meet unmet need from neighbouring authority areas.</p>		<p>been introduced.</p> <p>All of the above household projections / calculations of housing need have identified a minimum housing need for West Lancashire that is lower than the adopted Local Plan requirement, with the SHELMA identifying an Objectively-Assessed Need for West Lancashire of 221 dwellings and the current LHN calculation coming out at 198 dwellings per year.</p> <p>However, the housing requirement in the Adopted Local Plan (totalling 4,860 dwellings over the period 2012-2027) is deliverable in terms of market capacity (although the ability to meet an annual requirement of 324 dwellings a year going forward will diminish over time due to allocated sites in the Plan being developed out and the constraint of safeguarded / Green Belt land policy on any other potential sites). As such, meeting a lower requirement of 198 dwellings a year is entirely deliverable under the adopted Local Plan.</p>
<p><b>A3.</b></p>	<p><b>You have a 5-year supply of housing land</b></p> <p><b>PROMPT:</b> Review your 5-year housing land supply in accordance with national guidance including planning practice guidance and the Housing Delivery Test measurement rule book</p>	<p><b>Agree</b> (against the LHN calc.)</p>	<p>The Council can demonstrate a five-year housing land supply against the Adopted Local Plan requirement this year, but may struggle to do so for the remainder of the Plan period (as allocations are built-out and no new sites are introduced).</p> <p>However, against the LHN requirement of 198 dwellings a year (which is relevant now that the Adopted Local Plan is more than five years old, cf. NPPF para 73), the housing land supply significantly exceeds five years, and will continue to do so for the foreseeable future.</p>
<p><b>A4.</b></p>	<p><b>You are meeting housing delivery targets</b></p> <p><b>PROMPT:</b> Use the results of your most recent Housing Delivery Test, and if possible, try and forecast the outcome of future Housing Delivery Test findings. Consider whether these have/are likely to trigger the requirement for the development of an action plan or trigger the presumption in favour of sustainable development. Consider the reasons for this and whether you need to review the site allocations that your plan is reliant upon. In doing</p>	<p><b>Agree</b> (against the LHN calc.)</p>	<p>As the Housing Delivery Test is measured against the LHN calculation (198 dwellings a year) now that the Adopted Local Plan is more than five years old, delivery of housing has significantly outstripped this requirement and will continue to do so for the foreseeable future.</p>

	<b>Matters to consider</b>	<b>Agree / Disagree</b>	<b>Extent to which the local plan meets this requirement</b>
	so you need to make a judgement as to whether updating your local plan will support delivery or whether there are other actions needed which are not dependent on changes to the local plan.		
A5.	<p><b>Your plan policies are on track to deliver other plan objectives including any (i) affordable housing targets; and (ii) commercial floorspace/jobs targets over the remaining plan period.</b></p> <p><b>PROMPT:</b> Use (or update) your Authority Monitoring Report to assess delivery.</p>	Mixed	<p>(i) Affordable housing targets are being met (ii) Commercial floorspace targets are not being met</p> <p>Summary of delivery of other Local Plan Objectives in AMR 2019:</p> <p>The Council are meeting most of current plan objectives, including that measuring strong and safe communities, health, built and natural environment, and housing provision and delivery. The Council continue to seek to minimise development in flood risk areas, but there has been limited renewable energy development. Economic performance falls lower than national rates, and employment land is being developed at relatively low rates. A decline in A1 town centre uses is reflective of national trends rather than local issues. There remains social and economic disparities between Skelmersdale and the rest of the Borough.</p>
A6.	<p><b>There have been no significant changes in economic conditions which could challenge the delivery of the Plan, including the policy requirements within it.</b></p> <p><b>PROMPT:</b> A key employer has shut down or relocated out of the area.</p> <p>Up-to-date evidence suggests that jobs growth is likely to be significantly more or less than is currently being planned for.</p> <p>Consider if there is any evidence suggesting that large employment allocations will no longer be required or are no longer likely to be delivered.</p> <p>You will need to consider whether such events impact on assumptions in your adopted local plan which have led to a higher housing requirement</p>	Disagree	<p>At the current time, the most significant evidence of a change in economic conditions since the Local Plan was adopted relates to two factors.</p> <p>Firstly, the adopted Local Plan relied upon the remodelling and regeneration of vacant units in existing industrial estates in Skelmersdale for over 20% of the 75 ha employment land requirement. This was based on the level of vacancies in those estates at the time of preparing the Local Plan, and how some of those vacancies were clustered together, thus enabling a remodelling of that part of an estate to provide modern, fit-for-purpose units. However, shortly after the Local Plan was adopted, the national and local economy saw an upturn following the recession at the end of the 2000's/early 2010's, and the vast majority of these vacant units were re-occupied and so remodelling was no longer an option (and this remains the case today).</p> <p>Secondly, of the remaining employment land allocations, very little has</p>

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	<p>than your local housing need assessment indicates.</p> <p>Consider what the consequences could be for your local plan objectives such as the balance of in and out commuting and the resultant impact on proposed transport infrastructure provision (both capacity and viability), air quality or climate change considerations.</p>		<p>actually been delivered since the Local Plan was adopted (and, as a result, very little employment development in general has taken place). While some of the allocations (at Yew Tree Farm in Burscough, and at White Moss Business Park in Skelmersdale) and an additional, unallocated site at Simonswood industrial estate have been granted permission in 2018/19 and 2019/20, there will still be an overall undersupply of employment land development compared to the 75 ha requirement in the adopted Local Plan even if these permissions are delivered.</p> <p>In addition, the Council is aware of an increased demand for land to develop large-scale logistics facilities in the wider Liverpool City Region and a shortfall of land that is currently allocated and available for this use to meet the increased demand to 2037 (cf. the LCR SHELMA study). As such, there may be a role for West Lancashire in meeting some of this growing demand along the M58 Corridor, over and above the available, allocated sites (totalling 17 ha) at XL Business Park in Skelmersdale.</p> <p>As a result of all of the above, it will be necessary to understand whether the reduction in development of employment land in West Lancashire over the Plan period (compared to pre-recession delivery rates) is a consequence of an ongoing reduced demand / need for employment land, or whether it is because of wider economic conditions since 2012 or because the land allocated in the Local Plan for employment development was not of the right type of site to meet the modern needs of new employment developments.</p> <p>As such, it cannot be said that there have been no significant changes in the economic conditions of West Lancashire since the Local Plan was adopted.</p>
<p><b>A7.</b></p>	<p><b>There have been no significant changes affecting viability of planned development.</b></p> <p><b>PROMPT:</b> You may wish to look at the Building Cost Information Service (BCIS) All-in Tender Price Index, used for the indexation of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), or other relevant indices to get a sense of market changes.</p>	<p><b>Mixed</b></p>	<p>It is certainly arguable that there have been changes which would affect the potential viability of planned development in West Lancashire, but not to the extent that they would entirely stop allocations from coming forward for development. However, permissions on allocated sites are not necessarily delivering the full policy requirements for affordable and specialist housing (cf. Policy RS2).</p>

	<b>Matters to consider</b>	<b>Agree / Disagree</b>	<b>Extent to which the local plan meets this requirement</b>
	<p>Consider evidence from recent planning decisions and appeal decisions to determine whether planning policy requirements, including affordable housing, are generally deliverable.</p> <p>Ongoing consultation and engagement with the development industry may highlight any significant challenges to delivery arising from changes in the economic climate.</p>		<p>Two factors which have increased costs on (in particular, housing) development are the increased cost of materials and contractors, and the increased cost of the Council's CIL charge (as indexing is applied in accordance with the CIL regulations). However, recent viability evidence prepared for the now withdrawn Local Plan Review Preferred Options suggests that, even with this additional costs, development in the majority of the borough is viable under the adopted Local Plan's policy requirements, perhaps with some amendments to the precise mix of affordable housing in some areas and a reduction in the quantum of affordable housing provision in a few, selected parts of the borough.</p>
<p><b>A8.</b></p>	<p><b>Key site allocations are delivering, or on course to deliver, in accordance the local plan policies meaning that the delivery of the spatial strategy is not at risk.</b></p> <p><b>PROMPT:</b></p> <p>Identify which sites are central to the delivery of your spatial strategy. Consider if there is evidence to suggest that lack of progress on these sites (individually or collectively) may prejudice the delivery of housing numbers, key infrastructure or other spatial priorities. Sites may be deemed to be key by virtue of their scale, location or type.</p>	<p><b>Mixed</b></p>	<p>In relation to housing, after a slower than expected start, the housing allocations in the Local Plan are now delivering and, in the main, expected to "catch-up" with anticipated delivery, meaning that the housing requirement of 4,860 dwellings by 2027 should be met. However, the two strategic development sites, in particular Skelmersdale Town Centre, will likely not deliver as much housing by 2027 as anticipated in the Local Plan.</p> <p>In relation to other allocations (in particular employment land allocations), very few have thus far been delivered, and it currently appears unlikely that they will all be delivered by 2027. In addition, the achievement of employment land requirements relied upon an element of redevelopment of vacant units within existing employment areas, but this will not now happen as those units are now generally occupied by businesses.</p> <p>As a result, while sufficient housing will be delivered through the Adopted Local Plan, the same cannot be said of employment land, and it is questionable whether the slower delivery of employment land and of the strategic development sites has put the spatial strategy of the Adopted Local Plan at risk.</p>
<p><b>A9.</b></p>	<p><b>There have been no significant changes to the local environmental or heritage context which have implications for the local plan approach or policies.</b></p>	<p><b>Agree</b></p>	<p>There have been no significant changes to local environmental or heritage context which have implications for the approach and policies set out in the</p>

	<b>Matters to consider</b>	<b>Agree / Disagree</b>	<b>Extent to which the local plan meets this requirement</b>
	<p><b>PROMPT:</b> You may wish to review the indicators or monitoring associated with your Sustainability Appraisal (SA) / Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) / Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA).</p> <p>Identify if there been any changes in Flood Risk Zones, including as a result of assessing the effects of climate change.</p> <p>Consider whether there have been any changes in air quality which has resulted in the designation of an Air Quality Management Area(s) or which would could result in a likely significant effect on a European designated site which could impact on the ability to deliver housing or employment allocations.</p> <p>Consider whether there have been any changes to Zones of Influence / Impact Risk Zones for European sites and Sites of Special Scientific Interest or new issues in relation to, for example, water quality.</p> <p>Consider whether there have been any new environmental or heritage designations which could impact on the delivery of housing or employment / jobs requirements / targets.</p> <p>Consider any relevant concerns being raised by statutory consultees in your area in relation to the determination of individual planning applications or planning appeals which may impact upon your plan - either now or in the future.</p>		<p>adopted Local Plan.</p> <p>Climate Change continues to be a key issue for Plan-making and development, but the measures required as part of the adopted Local Plan to mitigate for, and address, this and other environmental issues continue to ensure that, on an application-by-application basis, the requirements are met.</p> <p>While flood risk zones have changed a little in some areas, the changes do not affect any remaining allocations or the policies guiding the strategic direction of the Local Plan.</p> <p>The protection of internationally designated habitat sites and the supporting feeding habitat elsewhere in the borough continues to be satisfactorily addressed on a site-by-site basis as applications come forward on sites with potential to be feeding habitat.</p>
<p><b>A10.</b></p>	<p><b>There are no new sites that have become available since the finalisation of the adopted local plan which require the spatial strategy to be re-evaluated.</b></p> <p><b>PROMPT:</b></p>	<p><b>Agree</b></p>	<p>No significant new sites have come forward within the existing settlement areas which would cause the spatial strategy in the Local Plan to be re-evaluated, although some smaller, non-strategic sites have helped to boost windfall delivery in the borough and compensated for some allocated sites</p>

	<b>Matters to consider</b>	<b>Agree / Disagree</b>	<b>Extent to which the local plan meets this requirement</b>
	<p>Consider if there have been any new sites that have become available, particularly those within public ownership which, if they were to come forward for development, could have an impact on the spatial strategy or could result in loss of employment and would have a significant effect on the quality of place if no new use were found for them.</p> <p>Consider whether any sites which have now become available within your area or neighbouring areas could contribute towards meeting any previously identified unmet needs.</p>		<p>which have failed to come forward thus far.</p> <p>All other sites that have come forward are either on Safeguarded Land, Protected Land or within the Green Belt.</p>
<b>A11.</b>	<p><b>Key planned infrastructure projects critical to plan delivery are on track and have not stalled / failed and there are no new major infrastructure programmes with implications for the growth / spatial strategy set out in the plan.</b></p> <p><b>PROMPT:</b> You may wish to review your Infrastructure Delivery Plan / Infrastructure Funding Statement, along with any periodic updates, the Capital and Investment programmes of your authority or infrastructure delivery partners and any other tool used to monitor and prioritise the need and delivery of infrastructure to support development.</p> <p>Check if there have been any delays in the delivery of critical infrastructure as a result of other processes such as for the Compulsory Purchase of necessary land.</p> <p>Identify whether any funding announcements or decisions have been made which materially impact upon the delivery of key planned infrastructure, and if so, will this impact upon the delivery of the Local Plan.</p>	<b>Mixed</b>	<p>In relation to the major transport schemes listed in part 1(a) of policy IF2 of the adopted Local Plan, while not many have thus far been delivered, most are making progress. The main exception to this is the proposed A570 Ormskirk Bypass, which was removed as a proposal by the West Lancashire Highways &amp; Transport Masterplan (adopted in 2014) due to the fact that it would not provide the relief to traffic in Ormskirk originally anticipated.</p> <p>In relation to other infrastructure, the concerns raised by United Utilities regarding the capacity of the New Lane WWTW (which were anticipated would be resolved by 2020) were recently withdrawn following revised calculations of flow and capacity at WWTW, and so this infrastructure improvement is no longer needed.</p> <p>The Skelmersdale Rail Link proposals have moved on somewhat since the Local Plan was adopted, and while it is unlikely a new rail link will be open before the end of the Plan period, once the Rail Link is confirmed it is anticipated that it will create greater demand for housing and employment land in the Skelmersdale area, which will be a matter for West Lancashire's next Local Plan to consider.</p>
<b>A12.</b>	<p><b>All policies in the plan are achievable and effective including for the purpose of decision-making.</b></p> <p><b>PROMPT:</b> Consider if these are strategic policies or those, such as Development</p>	<b>Mixed</b>	<p>In general, the policies in the adopted Local Plan are achievable and effective for the purposes of decision-making, although parts of some policies have been overtaken by updates to national planning legislation / policy / guidance since the Local Plan was adopted, or have been overtaken by the changing</p>

	<b>Matters to consider</b>	<b>Agree / Disagree</b>	<b>Extent to which the local plan meets this requirement</b>
	<p>Management policies, which do not necessarily go to the heart of delivering the Plan’s strategy.</p> <p>Identify if there has been a significant increase in appeals that have been allowed and /or appeals related to a specific policy area that suggest a policy or policies should be reviewed.</p> <p>Consider whether there has been feedback from Development Management colleagues, members of the planning committee, or applicants that policies cannot be effectively applied and / or understood.</p>		<p>context around development.</p> <p>A good example of the former and the latter would be the affordable housing policy (RS2) which, in general, still works but has been partially superseded by the new national policy requirement to not allow affordable housing provision on developments of less than 10 dwellings (unless there are specific local circumstances which justify it) and, as explained in A7 above, is potentially no longer viable in a few, selected parts of the borough.</p> <p>Another good example of both is the way that Policy IF1 (in trying to maintain a specific proportion of ground floor units in the Primary Shopping Area of Ormskirk town centre as A1 retail) has been somewhat undermined by the changes to permitted development rights and overtaken by the changing role of town centres as High Street retail continues to decline in favour of online retail.</p> <p>As referred to in A6 above, it is arguable that aspects of the economic policies (in particular Policy EC1) are not achieving what they set out to do because of a combination of potential factors, including whether the supply of employment land sites is adequate / of the right type as well as the wider economic conditions facing West Lancashire and the whole country.</p>
<p><b>A13.</b></p>	<p><b>There are no recent or forthcoming changes to another authority’s development plan or planning context which would have a material impact on your plan / planning context for the area covered by your local plan.</b></p> <p><b>PROMPT:</b> In making this assessment you may wish to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Review emerging and adopted neighbouring authority development plans and their planning context.</li> <li>● Review any emerging and adopted higher level strategic plans including, where relevant, mayoral/ combined authority Spatial Development Strategies e.g. The London Plan.</li> <li>● Review any relevant neighbourhood plans</li> <li>● Consider whether any of the matters highlighted in statements A1- A12</li> </ul>	<p><b>Agree</b></p>	<p>West Lancashire's primary spatial planning links are with the Liverpool City Region (in particular our neighbouring authority Sefton) and, to a lesser degree, Wigan / Greater Manchester and Chorley / South Ribble. At the current time, and for the remainder of the adopted Local Plan period (to 2027), there has not been, and it is not anticipated there will be, any unmet development needs arising from neighbouring authorities (or other changes to their development plans) which would have a material impact on the West Lancashire Local Plan.</p> <p>However, should this review lead to an update of the Local Plan, there are potential strategic, cross-boundary issues which may need to be considered in preparing that new Local Plan as they may lead to unmet development needs arising within the Liverpool City Region (LCR) beyond 2027 but within the next</p>



	<b>Matters to consider</b>	<b>Agree / Disagree</b>	<b>Extent to which the local plan meets this requirement</b>
	<p>for their plan may impact on your plan - discuss this with the relevant authorities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider any key topic areas or requests that have arisen through Duty to Cooperate or strategic planning discussions with your neighbours or stakeholders - particularly relating to meeting future development and /or infrastructure needs.</li> </ul>		<p>20 years. There are two main potential unmet needs.</p> <p>Firstly, whether some of the growing demand for large-scale logistics uses (or other employment-related uses) in the LCR will need to be met in West Lancashire. The SHELMA identified a specific demand to 2037 that, as yet, has not been fully met by existing allocations in others' Local Plans, and so a part of this demand to 2037 may need to be met on the M58 Corridor in West Lancashire.</p> <p>Secondly, whether Sefton will be able to meet all of their own housing needs beyond their current Plan period (which runs to 2030). Sefton are able to meet their own housing needs for now, but when they come to next update their Local Plan, there is a distinct possibility that they may not be able to meet all of their own housing needs, particularly in relation to those needs in the north of their borough and beyond 2035. If that is the case, under the Duty to Co-operate and in line with NPPF paragraph 60, West Lancashire will need to consider whether those unmet needs should be taken into account in establishing the amount of housing to be planned for in West Lancashire.</p>
<p><b>A14.</b></p>	<p><b>There are no local political changes or a revised / new corporate strategy which would require a change to the approach set out in the current plan.</b></p> <p><b>PROMPT:</b> In making this assessment you may wish to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review any manifesto commitments and review the corporate and business plan.</li> <li>Engage with your senior management team and undertake appropriate engagement with senior politicians in your authority.</li> <li>Consider other plans or strategies being produced across the Council or by partners which may impact on the appropriateness of your current plan and the strategy that underpins it, for instance, Growth Deals, economic growth plans, local industrial strategies produced by the Local Economic Partnership, housing/ regeneration strategies and so on.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Disagree</b></p>	<p>The adopted Local Plan was prepared, examined and adopted under a different political administration to that which now exists at the Council.</p> <p>The new administration's Vision for the Council Plan and Priorities is "to be a council which is ambitious for West Lancashire - our Economy, Environment and for Health and Wellbeing". One of the Priorities of that Plan is "Completing the current review of the Local Plan" (referring to the Local Plan Review which was, until September 2019, being prepared by the Council). Whilst that Local Plan Review has now been ceased, in making that decision, Cabinet committed to "imminently" preparing a new Local Plan afresh, and so they clearly see a need for a new Local Plan for West Lancashire.</p> <p>Such a new Local Plan would need to align with the ambitions of the Council and its partners to, among other things:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Deliver inclusive growth in West Lancashire, retaining and growing</li> </ul>

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			<p>good quality jobs, increasing skills levels and encouraging business and wealth generation;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide a good quality, clean, built and physical environment;</li> <li>• Ensure the conditions are in place for people in West Lancashire to live healthy and fulfilling lives;</li> <li>• Deliver retail, housing and public realm improvements with a focus on Skelmersdale Town Centre;</li> <li>• Enhance and promote Skelmersdale and the wider West Lancashire business economy;</li> <li>• Engage businesses and communities to enhance and promote Ormskirk and the wider West Lancashire visitor economy; and</li> <li>• Implement the Health and Wellbeing Strategy.</li> </ul> <p>In addition, in July 2019, the Council declared a Climate Emergency and, as a result, now:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aspire to carbon neutrality by 2030 at the latest;</li> <li>• Want to explore the expansion of community energy to keep the benefits of our local energy generation in our local economy;</li> <li>• Will continue to work with partners anchored in West Lancashire to deliver carbon reductions and grow the local economy;</li> <li>• Wish to consider the new housing numbers planned for in a new Local Plan should reflect only the numbers required each year for local need;</li> <li>• Wish to consider, through the new local plan, all new homes built to be built to zero carbon home design codes;</li> <li>• Wish to consider, through the new local plan, all new commercial properties including warehouses to be built to the highest carbon reduction design codes and to offset through, e.g. tree planting, any remaining carbon emissions; and</li> <li>• Wish to consider encouraging through policies in the new local plan, additional planting of woodland in West Lancashire.</li> </ul> <p>The Lancashire LEP are currently preparing a Local Industrial Strategy, which will also inform any potential change in economic policies.</p>

	ASSESSING WHETHER OR NOT TO UPDATE YOUR PLAN POLICIES	YES/NO (please indicate below)	
A15.	<p>You <b>AGREE</b> with <u>all</u> of the statements above</p>	NO	<p><b>If no</b> go to question A16.</p> <p><b>If yes</b>, you have come to the end of the assessment. However, you must be confident that you are able to demonstrate and fully justify that your existing plan policies / planning position clearly meets the requirements in the statements above and that you have evidence to support your position.</p> <p>Based on the answers you have given above please provide clear explanation and justification in section A17 below of why you have concluded that an update is not necessary including references to evidence or data sources that you have referenced above. Remember you are required to publish the decision not to update your local plan policies. In reaching the conclusion that an update is not necessary the explanation and justification for your decision must be clear, intelligible and able to withstand scrutiny.</p>
A16.	<p>You <b>DISAGREE</b> with one or more of the statements above and the issue can be addressed by an update of local plan policies</p>	YES	<p>If yes, based on the above provide a summary of the key reasons <u>why</u> an update to plan policies is necessary in section A17 below and complete Section B below.</p>
A17.	<p><b>Decision:</b> Update plan policies</p> <p>Reasons for decision on whether or not to update plan policies (clear evidence and justification will be required where a decision not to update has been reached):</p>		

	<p>Assessment of the adopted Local Plan against the current National Planning Policy Framework (February 2019) identified four key areas in which the adopted Local Plan is at least potentially inconsistent with the NPPF:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policies for the Economy of West Lancashire</li> <li>• Policies for the supply of Housing</li> <li>• Planning Policy for Travellers</li> <li>• Planning Policy for Wind Energy (and Low Carbon / Renewable Energy in general)</li> </ul> <p>The assessment above confirms this for the first two points, identifying that there has been a significant change in housing need numbers for the Borough and there has been a significant change in economic conditions since the Local Plan was adopted.</p> <p>In addition, many other areas/policies of the Local Plan require a partial update to reflect new national policy and / or changing context.</p> <p>The Council is also now under a different administration and has clearly set out its aspirations to prepare a new Local Plan that is ambitious for the Borough's economy, environment and health and wellbeing, and reflects the Council's declaration of a Climate Emergency.</p> <p><b>Other actions that may be required in addition to or in place of an update of plan policies</b></p> <p>Given some of the Council's priorities that would influence a Local Plan, there will be actions in relation to addressing Climate Change, delivering new infrastructure, boosting the local economy, enhancing the Borough's environment and ensuring health and wellbeing for all of the community that are beyond the scope of Planning and Local Plans, and which the Council will need to work with partner organisations to deliver.</p>		
	<p><b>B. POLICY UPDATE FACTORS</b></p>	<p><b>YES/NO (please indicate below)</b></p>	<p><b>Provide details explaining your answer in the context of your plan / local authority area</b></p>
<p><b>B1</b></p>	<p><b>Your policies update is likely to lead to a material change in the housing requirement which in turn has implications for other plan requirements / the overall evidence base.</b></p>	<p><b>YES</b></p>	<p>The housing requirement in adopted Local Plan is significantly higher than the minimum housing need calculated through the Local Housing Need standard methodology, and so it is likely that the housing requirement for a new Local</p>

			Plan policy would be materially different and have implications for other Local Plan policies.
<b>B2</b>	<b>The growth strategy and / or spatial distribution of growth set out in the current plan is not fit for purpose and your policies update is likely to involve a change to this.</b>	<b>Possibly</b>	While the quantum of growth may well change as a result of changing need / demand for employment land and housing, it does not necessarily mean that strategy and spatial distribution at the core of the adopted Local Plan (a focus on regeneration of Skelmersdale, and secondary focus on other key service centres) will need to change. This issue will need to be explored as part of the preparation and evidence gathering for a new Local Plan.
<b>B3</b>	<b>Your policies update is likely to affect more than a single strategic site or one or more strategic policies that will have consequential impacts on other policies of the plan.</b>	<b>YES</b>	Regardless of the details of the changes to housing and employment land requirements, the timing of a new Local Plan being adopted (likely 2023) will mean that the new Plan period will run more than 10 years beyond the adopted Local Plan. As a result, there will almost certainly need to be new strategic site allocations and changes to strategic policies in general.
	<b>You have answered yes to one or more questions above.</b>		<b>You are likely to need to undertake a full update of your spatial strategy and strategic policies (and potentially non-strategic policies). Use your responses above to complete Section B4.</b>
	<b>You have said no to <u>all</u> questions (B1 to B3) above</b>		<b>If you are confident that the update can be undertaken without impacting on your spatial strategy and other elements of the Plan, you are likely to only need to undertake a partial update of policies. Complete Section B4 to indicate the specific parts / policies of the plan that are likely to require updating based on the answers you have given above.</b>
<b>B4</b>	<p><b><u>Decision:</u> Full Update of Plan Policies</b></p> <p><b>Reasons for scope of review:</b></p> <p>As set out above</p>		

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<b>Date of assessment:</b>	12 December 2019
<b>Assessed by:</b>	Peter Richards – Strategic Planning, Regeneration and Implementation Manager
<b>Checked by:</b>	Ian Gill – Head of Growth and Development Services
<b>Comments:</b>	<p>The above assessment clearly shows that Cabinet's decision in September 2019 to "imminently" prepare a new Local Plan was the correct one, as it cannot be concluded that the adopted Local Plan does not need updating. As such, in accordance with paragraph 33 of the NPPF, it is now incumbent on the Council to prepare an updated Local Plan which will need to look ahead over a minimum 15-year period from the date of anticipated adoption (i.e. 2023-2038).</p>