

# **Integrated Assessment of the Bury Local Plan Draft Local Plan**

## **Bury Council**

### **Final report**

Prepared by LUC

February 2025

Version	Status	Prepared	Checked	Approved	Date
1	Draft IA Report	O. Price H. Ennis L. Haddad K. Nicholls	K. Nicholls	K. Nicholls	28.01.2025
2	Final IA Report	O. Price H. Ennis L. Haddad K. Nicholls	K. Nicholls	K. Nicholls	14.02.2025



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Integrated Assessment of the Bury Local Plan

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# Chapter 1

## Introduction

**1.1** Bury Council commissioned LUC in August 2024 to carry out an Integrated Assessment (IA) of the emerging new Bury Local Plan. The Local Plan is being prepared to guide and manage future growth and development and will sit alongside the adopted Places for Everyone (PfE) Joint Development Plan, providing a more detailed set of locally-specific planning policies to set the planning framework for Bury up to 2042. Once adopted, the Bury Local Plan will replace the existing Unitary Development Plan (UDP) 1997 policies which will either be discontinued or replaced, and these will no longer form part of the Borough's Statutory Development Plan.

**1.2** IA is an assessment process designed to consider and report upon the significant sustainability issues and effects of emerging plans and policies, including their reasonable alternatives. IA iteratively informs the plan-making process by helping to refine the contents of such documents, so that they maximise the benefits of sustainable development and avoid, or at least minimise, the potential for adverse effects. The IA comprises Sustainability Appraisal (SA) incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), Health Impact Assessment (HIA) and Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA).

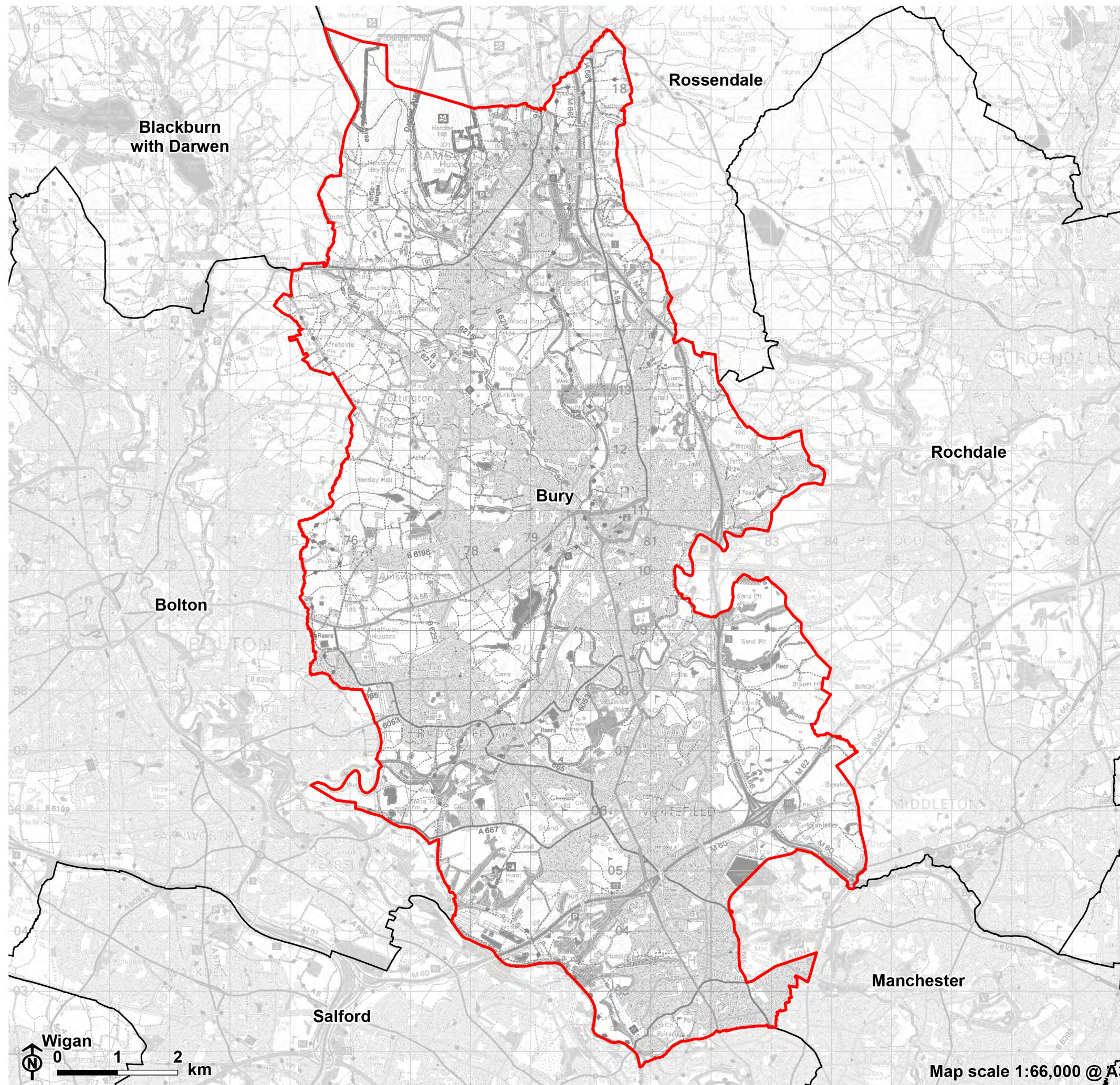
**1.3** This IA report relates to the Draft Local Plan (March 2025) and it should be read in conjunction with that document.

## The Plan Area

**1.4** Bury lies in the north of Greater Manchester on the edge of the western Pennines (see **Figure 1.1**) and covers an area of nearly 10,000 hectares. The population of the Borough at the time of the 2021 Census was 193,800.

**1.5** The Borough is one of ten councils that make up the Greater Manchester Combined Authority and consists of six towns – Bury, Ramsbottom, Tottington, Radcliffe, Whitefield and Prestwich – as well as areas of open countryside in the north. The south of the Borough in particular is strongly influenced by its proximity to Manchester City Centre.

Figure 1.1: Location of Bury



## The Bury Local Plan

**1.6** Following the adoption of the Places for Everyone Joint Plan (PfE) in March 2024, the Council is now moving forward with a new Local Plan for Bury.

**1.7** A Local Plan is prepared to guide and manage future growth and development and contains planning policies that will be used as the basis for determining planning applications. It is not anticipated at this stage that the Bury Local Plan will identify site allocations as these are addressed through PfE.

**1.8** The new Bury Local Plan will form part of a set of documents that will together form Bury's overall development plan. The development plan for Bury will ultimately comprise of:

- the Bury Local Plan;
- the Places for Everyone Joint Development Plan (PfE);
- the Greater Manchester Joint Waste Plan; and
- the Greater Manchester Joint Minerals Plan.

**1.9** PfE was jointly prepared by nine of the ten Greater Manchester districts, including Bury. It establishes the strategic planning framework within which the nine districts will prepare Local Plans. Some major strategic decisions relating to Bury's future growth and development have already been made through PfE. For example, it identifies future needs for housing and employment floorspace, allocates strategic sites to help meet these needs and identifies a revised Green Belt boundary.

**1.10** Bury's Local Plan will provide a more detailed set of locally-specific planning policies to complement PfE. Given that both PfE and the Local Plan will be key parts of Bury's development plan, there is a clear need for consistency between the two. In particular, the Local Plan will need to incorporate and reflect the levels of growth and the strategic policy approach set out in PfE.

**1.11** At an early stage in the preparation of the Local Plan, Bury Council invited comments on what the Local Plan ought to contain and issued a Call for Sites, as well as consulting on the IA Scoping Report over a six-week period from 25th March to 6th May 2024. The Call for Sites gave individuals, landowners and developers an early opportunity to suggest sites that could be identified for development or, conversely, sites that should be protected from development through the Local Plan. However, as noted above, at this stage the Council does not consider that it will be necessary to allocate sites in the Local Plan. The site options put forward are therefore not subject to appraisal in this IA report.

## Structure of the Draft Local Plan

**1.12** The Draft Local Plan document sets out 17 strategic objectives which will support the delivery of the overarching Vision for the Borough. There are also 75 policies within the Draft Plan, which is structured as follows:

- Vision and Strategic Objectives
- Adapting to Climate Change
  - LP-CC1: Climate Change
- Meeting our Housing Needs
  - LP-H1: Housing Land Provision
  - LP-H2: Windfall Housing Development
  - LP-H3: Housing Mix
  - LP-H4: Affordable Housing Provision
  - LP-H5: Housing for Older People and People with Disabilities
  - LP-H6: Housing for Looked After Children and Care Leavers
  - LP-H7: Custom, Self-Build and Community-led Housing
  - LP-H8: Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople
  - LP-H9: Alterations and Extensions to Residential Properties

- LP-H10: Residential Conversions
- LP-H11: Houses in Multiple Occupation
- Delivering Economic Growth
  - LP-E1: Employment Floorspace Requirements
  - LP-E2: Business, Industrial and Warehousing Development
  - LP-E3: Office Development
  - LP-E4: Employment Generating Areas
  - LP-E5: Employment sites outside Employment Generating Areas
- Supporting our Centres
  - LP-TC1: Hierarchy and Role of Centres
  - LP-TC2: Managing the Location and Scale of Main Town Centre Uses
  - LP-TC3: Primary Shopping Areas
  - LP-TC4: Local and Neighbourhood Centres
  - LP-TC5: Local Shops and Services
  - LP-TC6: Upper Floors in Centres
- Promoting Tourism and Culture
  - LP-TO1: Tourism and Cultural Assets
- Creating Healthy and Successful Communities
  - LP-CM1: New Development and Social Value
  - LP-CM2: New Development and Health
  - LP-CM3: Education Provision in New Housing
  - LP-CM4: Community Facilities
- Promoting Sustainable Transport
  - LP-TR1: Sustainable Transport
  - LP-TR2: Walking, Wheeling and Cycling

- LP-TR3: Public Transport
- LP-TR4: Travel Hubs
- LP-TR5: Highways
- LP-TR6: Parking Provision and Drop-off Facilities
- LP-TR7: Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure
- Conserving the Built Environment and Achieving High Quality Design
  - LP-BE1: Conservation Areas
  - LP-BE2: Listed Buildings
  - LP-BE3: Scheduled Monuments
  - LP-BE4: Archaeological Features
  - LP-BE5: Local Non-Designated Heritage Assets
  - LP-BE6: Design and Layout of New Development
  - LP-BE7: Regeneration Opportunity Areas
  - LP-BE8: Amenity
  - LP-BE9: Food and Drink Uses
  - LP-BE10: Advertisements
- Protecting Green Infrastructure and Recreation
  - LP-GI1: Green and Blue Infrastructure
  - LP-GI2: Open Space, Sport and Recreation
  - LP-GI3: Open Space, Sport and Recreation Provision in New Housing
  - LP-GI4: Strategic Recreation Routes
  - LP-GI5: Biodiversity Assets
  - LP-GI6: Biodiversity Net Gains from New Development
  - LP-GI7: Local Nature Recovery Network
  - LP-GI8: Trees, Woodland and Hedgerows

- LP-GI9: Geology and Geodiversity
- LP-GI10: Soils
- Protecting the Green Belt
  - LP-GB1: Limited Infilling in Village Settlements
  - LP-GB2: Conversion and Re-use of Buildings in the Green Belt
  - LP-GB3: Agriculture, Forestry and Other Occupational Dwellings in the Green Belt
  - LP-GB4: Agricultural Diversification in the Green Belt
  - LP-GB5: Equestrian Development in the Green Belt
- Managing Water and Flood Risk
  - LP-W1: New Development and Flood Risk
  - LP-W2: Sustainable Drainage
  - LP-W3: Water Resources
  - LP-W4: Water Efficiency
  - LP-W5: Public Water Supply Catchment Areas
  - LP-W6: Development Near Wastewater Infrastructure
- Addressing Air Quality, Pollution and Hazards
  - LP-AP1: Air Quality and Pollution Control
  - LP-AP2: Contaminated and Unstable Land
  - LP-AP3: Control of Hazardous Uses
  - LP-AP4: Development Near Hazardous Installations
- Delivering Other Infrastructure
  - LP-OI1: Digital and Communications Infrastructure
  - LP-OI2: Protecting Digital Infrastructure
  - LP-OI3: Public Utilities Infrastructure

- Development Management
  - LP-DM1: Planning Conditions and Obligations
  - LP-DM2: Planning Enforcement

## Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment

**1.13** Under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, Sustainability Appraisal (SA) is mandatory for Development Plan Documents. For these documents it is also necessary to conduct an environmental assessment in accordance with the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Regulations (as amended) [\[See reference 1\]](#). The SEA Regulations remain in force post-Brexit and it is a legal requirement for the Bury Local Plan to be subject to SA and SEA throughout its preparation. SA and SEA are tools used at the plan-making stage to assess the likely effects of the plan when judged against reasonable alternatives. SEA considers only the environmental effects of a plan, while SA considers the plan's wider economic and social effects in addition to its potential environmental impacts. SA should meet all of the requirements of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004, so a separate SEA should not be required. An approach which satisfies the requirements for both SA and SEA is advocated in the Government's Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) [\[See reference 2\]](#). Practitioners can comply with the requirements of the SEA Regulations through a single integrated SA process – this is the process that is being undertaken by Bury Council. From here on, the term 'SA' should therefore be taken to mean 'SA incorporating the requirements of the SEA Regulations'.

**1.14** On 26 October 2023, the Levelling-up and Regeneration Act received royal assent and became an Act of Parliament. The Act [\[See reference 3\]](#) sets out in detail the Government's proposals for reforming the planning system. Amongst other things, the Act sets the stage for the reform of the current system for SEA by providing instead for 'Environmental Outcomes Reports' designed to streamline the process for identifying and assessing the

environmental impact of plans and projects. The specific requirements will be set out in forthcoming legislation, along with information about transition arrangements but for now, the requirement for SEA remains, as set out in existing legislation. Any changes to the legal framework for carrying out SA/SEA will be addressed as the Local Plan is prepared.

**1.15** The SA process comprises a number of stages, as shown below.

**Stage A:** Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope.

**Stage B:** Developing and refining options and assessing effects.

**Stage C:** Preparing the Sustainability Appraisal Report.

**Stage D:** Consulting on the plan and the Sustainability Appraisal Report.

**Stage E:** Monitoring the significant effects of implementing the plan.

## Health Impact Assessment

**1.16** Although not a statutory requirement, HIA aims to ensure that health-related issues are integrated into the plan-making process. Sustainability objectives that address health issues have been included as part of the IA process and in this way the HIA of the Bury Local Plan is being carried out as part of the IA. Recommendations will be made where appropriate in relation to how the health-related impacts of the Local Plan can be optimised.

## Equality Impact Assessment

**1.17** The requirement to undertake formal EqIA of development plans was introduced in the Equality Act 2010 but was abolished in 2012. Despite this, authorities are still required to have regard to the provisions of the Equality Act, namely the Public Sector Duty which requires public authorities to have due regard for equalities considerations when exercising their functions.

**1.18** In fulfilling this duty, many authorities still find it useful to produce a written record of equality issues having been specifically considered. Therefore, an EqIA is being carried out as part of the IA, setting out how the Bury Local Plan is likely to be compatible or incompatible with the requirements of the Equality Act 2010. This is achieved through the inclusion of a relevant IA objective (see **Chapter 3**).

## Meeting the Requirements of the SEA Regulations

**1.19** The following section signposts the relevant sections of this IA Report that are considered to meet the SEA Regulations requirements. This section will be included in the IA Report at each stage of plan preparation to show how the requirements of the SEA Regulations have been met through the IA process.

### Environmental Report

#### SEA Regulations Requirements

- Where an environmental assessment is required by any provision of Part 2 of these Regulations, the responsible Authority shall prepare, or secure the preparation of, an environmental report in accordance with paragraphs

(2) and (3) of this regulation. The report shall identify, describe and evaluate the likely significant effects on the environment of:

- Implementing the plan or programme; and
- Reasonable alternatives taking into account the objectives and geographical scope of the plan or programme.
- Regulation 12(1) and (2) and Schedule 2

## **Covered in this Report?**

- This IA Report which has been produced to accompany consultation on the Draft Local Plan constitutes the 'environmental report'.

## **SEA Regulations Requirements**

- An outline of the contents and main objectives of the plan or programme, and its relationship with other relevant plans and programmes.

## **Covered in this Report?**

- Chapter 1, Chapter 3, Appendix B and Appendix C

## **SEA Regulations Requirements**

- The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme.

## **Covered in this Report?**

- Chapter 1, Chapter 3, Appendix B and Appendix C

## **SEA Regulations Requirements**

- The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected.

## **Covered in this Report?**

- Chapter 1, Chapter 3, Appendix B and Appendix C

## **SEA Regulations Requirements**

- 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 on the conservation of wild bird and the Habitats Directive.

## **Covered in this Report?**

- Chapter 1, Chapter 3, Appendix B and Appendix C

## **SEA Regulations Requirements**

- The environment 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.

## **Covered in this Report?**

- Chapter 1, Chapter 3, Appendix B and Appendix C

## SEA Regulations Requirements

- The likely significant effects on the environment, including short, medium and long-term effects, permanent and temporary effects, positive effects, and secondary cumulative and synergistic effects, 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 issues referred to in sub-paragraphs (a) to (l).

## Covered in this Report?

- Chapter 4

## SEA Regulations Requirements

- 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.

## **Covered in this Report?**

- Chapter 4

## **SEA Regulations Requirements**

- An outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with, and a description of how the assessment was undertaken including any difficulties (such as technical deficiencies or lack of know-how) encountered in compiling the required information.

## **Covered in this Report?**

- Chapter 2

## **SEA Regulations Requirements**

- A description of the measures envisaged concerning monitoring in accordance with Regulation 17.

## **Covered in this Report?**

- Chapter 5

## **SEA Regulations Requirements**

- A non-technical summary of the information is provided under paragraphs 1 to 9.

## **Covered in this Report?**

- A separate non-technical summary document has been prepared to accompany this report.

## SEA Regulations Requirements

- The report shall include such of the information referred to in Schedule 2 to these Regulations as may reasonably be required, taking account of:
  - Current knowledge and methods of assessment;
  - The contents and level of detail in the plan or programme;
  - The stage of the plan or programme in the decision-making process; and
  - The extent to which certain matters are more appropriately assessed at different levels in that process in order to avoid duplication of the assessment.
- Regulation 12(3)

## Covered in this Report?

- The Environmental Report at each stage of the IA will adhere to this requirement.

## Consultation

## SEA Regulations Requirements

- When deciding on the scope and level of detail of the information that must be included in the environmental report, the responsible Authority shall consult the consultation bodies.
- Regulation 12(5)

## **Covered in this Report?**

- The IA Scoping Report was produced by Bury Council and consulted on between March and May 2024. The responses received are summarised in Appendix A.

## **SEA Regulations Requirements**

- Authorities with environmental responsibility and the public, shall be given an early and effective opportunity within appropriate time frames to express their opinion on the draft plan or programme and the accompanying environmental report before the adoption of the plan or programme.
- Regulation 13

## **Covered in this Report?**

- Consultation on the Draft Local Plan is taking place between March and May 2025. The consultation document is accompanied by this IA Report.

## **SEA Regulations Requirements**

- Other EU Member States, where the implementation of the plan or programme is likely to have significant effects on the environment of that country.
- Regulation 14

## **Covered in this Report?**

- The Bury Local Plan is not expected to have significant effects on other EU Member States.

Taking the environmental report and the results of the consultations into account in decision-making (relevant extracts of Regulation 16)

## SEA Regulations Requirements

- Provision of information on the decision:
- When the plan or programme is adopted, the public and any countries consulted under Regulation 14 must be informed and the following made available to those so informed:
  - The plan or programme as adopted;
  - A statement summarising how environmental considerations have been integrated into the plan or programme and how the environmental report, the opinions expressed, and the results of consultations entered into have been taken into account, and the reasons for choosing the plan or programme as adopted, in the light of the other reasonable alternatives dealt with; and
  - The measures decided concerning monitoring.

## Covered in this Report?

- To be addressed after the Bury Local Plan is adopted.

## Monitoring

## SEA Regulations Requirements

- The responsible Authority shall monitor the significant effects of the implementation of each plan or programme with the purpose of identifying

unforeseen adverse effects at an early stage and being able to undertake appropriate remedial action.

- Regulation 17(1)

## Covered in this Report?

- Chapter 5 proposes indicators for monitoring the likely significant effects of the Bury Local Plan.

## Structure of the IA Report

**1.20** This chapter has described the background to the production of the Bury Local Plan and the requirement to undertake SA and SEA as part of the Integrated Assessment. The remainder of this IA Report is structured into the following sections:

- Chapter 2: Methodology describes the approach that is being taken to the IA of the Bury Local Plan.
- Chapter 3: Sustainability Context describes the relationship between the Bury Local Plan and other relevant plans, policies and programmes; summarises the social, economic and environmental characteristics of Bury, and identifies the key sustainability issues it faces.
- Chapter 4: Integrated Assessment Findings for the Draft Local Plan presents the IA findings for the policies in the Draft Local Plan (March 2025) and describes the likely cumulative effects of the emerging plan.
- Chapter 5: Monitoring describes suggested indicators for monitoring the potential sustainability effects of the Bury Local Plan.
- Chapter 6: Conclusions presents the conclusions of the IA of the Draft Local Plan and describes the next steps to be undertaken.
- Appendix A: Consultation Comments Received in Relation to the IA Scoping Report (March 2024) presents a record of the consultation

comments received in relation to the IA Scoping Report in Spring 2024 and explains how they have been addressed.

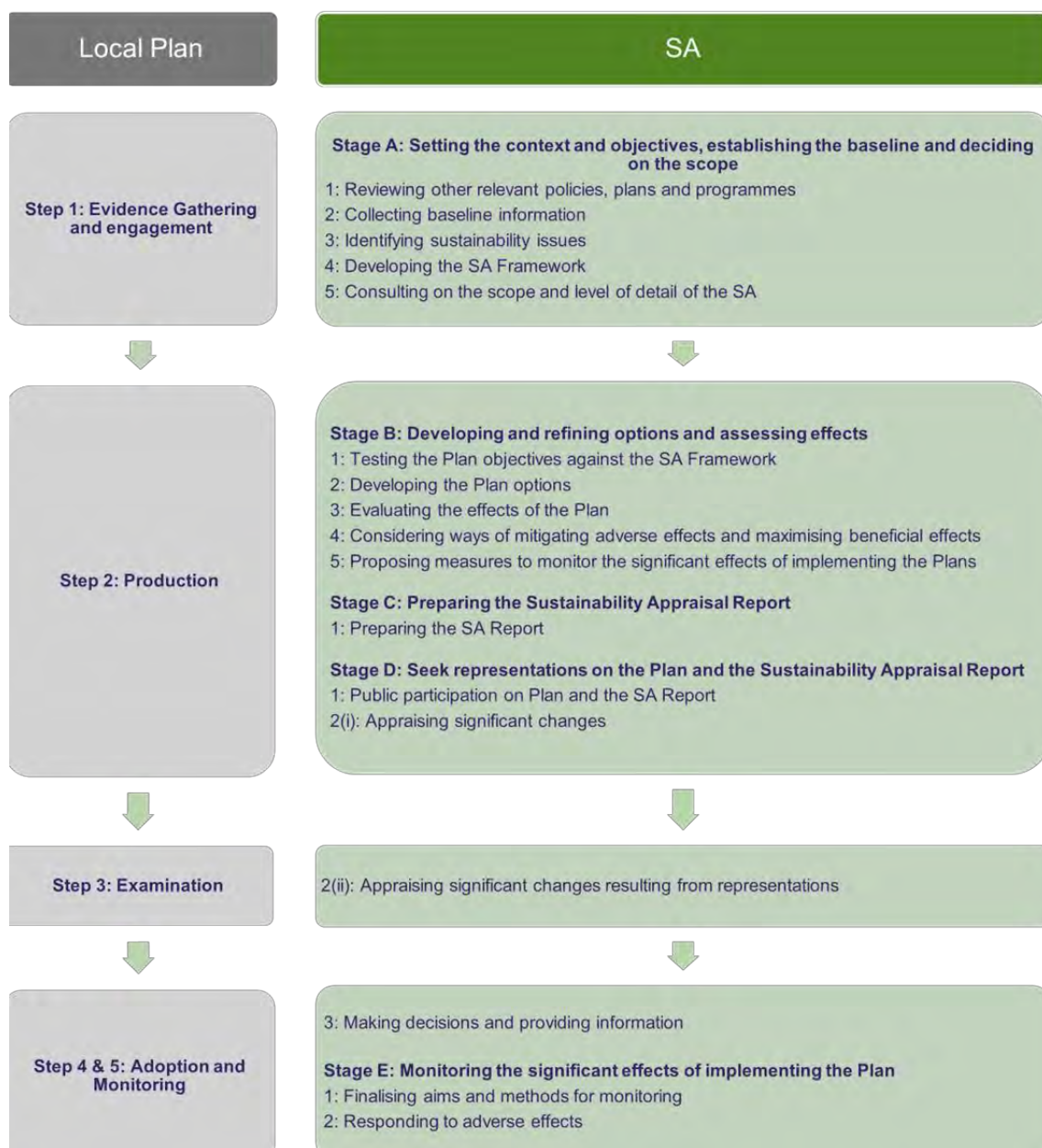
- Appendix B: Review of Relevant Plans, Policies and Programmes presents a review of international, national and local plans, policies and programmes of relevance to the IA.
- Appendix C: Baseline Information presents the baseline information for Bury.

## Chapter 2

# Methodology

**2.1** In addition to complying with legal requirements, the approach being taken to the IA of the Bury Local Plan is based on current good practice and the guidance on SA/SEA set out in the Government's Planning Practice Guidance (PPG). This calls for SA to be carried out as an integral part of the plan-making process. **Figure 2.1** overleaf sets out the main stages of the plan-making process and shows how these correspond to the SA process (in this being undertaken as part of a wider IA process).

**Figure 2.1: Corresponding stages in plan-making and SA**



**2.2** The sections below describe the approach that has been taken to the IA of the Bury Local Plan to date and provide information on the subsequent stages of the process.

## **IA Stage A: Scoping**

**2.3** The Scoping stage of IA involves understanding the social, economic and environmental baseline for the plan area as well as the sustainability policy context and key sustainability issues and using these to inform the appraisal framework. The Scoping stage of the IA was carried out by Bury Council in Spring 2024.

### **Review Other Relevant Policies, Plans and Programmes to Establish Policy Context**

**2.4** A Local Plan is not prepared in isolation; rather it is prepared within the context of other policies, plans and programmes. The SEA Regulations require the Environmental Report to describe the relationship of the plan with other relevant plans and programmes. It should also be consistent with environmental protection legislation and support the attainment of sustainability objectives that have been established at the international, national, and regional/sub-regional levels.

**2.5** A review was therefore undertaken of other policies, plans, and programmes at the international, national, regional and sub-regional levels that were considered to be relevant to the scope of the Bury Local Plan. This review was originally presented in the IA Scoping Report and has been updated as part of the preparation of this IA Report. The current version is presented in full in Appendix B and is summarised in Chapter 3.

## Collect Baseline Information to Establish Sustainability Context

**2.6** Information on existing environmental, social and economic conditions in the plan area provides the baseline against which the plan's effects can be assessed in the IA and monitored during the plan's implementation.

**2.7** Baseline information can also be combined with an understanding of drivers of change that are likely to persist regardless of the plan to understand the likely future sustainability conditions in the absence of the plan.

**2.8** The SEA Regulations require the Environmental Report to describe relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and how they are likely to evolve without the plan. An understanding of this likely future, together with the assessed effects of the plan itself, allows the IA to report on the likely cumulative effects of the plan, which is another requirement of the SEA Regulations.

**2.9** The SEA Regulations require an assessment of effects in relation to the following 'SEA topics': biodiversity, population, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage (including architectural and archaeological heritage), landscape, and the inter-relationship between these. Baseline information was therefore collected at the Scoping stage in relation to these SEA topics as well as additional sustainability topics covering broader socio-economic issues such as housing, access to services, crime and safety, education and employment. This reflects the integrated approach that is being taken to the SA and SEA processes. As part of the preparation of this IA Report, the baseline information for Bury which was originally presented in the IA Scoping Report has been reviewed and updated where possible. It has also been expanded to ensure that it provides a comprehensive and robust basis for informing the IA, in particular ensuring that an appropriate level of detail is provided in relation to all of the SEA topics. The updated and expanded baseline information is presented in Appendix C.

## Identify Key Sustainability Issues

**2.10** The baseline information allows for the identification of existing sustainability issues, including problems as required by the SEA Regulations.

**2.11** Key sustainability issues facing Bury and an analysis of their likely evolution without the new Local Plan are detailed in Chapter 3. Key sustainability issues for Bury were originally identified in the IA Scoping Report (March 2024) and these have been revised as part of the preparation of this IA report, to reflect the expanded baseline information and in response to consultation comments received.

## Develop the IA Framework

**2.12** The relevant sustainability objectives identified by the review of other policies, plans, and programmes, together with the key sustainability issues facing Bury identified by the collection and review of baseline information, helped to inform the development of a set of sustainability objectives (the 'IA framework') against which the effects of the Bury Local Plan would be assessed.

**2.13** Development of the IA framework is not a requirement of the SEA Regulations but is a recognised way in which the likely sustainability effects of a plan can be transparently and consistently described, analysed and compared. The IA framework comprises a series of sustainability objectives and supporting criteria that are used to guide the appraisal of options and policies within a plan.

**2.14** The IA framework for the Bury Local Plan is presented in Chapter 3. The IA objectives reflect the analysis of international, national and local policy objectives, the baseline information and the key sustainability issues identified for Bury. The IA framework was originally presented in the Scoping Report and a small number of amendments have since been made to the framework as a result of consultation comments received and to ensure that the framework is

user friendly and allows for the clear identification of likely significant effects in relation to each of the SEA topics individually.

## Consult on the Scope and Level of Detail of the IA

**2.15** Public and stakeholder participation is an important element of the IA and wider plan-making processes. It helps to ensure that the IA Report is robust and has due regard for all appropriate information that will support the plan in making a contribution to sustainable development.

**2.16** The SEA Regulations require the statutory consultation bodies (the Environment Agency, Historic England, and Natural England) to be consulted “when deciding on the scope and level of detail of the information that must be included” in the IA Report. The scope and level of detail of the IA is governed by the IA framework. The consultation undertaken on the Scoping Report therefore incorporated consultation with the statutory consultees on the IA framework. This consultation was undertaken between March and May 2024.

**2.17** Appendix A lists the comments that were received on the scope of the IA during this period of consultation and describes how each one has been addressed in the preparation of this IA report.

## SA Stage B: Developing and Refining Options and Assessing Effects

**2.18** Developing options for a plan is an iterative process, usually involving a number of consultations with the public and stakeholders. Consultation responses and the IA can help to identify where there may be other ‘reasonable alternatives’ to the options being considered for a plan.

**2.19** In relation to the IA report, Part 3 of the SEA Regulations 12 (2) requires that:

“The report must identify, describe and evaluate the likely significant effects on the environment of—

(a) implementing the plan or programme; and

(b) reasonable alternatives, taking into account the objectives and the geographical scope of the plan or programme.”

Schedule 2 (h) of the SEA Regulations requires that the Environmental Report includes a description of:

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

**2.20** The SEA Regulations require that the alternative policies considered for inclusion in a plan that must be subject to IA are ‘reasonable’, therefore alternatives that are not reasonable do not need to be subject to appraisal. Examples of unreasonable alternatives could include policy options that do not meet the objectives of the plan or national policy (e.g. the NPPF).

**2.21** The IA findings are not the only factors taken into account when determining a preferred option to take forward in a plan. Indeed, there will often be an equal number of positive or negative effects identified by the IA for each option, such that it is not possible to rank them based on sustainability performance in order to select a preferred option. Factors such as public opinion, deliverability and conformity with national policy will also be taken into account by plan-makers when selecting preferred options for their plan.

**2.22** The scope of the options to be considered through this IA has been limited, as the overall strategy and site allocations are made through PfE. Where

alternatives to the policies in the Draft Local Plan exist, these have been subject to IA alongside the draft policies in Chapter 4 of this report.

## **SA Stage C: Preparing the Sustainability Appraisal (in this case IA) Report**

**2.23** This IA Report describes the process that has been undertaken to date in carrying out the IA of the Bury Local Plan. It sets out the IA findings for the policies in the Draft Local Plan consultation document, as well as the reasonable alternative options considered. Likely significant effects, both positive and negative, have been presented, taking into account the likely secondary, cumulative, synergistic, short, medium and long-term and permanent and temporary effects where relevant.

**2.24** The IA findings are set out in Chapter 4 of this IA Report, along with information about how recommendations have been made through the IA process for improvements and clarifications to help to mitigate negative effects and maximise the benefits of the Bury Local Plan.

## **SA Stage D: Consultation on the Bury Local Plan and the IA Report**

**2.25** Information about consultation that has already taken place at earlier stages of plan-making has been provided above. Bury Council is now inviting comments on the Draft Local Plan. This IA Report is being published on the Council's website at the same time as the consultation on the Draft Local Plan, so that the two documents can be read in parallel. Consultation comments received on this IA Report will be taken into account at the next stage of the IA.

## SA Stage E: Monitoring Implementation of the Local Plan

**2.26** Draft indicators for monitoring the likely significant social, environmental and economic effects of implementing the Bury Local Plan are included in Chapter 5 of this report and these will be updated as appropriate during later stages of the IA.

### Appraisal Methodology

**2.27** The policies in the Draft Local Plan and the reasonable alternative options considered have been appraised against the IA objectives in the IA framework (see **Table 3.2** in **Chapter 3**), with symbols being attributed to each policy or option to indicate its likely effect on each IA objective as shown in **Table 2.1**. Where a potential positive or negative effect is uncertain, a question mark was added to the relevant symbol (e.g. +? Or -?) and the symbol was colour coded in line with the potential positive, negligible or negative effect (e.g. green, yellow, orange, etc.).

**2.28** The likely effects of options need to be determined and their significance assessed, which inevitably requires a series of judgments to be made. The appraisal has attempted to differentiate between the most significant effects and other more minor effects through the use of the symbols shown in **Table 2.1**. The dividing line in making a decision about the significance of an effect is often quite small. Where either (++) or (--) has been used to distinguish significant effects from more minor effects (+ or -) this is because the effect of an option or policy on the IA objective in question is considered to be of such magnitude that it will have a noticeable and measurable effect taking into account other factors that may influence the achievement of that objective.

**Table 2.1: Key to symbols and colour coding used in the IA**

Symbol and Colour Coding	Description
++	Significant positive effect likely.
++/-	Mixed significant positive and minor negative effects likely.
+	Minor positive effect likely.
+/	Mixed minor or significant effects likely.
++/--	Mixed minor or significant effects likely.
-	Minor negative effect likely.
--/+	Mixed significant negative and minor positive effects likely.
	Significant negative effect likely.
0	Negligible effect likely.
?	Likely effect uncertain.

## Difficulties and Data Limitations

**2.29** The SEA Regulations, Schedule 2(8) require the Environmental Report to include:

“...a description of how the assessment was undertaken including any difficulties (such as technical deficiencies or lack of know-how) encountered in compiling the required information.”

**2.30** A small number of difficulties and limitations have arisen in the course of the IA to date, as follows:

- The available GIS data for agricultural land classification did not distinguish between Grade 3a (considered to be best and most versatile agricultural land) and 3b (not considered to be best and most versatile agricultural land).
- The rate at which emissions from private vehicles will change over the course of the plan period as a result of technological improvements cannot be predicted or realistically factored into judgements about air quality and carbon emissions.
- Bury Council is currently preparing an update to its evidence base for green infrastructure and recreation.

## Chapter 3

# Sustainability Context

**3.1** Schedule 2 of the SEA Regulations requires information on the following (numbering relates to the specific numbered list in Schedule 2):

1. “an outline of the contents and main objectives of the Plan and its relationship with other relevant plans or programmes”; and
5. “the environmental protection objectives established at International, Community or Member State level, which are relevant to the plan and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation”.

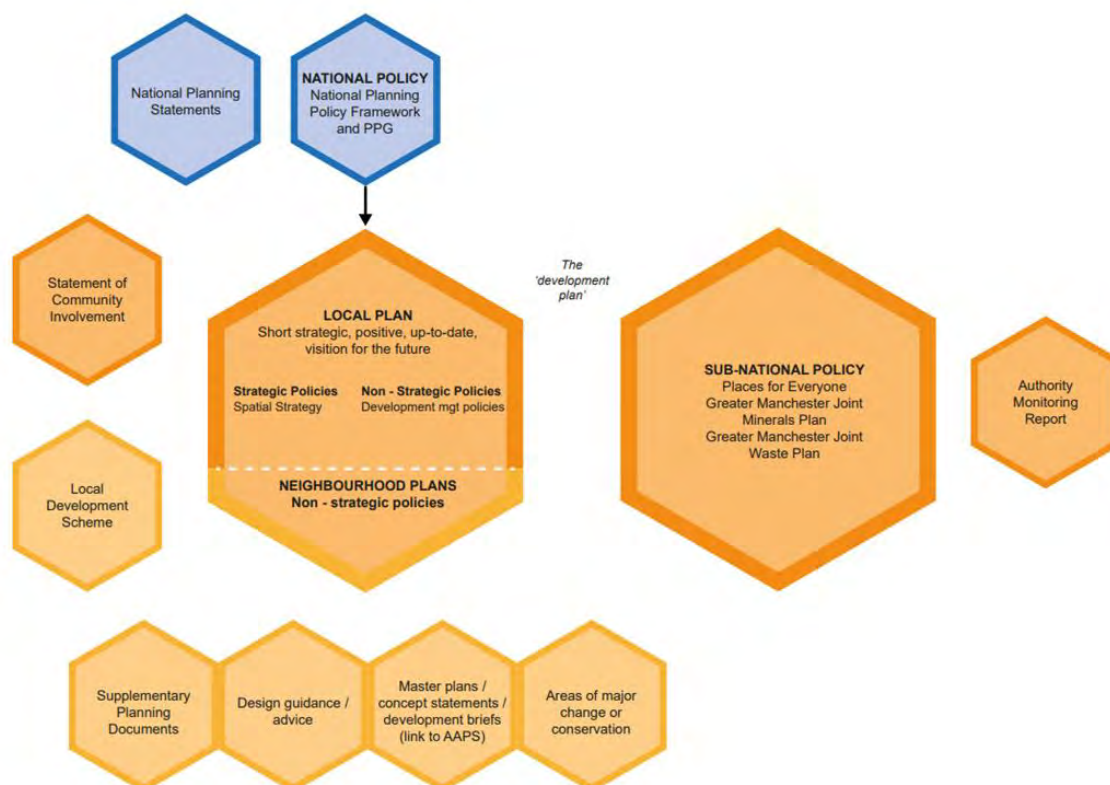
**3.2** A description of the Draft Local Plan consultation document was provided in Chapter 1. The other reporting requirements are met in this chapter.

## Relationship with Other Relevant Plans or Programmes

**3.3** The Bury Local Plan is not prepared in isolation and must be in conformity with a range of international and national plans and programmes as shown below in **Figure 3.1**. The Bury Local Plan will replace the existing saved policies of the Bury Unitary Development Plan and will form part of Bury’s wider Development Plan, alongside Places for Everyone (PfE) and the Greater Manchester Joint Minerals and Waste Plans which have already been adopted. Bury’s Development Plan is supported by other documents such as the Statement of Community Involvement, Local Development Scheme, Authority

Monitoring Report and Supplementary Planning Documents, also shown in Figure 3.1.

**Figure 3.1: Relationship between the Bury Local Plan and other relevant plans or programme**



## Policy Context

**3.4** The policy context in which the Bury Local Plan is being prepared informs consideration of what constitute reasonable alternative policy options for that document as well as the framework of sustainability objectives against which it will be appraised. It should be noted that the policy context is inherently uncertain as the current framework outlined here is likely to change in response to a number of key factors:

- Change in Government – the new Labour Government elected in July 2024 is implementing changes to existing planning policy and, following consultation in Summer 2024, an updated version of the National Planning Framework was published in December 2024. Some of the key reforms include a new standard method for assessing housing needs and release of grey belt land.
- Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023 – The Act sets out various planning reforms including the replacement of the SA/SEA regime with ‘Environmental Outcomes Reports’; replacement of the CIL process and much of the section 106 payments system with a new national infrastructure levy; a shared framework of National Development Management Policies, removing much of this detail from Local Plans; replacement of supplementary planning documents (SPD) with Supplementary Plans that carry more weight and but would be subject to examination; repeal of the Duty to Cooperate; a duty on public bodies and infrastructure providers to assist the local plan-making process; a speeded up plan-making process (plans to be prepared and adopted within 30 months); a strengthened role for the ‘national model design code’; replacement of Neighbourhood Plans with Neighbourhood Priorities Statements; removal of the NPPF requirement to demonstrate a rolling five-year supply of housing land, provided that the local plan is up to date; removal of the ‘soundness test’ for local plans to be ‘justified’.
- Slow economic growth in the UK economy – The UK experienced a technical recession in the second half of 2023, and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development has predicted that the UK will be one of the slowest growing economies in the G20 in 2024 and 2025. However, since April 2024 the UK economy has started to grow slowly with small levels of growth over the summer months, which represented the strongest rate of quarterly growth since the end of 2021.
- Brexit – Following the UK's departure from the European Union on 31st January 2020, it entered a transition period which ended on 31st December 2020. From January 2021, directly applicable EU law no longer applies to the UK and the UK is free to repeal EU law that has been transposed into UK law. Relevant EU legislation has still been referred to in this report.

- Planning and Infrastructure Bill – The Bill is to be published in early 2025, aiming to accelerate the delivery of high-quality infrastructure and housing.

**3.5** It is also possible that UK and sub-national climate change policy may change as public awareness and prioritisation of the threat of climate change grows, as illustrated by the increasing number of local authorities, including Bury Council, that have declared a climate emergency.

## International

**3.6** Former EU Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment (the 'SEA Directive') and Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (the 'Habitats Directive') were transposed into the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Regulations [\[See reference 4\]](#) and Habitats Regulations [\[See reference 5\]](#). Following the UK's departure from the EU, these Regulations still apply and require environmental assessment processes to be undertaken in relation to the Bury Local Plan. These processes should be undertaken iteratively and integrated into the production of the plan in order to ensure that any potential negative environmental effects (including on European-level nature conservation designations) are identified and can be mitigated.

**3.7** There were also a wide range of other EU Directives relating to issues such as water quality, waste and air quality, most of which are transposed into UK law through Acts, Regulations and national-level policy. The UK has now fully left the EU and therefore EU Directives no longer apply to the UK. The relevant Regulations are summarised in Appendix B.

## National

**3.8** There is an extensive range of national policies, plans and programmes that are relevant to the Bury Local Plan and the IA process. A pragmatic and proportionate approach has been taken with regards to the identification of key national policies, plans and programmes, focusing on those that are of most relevance. A summary of the main objectives of the NPPF and PPG of relevance to the Bury Local Plan and the IA is provided below. In addition, the main sustainability objectives of other national plans and programmes which are of most relevance to the Bury Local Plan and the IA are summarised in Appendix B.

## The National Planning Policy Framework and Planning Practice Guidance

**3.9** The NPPF is the overarching planning framework which provides national planning policy and principles for the planning system in England. The NPPF was originally published in March 2012 and has been revised several times since, with the most recent version being published in December 2024. However, the Bury Local Plan is being prepared under the July 2021 NPPF because it provides for the delivery of the level of development set out in a preceding plan (PfE), which was examined under the 2021 version of the NPPF. The 2024 NPPF sets out transitional arrangements and states that where a plan includes policies to deliver the level of housing and other development set out in a preceding local plan (such as a joint local plan containing strategic policies) adopted since 12th March 2020, the plan will be examined under the relevant previous version of the Framework. Therefore, throughout this report, references to the NPPF refer to the July 2021 version.

**3.10** Since the updates that were made in 2021, the NPPF places an increased focus on design quality. This includes for sites as well as for places as a whole. The terminology included in the Framework on protecting and enhancing the environment and promoting a sustainable pattern of development has been

revised. Furthermore, revisions are included in relation to policies which address opting out of permitted development, the use of masterplans and design codes and the important contribution of trees in new developments.

**3.11** The NPPF has been revised to include amendments to urban uplift and Green Belt. Further revisions also include allowing flexibility for local authorities in relation to local housing need; safeguarding local plans from densities that would be out of character; freeing local authorities with up-to-date local plans from annual updates to their five-year housing land supply; and continued support for self-build, custom-build and community-led housing. The NPPF also emphasises the role of beauty and placemaking in the planning system.

**3.12** The three overarching objectives of the planning system are set out in paragraph 8 of the 2021 NPPF, which should be pursued in mutually supportive ways so that net gains are achieved 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 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 objective – 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.”

**3.13** The Bury Local Plan must be consistent with the requirements of the 2021 NPPF, which states:

“Succinct and up-to-date plans should provide a positive vision for the future of each area; a framework for addressing housing needs and other economic, social and environmental priorities; and a platform for local people to shape their surroundings.”

**3.14** Paragraph 20 of the 2021 NPPF states the need for strategic policies in plan making, which set out the overall strategy for the pattern, scale and design quality of places, making sufficient provision for:

- “a) homes (including affordable housing), employment, retail, leisure and other commercial development;
- b) infrastructure for transport, telecommunications, security, waste management, water supply, wastewater, flood risk and coastal change management, and the provision of minerals and energy (including heat);
- c) community facilities (such as health, education and cultural infrastructure); and
- d) conservation and enhancement of the natural, built and historic environment, including landscapes and green infrastructure, and planning measures to address climate change mitigation and adaptation.”

**3.15** The PPG [\[See reference 6\]](#) provides guidance for how the Government’s planning policies for England are expected to be applied. Sitting alongside the

NPPF, it provides an online resource that is updated on a regular basis for the benefit of planning practitioners.

**3.16** The overarching nature of the NPPF means that its implications for the IA relate to multiple topics which this report seeks to address. Considering the importance of the NPPF to the English planning system, the relevance of the Framework and its implications for the plan making process and the IA is provided in more detail below.

**3.17** Climate change adaption and mitigation, energy efficiency and waste minimisation measures for new development including through the promotion of renewable energy schemes are also supported through the NPPF. One of the core planning principles is to “support the transition to a low carbon future in a changing climate, taking full account of flood risk and coastal change. It should help to: shape places in ways that contribute to radical reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, minimise vulnerability and improve resilience; encourage the reuse of existing resources, including the conversion of existing buildings; and support renewable and low carbon energy and associated infrastructure”. Furthermore, local planning authorities should adopt a proactive approach to mitigate and adapt to climate change, taking full account of flood risk, coastal change, water supply, biodiversity and landscapes, and the risk of overheating and drought from rising temperatures.

**3.18** Section 19 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 states how development plan documents must include policies designed to secure that the development and use of land in the local planning authority’s area contributes to the mitigation of, and adaptation to, climate change.

**3.19** The IA can consider the contribution the alternatives make in terms of their contribution to climate change mitigation as well as climate change adaptation. The IA can also facilitate the delivery of climate resilient places.

**3.20** Although Local Plans can no longer require levels of the Code for Sustainable Homes, they can promote the Home Quality Mark to support residents in understanding the quality and performance of new build homes and

can also set targets for developers to provide for a given percentage of energy used by a new development to come from on-site renewable or low carbon technologies. Local Plan policies can further support the development of renewable energy technologies where appropriate, in line with climate change mitigation strategies and targets.

**3.21** The Future Homes Standard is set to come into effect in 2025, with the aiming of ensuring that new homes built from 2025 onwards will produce 75-80% fewer carbon emissions. For non-residential uses BREEAM assessments or other similar assessments can be used by local authorities to ensure buildings meet sustainability objectives.

**3.22** The IA can consider the contribution the alternatives make in terms of contribution to climate change mitigation as well as climate change adaptation.

**3.23** In relation to health and wellbeing, the NPPF promotes healthy, inclusive and safe places which promote social interaction, as well as enable and support healthy lives. The Building for a Healthy Life design toolkit [\[See reference 7\]](#) can be used by local authorities to assist in the creation of places that are better for people and nature.

**3.24** One of the core planning principles is to “take into account and support the delivery of local strategies to improve health, social and cultural well-being for all sections of the community”. It is identified in the document that “a network of high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation is important for the health and well-being of communities”. Furthermore, the retention and enhancement of accessible local services and community facilities in villages, such as local shops, meeting places, sports, cultural venues, public houses and places of worship is supported. Importantly, Local Plans should also “contain policies to optimise the use of land in their area and meet as much of the identified need for housing as possible”. Additionally, larger scale developments such as new settlements or significant extensions to existing villages and towns are required by the NPPF to be guided by policies set within a vision that looks at least 30 years ahead [\[See reference 8\]](#). The need for policies to be

reflective of this longer time period is to take account of the likely timescale for delivery.

**3.25** The delivery of new housing is considered to support local communities by meeting housing needs and addressing shortages. While it will not determine the location of new development (as this is determined through PfE), the Bury Local Plan can have a significant influence on addressing inequalities including those relating to health. The IA process can support the identification and refinement of options that can contribute to reducing inequalities and support the development of policy approaches that cumulatively improve the wellbeing of local communities.

**3.26** The NPPF sets out the approach Local Plans should have in relation to biodiversity, stating that Plans should “identify, map and safeguard components of local wildlife-rich habitats and wider ecological networks, including the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites of importance for biodiversity; wildlife corridors and stepping stones that connect them; and areas identified by national and local partnerships for habitat management, enhancement, restoration or creation”. Plans should also promote conservation, restoration and enhancement of priority habitats and species, ecological networks and measurable net gains for biodiversity. A strategic approach to maintaining and enhancing networks of habitats and green and blue infrastructure is to be supported through planning policies.

**3.27** The Bury Local Plan should seek to maximise any opportunities arising for local economies, communities and health as well as biodiversity. This should be inclusive of approaches which are supportive of enhancing the connectivity of green and blue infrastructure and promoting the achievement of biodiversity net gain. The IA process should support the identification and maximisation of potential benefits through the consideration of alternatives and assessment of both negative and positive significant effects.

**3.28** In relation to landscape, the NPPF sets the planning principles of recognising the intrinsic beauty and character of the countryside as well as protecting and enhancing valued landscapes. Reference is included with

regards this purpose at National Parks, The Broads and National Landscapes. The NPPF also acknowledges the role of heritage in helping to define landscape character.

**3.29** The Bury Local Plan should be supportive of an approach to development which would protect the landscape character of the borough. The IA should identify those alternatives which contribute positively to landscape character.

**3.30** The NPPF states that in relation to the historic environment plans should “set out a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment, including heritage assets most at risk through neglect, decay or other threats”. Where appropriate, plans should seek to sustain and enhance the significance of heritage assets and local character and distinctiveness, while viable uses of assets should be considered. Plans should take into account the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits that conservation of the historic environment can bring. They should also consider the contribution the historic environment can make to the character of a place. The Framework places a focus on making ‘beautiful’ and ‘sustainable’ places. The use of plans, design policy, guidance and codes is encouraged. The IA provides an opportunity to test alternatives in terms of the contribution they can make to the protection and enhancement of the historic environment.

**3.31** The Bury Local Plan can take forward an approach which helps to limit adverse impacts on designated and non-designated heritage assets, including any potential archaeological finds in line with heritage protection and enhancement plans. The IA has a role to play by identifying which alternatives could offer opportunities to secure the protection and enhancement of assets as well as those which might have significant impacts in terms of their appropriate use and setting.

**3.32** The NPPF states that new and existing development should be prevented from contributing to, being put at an unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by, pollutions including water pollution and air quality. Inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding should be avoided. Plans should take a proactive approach to mitigating and adapting to climate change, taking into

account implications for water supply. Furthermore, strategic policies should set out an overall strategy for the pattern, scale and quality of development, and make sufficient infrastructure provision for water supply and wastewater.

**3.33** The Bury Local Plan presents an opportunity to consider incorporating targets for water efficiency and the level of water consumption and grey water recycling in any new development. The Bury Local Plan can ensure that appropriate water drainage is in place in line with flood risk strategies. The IA process should seek to identify and address potential negative effects on the water environment, including implications relating to wastewater.

**3.34** The NPPF states that planning system should protect and enhance soils in a manner commensurate with their statutory status or quality, while also encouraging the reuse of previously developed land.

**3.35** Plans can seek to ensure the appropriate protection of soil quality, including best and most versatile agricultural land. Further to this, plans should ensure that new development does not conflict with current mineral operations as well as long-term mineral resource plans. The IA process should inform the development of the Bury Local Plan by helping to identify alternatives which would avoid the areas of highest soil quality and best and most versatile agricultural land, as well as those which would promote the use of brownfield land (recognising that the overall spatial strategy and site allocations are already set through PfE).

**3.36** The Framework sets out that in terms of economic growth the role of the planning system is to contribute towards building a “strong, responsive and competitive economy” by ensuring that sufficient land of the right type is available in the right places and at the right time to support growth and innovation. There is also a requirement for the planning system to identify and coordinate the provision of infrastructure. Furthermore, planning policies should address the specific locational requirements of different sectors.

**3.37** Local planning authorities should incorporate planning policies which “support the role that town centres play at the heart of local communities, by

taking a positive approach to their growth, management and adaptation”. Local Plans are required to “set out a clear economic vision and strategy which positively and proactively encourages sustainable economic growth, having regard to Local Industrial Strategies and other local policies for economic development and regeneration”.

**3.38** The Bury Local Plan should seek to maximise the potential benefits of growth, whilst at the same time ensuring the vitality and viability of smaller localised economies. Ensuring that local town centres and services and facilities at settlements in the plan area are maintained and enhanced is also important and will also provide support for local communities. The IA process can support the development of the Bury Local Plan to ensure that its policies are considerate of impacts on the economy in the borough. The process can also be used to demonstrate that impacts on the viability of town centres in the area and surrounding areas have been considered.

**3.39** The NPPF encourages local planning authorities to consider transport issues from the earliest stages of plan making so that: opportunities to promote sustainable transport are identified and pursued; the environmental impacts of traffic and transport infrastructure can be identified and assessed; and opportunities from existing or proposed transport infrastructure and changing transport technology and usage are realised. The framework also states that the planning system should actively manage growth patterns in support of these objectives.

**3.40** Growth will inevitably increase traffic on the roads which also has implications for air quality, and the Local Plan and IA process can seek to minimise effects of this nature by identifying where mitigation may be needed and requiring the necessary transport provisions and contributions from new development. The Bury Local Plan, as supported by the IA, should seek to identify opportunities to maximise the potential for alternative modes of transport to the car and reduce the need to travel, therefore reducing emissions, through the consideration of alternatives and assessment of significant effects. This includes potential opportunities that may arise as a result of the delivery of new infrastructure.

## Other National Policies, Plans and Programmes

**3.41** Numerous other policies, plans and programmes at the national level are of relevance to the preparation of the Bury Local Plan and the IA. Unlike the NPPF, most of the documents focus on a specific topic area which the IA will consider. There will be some overlap between IA topics covered by these plans and programmes where those documents contain more overarching objectives. However, the plans and programmes considered to be of most relevance for the IA have been grouped by the topics they most directly seek to address, and green boxes below each topic heading summarise the implications of the national PPPs (including the NPPF) for the Bury Local Plan and IA.

### Climate Change Adaption and Mitigation, Energy Efficiency and Waste Minimisation

**3.42** The relevant national PPPs under this topic are:

- Carbon Budget Delivery Plan (2023)
- Powering up Britain (2023)
- The Environment Improvement Plan (2023)
- British Energy Security Strategy (2022)
- UK Climate Change Risk Assessment (2022)
- The Environment Act (2021)
- Net Zero Strategy: Build Back Greener (2021)
- Department for Transport, Decarbonising Transport: Setting the Challenge (2020)
- 25 Year Environment Plan (2018)
- Defra, The National Adaptation Programme and the Third Strategy for Climate Adaptation Reporting: Making the country resilient to a changing climate (2018)

- The National Adaptation Programme and the Third Strategy for Climate Adaptation Reporting (2018)
- UK Climate Change Risk Assessment (2017)
- HM Government, The Clean Growth Strategy (2017)
- Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, National Planning Policy for Waste (NPPW) (2014)
- Defra, Waste Management Plan for England (2013)
- The Energy Efficiency Strategy (2012)
- National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy for England (2020)
- The UK Low Carbon Transition Plan: National Strategy for Climate and Energy (2009)
- The UK Renewable Energy Strategy (2009)

### Implications for the Bury Local Plan and IA

The Bury Local Plan should consider setting out policies to achieve climate change mitigation and adaptation while also encouraging development which would help to minimise carbon emissions. The Bury Local Plan should also contain policies to encourage appropriate use of SuDS and handling of waste in line with the waste hierarchy.

The IA can test policy options in relation to the contributions they make towards these aims.

## Health and Wellbeing

**3.43** The relevant national PPPs under this topic are:

- Green Infrastructure Framework (2023)
- A fairer private rented sector White Paper (2022)
- National Design Guide (2021)
- Build Back Better: Our Plan for Health and Social Care (2021)
- COVID-19 mental health and wellbeing recovery action plan (2021)
- Using the planning system to promote healthy weight environments (2020), Addendum (2021)
- The Charter for Social Housing Residents: Social Housing White Paper (2020)
- Planning for the Future White Paper (2020)
- Homes England Strategic Plan 2023 to 2028 (2023)
- Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, Planning Policy for Traveller Sites (2024)
- Fair Society, Healthy Lives (2011)
- Public Health England, PHE Strategy 2020-25
- HM Government, Laying the foundations: housing strategy for England (2011)

### Implications for the Bury Local Plan and IA

The Bury Local Plan needs to consider the need for infrastructure as this has a significant impact on the environment and it should be prepared to ensure that the population has access to sustainable low carbon infrastructure and services and facilities and that there is sufficient capacity within them to serve the increased population. This should include healthcare, education and open space. Policies in the Bury Local Plan can also help to facilitate the supply of healthy local food.

Policy options considered for the Bury Local Plan can be tested through the IA in relation to the contributions they make towards these aims.

### Environment (biodiversity/geodiversity, landscape and soils)

**3.44** The relevant national PPPs under this topic are:

- State of Nature Partnership – State of Nature 2023.
- The Environment Improvement Plan (2023)
- Working with Nature (2022)
- Establishing the Best Available Techniques for the UK (UK BAT) (2022)
- Natural England and Forestry Commission - Ancient Woodland, Ancient trees and veteran trees: Advice for making planning decisions (2022)
- The Environment Act 2021
- The England Tree Action Plan (2021-24) Lowland Agricultural peat Task Force Report Road to Zero Strategy (2028)
- Defra, A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment (2018)
- Defra, Biodiversity offsetting in England Green Paper (2013)
- Defra, Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services (2011)
- UK Post 2010 Biodiversity Framework
- Defra, Safeguarding our Soils – A Strategy for England (2009)
- England Biodiversity Strategy Climate Change Adaptation Principles (2008)

## Implications for the Bury Local Plan and IA

The Bury Local Plan should be prepared to limit the potential for adverse impacts on biodiversity and geodiversity as well as important landscapes (including those that are designated) and higher value soils. The plan area contains internationally and nationally important biodiversity sites which will need to be protected through planning policy. The plan should also take into account non-designated landscapes identified to be particularly sensitive to development and non-designated habitats which form part of the wider ecological network. The plan also presents opportunities to promote the achievement of net gain in biodiversity. It can also be used to encourage the re-use of brownfield land and protect more valuable agricultural soils from development. Updated planning policy can also be used to achieve habitat connectivity through the provision of new green infrastructure.

It will be the role of the IA to test the policy options' effects on biodiversity sites and habitats as well as valued landscapes. The effects of these options in relation to promoting the development of brownfield land and limiting the loss of valuable agricultural soils should also be appraised.

## Historic Environment

**3.45** The relevant national PPPs under this topic are:

- Historic England Corporate Plan (2022-23)
- The Heritage Alliance, Heritage 2020
- Historic England, Sustainability Appraisal and Strategy Environmental Assessment: Historic England Advice Note 8 (2016)

## Implications for the Bury Local Plan and IA

The potential impact of new development on the historic environment, including local character as well as designated and non-designated heritage assets and their respective settings, should inform the preparation of the Bury Local Plan. Particular regard may be given to protecting heritage assets which have been identified as being 'at risk' (both at the national and local level). Policies should be included to address these issues. The Bury Local Plan also has a role in encouraging growth, development and infrastructure that has positive effects or enhances the historic environment, including people's access, understanding and enjoyment of it.

The IA should appraise policy options in terms of the potential for effects on the historic environment.

## Water and Air

**3.46** The relevant national PPPs under this topic are:

- National Chalk Streams Strategy Chalk Stream Strategy (2021)
- Managing Water Abstraction (2021)
- Meeting our future water needs: a national framework for water resources (2020)
- The Waste (Circular Economy) (Amendment) Regulations (2020)
- Defra, Clean Air Strategy (2019)
- The Road to Zero (2018)
- Our Waste, Our Resources: A strategy for England (2018)

- The UK Plan for Tackling Roadside Nitrogen Dioxide Concentrations (2017)
- Defra, Water White Paper (2012)
- The Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland (2007)

### Implications for the Bury Local Plan and IA

The Bury Local Plan should consider setting out policies to promote the efficient use of water and limit all types of pollution including water and air pollution. It should also seek to limit pressure on the wastewater treatment (WwT) infrastructure and water supply. To limit the potential for air quality issues to be intensified as development is delivered over the plan period, the Bury Local Plan should also factor in the contribution that policies can make to achieving modal shift and limiting the need for residents to travel.

The contribution that policy options can make to achieving these aims can be tested through the IA.

## Economic Growth

**3.47** The relevant national PPPs under this topic are:

- English Devolution White Paper (2024)
- Get Britain Working White Paper (2024)
- The Growth Plan (2022)
- Build Back Better: Our Plan for Growth (2021)
- Agricultural Transition Plan 2021 to 2024

- Agriculture Act 2020
- UK Industrial Strategy: Building a Britain fit for the future (2018)
- Industrial Strategy: building a Britain fit for the future (2017)
- LEP Network response to the Industrial Strategy Green Paper Consultation (2017)
- National Infrastructure Delivery Plan 2016-2021 (2016)
- National Infrastructure Delivery Plan 2016-2021

### Implications for the Bury Local Plan and IA

Local Plan policies should be included to help promote sustainable economic and employment growth to benefit all members of the community as to reduce disparity in the plan area. This should include support for the infrastructure required for the economy to function successfully. Local economic growth should be considered in the light of wider economic growth of the local LEPS. Bury Local Plan policies may seek to promote the viability of the Bury Town Centre as well as the Borough 's other town, district, local and neighbourhood Centres.

The IA can test policy options in relation to the contribution they can make to achieving these aims.

## Transport

**3.48** The relevant national PPPs under this topic are:

- Future of Transport: supporting rural transport innovation (2023)
- Cycling and Walking Investment Strategy Report to Parliament (2022)

- Decarbonising Transport: A Better, Greener Britain (2021)
- Decarbonising Transport: Setting the Challenge (2020)
- Department for Transport, The Road to Zero (2018)
- Transport Investment Strategy (2017)
- Highways England Sustainable Development Strategy and Action Plan (2017)

### Implications for the Bury Local Plan and IA

The potential for reducing the need to travel, limiting congestion and associated benefits for air quality and climate change as well as public health should inform the preparation of the policies for the Local Plan. The Bury Local Plan can also be supportive of more sustainable modes of transport. This may include support for the infrastructure necessary for electric vehicles.

The IA should be used to test policy options in terms of the contribution they can make to making transport choices more sustainable in the Borough. Policy options should be tested with regard to the contribution they make to the uptake of more sustainable transport options, such as walking and cycling and public transport.

## Sub-National

**3.49** Below the national level there are further plans and programmes which are of relevance to the Bury Local Plan and the IA process. These plans and programmes sit mostly at the sub-regional, county and district levels. Details of those plans and programmes which are of most relevance at this level are provided in Appendix B.

## Places for Everyone (PfE)

**3.50** Places for Everyone [See reference 9] is a joint development plan document of nine Greater Manchester authorities (Bolton, Bury, Manchester, Oldham, Rochdale, Salford, Tameside, Trafford and Wigan) which was adopted in March 2024.

**3.51** It is a long term plan for jobs, new homes and sustainable growth which:

- sets out how the nine boroughs should develop up until 2039;
- identifies the amount of new development that will come forward across the nine districts, in terms of housing, offices, and industry and warehousing, and the main areas in which this will be focused;
- supports the delivery of key infrastructure, such as transport and utilities;
- protects the important environmental assets across the city region;
- allocates sites for employment and housing outside of the existing urban area; and
- defines a new Green Belt boundary for Greater Manchester.

**3.52** Specifically in relation to Bury, PfE (policy JP-H1: Scale, Distribution and Phasing of New Housing Development) states that 7,678 new homes will be delivered in the Borough between 2022-2039, representing 452 new homes per year. Three residential allocations are made entirely within the Borough (JPA7, 8 and 9) at Elton Reservoir, Seedfield and Walshaw. In addition, a cross-boundary strategic allocation comprising housing and employment is made at the Northern Gateway (JPA1) which spans Bury and Rochdale Boroughs.

## Surrounding Development Plans

**3.53** Development in Bury will not be delivered in isolation from those areas around it. Given the interconnection between Bury and the surrounding areas

there is potential for cross-boundary and in-combination effects where development is proposed through development plans in neighbouring authorities. As such, a summary of the following plans for local authority areas which surround Bury is also provided in Appendix B:

- Rossendale
- Blackburn with Darwen
- Rochdale
- Manchester
- Salford
- Bolton

## Baseline Information

**3.54** Baseline information provides the context for assessing the sustainability of proposals in the Bury Local Plan and it provides the basis for identifying trends, predicting the likely effects of the plan and monitoring its outcomes. Baseline data must be relevant to environmental, social and economic issues, be sensitive to change and should ideally relate to records that are sufficient to identify trends.

**3.55** Schedule 2 of the SEA Regulations requires that the Environmental Report includes descriptions of:

“(2) The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme.

(3) The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected.”

**3.56** Schedule 2(6) of the SEA Regulations requires the likely significant effects of the plan on the environment to be assessed in relation to: biodiversity; population; human health; fauna; flora; soil; water; air; climatic factors; material assets; cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage; landscape; and the inter-relationship between these. As an integrated SA and SEA, also incorporating Health and Equality Impact Assessment, is being carried out, baseline information relating to other 'sustainability' topics has also been included, for example, information about housing, social inclusiveness, equalities, transport, energy, waste and economic growth.

**3.57** Information on existing environmental, social and economic conditions in the plan area provides the baseline against which the plan's effects can be assessed in the IA and monitored during the plan's implementation. Baseline information can also be combined with an understanding of drivers of change that are likely to persist regardless of the Bury Local Plan to understand the likely future sustainability conditions in the absence of the Local Plan.

**3.58** SEA guidance recognises that data gaps will exist but suggests that where baseline information is unavailable or unsatisfactory, authorities should consider how it will affect their assessments and determine how to improve it for use in the assessment of future plans. Where there are data gaps in the baseline, or reports not yet published, these are highlighted in the text. The collection and analysis of baseline data is regarded as a continual and evolving process, given that information can change or be updated on a regular basis. Relevant baseline information will be updated during the IA process as and when data are published.

**3.59** The baseline information for Bury is presented in Appendix C.

## Key Sustainability Issues

**3.60** Key sustainability issues for Bury were originally identified in the SA Scoping Report (March 2024). These issues have been reviewed and subject to comprehensive re-working since the Scoping stage, in order to ensure that they

are genuine 'key issues' for Bury specifically, i.e. problems that the Local Plan can seek to address. They now reflect the Scoping consultation responses received and the expanded baseline information that has been collated for this IA report. The updated set of key issues is presented in **Table 3.1**.

**3.61** It is also a requirement of the SEA Directive that consideration is given to the likely evolution of the environment in the plan area (in this case Bury) if the new Local Plan was not to be implemented. This analysis is also presented in the final column of **Table 3.1** in relation to each of the key sustainability issues.

**Table 3.1: Key sustainability issues for Bury and their likely evolution in the absence of the new Local Plan**

Key Sustainability Issue	Likely Evolution of the Issue without the new Local Plan
<p>Climate change is and will continue to present challenges for the Borough including increased risk of extreme weather events and flooding.</p>	<p>Without the new Local Plan, this issue is likely to continue to evolve as at present, with measures in international policy, the NPPF and other national policy, and PfE seeking to address climate change mitigation and adaptation. The new Local Plan offers opportunities to adopt locally-specific and up-to-date policies which will seek to mitigate the impacts of climate change in Bury, for example ensuring that new development (allocated through PfE) is built to high standards of sustainable design and construction.</p>
<p>The population of Bury is aging, mirroring national trends. This creates increasing demand for specific types of housing, services and facilities.</p>	<p>Without the policies in the new Local Plan, development coming forward in Bury may take less account of the specific needs of certain groups of people, including older people. While relevant policies in the NPPF and PfE will apply, the new Local Plan offers the opportunity to adopt up-to-date and locally specific policies to ensure that the particular needs of older people are met within new developments.</p>

Key Sustainability Issue	Likely Evolution of the Issue without the new Local Plan
<p>The number of people in good health is lower than the national average, with more people than the national average in bad or very bad health. This is combined with a higher than average proportion of disabled people.</p>	<p>Policies in the NPPF seek to create healthy, inclusive communities. In addition, national health programmes which seek to address specific health conditions e.g. obesity, will continue to be implemented. However, the Local Plan will identify the measures and infrastructure required to support growth and promote well-designed and healthy neighbourhoods. The Local Plan will also seek to address inequalities and poor health through policies such as restricting hot food takeaways, provision of green infrastructure and the provision of quality home which meet local needs. Without the new Local Plan, this issue would therefore be less well addressed.</p>
<p>Bury has relatively high levels of deprivation compared to the UK as a whole, with pockets of deprivation concentrated primarily around the Bury town centre, Radcliffe and Besses.</p>	<p>Economic growth in Bury will be stimulated by the measures already set out in the adopted PfE plan. However, the new Local Plan offers opportunities to adopt locally-specific and up-to-date policies relating to the local economy and will enable the Council to direct investment into identified target areas. Without the new Local Plan, this issue would therefore be less well addressed.</p>
<p>Bury has a relatively high percentage of economically inactive people.</p>	<p>Local level interventions have been having an impact on the number of young people in education, employment or training and economic growth in Bury will be stimulated by the measures already set out in the adopted PfE plan. However, the new Local Plan offers opportunities to adopt locally-specific and up-to-date policies relating to the local economy and employment access in particular. Without the new Local Plan, this issue would therefore be less well addressed.</p>

Key Sustainability Issue	Likely Evolution of the Issue without the new Local Plan
Wage levels are low in Bury compared to the regional and national averages.	Economic growth should be stimulated by the adopted PfE plan which will help to drive wage increased. However, the new Local Plan offers opportunities to adopt locally-specific and up-to-date policies relating to the local economy and employment access in particular. Without the new Local Plan, this issue would therefore be less well addressed.
There are road safety challenges across the highway network, particularly in East ward, Unsworth and Holyrood where casualty rates are relatively high.	The new Local Plan offers the opportunity to adopt up-to-date and locally specific policies relating to highway safety. Without the new Local Plan, this issue would therefore be less well addressed.
The proportion of adults who regularly walk or cycle is lower than the national average and has decreased in recent years.	Policies in the NPPF and TfGM Vision 2040 already support a pattern of development that facilitates the use of sustainable modes of transport. However, without action from the Local Plan to direct development to sustainable locations and increase provision of sustainable transport infrastructure including safe and well-designed walking and cycle routes, car dependency is likely to remain high.
There are areas of poor air quality including one Air Quality Management Area which incorporates most of the Borough's strategic roads.	Policies in the NPPF will provide some protection and existing legislation will seek to manage existing air quality to within accepted thresholds. However, the Local Plan can include policies seeking to ensure that new developments are well located in relation to services, reducing reliance on the private car and associated car-based emissions. Without the new Local Plan, this issue would therefore be less well addressed.

Key Sustainability Issue	Likely Evolution of the Issue without the new Local Plan
<p>Some of the Borough's heritage assets are considered to be 'at risk' by Historic England.</p>	<p>Policies in the NPPF will ensure that nationally protected heritage assets are given significant weight in the planning process. However, the Local Plan will allow for specific mitigation and enhancement opportunities relating to local heritage assets to be considered through the development of up-to-date and locally specific policies. Without the new Local Plan, this issue would therefore be less well addressed.</p>

## The IA Framework

**3.62** As described in Chapter 2, the relevant objectives established via the review of plans, policies, and programmes and the key sustainability issues identified by the baseline review informed the development of a framework of sustainability objectives, the IA framework, against which the plan is being assessed. The IA framework for the Bury Local Plan is presented in the section below.

**3.63** The context for the appraisal of options for the Local Plan against each of the IA objectives is set by the sub-objectives or decision-making criteria presented in the second column of the table. These criteria provide a guide for the appraisal of options, identifying issues relating to the IA objective that should be considered where relevant. Given the large number of issues relating to each IA objective, it is not possible to list all those that are related and relevant and therefore the decision-making criteria should not be considered to be prescriptive or exhaustive. In effect the criteria act as a starting point for the identification of effects and the appraisal work considers wider issues as appropriate.

**3.64** As a result of the Scoping consultation and LUC's review, a small number of changes have been made to some of the IA objectives in the IA framework since it was presented in the Scoping Report.

## IA framework for the Bury Local Plan

### **IA Objective 1: Provide a sustainable supply of housing including an appropriate mix of type and tenures to reflect needs**

Appraisal Questions – will the option or policy.....?

- Ensure an appropriate quantity of housing land?
- Supply an appropriate mix of types and tenures of properties in relation to the respective level of demand?
- Supply sufficient affordable homes?
- Support improvements in the energy efficiency of housing stock?
- Meet the identified needs of Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople?

Relevant SEA Topic(s)

- Population
- Human Health
- Material Assets

### **IA Objective 2: Promote sustainable economic growth and job creation**

Appraisal Questions – will the option or policy.....?

- Provide or contribute to a balanced portfolio of employment sites?

- Maintain and enhance the viability of the Borough's six towns?
- Improve business development, nurture business growth and enhance competitiveness?
- Encourage inward investment?
- Encourage tourism development?
- Reduce unemployment levels, particularly in areas of high employment deprivation?
- Help to improve earnings?

#### Relevant SEA Topic(s)

- Population
- Material Assets

### **IA Objective 3: Reduce levels of deprivation, crime and the fear of crime**

#### Appraisal Questions – will the option or policy.....?

- Reduce the proportion of people living in deprivation?
- Reduce the potential for crime?
- Promote design that discourages crime?

#### Relevant SEA Topic(s)

- Population
- Human Health

## **IA Objective 4: Promote equality of opportunity and the elimination of discrimination**

Appraisal Questions – will the option or policy.....?

- Foster good relations between different people?
- Ensure equality of opportunity and equal access to facilities/infrastructure for all?
- Ensure no discrimination based on ‘protected characteristics’, as defined in the Equality Act 2010?

Relevant SEA Topic(s)

- Material Assets

## **IA Objective 5: Support improved health and wellbeing of the population and reduce health inequalities**

Appraisal Questions – will the option or policy.....?

- Improve access to high quality health facilities?
- Support healthier lifestyles e.g. provide more opportunities for physical activity, reduce car dependency and encourage walking and cycling?
- Reduce health inequalities within the Borough?

Relevant SEA Topic(s)

- Population

- Human Health

## **IA Objective 6: Support improved educational attainment and skill level for all**

Appraisal Questions – will the option or policy.....?

- Improve education levels of children in the area, regardless of their background?
- Improve educational and skill levels of the population of working age?
- Provide access to work experience, apprenticeships and training, especially for young people?
- Ensure sufficient access to educational facilities for all children?
- Improve access to high quality green spaces?

Relevant SEA Topic(s)

- Population
- Material Assets

## **IA Objective 7: Promote the use of sustainable modes of transport**

Appraisal Questions – will the option or policy.....?

- Reduce the need to travel and promote efficient patterns of movement?
- Promote a safe and sustainable public transport network that reduces reliance on private motor vehicles?

- Support the provision and use of sustainable and active modes of transport?

### Relevant SEA Topic(s)

- Air
- Climate
- Population
- Human Health

## **IA Objective 8: Improve air quality**

### Appraisal Questions – will the option or policy.....?

- Improve air quality within the Borough, particularly in the Air Quality Management Area (AQMA)?
- Reduce the number of journeys made by private car in order to reduce the high levels of nitrogen dioxide in areas of traffic congestion in the Borough?

### Relevant SEA Topic(s)

- Air
- Human Health

## **IA Objective 9: Protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity.**

Appraisal Questions – will the option or policy.....?

- Protect designated wildlife sites, wildlife corridors, protected species and their habitats, aiming for no net loss in biodiversity?
- Provide opportunities to develop or enhance new and existing wildlife sites, networks and corridors?
- Avoid destruction of important or unique geological features?
- Maintain and improve provision of green infrastructure?

Relevant SEA Topic(s)

- Biodiversity

## **IA Objective 10: Ensure communities, developments and infrastructure are resilient to the effects of climate change, including flooding**

Appraisal Questions – will the option or policy.....?

- Ensure that communities, existing and new developments and infrastructure systems are resilient to the predicted effects of climate change, including through the creation of green infrastructure?
- Restrict the development of property in areas of flood risk?
- Ensure adequate measures are in place to manage existing flood risk?
- Ensure that development does not increase flood risk due to increased run off rates?

- Encourage sustainable urban drainage systems are incorporated into the design of new development?
- Ensure development is appropriately future proofed to accommodate future levels of flood risk?
- Encourage the inclusion of new green spaces and habitat creation to help mitigate flood risk?
- Will it deliver biodiversity net gain?

### Relevant SEA Topic(s)

- Water
- Climatic Factors

## **IA Objective 11: Increase energy efficiency, encourage low-carbon generation and reduce greenhouse gas emissions**

### Appraisal Questions – will the option or policy.....?

- Support the take up of renewable/ low carbon technologies?
- Encourage reduction in energy use and increased energy efficiency?
- Minimise greenhouse gas emissions?

### Relevant SEA Topic(s)

- Climatic Factors

## **IA Objective 12: Protect and improve the quality and availability of water resources**

Appraisal Questions – will the option or policy.....?

- Encourage compliance with the WFD?
- Promote management practices that will protect water features from pollution?

Relevant SEA Topic(s)

- Water

## **IA Objective 13: Protect and make accessible for enjoyment the Borough's landscapes and townscapes including by improving access to open spaces**

Appraisal Questions – will the option or policy.....?

- Improve the landscape quality and the character of open spaces and the public realm?
- Respect, maintain and strengthen local character and distinctiveness in both urban and rural areas?
- Ensure that all people have access to public open space within reasonable walking distance from where they live?
- Promote access to green and blue infrastructure such as natural greenspace?
- Create new areas of open space and natural greenspace?

### Relevant SEA Topic(s)

- Cultural Heritage
- Landscape

## **IA Objective 14: Protect and enhance the Borough's historic environment and cultural heritage**

### Appraisal Questions – will the option or policy.....?

- Conserve and enhance heritage and cultural assets in both urban and rural areas?
- Provide opportunities for the restoration of heritage assets?

### Relevant SEA Topic(s)

- Cultural Heritage
- Landscape

## **IA Objective 15: Improve efficiency in land use through the re-use of previously developed land and buildings whilst reducing land contamination**

### Appraisal Questions – will the option or policy.....?

- Focus development on previously developed land?
- Protect the best and most versatile agricultural land/soil resources from inappropriate development?

- Encourage the redevelopment of derelict land and properties, returning them to appropriate uses?
- Support reductions in land contamination through the use of previously developed land?
- Protect peat soils and prevent damage to peat soils?

### Relevant SEA Topic(s)

- Material assets

## **IA Objective 16: Promote the sustainable management of resources and support the implementation of the waste hierarchy.**

### Appraisal Questions – will the option or policy.....?

- Support the sustainable use of physical resources?
- Promote movement up the waste hierarchy?
- Promote reduced waste generation rates?

### Relevant SEA Topic(s)

- Material assets

## Chapter 4

# Sustainability Appraisal Findings for the Draft Local Plan

**4.1** This chapter presents the IA findings for the vision, strategic objectives, and the policies presented in the Draft Local Plan. The IA findings for the policies have been presented to follow the order in which they appear in the Local Plan document.

**4.2** In an early draft version of this report, recommendations were made for some of the policies to help strengthen the positive effects and mitigate the negative effects expected. These earlier recommendations and the Council's responses are detailed in **Table 4.16** which follows the policy appraisals. No further recommendations are made at this stage.

**4.3** It is a requirement of the SEA Regulations to consider cumulative effects. As such, the sustainability effects of the Draft Local Plan as a whole are considered below the assessment of the Local Plan policies individually.

## Vision and Strategic Objectives

**4.4** The Local Plan Vision is an aspirational statement and so has not been subject to IA. Supporting the Vision, there are 18 strategic objectives for the Local Plan. **Table 4.1** overleaf presents a compatibility analysis of the Local Plan Strategic Objectives and the IA objectives, identifying where there are synergies or potential conflicts between the objectives.

**4.5** It can be seen that the majority of the Local Plan objectives can be seen to be broadly compatible with the IA objectives. Significant positive effects are identified where the Local Plan objective directly aligns with the IA objective.

Where potential incompatibility is identified, this is because the Local Plan objectives could result in built development which may be incompatible with some of the environmentally-focussed IA objectives. For example, Local Plan objectives 3 and 4 support the delivery of new housing and employment development, which could adversely affect biodiversity and geodiversity and result in the loss of greenfield land and soils. There could also be adverse impacts on the landscape and cultural heritage assets, although Local Plan objective 3 specifies that housing must be well-designed.

Table 4.1: Compatibility analysis between IA objectives and Local Plan Strategic Objectives

Local Plan Strategic Objectives	1: Housing	2: Economy	3: Crime and deprivation	4: Equality	5: Health	6: Education	7: Sustainable transport	8: Air quality	9: Biodiversity and geodiversity	10: Climate change resilience	11: Energy efficiency	12: Water	13: Landscape	14: Historic environment	15: Efficient land use	16: Sustainable management of resources
1: Ensure that the Borough is resilient and adaptive to the cause and effects of climate change and support ambitions for Greater Manchester to be carbon neutral by 2038 and for all new development to be zero net carbon by 2028.	+	+	0	0	+	0	+	+	+	++	++	+	0	0	0	+
2: Make efficient use of land by promoting the redevelopment of available brownfield sites.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	0	+	0	++	+
3: Deliver an appropriate supply of well-designed housing to meet needs.	++	+	0	+	+	0	0	0	-	0	+	0	+/-	+/-	-	-

Local Plan Strategic Objectives	1: Housing	2: Economy	3: Crime and deprivation	4: Equality	5: Health	6: Education	7: Sustainable transport	8: Air quality	9: Biodiversity and geodiversity	10: Climate change resilience	11: Energy efficiency	12: Water	13: Landscape	14: Historic environment	15: Efficient land use	16: Sustainable management of resources
4: Deliver a competitive and diverse local economy and accessible high quality jobs throughout the Borough.	0	++	0	+	0	+	0	0	-	0	0	0	-	-	-	-
5: Support a hierarchy of vital and viable town, district, local and neighbourhood centres.	0	++	0	+	+	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6: Safeguard existing and promote new tourism and cultural development in appropriate locations.	0	++	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0

Local Plan Strategic Objectives	1: Housing	2: Economy	3: Crime and deprivation	4: Equality	5: Health	6: Education	7: Sustainable transport	8: Air quality	9: Biodiversity and geodiversity	10: Climate change resilience	11: Energy efficiency	12: Water	13: Landscape	14: Historic environment	15: Efficient land use	16: Sustainable management of resources
7: Make a positive contribution towards addressing issues associated with deprivation and the health and wellbeing across all of the Borough's communities.	0	0	0	++	++	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
8: Ensure that the Borough's residents have access to good quality education and other community facilities.	0	0	0	+	+	++	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9: Encourage sustainable transport choices and reduce the number and length of journeys, particularly by private motor vehicles.	0	0	0	0	+	0	++	++	+	++	++	0	0	0	0	0

Local Plan Strategic Objectives	1: Housing	2: Economy	3: Crime and deprivation	4: Equality	5: Health	6: Education	7: Sustainable transport	8: Air quality	9: Biodiversity and geodiversity	10: Climate change resilience	11: Energy efficiency	12: Water	13: Landscape	14: Historic environment	15: Efficient land use	16: Sustainable management of resources
10: Ensure that all new development displays high standards of design and layout	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	+	++	+	0	0
11: Positively manage the conservation and enjoyment of the Borough's heritage assets.	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	++	0	0
12: Ensure that the Borough's residents have access to a sufficient amount of good quality green and blue infrastructure, open space, sport and recreation facilities.	0	0	0	0	++	0	0	0	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	0
13: Conserve and enhance the Borough's natural environment and support a net gain in Bury's biodiversity.	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	+	++	0	0	+	+	0	0	0

Local Plan Strategic Objectives	1: Housing	2: Economy	3: Crime and deprivation	4: Equality	5: Health	6: Education	7: Sustainable transport	8: Air quality	9: Biodiversity and geodiversity	10: Climate change resilience	11: Energy efficiency	12: Water	13: Landscape	14: Historic environment	15: Efficient land use	16: Sustainable management of resources
14: Protect the Green Belt from inappropriate development and support beneficial uses within it.	+	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	++	+	0	0
15: Ensure that new development is safe from flooding and does not contribute to increased flood risk elsewhere and to promote improvements to the Borough's water courses.	+	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	+	++	0	++	0	0	0	0
16: Ensure the sustainable management of water, both in terms of sustainable drainage and the protection and efficient use of public water supply resources.	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	+	+	0	++	0	0	0	+

Local Plan Strategic Objectives	1: Housing	2: Economy	3: Crime and deprivation	4: Equality	5: Health	6: Education	7: Sustainable transport	8: Air quality	9: Biodiversity and geodiversity	10: Climate change resilience	11: Energy efficiency	12: Water	13: Landscape	14: Historic environment	15: Efficient land use	16: Sustainable management of resources
17: Prevent both new and existing development from contributing to, or being adversely affected by, poor air quality, unacceptable levels of pollution or hazards.	+	+	0	0	++	0	+	++	+	+	0	++	0	0	0	0
18: Ensure and that new and existing development is supported by necessary infrastructure.	+	+	0	0	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

## Adapting to Climate Change

**4.6** The likely effects of the policy in the ‘Adapting to Climate Change’ section of the Local Plan are shown in **Table 4.2** below.

**Table 4.2: IA findings for the Adapting to Climate Change Policy**

IA Objectives	Policy LP-CC1: Climate Change
1: Housing	+
2: Economy	+
3: Crime and deprivation	0
4: Equality	0
5: Health	+
6: Education	0
7: Sustainable transport	++
8: Air quality	+
9: Biodiversity and geodiversity	+
10: Climate change resilience	++
11: Energy efficiency	++
12: Water	+
13: Landscape	+
14: Historic environment	0
15: Efficient land use	0
16: Sustainable management of resources	+

## Policy LP-CC1: Climate Change

**4.7** The nature of Policy LP-CC1 means that it will have cross-cutting positive effects on many of the IA objectives. Significant positive effects are likely in relation to IA objectives 7: Sustainable transport, 10: Climate change resilience and 11: Energy efficiency as the overarching aim of the policy is to ensure that the Borough is resilient and adaptive to the cause and effects of climate change and includes specific support for achieving modal shift. As a result, a minor positive effect is also likely in relation to IA objective 8: Air quality.

**4.8** Reducing the risk of flooding will benefit human health and the local economy, by reducing the risk of financial losses and the physical and mental health impacts of flood events. Minor positive effects are therefore likely in relation to IA objectives 2: Economy and 5: Health.

**4.9** The measures in the policy will improve the quality of the Borough's housing stock, having a minor positive effect on IA Objective 1: Housing, and will also benefit biodiversity as a result of improved air quality and avoiding flood events as well as the creation of green infrastructure, which will also benefit the landscape. Minor positive effects are therefore likely in relation to IA objectives 9: Biodiversity and geodiversity and 13: Landscape.

**4.10** The policy will have minor positive effects on IA objectives 12: Water and 16: Sustainable management of resources as it promotes water efficiency and seeks to promote the use of recycled materials.

### Reasonable alternatives

**4.11** No reasonable alternative options have been identified in relation to this policy.

## Meeting our Housing Needs

**4.12** The likely effects of the policies in the 'Meeting our Housing Needs' section of the Local Plan are shown in **Table 4.3** overleaf.

Table 4.3: IA findings for the Meeting our Housing Needs policies

IA objectives	LP-H1: Housing Land Provision	LP-H2: Windfall Housing Development	LP-H3: Housing Mix	LP-H4: Affordable Housing Provision	LP-H5: Housing for Older People and People with Disabilities	LP-H6: Homes for Looked After Children and Care Leavers	LP-H7: Custom, Self- Build and Community- led Housing	LP-H8: Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople	LP-H9: Alterations and Extensions to Residential Properties	LP-H10: Residential Conversions	LP-H11: Houses in Multiple Occupation
1: Housing	++	+	++	++	++	++	+	++	+	+	+
2: Economy	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3: Crime and deprivation	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0
4: Equality	+	0	+	+	++	+	0	+	0	0	0
5: Health	+	+?	+	+	++	+	+	+	+	+	+
6: Education	0	+?	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0
7: Sustainable transport	0	+?	0	0	+	0	0	+	0	+	+
8: Air quality	0	0	0	0	+/	0	0	+	0	0	0
9: Biodiversity and geodiversity	?	+	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	0
10: Climate change resilience	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0
11: Energy efficiency	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
12: Water	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	0
13: Landscape	?	+	+	0	0	0	0	+	++	+	+
14: Historic environment	?	0	+	0	0	0	0	+	0	+?	+?
15: Efficient land use	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

IA objectives	LP-H1: Housing Land Provision	LP-H2: Windfall Housing Development	LP-H3: Housing Mix	LP-H4: Affordable Housing Provision	LP-H5: Housing for Older People and People with Disabilities	LP-H6: Homes for Looked After Children and Care Leavers	LP-H7: Custom, Self- Build and Community- led Housing	LP-H8: Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople	LP-H9: Alterations and Extensions to Residential Properties	LP-H10: Residential Conversions	LP-H11: Houses in Multiple Occupation
16: Sustainable management of resources	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	+	+

## LP-Policy H1 – Housing Land Provision

**4.13** Policy LP-H1 is expected to have a significant positive effect on IA objective 1: Housing as the overarching purpose of the policy is to ensure that sufficient land is available to meet the identified need for housing in Bury and it specifies that the needs of travelling communities should be catered for. Minor positive effects are likely in relation to IA objectives 4: Equality and 5: Health as the policy specifies that housing should be provided to meet specific needs, including for older people and those in need of specialist housing. A minor positive effect is also likely in relation to IA objective 2: Economy as the provision of housing to meet local needs will support the local economy by helping to secure local labour supply. A minor positive effect is also likely in relation to IA objective 15: Efficient land use as the policy encourages the re-use of brownfield land for housing.

**4.14** Uncertain effects are identified in relation to IA objectives 9: Biodiversity and geodiversity, 13: Landscape and 14: Historic environment as the delivery of housing could impact on these environmental objectives; however this will depend largely on the location of housing developments which is not determined through this policy.

### Reasonable alternatives

**4.15** None identified – the housing requirement has been established through PfE and this policy seeks to ensure that this requirement is appropriately met.

## LP-Policy H2 – Windfall Housing Development

**4.16** Policy LP-H2 is expected to have a minor positive effect on IA objective 1: Housing because it provides support for windfall housing development, subject to the proposal meeting the specified criteria. The requirement for sites to be

adequately serviced by appropriate infrastructure means that potential minor positive effects are also identified in relation to IA objectives 5: Health, 6: Education, 7: Sustainable transport and 10: Water, although these effects are uncertain depending on the types of infrastructure that are covered by this requirement.

**4.17** The fact that windfall sites should be within the urban area or on previously developed land in the Green Belt means that minor positive effects are likely in relation to IA objectives 9: Biodiversity and geodiversity, 13: Landscape and 15: Efficient land use. The policy requires windfall housing sites not to be in an area of flood risk, resulting in a minor positive effect on IA objective 10: Climate change resilience, as well as reinforcing the minor positive effect already identified on IA objective 5: Health.

### Reasonable alternatives

**4.18** No reasonable alternatives identified. The approach seeks to ensure that housing is delivered on suitable sites in sustainable locations, in accordance with NPPF, and in line with the overall spatial strategy.

## LP-H3: Housing Mix

**4.19** Policy LP-H3 will have a significant positive effect on IA objective 1: Housing as it aims to ensure that an appropriate mix of housing types is provided within new developments, based on appropriate evidence. Minor positive effects are likely in relation to IA objectives 4: Equality and 5: Health because the policy supports proposals for specialist and supported accommodation including proposals that will provide suitable accommodation for a growing older population and provision for looked after children and care leavers.

**4.20** The policy requires the characteristics of the site and surrounding area to be considered when determining an appropriate mix; therefore a minor positive

effect is expected in relation to IA objectives 13: Landscape and 14: Historic environment.

## **Reasonable alternatives**

**4.21** An alternative approach would be to set a requirement for the percentage mix of different house types on residential schemes. This has been discounted because it would lack the capacity to respond to changes over the plan period and being overly prescriptive risks reducing overall housing delivery. This approach would therefore risk negative effects on IA objective 1: Housing compared to the draft policy.

## **LP-H4: Affordable Housing Provision**

**4.22** Policy LP-H4 is expected to have a significant positive effect on IA objective 1: Housing as its overarching purpose is to ensure the availability of affordable housing to meet local needs. A minor positive effect on IA objective 4: Equality is also likely as the policy requirement for affordable housing to be fully integrated and dispersed within the site will help to avoid divisions between residents in the different types of housing and will contribute towards the creation of a more equitable new community. A minor positive effect on IA objective 5: Health is identified as meeting the need for affordable housing will have physical and particularly mental health benefits.

## **Reasonable alternatives**

**4.23** There are a range of reasonable alternatives in relation to the threshold for requiring affordable housing, the percentage required and the mix of tenures. These have been discounted because the option taken forward is considered to represent an appropriate balance between the need to deliver affordable housing and the viability of housing delivery. Requiring a higher affordable housing threshold could affect viability and therefore influence the delivery of

housing, potentially resulting in a negative effect on IA objective 1: Housing. A lower threshold could mean that the positive effects of policy LP-H4 are less likely to be realised.

## LP-H5: Housing for Older People and People with Disabilities

**4.24** Policy LP-H5 is expected to have significant positive effects on IA objectives 1: Housing, 4: Equality and 5: Health because it sets out measures to ensure that appropriate housing is provided to meet older people and those with disabilities. A minor positive effect is likely in relation to IA objective 7: Sustainable transport because the policy requires such housing to offer easy access to public transport. For this reason, a minor positive effect is also likely in relation to IA objective 8: Air quality, although this is part of a mixed effect overall (minor positive and minor negative) as the policy also requires sufficient car parking. However, it is noted that residential developments of this nature may require more car parking than some other housing types and it is not reasonable to expect to rely solely on public transport use.

## Reasonable alternatives

**4.25** A percentage requirement for M4(3) dwellings was considered through the Places for Everyone evidence base and has been reconsidered in preparing the Bury Local Plan. As there is no guarantee that they would be available for the households who require them unless they are being delivered on schemes where the local authority is responsible for allocating or nominating a person to live in that dwelling, the focus has been to maximise the adaptability across the whole stock of new dwellings by requiring all dwellings to be built to the M4(2) standard through PfE policy JP-H3. Homes meeting wheelchair accessible standards to meet identified needs can be delivered through other means – particularly Council-led schemes. The alternative approach considered is not as likely to result in the positive effects outlined above for the policy as drafted, for this reason.

## LP-H6: Homes for Looked After Children and Care Leavers

**4.26** This policy will have a significant positive effect on IA objective 1: Housing as its purpose is to ensure that appropriate accommodation is available for looked after children and care leavers. Minor positive effects are also likely in relation to IA objectives 3: Crime and deprivation, 4: Equality and 5: Health as these topics will all be positively affected by ensuring that these groups have access to appropriately located homes.

### Reasonable alternatives

**4.27** An alternative approach would be to seek to apply a limit to the percentage of properties in use as children's homes and semi-independent supported accommodation within a set radius, or to apply an alternative distance to criterion b, however 400m is considered to provide an appropriate balance in allowing provision to come forward whilst seeking to avoid clustering of uses, in the best interest of proposed occupants and the local community, and will be considered on a case-by-case basis. An alternative distance would therefore be likely to have less positive effects on the IA objectives.

## LP-H7: Custom, Self-Build and Community-led Housing

**4.28** This policy is expected to have a minor positive effect on IA objective 1: Housing as the policy requires at least 5% of all dwellings on developments of 200 homes or more to be serviced plots for sale to self-build and custom housebuilders where practicable. This will help to ensure that opportunities are available for housing of this nature to be delivered. A minor positive effect is also identified in relation to IA objective 5: Health as the availability of self-build plots may enable more people to design homes that meet their particular needs,

for example in relation to multi-generational living and adapting properties to meet the needs of people with disabilities.

## Reasonable alternatives

**4.29** Alternatives would be to set a higher or lower threshold, and a higher or lower percentage requirement, however the approach taken is considered to represent an appropriate balance between the need to deliver custom, self-build and community-led housing, and housing delivery / viability overall. A higher or lower threshold would be less likely to deliver the same positive effects on IA objective 1: Housing.

## LP-H8: Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople

**4.30** This policy is expected to have a significant positive effect on IA objective 1: Housing as it seeks to provide for the specific housing needs of Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople. As such, a minor positive effect is also likely in relation to IA objective 4: Equality.

**4.31** The criteria included in the policy address a wide range of topics and so are likely to have broadly positive effects across the IA objectives. Sites must not be in an area of flood risk from any source; therefore a minor positive effect is likely in relation to IA objective 10: Climate change resilience. Sites must have good access to public transport, shops, schools and other community facilities; therefore minor positive effects are also likely in relation to IA objectives 5: Health, 6: Education, 7: Sustainable transport and 8: Air quality. While the policy also requires vehicle parking and space for the servicing of vehicles, this reflects the particular needs of the travelling community and is not considered likely to result in negative effects on air quality.

**4.32** Minor positive effects are identified in relation to IA objectives 9: Biodiversity and geodiversity, 13: Landscape and 14: Historic environment as the policy requires that sites are not subject to physical constraints or environmental issues that cannot be mitigated including consideration of land contamination, biodiversity/geodiversity and the historic environment. The policy also requires sites to be well-integrated within the townscape, using boundary treatments and screening materials which are in keeping with the surrounding area – this reinforces the potential positive effect on IA objective 13: Landscape.

**4.33** Minor positive effects are expected in relation to IA objectives 12: Water and 16: Sustainable management of resources as the policy requires sites to be adequately serviced by sewage and waste disposal facilities, as well as water supplies and drainage. It also includes a preference for sites to be on previously developed land.

## **Reasonable alternatives**

**4.34** No reasonable alternatives identified.

## **LP-H9: Alterations and Extensions to Residential Properties**

**4.35** This policy will have a significant positive effect on IA objective 13: Landscape as it seeks to ensure that applications for extensions and alterations of residential properties are appropriate in terms of their size, shape, design and external appearance, thereby avoiding adverse impacts on the visual appearance of the wider area. This will also have a minor positive effect on IA objective 1: Housing as the policy will help to ensure the visual quality of residential extensions.

**4.36** A minor positive effect is likely in relation to IA objective 5: Health as the policy requires consideration to be given to the amenity of neighbouring

properties, which will avoid adverse impacts on wellbeing that could otherwise occur from inappropriate extensions or alterations. The policy also seeks to ensure safety of pedestrians, cyclists and drivers by avoiding impacts on visibility, further benefitting health.

**4.37** Minor positive effects are also likely in relation to IA objectives 12: Water and 16: Resource management as the policy requires consideration to be given to the sustainable management of surface water and refuse storage when considering proposals for residential alterations.

**4.38** A minor positive effect is likely in relation to IA objective 9: Biodiversity and geodiversity as the policy requires consideration of the potential presence of roosting bats and nesting birds.

### Reasonable alternatives

**4.39** No reasonable alternatives identified. The approach seeks to ensure that residential extensions have regard to amenity and delivery of well-designed places, in accordance with NPPF.

## LP-H10: Residential Conversions

**4.40** This policy will have a minor positive effect on IA objective 13: Landscape as it seeks to ensure that residential conversions do not have an adverse effect on the general character of the area. A minor positive effect may also occur in relation to IA objective 14: Cultural heritage, as avoiding effects on the character of the area may be particularly beneficial in areas of historic character, or near listed buildings or other heritage designations.

**4.41** A minor positive effect is also likely in relation to IA objective 1: Housing as the measures in the policy will help to maintain the quality of other nearby residential properties. The policy criteria will also avoid residential conversions having adverse impacts on amenity, also having a minor positive effect on IA

objective 5: Health. This is reinforced by the support for the provision of secure cycle storage which will encourage active travel, and which will also have a minor positive effect on IA objective 7: Sustainable transport. The policy also requires consideration to be given to waste and recycling storage, which will have a minor positive effect on IA objective 16: Sustainable management of resources.

## Reasonable alternatives

**4.42** No reasonable alternatives identified. The policy seeks to ensure that residential conversions have regard to a range of factors and avoid negative impacts on amenity, character and the local neighbourhood.

### LP-H11: Houses in Multiple Occupation

**4.43** This policy primarily seeks to avoid HMOs having an adverse impact on the amenity and character of an area, particularly as a result of an overconcentration of HMOs in one area. Minor positive effects are therefore likely in relation to IA objectives 1: Housing and 5: Health, as well as IA objective 13: Landscape. It is possible that there could be a minor positive effect on IA objective 14: Cultural heritage, if the policy avoids adverse impacts on the street scene in areas of historic character, or near listed buildings or other designations.

**4.44** The minor positive effect on health resulting from the overall aim of the policy is reinforced further by the requirement for consideration to be given to secure cycle storage within HMOs, which may encourage higher levels of cycling in place of car use. A minor positive effect is therefore also likely in relation to IA objective 7: Sustainable transport.

**4.45** The requirement for consideration to be given to waste and recycling storage means that a minor positive effect is also likely in relation to IA objective 16: Resource management.

## Reasonable alternatives

**4.46** The threshold for overconcentration could be set at a higher percentage or a higher distance threshold, however, the approach taken is considered to provide a reasonable balance between provision of HMOs and avoiding over concentration of such uses having a negative impact. A higher or lower concentration is therefore less likely to have the positive effects outlined above for the policy as drafted.

## Delivering Economic Growth

**4.47** The likely effects for the policies in the 'Delivering Economic Growth' section of the Local Plan are shown in **Table 4.4**.

Table 4.4: IA findings for the Delivering Economic Growth Policies

IA objectives	Policy LP-E1: Employment Floorspace Requirements	Policy LP-E2: Business, Industrial and Warehousing Development	Policy LP-E3: Office Development	Policy LP-E4: Employment Generating Areas	Policy LP-E5: Employment Sites Outside Employment Generating Areas
1: Housing	0	0	0	0	0
2: Economy	++	++	++	++	++
3: Crime and deprivation	+	+	+	+	+
4: Equality	0	0	+	0	0
5: Health	0	+	+	0	0
6: Education	+	+	+	0	0
7: Sustainable transport	0	+	+	0	0
8: Air quality	0	+	+	0	0
9: Biodiversity and geodiversity	?	0	0	0	0
10: Climate change resilience	0	0	0	0	0
11: Energy efficiency	0	0	0	0	0
12: Water	0	+	0	0	0
13: Landscape	?	0	0	0	0
14: Historic environment	?	0	0	0	0
15: Efficient land use	0	0	0	0	+
16: Sustainable management of resources	0	0	0	0	0

## Policy LP-E1: Employment Floorspace Requirements

**4.48** Policy LP-E1: Employment Floorspace Requirements will have a significant positive effect against IA objective 2: Economy because it seeks to deliver at least 971m<sup>2</sup> of office floorspace and at least 617,753m<sup>2</sup> of industrial and warehousing floorspace in line with the Places for Everyone Joint Plan. This will provide a significant number of new employment opportunities for residents of Bury and help to grow the local economy. Minor positive effects are also likely in relation to IA objectives 3: Crime and deprivation and 6: Education as higher levels of employment should help to reduce levels of deprivation and may offer opportunities for work-based learning and skills development.

**4.49** Uncertain effects are identified in relation to IA objectives 9: Biodiversity and geodiversity, 13: Landscape and 14: Historic environment as the delivery of employment land could impact on these environmental objectives; however this will depend largely on the location of developments which is not determined through this policy.

**4.50** Negligible effects are expected against the remaining IA objectives.

### Reasonable Alternatives

**4.51** No reasonable alternatives - the approach taken to disaggregate the overall employment requirements were put forward by the 9GM districts through main modifications. The Inspectors determined that the modifications were not necessary to make the plan sound given there is no specific requirement in national policy to establish district level requirement figures as part of a joint plan. Notwithstanding this, the methodology is considered to remain appropriate for disaggregating the employment requirements set out in PfE for the purposes of the Local Plan. The figures are minimum requirements.

## Policy LP-E2: Business, Industrial and Warehousing Development

**4.52** Policy LP-E2 will have a significant positive effect on IA objective 2: Economy because the Council will encourage business, industrial and warehousing development within the Borough's established employment areas and other suitable locations, increasing the overall extent of employment opportunities available. Increasing employment provision within Bury will also help to address levels of deprivation (covered under IA objective 3) and may offer opportunities for work-based training and skills development; therefore minor positive effects are also likely in relation to IA objectives 3: Crime and deprivation and 6: Education.

**4.53** The policy will have a minor positive effect in relation to IA objective 5: Health because, in considering proposals for new industrial and warehousing development, the Council will have regard to the health and safety of employees, visitors and adjacent occupiers. Consideration will also be given to the effects of noise, dust, smells and pollution on neighbouring properties which will protect public health and local amenity.

**4.54** A minor positive effect is also expected against IA objective 7: Sustainable Transport as when considering proposals for new industrial and warehousing development, the Council will have regard to the incorporation of measures to encourage active travel. This will also reinforce the minor positive effect already identified in relation to IA objective 5: Health. Minor positive effects are also expected against IA objectives 8: Air Quality and 12: Water because when considering proposals for new industrial and warehousing development, the Council will have regard to the potential effects of air and water pollution. While the policy considers access and car parking provision, some level of parking and vehicle access will always be required in developments of this nature.

**4.55** Negligible effects are expected against the remaining IA objectives.

## Reasonable Alternatives

**4.56** No reasonable alternatives. Paragraph 86 of the NPPF states that significant weight should be placed on the need to support economic growth and productivity, taking into account both local business needs and wider opportunities for development.

### Policy LP-E3: Office development

**4.57** Policy LP-E3 will have a significant positive effect on IA objective 2: Economy because the Council will seek to encourage office growth within Bury's town centres to support the spatial strategy set out in the Places for Everyone Joint Plan and the aim to boost northern competitiveness. Increasing employment provision within Bury by providing additional office space will also help to address levels of deprivation (covered under IA objective 3) and may offer opportunities for work-based training and skills development; therefore minor positive effects are also likely in relation to IA objectives 3: Crime and deprivation and 6: Education.

**4.58** This policy will have further minor positive effects on IA objectives 4: Equality, 7: Sustainable Transport and 8: Air Quality because the focus of new office development should be the Borough's key town centres, in part due to their excellent public transport connections. This will ensure that jobs created through office provision are accessible to most people, including those without a car. A minor positive effect is also expected in relation to IA objective 5: Health as more people may be able to walk and cycle to work in town centre locations.

**4.59** Negligible effects are expected against the remaining IA objectives.

## **Reasonable Alternatives**

**4.60** No alternative policies considered. The NPPF identifies offices as a main town centre use. Paragraph 91 states that main town centre uses should be located in town centres.

## **Policy LP-E4: Employment Generating Areas**

**4.61** Policy LP-E4 will have a significant positive effect on IA objective 2: Economy because the purpose of the policy is to protect and enhance the Borough's established Employment Generating Areas (EGAs) for the benefit of the local economy. Restricting other uses in those areas will protect their primarily employment functions. While this could be seen as potentially restrictive to other forms of development, such as residential uses, it is not considered likely that this policy would have any notable impact in terms of restricting housing or other forms of development within the Borough.

**4.62** A minor positive effect is also expected against IA objective 3: Crime and deprivation because the policy seeks to maintain accessible employment opportunities for the Borough's residents which should help to reduce deprivation.

**4.63** Negligible effects are expected against the remaining IA objectives.

## **Reasonable Alternatives**

**4.64** No alternatives considered. Paragraph 86 of the NPPF states that significant weight should be placed on the need to support economic growth and productivity, taking into account both local business needs and wider opportunities for development.

## Policy LP-E5: Employment sites outside Employment Generating Areas

**4.65** Policy LP-EM5 will have a significant positive effect on IA objective 2: Economy because it seeks to avoid the loss or change of use of viable employment sites outside designated Employment Generating Areas. Similarly to Policy LP-EM4 above, this could be seen as potentially restricting to other uses such as residential; however the policy is not expected to have a notable effect in terms of restricting other forms of development within Bury as a whole.

**4.66** A minor positive effect is also expected against IA objective 3: Crime and deprivation because the policy seeks to maintain accessible employment opportunities for the Borough's residents which should help to reduce deprivation (which is addressed by that IA objective).

**4.67** A minor positive effect is likely in relation to IA objective 15: Efficient land use as the policy allows for the redevelopment of employment sites where appropriate.

## Reasonable Alternatives

**4.68** Paragraph 86 of the NPPF states that significant weight should be placed on the need to support economic growth and productivity, taking into account both local business needs and wider opportunities for development.

## Supporting our Centres

**4.69** The likely effects of the policies in the 'Supporting our Centres' section of the Local Plan are shown in **Table 4.5**.

Table 4.5: IA findings for the Supporting our Centres policies

IA Objectives	Policy LP-TC1: Hierarchy and Role of Centres	Policy LP-TC2: Managing the Location and Scale of Main Town Centre Uses	Policy LP-TC3: Primary Shopping Areas	Policy LP-TC4: Local and Neighbourhood Centres	Policy LP-TC5: Local Shops and Services	Policy LP-TC6 – Upper Floors in Centres
1: Housing	0	0	0	0	0	+
2: Economy	++	++?	++	++	+	+
3: Crime and deprivation	0	+	+	0	0	0
4: Equality	+	+	0	+	+	0
5: Health	+	+	0	0	+	0
6: Education	0	0	0	0	0	0
7: Sustainable transport	+	+	0	0	+	0
8: Air quality	+	+	0	0	0	0
9: Biodiversity and geodiversity	0	0	0	0	0	0
10: Climate change resilience	0	0	0	0	0	0
11: Energy efficiency	0	0	0	0	0	0
12: Water	0	0	0	0	0	0
13: Landscape	0	0	+	+	0	0
14: Historic environment	0	0	+	0	0	0
15: Efficient land use	0	0	0	0	0	+
16: Sustainable management of resources	0	0	0	0	0	0

## Policy LP-TC1: Hierarchy and Role of Centres

**4.70** Policy LP-TC1 will have a significant positive effect on IA objective 2: Economy as it seeks to maintain and enhance the Borough's centres by ensuring that new development involving main town centre uses is appropriately located.

**4.71** The policy seeks to ensure that the town centre of Bury, as the Borough's sub-regional centre and most accessible location, continues its role as the Borough's key location for shopping, services, leisure, tourism and cultural facilities supported by residential, healthcare and educational uses. This approach will mean that town centre services and facilities as well as job opportunities created there, will be accessible to more people, including those without a car. As such, it will have minor positive effects on IA objectives 4: Equality, 5: Health, 7: Sustainable Transport and 8: Air Quality. Negligible effects are expected against the remaining IA objectives.

### Reasonable Alternatives

**4.72** No alternatives considered. Paragraph 90 (a) of the NPPF states that planning policies should define a network and hierarchy of town centres and promote their long-term vitality and viability.

## Policy LP-TC2: Managing the Location and Scale of Main Town Centre Uses

**4.73** This policy is likely to have a significant positive effect on IA objective 2: Economy as the Council will seek to maintain and enhance the vitality of the Borough's hierarchy of centres by ensuring that proposals for main town centre uses are in an appropriate location and that proposals for retail, leisure and

office development are of a scale that would not have significant adverse impacts. However, the wording of the policy implies that some level of adverse impacts would be permissible; therefore the significant positive effect is uncertain.

**4.74** Seeking to focus main town centre uses within existing centres should mean that people are less likely to use cars to access those services and facilities and may have more opportunity to make use of public transport as well as walking and cycling. The associated jobs will also be more accessible to those without a car. Therefore, minor positive effects are expected against IA objectives 3: Crime and deprivation, 4: Equality, 5: Health, 7: Sustainable Transport and 8: Air Quality.

### Reasonable Alternatives

**4.75** Paragraph 91 of the NPPF sets out the sequential test which should be applied to new retail proposals and also sets a retail impact assessment default threshold of 2,500m<sup>2</sup> of gross floorspace. Policy LP-TC2 identifies a lower locally set floorspace. Alternatives would be to set a higher or lower floorspace threshold, however these have been discounted on the basis that proposals in excess of these thresholds are not inherently inappropriate in scale, rather the thresholds have been established as a way of ensuring that a proposal at or in excess of the thresholds gives more detailed consideration as to the potential impacts associated with it. Setting a higher or lower threshold would not significantly alter the effects of the policy as outlined above, although a higher threshold could mean that the positive effects on IA objective 2: Economy are reduced.

### Policy LP-TC3: Primary Shopping Areas

**4.76** Policy LP-TC3 will seek to maintain retailing [Class E(a)] as the predominant use at ground floor level within the Primary Shopping Areas of

town and district centres. This will help to retain their vitality and encourage footfall and a significant positive effect is expected on IA objective 2: Economy.

**4.77** In determining proposals for the change of use at the ground floor level from retail to a non-retail use, the Council will consider the character and appearance of the frontage, and whether the proposal will give rise to disturbance or nuisance. Therefore, minor positive effects are expected on IA objectives 3: Crime and deprivation, 13: Landscape and 14: Historic Environment.

**4.78** Negligible effects are expected against the remaining IA objectives.

## **Reasonable Alternatives**

**4.79** No alternative policies considered. Paragraph 90 (b) states that policies should define the extent of town centres and primary shopping areas and make clear the range of uses permitted in such locations.

## **Policy LP-TC4: Local and neighbourhood centres**

**4.80** This policy seeks to protect the role of Local and Neighbourhood Centres when considering proposals for change of uses at ground floor level, away from retail. The Council will also have regard to the vitality and viability of the centre and whether this would be benefited by the proposal. Therefore, Policy LP-TC4 will have a significant positive effect on IA objective 2: Economy.

**4.81** The Council will also have to regard whether or not the locality is adequately served by alternative local shopping facilities within reasonable walking distance. Therefore, a minor positive effect is expected for IA objective 4: Equality.

**4.82** Consideration will also be given to whether the proposal is appropriate in scale and character and whether it could result in a change in the character of the centre as a whole. Therefore, a minor positive effect is likely in relation to IA objective 13: Landscape.

**4.83** Negligible effects are expected against the remaining IA objectives.

## **Reasonable Alternatives**

**4.84** No alternatives considered. Paragraph 90 (a) of the NPPF states that planning policies should define a network and hierarchy of town centres and promote their long-term vitality and viability.

## **Policy LP-TC5: Local Shops and Services**

**4.85** This policy seeks to protect and retain local shops and services outside recognised centres, particularly where they serve the day-to-day needs of local communities that would otherwise have limited access to such facilities. Therefore, minor positive effects are expected against IA objective 2: Economy and IA objective 4: Equality. Minor positive effects are also likely in relation to IA objectives 5: Health and 7: Sustainable Transport as retaining these types of local services and facilities can support levels of walking and reduced car use day to day.

**4.86** Negligible effects are expected against the remaining IA objectives.

## **Reasonable Alternatives**

**4.87** No alternatives considered. Paragraph 90 of the NPPF states that planning policies should support the role that town centres play at the heart of local communities.

## Policy LP-TC6: Upper Floors in Centres

**4.88** Policy LP-TC6 will support proposals which bring underused and vacant spaces on upper floors of premises within centres back into beneficial use. Therefore, a minor positive effect is expected on IA objective 15: Efficient land use as the policy may avoid new development.

**4.89** The policy reflects the Council’s aim to encourage a range of uses, such as offices and residential, within upper floors. This will have minor positive effects on IA objectives 1: Housing and 2: Economy.

**4.90** Negligible effects are expected against the remaining IA objectives.

### Reasonable Alternatives

**4.91** No alternatives considered. Paragraph 90 of the NPPF states that planning policies should take a positive approach to the growth, management and adaption of town centres.

## Promoting Tourism and Culture

**4.92** The likely effects of the only policy in the 'Promoting Tourism and Culture' section of the Local Plan are shown in **Table 4.6**.

**Table 4.6: IA findings for the Promoting Tourism and Culture Policy**

IA Objectives	Policy LP-TO1: Tourism and Cultural Assets
1: Housing	0

IA Objectives	Policy LP-TO1: Tourism and Cultural Assets
2: Economy	++
3: Crime and deprivation	0
4: Equality	0
5: Health	0
6: Education	0
7: Sustainable transport	+
8: Air quality	0
9: Biodiversity and geodiversity	+
10: Climate change resilience	0
11: Energy efficiency	0
12: Water	+
13: Landscape	+
14: Historic environment	++
15: Efficient land use	0
16: Sustainable management of resources	0

**4.93** Policy LP-TO1 will have significant positive effects against IA objectives 2: Economy 14: Historic Environment because the overarching purpose of the policy is to recognise and make the most of the significant contribution that tourism and culture make towards the competitiveness and diversity of the local economy. While employment opportunities associated with the tourism industry tend to be low paid and often seasonal, this approach will support employment and boost the local economy as a result of visitor spending. Measures in the policy will help to improve access to cultural activities and facilities, for example

safeguarding key heritage assets and incorporating cultural activities or features into major developments where possible.

**4.94** A minor positive effect is also expected against IA objective 7: Sustainable Transport as the policy seeks to improve access to tourism and heritage assets by sustainable modes of travel.

**4.95** Minor positive effects are expected against IA objectives 9: Biodiversity and geodiversity and 12: Water through and safeguarding the Manchester, Bolton and Bury Canal and supporting proposals for its restoration while protecting its biodiversity value. A minor positive effect is also expected against IA objective 13: Landscape as the policy seeks to safeguard key landscapes.

**4.96** Negligible effects are expected against the remaining IA objectives.

### Reasonable Alternatives

**4.97** None identified – the NPPF specifies that significant weight should be placed on the need to support economic growth and productivity and it is important that the Local Plan recognises the significant contribution that tourism and culture make towards the competitiveness and diversity of the local economy and in improving the attractiveness and quality of life within the Borough.

## Creating Healthy and Successful Communities

**4.98** The likely effects of the policies in the 'Creating Healthy and Successful Communities' section of the Local Plan are shown in **Table 4.7**.

Table 4.7: IA findings for the Creating Healthy and Successful Communities policies

IA Objectives	Policy LP-CM1: New Development and Social Value	Policy LP-CM2: New Development and Health	Policy LP-CM3: Education Provision in New Housing	Policy LP-CM4: Community Facilities
1: Housing	0	+	0	0
2: Economy	+	0	0	0
3: Crime and deprivation	+	+	0	0
4: Equality	++	+	+	+
5: Health	+	++	0	0
6: Education	+	0	++	0
7: Sustainable transport	+	+	+	+
8: Air quality	0	+	0	+
9: Biodiversity and geodiversity	0	0	0	0
10: Climate change resilience	0	0	0	0
11: Energy efficiency	0	0	0	0
12: Water	0	0	0	0
13: Landscape	0	0	0	0
14: Historic environment	0	0	0	0
15: Efficient land use	0	0	0	0
16: Sustainable management of resources	0	0	0	0

## Policy LP-CM1: New Development and Social Value

**4.99** This policy is expected to have a significant positive effect on IA objective 4: Equality as the overarching purpose of the policy is to ensure that new development maximises its social value and equality benefits to the local communities. This will have further minor positive effects on IA objectives 2: Economy, 3: Crime and deprivation and 5: Health.

### Reasonable Alternatives

**4.100** To not include a policy for New Development and Social Value. However, this was discounted on the basis that new development provides an opportunity to unlock additional community benefit from new development which can help to address some of Bury's social inequalities.

## Policy LP-CM2: New Development and Health

**4.101** Policy LP-CM2 will have a significant positive effect on IA objective 5: Health as the overarching purpose of the policy is to ensure that new development makes a positive contribution towards the physical and mental health and wellbeing of the Borough's communities, through a range of requirements which will apply to new developments including the provision of required healthcare infrastructure and designing places with levels of activity and positive health outcomes in mind. Specific mention is made of the aim to address issues associated with deprivation and health-related inequalities; therefore minor positive effects are likely in relation to IA objectives 3: Crime and deprivation and 4: Equality. These positive effects are further reinforced by the requirements of the policy to create safe and accessible environments and developments and to reduce crime and the fear of crime.

**4.102** Minor positive effects are also expected in relation to IA objectives 7: Sustainable Transport and 8: Air Quality because the policy requires development proposals to increase opportunities for people to pursue more active lifestyles (taken to include active travel) and to improve air quality. The policy also supports the promotion of the use of public transport, walking, wheeling and cycling. Specific reference is made to improving active travel links to Fairfield Hospital.

**4.103** Negligible effects are expected against the remaining IA objectives.

## **Reasonable Alternatives**

**4.104** None identified. The NPPF makes it clear that planning policies and decisions should consider and support the delivery of local strategies to improve health, social and cultural well-being for all sections of the community.

## **Policy LP-CM3: Education Provision in New Housing**

**4.105** Policy CM3 will have a significant positive effect on IA objective 6: Education because it seeks to ensure that adequate provision is made to meet the increased demand for school places arising from housing development. A minor positive effect is also likely in relation to IA objective 4: Equality as the policy should help to ensure access to education for all. A minor positive effect is also likely in relation to IA objective 7: Sustainable Transport as the policy will help to avoid pupils needing to travel longer distances to access school places, which is less likely to mean travelling on foot.

**4.106** Negligible effects are expected against the remaining IA objectives.

## Reasonable Alternatives

**4.107** None identified. The NPPF states that it is important that a sufficient choice of school places is available to meet the needs of existing and new communities.

### Policy LP-CM4: Community Facilities

**4.108** Policy LP-CM4 will have a minor positive effect on IA objective 4: Equality because it seeks to ensure ongoing access to community facilities by avoiding the loss of existing facilities and ensuring that new and improved facilities will be accessible. It is specifically required that new facilities incorporate the needs and requirements of the disabled. Minor positive effects are also expected against IA objectives 5: Health and 7: Sustainable Transport because new and improved community facilities must be accessible by public transport, walking and cycling. Community facilities covered by this policy are expected to include healthcare facilities, and good access to wider services and facilities will benefit people's wellbeing.

**4.109** A minor positive effect is expected on IA objective 8: Air Quality because the Council will support proposals for new and improved community facilities where they would not lead to unacceptable levels of traffic generation. While the provision of adequate car parking is also required, some level of car use will always be necessary and this policy criterion is not seen to particularly encourage or facilitate car use.

**4.110** Negligible effects are expected against the remaining IA objectives.

## Reasonable Alternatives

**4.111** None identified. Policies should plan positively for the provision and use of community facilities.

## Promoting Sustainable Transport

**4.112** The likely effects of the policies in the 'Promoting Sustainable Transport' section of the Local Plan are shown in **Table 4.8**.

Table 4.8: IA findings for the Promoting Sustainable Transport policies

IA Objectives	Policy LP-TR1: Sustainable Transport	Policy LP-TR2: Walking, Wheeling and Cycling	Policy LP-TR3: Public Transport	Policy LP-TR4: Travel Hubs	Policy LP-TR5: Highways	Policy LP-TR6: Parking Provision and Drop-off Facilities	Policy LP-TR7: Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure
1: Housing	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2: Economy	+	+	+	+	+	+	0
3: Crime and deprivation	+	+	+	+	+	0	0
4: Equality	+	+	+	+	0	+	0
5: Health	+	++	+	+	+	0	+
6: Education	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7: Sustainable transport	++	++	++	++	+/	-	0
8: Air quality	++	+	+	+	+/	-	+
9: Biodiversity and geodiversity	+	+	+	+	0	0	+
10: Climate change resilience	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
11: Energy efficiency	+	+	+	+	0	-	++
12: Water	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
13: Landscape	0	+	0	0	0	0	0
14: Historic environment	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15: Efficient land use	+	0	0	0	0	0	0
16: Sustainable management of resources	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

## Policy LP-TR1: Sustainable Transport

**4.113** Policy LP-TR1 will have a significant positive effect on IA objective 7: Sustainable Transport because the overarching purpose of the policy is to promote sustainable transport across the Borough by encouraging a modal shift towards more sustainable modes of travel, such as walking, cycling and public transport. As a result of the measures in the policy, a significant positive effect is also likely in relation to IA objective 8: Air Quality and minor positive effects in relation to IA objective 9: Biodiversity and geodiversity, as air pollution can impact on sensitive habitats and species, and IA objective 11: Energy Efficiency.

**4.114** Higher levels of walking and cycling will have minor positive effect on IA objective 5: Health. One of the ways that more walking and cycling will be facilitated is by maximising the amount of development within existing urban areas and increasing the density of development in the most sustainable locations. As such, a minor positive effect is also likely in relation to IA objective 15: Efficient land use.

**4.115** Improving the public transport network will benefit the economy, enabling more people to access job opportunities, including those without a car, and encouraging investment. Minor positive effects are therefore also likely in relation to IA objectives 2: Economy, 3: Crime and deprivation and 4: Equality.

**4.116** Negligible effects are expected in relation to the remaining IA objectives.

### Reasonable Alternatives

**4.117** None identified. The promotion of sustainable transport is one of the key themes of the NPPF.

## Policy LP-TR2: Walking, Wheeling and Cycling

**4.118** Policy LP-TR2 will have significant positive effects on IA objectives 7: Sustainable Transport and 5: Health because the policy seeks to promote increases in active travel specifically, by walking, wheeling and cycling. Facilitating modal shift away from car travel will have associated minor positive effects on IA objectives 8: Air quality, 9: Biodiversity and geodiversity and 11: Energy Efficiency.

**4.119** Protecting and enhancing a network of accessible, safe and usable walking, wheeling and cycling routes will have minor positive effects on IA objectives 3: Crime and deprivation and 4: Equality. These routes may have wider benefits as Green Infrastructure, in relation to the character and appearance of the area, and minor positive effects are likely in relation to IA objectives 9: Biodiversity and Geodiversity and 13: Landscape.

**4.120** Requiring cycle parking facilities at all destinations that generate a significant number of trips, including workplaces, and ensuring that proposals for major new employment development include provision for shower, changing and drying facilities will have a minor positive effect on IA objective 2: Economy by improving access to job opportunities for those without a car.

**4.121** Negligible effects are expected in relation to the remaining IA objectives.

### Reasonable Alternatives

**4.122** None identified. The NPPF places great emphasis on developments maximising opportunities to promote walking and cycling, providing for high quality networks and supporting facilities and giving priority first to pedestrian and cycle movements within development.

## Policy LP-TR3: Public Transport

**4.123** Policy LP-TR3 will have a significant positive effect on IA objective 7: Sustainable Transport because the overarching purpose of the policy is to deliver improvements to the Borough's public transport network and facilities to promote more sustainable transport choices and reduce reliance on private motor vehicles.

**4.124** To ensure better public transport, the Council will support proposals which improve links to key employment areas, improve passenger safety, improve transport through less accessible locations and reduce harmful emissions through low and zero emission vehicles. Therefore, Policy LP-TR3 is expected to have minor positive effects on IA objectives 2: Economy, 3: Crime and deprivation, 4: Equality, 8: Air Quality and 11: Energy Efficiency.

**4.125** While the policy promotes public transport rather than active travel, the policy will help to reduce air pollution which could otherwise impact on human health and sensitive habitats and species; therefore minor positive effects are identified in relation to IA objectives 5: Health and 9: Biodiversity and Geodiversity.

**4.126** Negligible effects are expected in relation to the remaining IA objectives.

## Reasonable Alternatives

**4.127** None identified. One of the key themes of the NPPF is that planning should seek to encourage a reduction in the need to travel and make provision for genuine and realistic alternatives to travelling by car.

## Policy LP-TR4: Travel Hubs

**4.128** Policy LP-TR4 will have a significant positive effect on IA objective 7: Sustainable Transport because the Council will support schemes for new and improved transport hubs as part of the wider strategy for increasing the use of public transport and active travel.

**4.129** This will be supported where it would ensure a safe and secure environment for users and their vehicles, include facilities for non-motorised modes (e.g. cycling), help reduce overall levels of traffic on the Borough's highway network and maximise the use of public transport. Therefore, minor positive effects are also expected in relation to IA objectives 3: Crime and deprivation, 4: Equality, 5: health, 8: Air Quality and 11: Energy Efficiency.

**4.130** The measures in the policy will help to reduce air pollution which could otherwise impact on sensitive habitats and species; therefore a minor positive effect is identified in relation to IA objective 9: Biodiversity and Geodiversity.

**4.131** The policy will also support improved access to jobs for those without a car; therefore a minor positive effect is also likely in relation to IA objective 2: Economy.

**4.132** Negligible effects are expected against the remaining IA objectives.

## Reasonable Alternatives

**4.133** None identified. One of the key themes of the NPPF is that planning should seek to encourage a reduction in the need to travel and make provision for genuine and realistic alternatives to travelling by car.

## Policy LP-TR5: Highways

**4.134** While this policy relates to the highways network and requires developments to provide for new and enhanced highways infrastructure where necessary, this is to ensure the safety and capacity of the network and the aim of the policy is not to facilitate high levels of car use; rather it seeks to manage the impacts of new development on the highways network and requires proposals for development that will generate demand for travel to implement Travel Plans to mitigate the impacts and promote the use of sustainable transport. It also seeks to ensure provision for public transport. A mixed (minor positive and minor negative) effect is therefore identified in relation to both IA objectives 7: Sustainable Transport and 8: Air quality.

**4.135** Ensuring that the Borough's highway network operates efficiently, effectively and safely will have minor positive effects on IA objectives 2: Economy, 3: Crime and deprivation and 5: Health.

**4.136** Negligible effects are expected against the remaining IA objectives.

## Reasonable Alternatives

**4.137** None identified. One of the key themes of the NPPF is that planning should seek to encourage a reduction in the need to travel and make provision for genuine and realistic alternatives to travelling by car.

## Policy LP-TR6: Parking Provision and Drop-off Facilities

**4.138** This policy requires all development to make adequate provision for car parking which could be seen as facilitating ongoing car use and discouraging modal shift, which will have minor negative effects on IA objectives 7:

Sustainable Transport, 8: Air Quality and 11: Energy Efficiency. However, it is recognised that some level of car parking will always be required, and may benefit people who are unable to travel by other modes through the provision of disabled parking. A minor positive effect is therefore identified in relation to IA objective 4: Equality. A minor positive effect is also likely in relation to IA objective 2: Economy as providing car parking in the town and district centres will help to encourage use of those areas for shopping and other activities.

**4.139** Negligible effects are expected against the remaining IA objectives.

### Reasonable Alternatives

**4.140** None identified. The NPPF seeks to ensure that parking and other transport consideration are integral to the design of schemes and contribute to making high quality places.

## Policy LP-TR7: Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure

**4.141** Policy LP-TR7 is expected to have a significant positive effect on IA objective 11: Energy Efficiency because it seeks to expand the Borough's network of electric vehicle charging infrastructure. Encouraging the use of electric vehicles will help to improve air quality and reduce pollution which can otherwise impact on human health as well as sensitive habitats and species; therefore minor positive effects are also likely in relation to IA objectives 5: Health, 8: Air quality and 9: Biodiversity and geodiversity.

**4.142** Negligible effects are expected against the remaining IA objectives.

## Reasonable Alternatives

**4.143** None identified, The use of electric vehicles is an important measure in reducing emissions locally whilst providing people with a high level of mobility. The Government aspires that by 2040 every new car in the UK will be an ultra-low emission vehicle and is facilitating this through a range of measures.

## Conserving the Built Environment and Achieving High Quality Design

**4.144** The likely effects of the policies in the 'Conserving the Built Environment and Achieving High Quality Design' section of the Local Plan are shown in **Table 4.9** overleaf.

Table 4.9: IA findings for the Conserving the Built Environment and Achieving High-Quality Design policies

IA objectives	LP-BE1: Conservation Areas	LP-BE2: Listed Buildings	LP-BE3: Scheduled Monuments	LP-BE4: Archaeological Features	LP-BE5: Local Non-designated Heritage Assets	LP-BE6: Design and Layout of New Development	LP-BE7: Regeneration Opportunity Areas	LP-BE8: Amenity	LP-BE9: Food and Drink Uses	LP-BE10: Advertisements
1: Housing		0	0	0	0	+	0	+	0	0
2: Economy	+	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	+	0
3: Crime and deprivation		0	0	0	0	+	+	0	0	0
4: Equality		0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0
5: Health	+	0	0	0	0	+	0	+	+	+
6: Education		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7: Sustainable transport		0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0
8: Air quality		0	0	0	0	+	0	+	+	0
9: Biodiversity and geodiversity	+	0	0	0	0	+	0	+	0	0
10: Climate change resilience	0	0	0	0	0	++	0	0	0	0
11: Energy efficiency	0	0	0	0	0	++	0	0	0	0
12: Water	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0
13: Landscape	+	+	+	0	0	+	+	+	0	+
14: Historic environment	++	++	++	++	++	+	+	0	0	+
15: Efficient land use	+	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	0	0

IA objectives	LP-BE1: Conservation Areas	LP-BE2: Listed Buildings	LP-BE3: Scheduled Monuments	LP-BE4: Archaeological Features	LP-BE5: Local Non-designated Heritage Assets	LP-BE6: Design and Layout of New Development	LP-BE7: Regeneration Opportunity Areas	LP-BE8: Amenity	LP-BE9: Food and Drink Uses	LP-BE10: Advertisements
16: Sustainable management of resources	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0

## Policy LP-BE1: Conservation Areas

**4.145** Policy LP-BE1 is expected to have a significant positive effect on IA objective 14: Historic environment, as the policy sets out how the Council will preserve and enhance the character and appearance of the Borough's Conservation Areas. The policy emphasises measures to retain, replace, and restore historical and architectural features. Additionally, development within a Conservation Area will be expected to preserve or enhance the character and appearance of the area while considering the nature of the development in terms of its bulk, height, materials, design and detailing. It is therefore likely that protecting and enhancing Conservation Areas will also contribute indirectly to protecting the Borough's townscape and local identity. As such, a minor positive effect is also expected in relation to IA objective 13: Landscape.

**4.146** The policy also promotes the retention and enhancement of landscape features within Conservation Areas, including trees, parks and gardens, while supporting environmental improvement schemes such as landscaping, refurbishment of street furniture, traffic management, and pedestrian initiatives. As such, minor positive effects are expected in relation to IA objectives 5: Health and 9: Biodiversity and geodiversity.

**4.147** Policy LP-BE1 supports the removal of dereliction and restoration of land or buildings to beneficial use within Conservation Areas. A minor positive effect is therefore expected in relation to IA objective 15: Efficient land use, by promoting the productive reuse of neglected land and buildings.

**4.148** While the measures set out in the policy could be seen to potentially restrict new housing or commercial development, this is not considered likely to occur on a scale that would affect the overall provision of new development across the Borough; rather it would help to ensure that new development of this nature is appropriately sited.

## Reasonable alternatives

**4.149** None identified – the NPPF is clear that plans should set out a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment.

### Policy LP-BE2: Listed Buildings

**4.150** Policy LP-BE2 is expected to have a significant positive effect in relation to IA objective 14: Historic environment as it seeks to safeguard the character and setting of Listed Buildings. This includes prohibiting works, alterations, or changes of use that would have a detrimental effect on their historical or architectural character and features. Applications for Listed Building Consent must meet criteria that consider the proposal's impact on the building's historic fabric, and the need to protect its setting. It is likely that protecting and enhancing the setting of Listed Buildings will also contribute indirectly to protecting and enhancing the Borough's townscape and local identity. As such, a minor positive effect is also expected in relation to IA objective 13: Landscape.

**4.151** While the measures set out in the policy could be seen to potentially restrict new housing or commercial development, this is not considered likely to occur on a scale that would affect the overall provision of new development across the Borough; rather it would help to ensure that new development of this nature is appropriately sited.

## Reasonable alternatives

**4.152** None identified – the NPPF is clear that plans should set out a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment.

## Policy LP-BE3: Scheduled Monuments

**4.153** This policy is expected to have a significant positive effect on IA objective 14: Historic environment, as it explicitly prohibits development proposals which would adversely affect current and future Scheduled Monuments and their settings. A minor positive effect is also likely in relation to IA objective 13: Landscape as the policy will safeguard the setting of Scheduled Monuments, thereby preserving the surrounding environment, which will help to maintain the overall townscape and local identity of the Borough.

**4.154** While the measures set out in the policy could be seen to potentially restrict new housing or commercial development, this is not considered likely to occur on a scale that would affect the overall provision of new development across the Borough; rather it would help to ensure that new development of this nature is appropriately sited.

### Reasonable alternatives

**4.155** None identified – the NPPF is clear that plans should set out a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment.

## Policy LP-BE4: Archaeological Features

**4.156** This policy is expected to have a significant positive effect on IA objective 14: Historic environment, as it sets out guidance that proposals affecting archaeological features must follow. The Council will evaluate the importance of an archaeological site and the impact of any proposal based on specific criteria, including the historic importance of the site, nature of the proposed development, and the level/degree of disturbance.

**4.157** While the measures set out in the policy could be seen to potentially restrict new housing or commercial development, this is not considered likely to

occur on a scale that would affect the overall provision of new development across the Borough; rather it would help to ensure that new development of this nature is appropriately sited.

## **Reasonable alternatives**

**4.158** None identified – the NPPF is clear that plans should set out a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment.

## **Policy LP-BE5: Local Non-designated Heritage Assets**

**4.159** Policy LP-BE5 sets out that for proposals affecting non-designated heritage assets, the Council will make a judgment based on the scale of any loss or harm to the asset, and the benefits of the proposal. The policy stipulates that applications where the loss or harm is considered to outweigh the anticipated benefits will be refused. As such, a significant positive effect is anticipated in relation to IA objective 14: Historic environment.

**4.160** While the measures set out in the policy could be seen to potentially restrict new housing or commercial development, this is not considered likely to occur on a scale that would affect the overall provision of new development across the Borough; rather it would help to ensure that new development of this nature is appropriately sited.

## **Reasonable alternatives**

**4.161** None identified – the NPPF is clear that plans should set out a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment.

## Policy LP-BE6: Design and Layout of New Development

**4.162** Policy LP-BE6 requires all new development to display high standards of design and layout, which will positively affect a number of the IA objectives. The policy promotes safe, inclusive, and accessible design and seeks to ensure that design minimises actual and perceived opportunities for crime, antisocial behaviour, disorder, and terrorism. Additionally, the emphasis of the policy on making provision for high-quality, safe and accessible public spaces, and green infrastructure, the provision of wildlife habitats and other wildlife-friendly features within the development, is likely to support social interaction through increased outdoor activity, increased levels of pedestrian activity, and increased access to greenspaces. This would improve community wellbeing and reduce inequalities. The policy makes specific reference to accommodating the needs of people with disabilities, the elderly and those with small children. Minor positive effects are therefore expected in relation to IA objectives 3: Crime and deprivation, 4: Equality, 5: Health, and 9: Biodiversity and geodiversity.

**4.163** The policy supports development which enables effective, safe and accessible patterns of movements within and around the development by promoting sustainable public transport and active travel modes such as walking and cycling. This will contribute positively to IA objectives 7: Sustainable transport and 8: Air quality, by reducing reliance on cars, and associated air pollution and encouraging the uses of cleaner, more environmentally friendly transport options.

**4.164** Policy LP-BE6 sets out that new development should use high-quality, sustainable and durable materials that are easily maintainable and resistant to the effects of ageing, weather and climatic conditions. The policy also requires consideration to be given to the need to ensure that development contributes to both mitigating and adapting to climate change and incorporates low carbon materials. It also requires opportunities to be taken to optimise solar energy generation. A significant positive effect is therefore likely in relation to IA objectives 10: Climate change resilience and 11: Energy efficiency.

**4.165** In addition, the policy emphasises the importance of optimising the use of land and natural resources. A minor positive effect is therefore expected in relation to IA objective 15: Efficient land use.

**4.166** Minor positive effects are also expected in relation to IA objectives 13: Landscape and 14: Historic Environment, as the policy stipulates that new development will need to reflect the context, history, landscape, townscape and the cultural characteristics of the site and its surrounding areas. It must also be visually attractive and have a distinctive identity. The policy also notes that landscaping, including the provision of street trees, should be integrated with the strategy for sustainable surface water management. This will help manage and reduce surface water runoff, with a minor positive effect expected in relation to IA objective 12: Water.

**4.167** The measures in the policy will combine to improve the overall quality of new housing, particularly as the policy requires homes to be functional, accessible and sustainable. A minor positive effect is therefore likely in relation to IA objective 1: Housing.

## Reasonable alternatives

**4.168** None identified – the NPPF specifies that the creation of high quality and sustainable buildings and places is fundamental to what the planning and development process should achieve.

## Policy LP-BE7: Regeneration Opportunity Areas

**4.169** This policy will have minor positive effects on IA objectives 2: Economy and 3: Crime and deprivation as supporting the regeneration of the built environment will address deprivation in the identified opportunity areas and will have economic benefits in those areas and more widely.

**4.170** Minor positive effects are also likely in relation to IA objectives 13: Landscape, 14: Historic environment and 15: Efficient land use as a result of improvements to the built environment in those areas.

## Reasonable alternatives

**4.171** To not include a policy for Regeneration Opportunity Areas. However, this was discounted on the basis that paragraph 86 (d) of the NPPF states that planning policies should seek to address potential barriers to investment, including poor environments and this is a key aim of Policy LP-BE7.

## Policy LP-BE8: Amenity

**4.172** Policy LP-BE8 seeks to protect and enhance visual and residential amenity from the potential impacts of new development. It seeks to ensure that new developments do not cause overshadowing or a loss of light to the surrounding area or to the users and occupants of the development. It also considers factors such as separation distances and the positioning of buildings/extensions to safeguard the privacy of nearby dwellings. Furthermore, it seeks to ensure that new development mitigates pollution and potential general disturbances arising from noise, vibration, smell, litter, artificial light, and opening hours. The policy also seeks to ensure that new development is adequately served by parking, which could reduce on-street parking congestion and improve road safety. Such provisions collectively support high-quality development needed for quality of life and ensure that residents' mental and physical health and wellbeing is supported. Minor positive effects are therefore expected in relation to IA objectives 1: Housing, 5: Health and 8: Air quality. A minor positive effect is also likely in relation to IA objective 9: Biodiversity and geodiversity, as some of the impacts on amenity could also otherwise affect sensitive habitats and species, such as noise, vibration and light pollution.

**4.173** The consideration of factors such as the location of a building/extension will help to maintain the aesthetic integrity of the area, thereby ensuring that the

local character of the townscapes are considered. As such, a minor positive effect is anticipated in relation to IA objective 13: Landscape.

## **Reasonable alternatives**

**4.174** None identified – the NPPF specifies that planning policies and decisions should ensure that developments create places with a high standard of amenity for existing and future users.

## **Policy LP-BE9: Food and Drink Uses**

**4.175** Policy LP-BE9 requires the Council to consider whether proposals for food and drink establishments would result in an over-concentration, which could adversely change the nature or character of a centre. This ensures that there is balanced mix of businesses, which will help to maintain economic stability. The policy also requires consideration to be given to whether the proposal would lead to an unacceptable loss of retail uses and adversely impact the vitality of a centre. As such, the policy is expected to have a minor positive effect in relation to IA objective 2: Economy.

**4.176** Policy LP-BE9 seeks to protect and enhance visual and residential amenity in relation to proposals for food and drink uses. The policy states that the Council will have regard to the amenity of nearby residents by reason of noise, smell, litter and opening hours, and parking and servicing provision associated with proposals for food and drink uses, and its effects in terms of road safety, traffic generation and movement. This has the potential to reduce congestion and support the mental and physical health and wellbeing of nearby residents. The policy also requires consideration of whether the proposal has potential to have a negative impact on health and wellbeing. As such, minor positive effects are expected in relation to IA objectives 5: Health and 8: Air quality.

**4.177** The policy requires the provision for the storage and disposal of refuse and customer litter for proposals relating to food and drink uses, which is expected to have a minor positive effect in relation to IA objective 16: Sustainable management of resources.

## Reasonable alternatives

**4.178** None identified – Policy LP-BE8 is largely intended to ensure that food and drink uses do not adversely affect the amenity of the surrounding area and the NPPF specifies that planning policies and decisions should ensure that developments create places with a high standard of amenity for existing and future users.

## Policy LP-BE10: Advertisements

**4.179** Policy LP-BE10 stipulates that the Council will seek to control advertisements in the interest of amenity and public safety. The Council will have regard to considerations including the scale and massing of existing buildings and structures and the effect on the safe use of any form of transport, including the safety of pedestrians. By ensuring advertisements are appropriately designed and placed, the policy helps maintain the visual character of an area, prevent visual clutter, and reduce potential distractions for drivers and other road users. This contributes to a safer, more attractive public realm, with a minor positive effect in relation to IA objective 5: Health.

**4.180** Policy BE10 is also expected to have minor positive effects in relation to IA objectives 13: Landscape, and 14: Historic environment. as the policy seeks to ensure that advertisements respect the characteristics of the local neighbourhood, including scenic, historic, architectural and cultural features, the presence of Listed Buildings or Conservation Areas, as well as the countryside, landscape and background features. This will ensure that advertising enhances the character and appearance of buildings and areas, particularly in sensitive locations.

**4.181** While restrictions on advertising could be seen as potentially detrimental to the economy, the policy simply seeks to ensure that advertising is appropriate and avoiding excessive or inappropriate signage will preserve local character, which has its own benefits for the local economy. Negligible effects are therefore likely in relation to IA objective 2: Economy.

## Reasonable alternatives

**4.182** None identified – Policy LP-BE9 is largely intended to ensure that new advertisements do not give rise to issues around amenity and safety and the NPPF specifies that these are key considerations when assessing proposals for new development.

## Protecting Green Infrastructure and Recreation

**4.183** The likely effects of the policies in the ‘Protecting Green Infrastructure and Recreation’ section of the Local Plan are shown in **Table 4.10** overleaf.

Table 4.10: IA findings for the Protecting Green Infrastructure and Recreation policies

IA objectives	LP-GI1: Green and Blue Infrastructure	LP-GI2: Open Space, Sport and Recreation	LP-GI3: Open Space, Sport and Recreation Provision in New Housing	LP-GI4: Strategic Recreation Routes	LP-GI5: Biodiversity Assets	LP-GI6: Biodiversity Net Gains from New Development	LP-GI7: Local Nature Recovery Network	LP-GI8: Trees, Woodland and Hedgerows	LP-GI9: Geology and Geodiversity	LP-GI10: Soils
1: Housing	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2: Economy	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3: Crime and deprivation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4: Equality	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5: Health	+	++	++	++	0	0	+	+	0	0
6: Education	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7: Sustainable transport	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
8: Air quality	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	0
9: Biodiversity and geodiversity	++	+	+	+	++	++	++	++	++	+
10: Climate change resilience	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	+
11: Energy efficiency	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
12: Water	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0
13: Landscape	++	+	+	+	+	0	+	+	0	0
14: Historic environment	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15: Efficient land use	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	++

IA objectives	LP-GI1: Green and Blue Infrastructure	LP-GI2: Open Space, Sport and Recreation	LP-GI3: Open Space, Sport and Recreation Provision in New Housing	LP-GI4: Strategic Recreation Routes	LP-GI5: Biodiversity Assets	LP-GI6: Biodiversity Net Gains from New Development	LP-GI7: Local Nature Recovery Network	LP-GI8: Trees, Woodland and Hedgerows	LP-GI9: Geology and Geodiversity	LP-GI10: Soils
16: Sustainable management of resources	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0

## Policy LP-GI1: Green and Blue Infrastructure

**4.184** Policy LP-GI1 seeks to protect and enhance the Borough's network of multi-functional green and blue infrastructure. The policy stipulates that proposals which seek to improve the connectivity and quality of the network will be supported. Significant positive effects are therefore expected in relation to IA objectives 9: Biodiversity and geodiversity and 13: Landscape.

**4.185** The policy provides stringent requirements for proposals that could negatively impact the Borough's existing green and blue infrastructure network. It specifies that, where the network is not designated as Green Belt, any development must meet specific criteria, such as being limited in scope and essential to the provision or improvement of public services and utilities. Furthermore, proposals for development must also demonstrate that the proposal would have positive benefits in terms of the network's integrity, connectivity, role and function. This is likely to have a minor positive effect in relation to IA objective 5: Health by preserving and enhancing access to nature and maximising opportunities for walking and cycling, which will support the mental and physical health and wellbeing of the population. Minor positive effects are also expected in relation to IA objectives 8: Air quality, and 10: Climate change resilience as green infrastructure can have multiple benefits in relation to these topics.

**4.186** The policy states that opportunities for new green infrastructure that exist outside or adjacent to the Strategic Green Infrastructure network, which could form key gateways or improve linkages in areas of poor connectivity will be encouraged where appropriate. This is likely to enhance the connectivity of the active travel network and promote walking and cycling. A minor positive effect is therefore anticipated in relation to IA objective 7: Sustainable transport.

## Reasonable alternatives

**4.187** None identified. The NPPF is clear that plans should conserve and enhance the natural environment and in doing so, take a strategic approach to maintaining and enhancing networks of habitats and green infrastructure.

## Policy LP-GI2: Open Space, Sport and Recreation

**4.188** Policy LP-GI2 seeks to enhance access to good quality and accessible open space, as well as to safeguard and provide new open space and outdoor sport and recreation facilities. The policy includes stringent requirements for development which would result in the loss of open space, sport and recreation provision and supports proposals for new open spaces or facilities as well as enhancements to the quality and accessibility of existing ones. The policy is therefore likely to have a significant positive effect in relation to IA objective 5: Health, as it promotes healthier lifestyles for local communities by improving their mental and physical wellbeing through increased exercise, social interactions and their connection with nature and open spaces. Minor positive effects are also expected in relation to IA objectives 8: Air quality and 9: Biodiversity and geodiversity as the provision of new open spaces is likely to provide opportunities for new green links and corridors, as well as new habitat features, while benefitting air quality. A minor positive effect is also expected in relation to IA objectives 13: Landscape as safeguarding and providing new open space will enhance the quality of open spaces, and thus the quality of the local landscape.

**4.189** Policy LP-GI2 requires new housing development to contribute towards the open space, sport and recreational needs of prospective residents, as well as encouraging the dual use of education recreation facilities by the wider community. The policy therefore has the potential to achieve more equitable access to open space, with benefits to public health for all sections of the

community. Minor positive effects are therefore expected in relation to IA objectives 4: Equality and 6: Education.

## **Reasonable alternatives**

**4.190** None identified. Access to a network of high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and physical activity is identified by the NPPF as being important for the health and wellbeing of communities. This policy supports that messaging.

### **Policy LP-GI3: Open Space, Sport and Recreation Provision in New Housing**

**4.191** Policy LP-GI3 requires new housing to provide new or enhanced provision of open space, sport and recreation facilities to meet the needs of prospective residents, in accordance with standards and thresholds identified in Bury's Greenspace Strategy. A significant positive effect is therefore expected in relation to IA objective 5: Health as the policy will ensure that residents have adequate access to and provision of sports, recreational facilities and open space. This promotes healthier lifestyles for local communities by improving their mental and physical wellbeing through increased exercise, social interactions and their connection with nature and open greenspace. A minor positive effect is therefore also expected in relation to IA objective 3: Equality.

**4.192** By linking open space provision with housing growth, the policy helps enhance the overall quality of life for new and existing residents. It also supports sustainable transport by ensuring that open space, sport, and recreation facilities are within accessible distance from development, which could encourage active travel such as walking and cycling. In relation to sites of 100 or more dwellings, the provision of such facilities on-site or adjacent to the development, provides particularly good access. This could also reduce reliance on cars, which can help to lower emissions and encourage active travel. As

such, minor positive effects are expected in relation to IA objective 7: Sustainable transport and 8: Air quality.

**4.193** The provision of new or enhanced open space, sport and recreation facilities is likely to improve access to green infrastructure and improve the provision of nature-rich and amenity spaces. Additionally, open spaces contribute to the protection and enhancement of the landscape. Minor positive effects are therefore expected in relation to IA objectives 9: Biodiversity and geodiversity, and 13: Landscape.

### Reasonable alternatives

**4.194** None identified. The policy requirements are in accordance with PfE policy JP-P7 which states that the provision of sports facilities will be determined by local authorities through an evidence-based approach and that new development will be required to provide new and/or improved facilities commensurate with the demand they would generate.

## Policy LP-GI4: Strategic Recreation Routes

**4.195** The policy supports the development of a network of designated recreational routes to provide access, where appropriate, for pedestrians, cyclists, and horse riders throughout the Borough and between the six towns. The policy stipulates that these routes will be safeguarded. Significant positive effects are expected in relation to IA objectives 5: Health and 7: Sustainable transport as the provision of recreational routes will encourage active travel, particularly walking and cycling. Minor positive effects are also expected in relation to IA objectives 8: Air quality, and 9: Biodiversity and geodiversity, as the routes may reduce reliance on cars, which can help to lower emissions. The routes will form part of the borough's wider green infrastructure network, enhancing green connectivity, and supporting local biodiversity.

**4.196** A minor positive effect is also expected in relation to IA objective 13: Landscape as the development of these recreational routes will enhance the visual quality of the Borough.

## **Reasonable alternatives**

**4.197** None identified. This approach is consistent with the NPPF which states that planning policies and decisions should protect and enhance public rights of way and access.

## **Policy LP-GI5: Biodiversity Assets**

**4.198** A significant positive effect is expected for Policy LP-GI5 against IA objective 9: Biodiversity and geodiversity as the overarching purpose of the policy is to avoid development adversely impacting on biodiversity assets. According to the policy, planning permission will be denied for projects that negatively impact designated or proposed sites of national or regional importance, unless material considerations justify the development. The policy also stipulates that new development should make provision for wildlife habitats and other wildlife-friendly features within the development, including the incorporation of swift bricks. Minor positive effects are likely in relation to IA objective 8: Air quality and 13: Landscape, as the measures set out in the policy will also benefit the achievement of these objectives.

## **Reasonable alternatives**

**4.199** For new development, require more or less than two swift bricks per residential unit or more/less than one per 50sq.m of floorspace. Requiring more would reinforce the positive effect on IA objective 9: Biodiversity and geodiversity while a lower requirement would slightly reduce the positive effects.

## Policy LP-GI6 – Biodiversity Net Gains from New Development

**4.200** A significant positive effect is expected for Policy LP-GI6 against IA Objective 9: Biodiversity and geodiversity as the policy requires all qualifying developments to deliver measurable biodiversity net gains of no less than 10% and in line with regional guidance. This will ensure the delivery of new habitats for wildlife and or enhancements to existing habitats. This is likely to increase carbon sequestration and improve air quality, with a minor positive effect expected in relation to IA objective 8: Air quality.

### Reasonable alternatives

**4.201** To require all qualifying developments to delivery more than a 10% net gain such as 15% or 20%. Discounted as the Planning Practice Guidance states that Plans should not seek a higher percentage than the statutory objective of 10% biodiversity net gain, either on an area-wide basis or for specific allocations for development unless justified. This is not therefore considered to be a reasonable option.

## Policy LP-GI7: Local Nature Recovery Network

**4.202** Policy LP-GI7 requires developments within or near the Local Nature Recovery Network (LNRN) to enhance and protect core areas for nature recovery and improve network connectivity. In Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) opportunity areas, developments must protect and enhance key existing habitats, identify the broader nature recovery network, and create or restore habitats to significantly improve connectivity both on and beyond the site. As such, a significant positive effect is expected in relation to IA objective 9: Biodiversity and geodiversity. A minor positive effect is also expected in relation to IA objective 8: Air quality, as the enhancement, restoration, and

creation of habitats to improve connectivity, will contribute to improved air quality through carbon sequestration.

**4.203** The policy seeks to enhance the connectivity of habitats in relation to LNRS opportunity areas, with particular consideration to be given to the expansion and enhancement of existing habitats. This has the potential to support mental and physical wellbeing by providing green, amenity, and leisure spaces. The policy will also help to preserve natural features such as woodlands, which will maintain the character and identity of the local landscape. Minor positive effects are therefore expected in relation to IA objectives 5: Health and 13: Landscape.

### Reasonable alternatives

**4.204** None identified. Local nature recovery strategies should be used by plan-makers to inform the way they address the NPPF requirement for plans to protect and enhance biodiversity.

## Policy LP-GI8: Trees, Woodland and Hedgerows

**4.205** Policy LP-GI8 aims to retain, protect, improve and expand existing tree, woodland and hedgerow cover. In doing so, it sets out overriding principles for development proposals that will ensure habitats are conserved and enhanced where relevant. It also provides guidance for mitigating loss and degradation. It sets out that any tree loss must be replaced at a ratio of 2 trees per 1 loss and proposals for new tree planting will be supported where this involves the right type of trees in the right location. This will support new creation of habitat and potentially create higher-quality, more connected and multi-functional nature. Therefore, a significant positive effect is expected in relation to IA objective 9: Biodiversity and geodiversity. The retention and enhancement of trees will contribute to quality of life, and promote good mental and physical health, with a minor positive effect in relation to IA objective 5: Health.

**4.206** In encouraging conservation and greater provision of trees, woodlands and hedgerows this policy is expected to have a minor positive effect against IA objective 10: Climate change resilience. Increased tree and hedgerow cover will strengthen the natural environment by providing more habitats, foraging material and green corridors for wildlife, making them more adaptable to climatic changes and extreme weather events. Similarly, increased shading and greenhouse gas absorption benefits will help to make communities more resilient to the effects of climate change.

**4.207** This policy is also expected to have minor positive effects in relation to IA objectives 8: Air quality and 12: Water, as air quality will be improved where tree, woodland and hedgerow cover is expanded due to increased sequestration of pollutants. Additionally, it will help mitigate flood risk and reduce soil erosion, protecting water quality.

**4.208** The policy stipulates that the Borough's Ancient Woodlands will be protected, and the provision of street trees will be encouraged in new developments. These requirements are likely to have a minor positive effect on IA objective 13: Landscape by safeguarding valuable woodland areas that contribute to the Borough's character and identity, while the addition of street trees enhances the visual appeal and greening of urban areas.

## **Reasonable alternatives**

**4.209** None identified. The NPPF stipulates that policies should ensure that appropriate measures are in place to secure the long-term maintenance of newly-planted trees, and that existing trees and woodlands are retained wherever possible to contribute to and enhance the natural environment.

## **Policy LP-GI9: Geology and Geodiversity**

**4.210** Policy LP-GI9 is expected to have a significant positive effect in relation to IA objective 9: Biodiversity and geodiversity as it seeks to ensure that

development minimises impacts on the Borough's geological and geomorphological assets and provides net gains where possible. The policy requires a sequential approach for developments that could harm geological and geomorphological assets, ensuring impacts are identified and avoided, mitigated, or compensated. The policy promotes the responsible use and protection of these natural resources, and as such a minor positive effect is also expected in relation to IA objective 16: Sustainable management of resources.

## Reasonable alternatives

**4.211** None identified. The NPPF states that policies should seek to conserve and enhance the natural environment including protecting and enhancing areas of geological value.

## Policy LP-GI10: Soils

**4.212** Policy LP-GI10 requires the Council to evaluate development impacts on soil assets by considering the protection of the Borough's best agricultural land, the conservation and restoration of peat habitats (including re-wetting opportunities), and the enhancement of soil resources. The protection of the Borough's best agricultural land is likely to have a significant positive effect on IA objective 15: Efficient land use by ensuring that high-quality agricultural land is protected for productive and sustainable use.

**4.213** A minor positive effect is expected in relation to IA objective 9: Biodiversity and geodiversity, as the conservation and restoration of peat habitats and soils will support valuable ecosystems, enhance wildlife habitats, and promote ecological diversity. The conservation, enhancement, and restoration would also mitigate the effects of climate change as peat is an effective carbon sink. As such, a minor positive effect is expected in relation to IA objective 10: Climate change resilience.

## Reasonable alternatives

**4.214** None identified. The NPPF states that policies should seek to conserve and enhance the natural environment including protecting and enhancing soils.

## Protecting the Green Belt

**4.215** The likely effects of the policies in the 'Protecting the Green Belt' section of the Local Plan are shown in **Table 4.11** overleaf.

Table 4.11: IA findings for the Protecting the Green Belt policies

IA objectives	LP-GB1: Limiting Infilling in Village Settlements	LP-GB2: Conversion and Re-use of Buildings in the Green Belt	LP-GB3: Agriculture, Forestry and Other Occupational Dwellings in the Green Belt	LP-GB4: Agricultural Diversification in the Green Belt	LP-GB5: Equestrian Development in the Green Belt
1: Housing	+	0	+	0	0
2: Economy	0	+	+	++	+
3: Crime and deprivation	0	0	0	0	0
4: Equality	+	0	0	0	0
5: Health	0	0	0	0	+
6: Education	0	0	0	0	0
7: Sustainable transport	0	-	-	-	0
8: Air quality	0	-	-	-	0
9: Biodiversity and geodiversity	0	+	/+	+	0
10: Climate change resilience	0	+	-	-	0
11: Energy efficiency	0	+	0	0	0
12: Water	0	0	0	0	0
13: Landscape	+	+	+	+	+
14: Historic environment	0	0	0	0	0
15: Efficient land use	+	+	0	0	0
16: Sustainable management of resources	0	+	0	0	0

## Policy LP-GB1: Limiting Infilling in Village Settlements

**4.216** Policy LP-GB1 permits limited infilling within the Borough's village settlements, which will support rural community housing needs. As such minor positive effects are expected in relation to IA objectives 1: Housing and 4: Equality.

**4.217** A minor positive effect is expected in relation to IA objectives 13: Landscape and 15: Efficient land use, as the policy specifies that limited infilling will be supported where it is consistent with scale, character, and appearance of its surroundings and local area. It also ensures that undeveloped land that contributes positively to the area's character is preserved, promoting sustainable and context-sensitive land use.

### Reasonable alternatives

**4.218** None identified. This policy supports the delivery of the NPPF exception at paragraph 154 e) limited infilling in villages.

## Policy LP-GB2: Conversion and Re-use of Buildings in the Green Belt

**4.219** Policy LP-GB2 permits the conversion and re-use of buildings in the Green Belt, provided it does not prejudice the openness of the Green Belt and the purposes of including land in it. This is likely to have a minor positive effect in relation to IA objective 2: Economy, as the conversion and re-use of buildings could include the repurpose of redundant or underused agricultural buildings, thereby supporting farm diversification. Minor positive effects are also expected

in relation to IA objectives 9: Biodiversity and geodiversity, 15: Efficient land use, and 16: Sustainable management of resources as the policy encourages the use of brownfield land through the conversion and re-use of existing buildings which are capable of conversion with major or complete reconstruction, thereby limiting development on greenfield, rural land. This will minimise impacts on natural habitats, helping to safeguard biodiversity and geodiversity. The policy also stipulates that applicants must conduct a comprehensive assessment to identify any protected species, such as bats and barn owls, and implement measures to prevent damage to habitats. Minor positive effects are also likely in relation to IA objectives 10: Climate change and 11: Energy efficiency as the re-use and conversion of buildings helps to reduce emissions from demolition and reconstruction.

**4.220** A minor positive effect is also expected in relation to IA objective 13: Landscape as the policy provides stringent conditions to limit the scale of development to maintain the openness and character of the Green Belt.

**4.221** The policy is likely to increase the need to travel by private motor vehicle, albeit on a small scale, as the conversion of buildings in the Green Belt may lead to isolated developments. The policy acknowledges the potential for minimal likely traffic generation, stating that this should be accommodated without creating a traffic hazard or the need for major road improvements or lengthy new routes. However, potential minor negative effects are identified in relation to IA objectives 7: Sustainable transport, 8: Air quality, and 10: Climate change resilience.

## Reasonable alternatives

**4.222** None identified. This policy supports the delivery of NPPF exception at paragraph 154 h) iv. the re-use of buildings.

## Policy LP-GB3: Agriculture, Forestry and Other Occupational Dwellings in the Green Belt

**4.223** Policy LP-GB3 permits proposals for new dwellings to support agricultural, forestry and other occupational dwellings associated with activities acceptable in the Green Belt in very special circumstances, such as where they can demonstrate an essential need for rural workers to be housed at or in the immediate vicinity of their place of work. The provision of accommodation for rural workers directly related to rural businesses in the Green Belt, can help to provide stable homes for local residents, particularly those working in rural industries, and support employment within these areas. Therefore, the policy is expected to have minor positive effects in relation to IA objectives 1: Housing and 2: Economy.

**4.224** A minor positive effect is also expected in relation to IA objective 13: Landscape, as the policy restricts development in the Green Belt, allowing only agriculture, forestry and other occupational dwellings, with stringent conditions to limit the scale of development to maintain the openness and character of the Green Belt.

**4.225** Although rural workers would live and work in closer proximity, the policy is likely to result in an overall increase the need to travel by private motor vehicle as rural workers' dwellings are often isolated from key services and facilities and disconnected from public transport services. There are associated adverse impacts on air quality and greenhouse gas emissions, albeit on a small scale, particularly given the reduced need to travel for work. Minor negative effects are therefore expected in relation to IA objectives 7: Sustainable transport, 8: Air quality and 10: Climate change adaptation.

**4.226** A mixed minor positive and negative effect is expected in relation to IA objective 9: Biodiversity and geodiversity, as the policy permits new development in the Green Belt, which has the potential to disrupt existing habitats, and cause ground disturbance – particularly in the short-term during construction. However, the policy restricts development to dwellings associated

with agriculture, forestry and other activities that are acceptable within the Green Belt and provides stringent conditions regarding development. This could help to mitigate some of the negative impacts of development and protect important biodiversity areas.

## **Reasonable alternatives**

**4.227** None identified. This policy supports the delivery of NPPF exception at paragraph 154 a) buildings for agriculture and forestry.

### **Policy LP-GB4: Agricultural Diversification in the Green Belt**

**4.228** Policy LP-GB4 supports proposals for agricultural diversification within the Green Belt. This is likely to have a significant positive effect in relation to IA objective 2: Economy, as the diversification of agricultural activities can help to maintain the commercial viability of farm enterprises and support the wider rural economy. The policy also states that such proposals must sustain the long-term future of an established agricultural business and result in positive and long-term benefits to the rural economy.

**4.229** The policy stipulates that proposals for agricultural diversification must maintain the openness of the Green Belt and not conflict with the purposes of including land within it. There must be no unacceptable impact on amenity, or biodiversity of heritage assets. Minor positive effects are therefore recorded in relation to IA objectives 9: Biodiversity and geodiversity and 13: Landscape although there is some uncertainty as it is not known what level of adverse impact may be considered unacceptable.

**4.230** The policy acknowledges that agricultural diversification in the Green Belt is likely to result in increased traffic generation, noting that this should be accommodated by the highways network taking into account the rural location

and the quality and specification of the local road network. However, any increase in car use is likely to have minor negative impacts in relation to IA objectives 7: Sustainable transport, 8: Air quality, and 10: Climate change resilience.

## **Reasonable alternatives**

**4.231** None identified. The NPPF is clear that to support a prosperous rural economy planning policies should enable the diversification of agricultural and other land-based rural businesses.

## **Policy LP-GI5: Equestrian Development in the Green Belt**

**4.232** The policy supports equestrian development in the Green Belt, which can provide recreational and commercial opportunities. As such, minor positive effects are expected in relation to IA objectives 2: Economy and 5: Health.

**4.233** The policy emphasises high standards of design, ensuring that the size, scale and materials used for equestrian development do not give rise to unacceptable visual impacts on the openness of the Green Belt. It also requires the protection of existing landscape assets such as trees and ponds. A minor positive effect is therefore expected in relation to IA objective 13: Landscape.

## **Reasonable alternatives**

**4.234** None identified. The NPPF is clear that to support a prosperous rural economy planning policies should enable the diversification of a land-based rural businesses and create healthy places, supporting the provision of recreational facilities.

## Managing Water and Flood Risk

**4.235** The likely effects of the policies in the 'Managing Water and Flood Risk' section of the Local Plan are shown in **Table 4.12**.

Table 4.12: IA findings for the Managing Water and Flood Risk policies

IA Objectives	Policy LP-W1: New Development and Flood Risk	Policy LP-W2: Sustainable Drainage	Policy LP-W3: Water Resources	Policy LP-W4: Water Efficiency	Policy LP-W5: Public Water Supply Catchment Areas	Policy LP-W6: Development Near Wastewater Infrastructure
1: Housing	0	0	0	+	0	0
2: Economy	+	+	0	0	0	0
3: Crime and deprivation	0	0	0	0	0	0
4: Equality	0	0	0	0	0	0
5: Health	+	+	0	0	0	+
6: Education	0	0	0	0	0	0
7: Sustainable transport	0	0	0	0	0	0
8: Air quality	0	0	0	0	0	0
9: Biodiversity and geodiversity	0	0	+	0	+	0
10: Climate change resilience	++	++	+	0	0	0
11: Energy efficiency	0	0	0	0	0	0
12: Water	+	++	++	++	++	0
13: Landscape	0	0	0	0	0	0
14: Historic environment	0	0	0	0	0	0
15: Efficient land use	0	0	0	0	0	0
16: Sustainable management of resources	0	0	0	0	0	0

## Policy LP-W1: New Development and Flood Risk

**4.236** This policy seeks to ensure that new development does not increase the flood risk facing both new and existing development. All proposals for new development will be determined in line with national planning policy and guidance on flood risk and a sequential approach to the location of new development must be applied to ensure locations of highest existing or future flood risk are avoided. Where a site-specific Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) is required in line with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) or for development within a Critical Drainage Area (CDA) as notified by the Environment Agency, this will be expected to demonstrate whether proposed development is likely to be affected by current or future flooding (including the effects of climate change) from any sources. Therefore, this policy will ensure that communities, developments and infrastructure are resilient to the effects of climate change and flooding which has a significant positive effect on IA objective 10: Climate Change resilience. The policy will also have a minor positive effect on IA objective 2: Economy as it will help to avoid the economic impacts of flooding events and a minor positive effect on IA objective 5: Health as reducing flood risk will protect people from the physical and mental health impacts of flood events.

**4.237** The policy will also have a minor positive impact on IA objective 12: Water because reducing flood risk will help to avoid the potential adverse impacts of flooding on water quality.

**4.238** Negligible effects are expected in relation to the remaining IA objectives.

## Reasonable Alternatives

**4.239** No alternatives considered. The NPPF seeks to direct development from areas at risk of flooding. Where development is necessary in such areas, the development should be made safe for its lifetime without increasing flood risk elsewhere.

### Policy LP-W2: Sustainable Drainage

**4.240** Policy LP-W2 will have significant positive effects on IA objectives 10: Climate Change resilience and 12: Water as the use of sustainable drainage in new developments will help to avoid flooding events occurring and will protect water quality. Minor positive effects are also likely in relation to IA objectives 2: Economy and 5: Health for the same reasons as Policy LP-W1.

**4.241** Negligible effects are expected against the remaining IA objectives

## Reasonable Alternatives

**4.242** No alternatives considered. The NPPF requires the inclusion of SuDS, to control flow rates and reduce volumes of runoff, in applications which could affect drainage on or around the sites.

### Policy LP-W3: Water Resources

**4.243** Policy LP-W3 sets out criteria against which the Council will assess the potential impact of a development on water resources. Therefore, a significant positive effect is expected against IA objective 12: Water because the overarching purpose of the policy is to protect water features.

**4.244** The policy has several considerations when assessing the potential impact of a development on water resources. This includes whether the proposal takes advantage of opportunities to install fish by-passes to structures preventing natural fish migration where retention is required for the protection of property and/or still provide an industrial function and whether the proposal takes advantage of opportunities to remove artificial land drainage features and to replace urban drainage systems with SUDs systems. Therefore, minor positive effects are expected against IA objectives 9: Biodiversity and Geodiversity and 10: Climate change resilience.

**4.245** Negligible effects are expected against the remaining SA objectives

## **Reasonable Alternatives**

**4.246** No alternative options considered. The NPPF requires SUDs which provide multifunctional benefits wherever possible, through facilitating improvements in water quality and biodiversity, as well as benefits for amenity.

## **Policy LP-W4: Water Efficiency**

**4.247** The policy will have a significant positive effect on IA objective 12: Water because all major non-residential development will be required to incorporate water efficiency measures.

**4.248** Policy LP-W4 will also have a minor positive effect on IA objective 1: Housing as the policy requires all new residential developments to achieve, as a minimum, the optional requirement set through Building Regulations Requirement G2: Water Efficiency or any future updates. This will benefit the overall quality of the housing stock.

**4.249** Negligible effects are expected against the remaining IA objectives

## Reasonable Alternatives

**4.250** No alternatives options considered. The policy requires development to meet Building Regulations Requirements as a minimum.

### Policy LP-W5: Public Water Supply Catchment Areas

**4.251** Policy LP-W5 will have a significant positive effect on IA objective 12: Water as development proposals on land used for public water supply catchment purposes will be required to consult with the relevant water undertaker. This will reduce the risks of water pollution and protect biodiversity; therefore a minor positive effect is also likely in relation to IA objective 9: Biodiversity and geodiversity.

**4.252** Negligible effects are expected against the remaining IA objectives

## Reasonable Alternatives

**4.253** No alternatives options considered. The policy requires development to meet Building Regulations Requirements as a minimum.

### Policy LP-W6: Development Near Wastewater Infrastructure

**4.254** Policy LP-W6 states that the Council will require applications for new development near to existing or future wastewater treatment works or pumping stations to be accompanied by an assessment of potential adverse impacts on the amenity of the prospective occupiers of the new development (e.g. arising

from odours) and detailing any required mitigation. Therefore, a minor positive effect is likely in relation to IA objective 5: Health. Negligible effects are expected against the remaining IA objectives.

## Reasonable Alternatives

**4.255** No alternative options considered. Policy relates to the small parts of Bury which are identified as public water supply catchment areas.

## Addressing Air Quality, Pollution and Hazards

**4.256** The likely effects of the policies in the 'Addressing Air Quality, Pollution and Hazards' section of the Local Plan are shown in **Table 4.13**.

Table 4.13: IA findings for the Addressing Air Quality, Pollution and Hazards policies

IA Objectives	Policy LP-AP1: Air Quality and Pollution Control	Policy LP-AP2: Contaminated and Unstable Land	Policy LP-AP3: Control of Hazardous Uses	Policy LP-AP4: Development Near Hazardous Installations
1: Housing	0	0	0	0
2: Economy	0	0	0	0
3: Crime and deprivation	0	0	0	0
4: Equality	0	0	0	0
5: Health	+	+	+	+
6: Education	0	0	0	0
7: Sustainable transport	0	0	0	0
8: Air quality	++?	0	0	0
9: Biodiversity and geodiversity	+	0	+	+
10: Climate change resilience	0	0	0	0
11: Energy efficiency	0	0	0	0
12: Water	0	0	0	0
13: Landscape	0	0	0	0
14: Historic environment	0	0	0	0
15: Efficient land use	0	++	+	0
16: Sustainable management of resources	0	0	0	0

## Policy LP-AP1: Air Quality and Pollution Control

**4.257** Policy LP-AP1 will have a significant positive effect on IA objective 8: Air Quality because the overarching purpose of the policy is to prevent both new and existing development from contributing to, or being adversely affected by, unacceptable levels of pollution and poor air quality. However, there is some uncertainty attached because the policy implies that some level of adverse impacts would be permissible, depending on what is considered 'unacceptable levels'.

**4.258** In assessing the potential impact of pollution, the Council will have regard to human health and the sensitivity of natural resources and/or uses that may be affected. Therefore, minor positive effects are expected in relation to IA objectives 5: Health and 9: Biodiversity and geodiversity.

**4.259** Negligible effects are expected against the remaining IA objectives.

### Reasonable Alternatives

**4.260** None identified - the NPPF specifies that planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural environment through a range of measures including preventing new and existing development from contributing to, being put at unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by, unacceptable levels of soil, air, water or noise pollution or land instability.

## Policy LP-AP2: Contaminated and Unstable Land

**4.261** Policy LP-AP2 requires development on land that is unstable or contaminated to be accompanied by an appropriate contamination and or

instability assessment. Development will only be permitted where it can be shown that any risks can be appropriately mitigated and safe development can be achieved. Therefore, a significant positive effect is likely in relation to IA objective 16: Sustainable management of resources and a minor positive effect in relation to IA objective 5: Health.

**4.262** Negligible effects are expected against the remaining IA objectives.

## **Reasonable Alternatives**

**4.263** None identified – The NPPF specifies that planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural environment through a range of measures including preventing new and existing development from contributing to, being put at unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by, unacceptable levels of soil, air, water or noise pollution or land instability.

## **Policy LP-AP3: Control of Hazardous Uses**

**4.264** Applications for hazardous substances consent, and developments involving the use of hazardous substances, will only be permitted where the hazardous substances would be stored in a way that avoids any potential harm to the environment. Therefore, minor positive effects are expected in relation to IA objectives 9: Biodiversity and Geodiversity and IA objective 15: Efficient Land use.

**4.265** There is a potential minor positive effect on IA objective 5: Health as applications for hazardous substances consent, and developments involving the use of hazardous substances, will only be permitted where there would be no unacceptable risk to the public. However, this implies there may still be some risk to the public, although it is noted that regard will be had to the number and vulnerability of people who would use developments that fall within associated safety zones identified by the Health and Safety Executive.

**4.266** Negligible effects are expected against the remaining IA objectives.

## **Reasonable Alternatives**

**4.267** None identified – the NPPF specifies that planning policies and decisions should ensure that developments create places that are safe and which promote health and wellbeing. It is therefore important that the Local Plan includes a policy designed to control development involving hazardous substances.

## **Policy LP-AP4: Development Near Hazardous Installations**

**4.268** Policy LP-AP4 seeks to avoid accidents associated with development near hazardous installations and so will have a minor positive effect on IA objective 5: Health. A minor positive effect is also likely in relation to IA objective 9: Biodiversity and Geodiversity as sensitive habitats and species could also be vulnerable to the impacts of an incident.

**4.269** Negligible effects are expected against the remaining SA objectives.

## **Reasonable Alternatives**

**4.270** None identified – the NPPF specifies that planning policies and decisions should ensure that developments create places that are safe and which promote health and wellbeing. It is therefore important that the Local Plan includes a policy designed to control development near hazardous installations.

## Delivering Other Infrastructure

**4.271** The likely effects of the policies in the 'Delivering Other Infrastructure' section of the Local Plan are shown in **Table 4.14**.

Table 4.14: IA findings for the Delivering Other Infrastructure policies

IA Objectives	Policy LP-OI1: Digital and Communications Infrastructure	Policy LP-OI2: Protecting Digital Infrastructure	Policy LP-OI3: Public Utilities Infrastructure
1: Housing	0	0	0
2: Economy	++	+	0
3: Crime and deprivation	0	0	0
4: Equality	0	0	0
5: Health	+ ?	0	+
6: Education	+	+	0
7: Sustainable transport	+	0	0
8: Air quality	+	0	0
9: Biodiversity and geodiversity	+ ?	0	0
10: Climate change resilience	+	0	0
11: Energy efficiency	0	0	0
12: Water	0	0	+
13: Landscape	+ ?	0	0
14: Historic environment	+ ?	0	0
15: Efficient land use	0	0	0
16: Sustainable management of resources	0	0	+

## Policy LP-OI1: Digital and Communications Infrastructure

**4.272** Policy LP-OI1 supports the provision of enhanced, competitive full fibre, mobile and wireless electronic communications infrastructure and requires developers to engage with fibre providers to make provision for affordable, high speed, high-capacity digital infrastructure in conjunction with proposals involving new housing, employment, education, community facilities and town centre uses. As a result, Policy LP-OI1 will have a significant positive effect on IA objective 2: Economy as the policy will support economic growth and provide more flexibility with regards to homeworking opportunities. Improved opportunities for homeworking may have minor positive effects on IA objectives 7: Sustainable Transport and 8: Air Quality, as a result of reduced car use for commuting. The policy also requires infrastructure to not have a detrimental impact on the movement of pedestrians and cyclists. A minor positive effect on IA objective 6: Education is also expected as improved communications infrastructure will support access to education online. The policy requires equipment to be resilient to the effects of climate change; therefore a minor positive effect is likely in relation to IA objective 10: Climate change.

**4.273** However, the policy could result in the development of telecommunications infrastructure which could have impacts on the environment. The policy outlines criteria that applications for new telecommunications infrastructure must meet. This includes that the equipment does not have unacceptable adverse impacts on residential amenity, landscape character or wildlife, heritage assets, including Conservation Areas and/or Listed Buildings. However, it is not clear what level of adverse impacts might be considered unacceptable. Therefore, Policy LP-OI1 is expected to have minor positive effects on IA objectives 5: Health, 9: Biodiversity and Geodiversity, 13: Landscape and 14: Historic Environment although these are to some extent uncertain.

**4.274** Negligible effects are expected against the remaining IA objectives.

## Reasonable Alternatives

**4.275** None identified. The NPPF supports the expansion of electronic communications networks.

### Policy LP-OI2: Protecting Digital Infrastructure

**4.276** Policy LP-OI2 will have minor positive effects on IA objectives 2: Economy and 6: Education because it requires new development to avoid adverse impacts on the successful functioning of existing digital infrastructure.

**4.277** Negligible effects are expected against the remaining IA objectives.

## Reasonable Alternatives

**4.278** None identified. The NPPF specifies that high quality digital infrastructure is essential for economic growth and social well-being.

### Policy LP-OI3: Public Utilities Infrastructure

**4.279** Policy LP-OI3 will have minor positive effects on IA objectives 5: Health, 12: Water and 16: Sustainable Management of Resources because the policy seeks to ensure that operational facilities for public utility provision are permitted where this is necessary to implement the development objectives of the development plan or to meet relevant statutory obligations and environmental standards. This will ensure that adequate provision is made for water and waste management infrastructure to support new development.

## Reasonable Alternatives

4.280 None identified.

## Development Management

4.281 The likely effects of the policies in the 'Development Management' section of the Local Plan are show in **Table 4.15**.

**Table 4.15: IA findings for the Planning Conditions and Obligations policies**

IA Objectives	LP-DM1: Planning Conditions and Obligations	LP-DM2: Planning enforcement
1: Housing	+	0
2: Economy	+	0
3: Crime and deprivation	+	0
4: Equality	+	0
5: Health	+	0
6: Education	+	0
7: Sustainable transport	0	0
8: Air quality	0	0
9: Biodiversity and geodiversity	0	0
10: Climate change resilience	0	0

IA Objectives	LP-DM1: Planning Conditions and Obligations	LP-DM2: Planning enforcement
11: Energy efficiency	0	0
12: Water	0	0
13: Landscape	0	0
14: Historic environment	0	0
15: Efficient land use	0	0
16: Sustainable management of resources	0	0

## Policy LP-DM1: Planning Conditions and Obligations

**4.282** Policy DM1 seeks to ensure that the infrastructure, services and facilities required to support new development are provided, through the use of planning conditions and obligations. This will help to ensure that existing facilities do not become overloaded and that new residents will have access to the services that they need. As a result, minor positive effects are identified in relation to IA objectives 3: Crime and deprivation, 4: Equality, 5: Health and 6: Education.

**4.283** Minor positive effects are also likely in relation to IA objectives 1: Housing and 2: Economy because affordable housing and employment provision will also typically be priorities for the use of planning obligations.

**4.284** Negligible effects are expected against the remaining IA objectives. While the development of infrastructure that may result from this policy could have environmental effects, these cannot be assessed at this stage.

## Reasonable Alternatives

**4.285** None identified.

### Policy LP-DM2: Planning enforcement

**4.286** This policy sets out the actions that the Council will take when a breach of planning control has taken place and will not directly affect any of the IA objectives.

## Reasonable Alternatives

**4.287** None identified.

## Recommendations

**4.288** A number of recommendations for changes to the emerging Draft Local Plan policies were presented to the Council in an early draft version of this IA report. These recommendations were taken into account as the Draft Local Plan was finalised and this IA report has been updated to reflect the changes made.

**Table 4.16** below sets out the recommendations made previously and the Council's response to each.

**Table 4.16: Recommendations made previously and Council's response**

Policy	Recommendations made previously	Council's response
LP-Policy H2 – Windfall Housing Development	It could be specified which types of infrastructure windfall housing sites should be adequately serviced by, e.g. healthcare and education facilities, sustainable transport links, water treatment infrastructure etc. This would reduce the uncertainty attached to a number of the potential minor positive effects identified.	The Council does not consider this to be necessary as the Plan should be read as a whole and other policies set requirements for specific types of infrastructure.
LP-H3: Housing Mix	The policy makes reference to specialist and supported accommodation being provided in 'appropriate locations'; however it is not clear what is meant by this. Providing some clarity on this may result in additional positive effects from the policy.	Some explanatory text has been added to the supporting text to this policy.
LP-H8: Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople	The policy refers to whether environmental issues can be 'mitigated to an acceptable level' – it is not clear what would constitute an acceptable level. This wording could be revised to make this clearer, or to require issues to be fully mitigated.	This wording has been removed from the policy.

<b>Policy</b>	<b>Recommendations made previously</b>	<b>Council's response</b>
LP-H8: Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople	It is also not specified what 'environmental issues' are covered by that phrase – specific mention could be made to the potential impacts on biodiversity/geodiversity, the historic environment, soils and hydrology.	Policy wording has been amended accordingly.
LP-H8: Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople	Preference could be included for the use of brownfield land for new Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople sites.	Policy wording has been amended accordingly.
LP-H8: Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople	Reference could be made to achieving energy efficiency within sites, where possible.	Not actioned – the Council considers that this is adequately covered by PfE policy JP-S2.
Policy LP-CM2: New Development and Health	This policy could require proposals for major development to submit Health Impact Assessments.	Not actioned – the Council considers that this is adequately covered by PfE Policy JP-P6 (criterion c).
Policy LP-CM2: New Development and Health	The policy could make specific mention of encouraging and facilitating active travel.	Reference has been added (new criterion g).
Policy LP-CM4: Community Facilities	The policy criteria could make specific reference to local character, when considering proposals for new and improved community facilities.	Not actions – the Council considers this to be covered in policy BE6 Design and Layout of New Development (Criterion a).

<b>Policy</b>	<b>Recommendations made previously</b>	<b>Council's response</b>
Policy LP-BE6: Design and Layout of New Development	Policy LP-BE6 could refer specifically to the incorporation of low carbon materials to reduce the embodied carbon of new development.	New criterion (d) has been added to LP-BE6.
Policy LP-GI2: Open Space, Sport and Recreation	Policy LP-GI2 could encourage the integration of open spaces with walking and cycling networks to promote active travel options.	New wording has been added to Policy LP-GI2.
Policy LP-GI6 – Biodiversity Net Gains from New Development	The policy repeats the requirements of the Environment Act and PfE Policy JP-G8; therefore it may not be necessary to include the policy in the Local Plan.	The Council's preference is to include a policy on this matter in the Local Plan.
Policy LP-AP3: Control of Hazardous Uses	Clause c) could use the term 'avoid' rather than 'minimise' when considering potential harm to the environment.	Criterion (c) has been amended accordingly.

**4.289** In addition to the above, it was also recommended earlier in the IA process that:

- The Local Plan would benefit from a specific policy addressing climate change adaptation and mitigation.
- Policy protection for the landscape and townscape could be strengthened through the inclusion of an overarching policy directly addressing these matters.

**4.290** As a result of these recommendations, policy LP-CC1: Climate Change has been included in the Draft Local Plan. The Council considered that adequate policy protection for the landscape is already included in the Draft Local Plan through PfE Policy JP-G2 Landscape Character, LP-BE6: Design and Layout of New Development and LP-BE1: Conservation Areas.

## Cumulative Effects

**4.291** This section summarises the likely cumulative effects of the Local Plan policies on each of the IA objectives in the IA framework, as shown in **Tables 4.17-4.30** overleaf. Below the table, the total combined effects of all the Local Plan policies working together are discussed and **Table 4.31** provides a single overall cumulative effect for the Local Plan in relation to the achievement of each of the IA objectives.

Table 4.17: Cumulative Effects of the Draft Local Plan policies - Adapting to Climate Change

Draft Local Plan Policies	1: Housing	2: Economy	3: Crime and deprivation	4: Equality	5: Health	6: Education	7: Sustainable Transport	8: Air Quality	9: Biodiversity and Geodiversity	10: Climate Change Resilience	11: Energy efficiency	12: Water	13: Landscape	14: Historic Environment	15: Efficient Land Use	16: Sustainable Management of Resources
Policy LP-CC1: Climate Change	+	+	0	0	+	0	++	+	+	++	++	+	+	0	0	+

Table 4.18: Cumulative Effects of the Draft Local Plan policies - Meeting our Housing Needs

Draft Local Plan Policies	1: Housing	2: Economy	3: Crime and deprivation	4: Equality	5: Health	6: Education	7: Sustainable Transport	8: Air Quality	9: Biodiversity and Geodiversity	10: Climate Change Resilience	11: Energy efficiency	12: Water	13: Landscape	14: Historic Environment	15: Efficient Land Use	16: Sustainable Management of Resources
LP-H1: Housing Land Provision	++	+	0	+	+	0	0	0	?	0	0	0	?	?	+	0
LP-H2: Windfall Housing Development	+	0	0	0	+	+	+	0	+	+	0	+	+	0	+	0
LP-H3: Housing Mix	++	0	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+		0
LP-H4: Affordable Housing Provision	++	0	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
LP-H5: Housing for Older	++	0	0	++	++	0	+	+/	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Draft Local Plan Policies	1: Housin g	2: Econom y	3: Crime and deprivatio n	4: Equalit y	5: Healt h	6: Educatio n	7: Sustainabl e Transport	8: Air Qualit y	9: Biodiversity and Geodiversit y	10: Climate Change Resilienc e	11: Energy efficienc y	12: Wate r	13: Landscap e	14: Historic Environmen t	15: Efficien t Land Use	16: Sustainable Managemen t of Resources
People and People with Disabilities																
LP-H6: Homes for Looked After Children and Care Leavers	++	0	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
LP-H7: Custom, Self-Build and Community- led Housing	+	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
LP-H8: Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople	++	0	0	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	+	+	+	0	+
LP-H9: Alterations and Extensions to Residential Properties	+	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	++	0	0	+
LP-H10: Residential Conversions	+	0	0	0	+	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	+	+?	+	0
LP-H11: Houses in Multiple Occupation	+	0	0	0	+	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	+	+?	0	+

Table 4.19: Cumulative Effects of the Draft Local Plan policies - Delivering Economic Growth

Draft Local Plan Policies	1: Housing	2: Economy	3: Crime and deprivation	4: Equality	5: Health	6: Education	7: Sustainable Transport	8: Air Quality	9: Biodiversity and Geodiversity	10: Climate Change Resilience	11: Energy efficiency	12: Water	13: Landscape	14: Historic Environment	15: Efficient Land Use	16: Sustainable Management of Resources
LP-E1: Employment Floorspace Requirements	0	++	+	0	0	+	0	0	?	0	0	0	?	?	0	0
LP-E2: Business, Industrial and Warehousing Development	0	++	+	0	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0
LP-E3: Office Development	0	++	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
LP-E4: Employment Generating Areas	0	++	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
LP-E5: Employment sites outside Employment Generating Areas	0	++	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table 4.20: Cumulative Effects of the Draft Local Plan policies - Supporting Our Centres

Draft Local Plan Policies	1: Housin g	2: Econom y	3: Crime and deprivatio n	4: Equalit y	5: Healt h	6: Educatio n	7: Sustainabl e Transport	8: Air Qualit y	9: Biodiversity and Geodiversit y	10: Climate Change Resilienc e	11: Energy efficienc y	12: Wate r	13: Landscap e	14: Historic Environmen t	15: Efficien t Land Use	16: Sustainable Managemen t of Resources
LP-TC1: Hierarchy and Role of Centres	0	++	0	+	+	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
LP-TC2: Managing the Location and Scale of Main Town Centre Uses	0	++?	+	+	+	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
LP-TC3: Primary Shopping Areas	0	++	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	0
LP-TC4: Local and Neighbourhoo d Centres	0	++	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0
LP-TC5: Local Shops and Services	0	+	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
LP-TC6: Upper Floors in Centres	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0

Table 4.21: Cumulative Effects of the Draft Local Plan policies - Promoting Tourism and Culture

Draft Local Plan Policies	1: Housing	2: Economy	3: Crime and deprivation	4: Equality	5: Health	6: Education	7: Sustainable Transport	8: Air Quality	9: Biodiversity and Geodiversity	10: Climate Change Resilience	11: Energy efficiency	12: Water	13: Landscape	14: Historic Environment	15: Efficient Land Use	16: Sustainable Management of Resources
LP-TO1: Tourism and Cultural Assets	0	++	0	0	0	0	+	0	+	0	0	+	+	++	0	0

Table 4.22: Cumulative Effects of the Draft Local Plan policies - Creating Healthy and Successful Communities

Draft Local Plan Policies	1: Housing	2: Economy	3: Crime and deprivation	4: Equality	5: Health	6: Education	7: Sustainable Transport	8: Air Quality	9: Biodiversity and Geodiversity	10: Climate Change Resilience	11: Energy efficiency	12: Water	13: Landscape	14: Historic Environment	15: Efficient Land Use	16: Sustainable Management of Resources
LP-CM1: New Development and Social Value	0	+	+	++	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
LP-CM2: New Development and Health	+	0	+	+	++	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
LP-CM3: Education Provision in New Housing	0	0	0	+	0	++	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
LP-CM4: Community Facilities	0	0	0	+	+	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table 4.23: Cumulative Effects of the Draft Local Plan policies - Promoting Sustainable Transport

Draft Local Plan Policies	1: Housin g	2: Econom y	3: Crime and deprivation	4: Equalit y	5: Healt h	6: Educatio n	7: Sustainabl e Transport	8: Air Qualit y	9: Biodiversity and Geodiversit y	10: Climate Change Resilienc e	11: Energy efficienc y	12: Wate r	13: Landscap e	14: Historic Environmen t	15: Efficien t Land Use	16: Sustainable Managemen t of Resources
LP-TR1: Sustainable Transport	0	+	+	+	+	0	++	++	+	0	+	0	0	0	+	0
LP-TR2: Walking, Wheeling and Cycling	0	+	+	+	++	0	++	+	+	0	+	0	+	0	0	0
LP-TR3: Public Transport	0	+	+	+	+	0	++	+	+	0	+	0	0	0	0	0
LP-TR4: Travel Hubs	0	+	+	+	+	0	++	+	+	0	+	0	0	0	0	0
LP-TR5: Highways	0	+	+	0	+	0	+/	+/	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
LP-TR6: Parking Provision and Drop-off Facilities	0	+	0	+	0	0	-	-	0	0	-	0	0	0	0	0
LP-TR7: Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructur e	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	+	+	0	++	0	0	0	0	0

Table 4.24: Cumulative Effects of the Draft Local Plan policies - Conserving the Built Environment and Achieving High Quality Design

Draft Local Plan Policies	1: Housin g	2: Econom y	3: Crime and deprivatio n	4: Equalit y	5: Healt h	6: Educatio n	7: Sustainabl e Transport	8: Air Qualit y	9: Biodiversity and Geodiversit y	10: Climate Change Resilienc e	11: Energy efficienc y	12: Wate r	13: Landscap e	14: Historic Environmen t	15: Efficien t Land Use	16: Sustainable Managemen t of Resources
LP-BE1: Conservation Areas	0	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	+	++	+	0
LP-BE2: Listed Buildings	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	++	0	0
LP-BE3: Scheduled Monuments	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	++	0	0
LP-BE4: Archaeological Features	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	++	0	0
LP-BE5: Local Non- Designated Heritage Assets	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	++	0	0
LP-BE6: Design and Layout of New Development	+	0	+	+	+	0	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	0
LP-BE7: Regeneration Opportunity Areas	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	+	0
LP-BE8: Amenity	+	0	0	0	+	0	0	+	+	0	0	0	+	0	0	0
LP-BE9: Food and Drink Uses	0	+	0	0	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
LP-BE10: Advertisemen ts	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	0

Table 4.25: Cumulative Effects of the Draft Local Plan policies - Protecting Green Infrastructure and Recreation

Draft Local Plan Policies	1: Housin g	2: Econom y	3: Crime and deprivation	4: Equalit y	5: Healt h	6: Educatio n	7: Sustainabl e Transport	8: Air Qualit y	9: Biodiversity and Geodiversit y	10: Climate Change Resilienc e	11: Energy efficienc y	12: Wate r	13: Landscap e	14: Historic Environmen t	15: Efficien t Land Use	16: Sustainable Managemen t of Resources
LP-GI1: Green and Blue Infrastructur e	0	0	0	0	+	0	+	+	++	+	0	0	++	0	0	0
LP-GI2: Open Space, Sport and Recreation	0	0	0	+	++	+	0	+	+	0	0	0	+	0	0	0
LP-GI3: Open Space, Sport and Recreation Provision in New Housing	0	0	0	+	++	0	+	+	+	0	0	0	+	0	0	0
LP-GI4: Strategic Recreation Routes	0	0	0	0	++	0	++	+	+	0	0	0	+	0	0	0
LP-GI5: Biodiversity Assets	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	++	0	0	0	+	0	0	0
LP-GI6: Biodiversity Net Gains from New Developmen t	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	++	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
LP-GI7: Local Nature Recovery Network	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	++	0	0	0	+	0	0	0

Draft Local Plan Policies	1: Housin g	2: Econom y	3: Crime and deprivatio n	4: Equalit y	5: Healt h	6: Educatio n	7: Sustainabl e Transport	8: Air Qualit y	9: Biodiversity and Geodiversit y	10: Climate Change Resilienc e	11: Energy efficienc y	12: Wate r	13: Landscap e	14: Historic Environmen t	15: Efficien t Land Use	16: Sustainable Managemen t of Resources
LP-GI8: Trees, Woodland and Hedgerows	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	++	+	0	+	+	0	0	0
LP-GI9: Geology and Geodiversity	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	++	0	0	0	0	0	0	+
LP-GI10: Soils	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	++	0

Table 4.26: Cumulative Effects of the Draft Local Plan policies - Protecting the Green Belt

Draft Local Plan Policies	1: Housin g	2: Econom y	3: Crime and deprivatio n	4: Equalit y	5: Healt h	6: Educatio n	7: Sustainabl e Transport	8: Air Qualit y	9: Biodiversity and Geodiversit y	10: Climate Change Resilienc e	11: Energy efficienc y	12: Wate r	13: Landscap e	14: Historic Environmen t	15: Efficien t Land Use	16: Sustainable Managemen t of Resources
LP-GB1: Limited Infilling in Village Settlements	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	+	0
LP-GB2: Conversion and Re-use of Buildings in the Green Belt	0	+	0	0	0	0	-	-	+	+	+	0	+	0	+	+
LP-GB3: Agriculture, Forestry and Other Occupational Dwellings in	0	+	0	0	0	0	-	-	/+	-	0	0	+	0	0	0

Draft Local Plan Policies	1: Housin g	2: Econom y	3: Crime and deprivat ion	4: Equalit y	5: Healt h	6: Educatio n	7: Sustainabl e Transport	8: Air Qualit y	9: Biodiversity and Geodiversit y	10: Climate Change Resilienc e	11: Energy efficienc y	12: Wate r	13: Landscap e	14: Historic Environmen t	15: Efficien t Land Use	16: Sustainable Managemen t of Resources
the Green Belt																
LP-GB4: Agricultural Diversificatio n in the Green Belt	0	++	0	0	0	0	-	-	+	-	0	0	+	0	0	0
LP-GB5: Equestrian Development in the Green Belt	0	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0

Table 4.27: Cumulative Effects of the Draft Local Plan policies - Managing Water and Flood Risk

Draft Local Plan Policies	1: Housin g	2: Econom y	3: Crime and deprivat ion	4: Equalit y	5: Healt h	6: Educatio n	7: Sustainabl e Transport	8: Air Qualit y	9: Biodiversity and Geodiversit y	10: Climate Change Resilienc e	11: Energy efficienc y	12: Wate r	13: Landscap e	14: Historic Environmen t	15: Efficien t Land Use	16: Sustainable Managemen t of Resources
LP-W1: New Developmen t and Flood Risk	0	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	++	0	+	0	0	0	0
LP-W2: Sustainable Drainage	0	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	++	0	++	0	0	0	0
LP-W3: Water Resources	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	++	0	0	0	0
LP-W4: Water Efficiency	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	++	0	0	0	0
LP-W5: Public Water	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	++	0	0	0	0

Draft Local Plan Policies	1: Housin g	2: Econom y	3: Crime and deprivatio n	4: Equalit y	5: Healt h	6: Educatio n	7: Sustainabl e Transport	8: Air Qualit y	9: Biodiversity and Geodiversit y	10: Climate Change Resilienc e	11: Energy efficienc y	12: Wate r	13: Landscap e	14: Historic Environmen t	15: Efficien t Land Use	16: Sustainable Managemen t of Resources
Supply Catchment Areas																
LP-W6: Developmen t Near Wastewater Infrastructur e	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table 4.28: Cumulative Effects of the Draft Local Plan policies - Addressing Air Quality, Pollution and Hazards

Draft Local Plan Policies	1: Housin g	2: Econom y	3: Crime and deprivatio n	4: Equalit y	5: Healt h	6: Educatio n	7: Sustainabl e Transport	8: Air Qualit y	9: Biodiversity and Geodiversit y	10: Climate Change Resilienc e	11: Energy efficienc y	12: Wate r	13: Landscap e	14: Historic Environmen t	15: Efficien t Land Use	16: Sustainable Managemen t of Resources
LP-AP1: Air Quality and Pollution Control	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	++?	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
LP-AP2: Contaminate d and Unstable Land	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	++	0
LP-AP3: Control of Hazardous Uses	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	+	0
LP-AP4: Development Near Hazardous Installations	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table 4.29: Cumulative Effects of the Draft Local Plan policies - Delivering Other Infrastructure

Draft Local Plan Policies	1: Housin g	2: Econom y	3: Crime and deprivat ion	4: Equalit y	5: Healt h	6: Educatio n	7: Sustainabl e Transport	8: Air Qualit y	9: Biodiversity and Geodiversit y	10: Climate Change Resilienc e	11: Energy efficienc y	12: Wate r	13: Landscap e	14: Historic Environmen t	15: Efficien t Land Use	16: Sustainable Managemen t of Resources
LP-OI1: Digital and Communication s Infrastructure	0	++	0	0	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	+	+	0	0
LP-OI2: Protecting Digital Infrastructure	0	+	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
LP-OI3: Public Utilities Infrastructure	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	+

Table 4.30: Cumulative Effects of the Draft Local Plan policies - Development Management

Draft Local Plan Policies	1: Housin g	2: Econom y	3: Crime and deprivat ion	4: Equalit y	5: Healt h	6: Educatio n	7: Sustainabl e Transport	8: Air Qualit y	9: Biodiversity and Geodiversit y	10: Climate Change Resilienc e	11: Energy efficienc y	12: Wate r	13: Landscap e	14: Historic Environmen t	15: Efficien t Land Use	16: Sustainable Managemen t of Resources
LP-DM1: Planning Conditions and Obligations	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
LP-DM2: Planning enforcemen t	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

## IA objective 1: Provide a sustainable supply of housing including an appropriate mix of type and tenures to reflect needs

**4.292** While the Local Plan does not allocate sites for housing, with provision having been made through PfE, it includes a range of policies that will combine to ensure that the housing provided is of high quality and meets the needs of specific groups. In particular, the policies in the 'Meeting our Housing Needs' section of the Draft Local Plan will have a wide range of positive effects, as they will ensure that an appropriate mix of housing, including affordable housing, is provided. That part of the Local Plan includes policies directly seeking to meet the needs of specific groups; for example policies LP-H5: Housing for Older People and People with Disabilities and LP-H7: Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople. In the 'Protecting the Green Belt' section of the Draft Local Plan, policies including LP-GB1: Limited Infilling in Village Settlements and LP-GB3: Agriculture, Forestry and Other Occupational Dwellings in the Green Belt will help to meet the need for rural housing.

**4.293** While most of the policies in the other sections of the Draft Local Plan will have negligible effects on this IA objective, a number of minor positive effects have been identified where policies will help to ensure that the housing to be developed is high quality, for example policies LP-BE6: Design and Layout of New Development and LP-W4: Water Efficiency. While there are policies in the emerging Local Plan that could be seen as potentially restrictive to built development including housing, these are not considered likely to have any notable adverse impact in terms of restricting the required housing growth and will instead combine to ensure that housing is provided in the most suitable locations, improving its quality.

**4.294** Overall, the Draft Local Plan will have a significant positive (++) effect on IA objective 1: Housing.

## IA objective 2: Promote sustainable economic growth and job creation

**4.295** Similarly to IA objective 1, the Draft Local Plan does not allocate specific sites for employment development as this is addressed through PfE. However, it does include policies that will combine to make sure that an appropriate amount and type of employment land is provided to support the Borough's economic growth, in particular through the policies in the 'Delivering Economic Growth' section of the Local Plan. Policy LP-EM1: Employment Floorspace Requirements sets out the overall amount of employment land that will be provided in Bury, in line with the PfE plan. Policies LP-EM2: Business, Industrial and Warehousing Development and LP-EM3: Office Development address the provision of these types of employment land specifically. In addition, policy LP-TO1: Tourism and Cultural Assets seeks to support the local tourism economy, while a number of policies in the 'Protecting the Green Belt' section of the Local Plan support the rural economy, including by supporting appropriate diversification. The health of the Borough's town and district centres will be promoted by the measures in the policies in the 'Supporting Our Centres' section of the Local Plan.

**4.296** Other policies in the emerging Local Plan will indirectly support the economy, including those relating to transport. An efficient transport network will support investment in Bury, and improved sustainable transport links in particular will facilitate better access to job opportunities.

**4.297** As with IA objective 1, some of the policies in the Draft Local Plan could potentially be seen to be restrictive to commercial development; however these are not expected to have a particular effect in terms of restricting economic growth and preserving the environmental quality of the Borough will in itself have positive effects on the economy by helping to ensure that Bury is an attractive place to live and invest.

**4.298** Overall, the Draft Local Plan will have a significant positive (++) effect on IA objective 2: Economy.

## IA objective 3: Reduce levels of deprivation, crime and the fear of crime

**4.299** Many of the policies in the Draft Local Plan will have negligible effects on crime, although policies in the 'Promoting Sustainable Transport' section of the plan will have broadly positive effects, due to the measures that seek to ensure safety on the transport network. Several other policies, including LP-BE6: Design and Layout of New Development also make reference to ensuring personal safety and reducing crime and the fear of crime.

**4.300** The measures in the plan seeking to promote economic growth and improve access to jobs, in particular in the 'Delivering Economic Growth' and 'Promoting Sustainable Transport' sections of the Local Plan will combine to reduce deprivation in the Borough, by providing a range of employment opportunities in the most accessible locations which can be reached via a range of transport modes.

**4.301** Overall, the Draft Local Plan will have a minor positive (+) effect on IA objective 3: Crime and deprivation.

## IA objective 4: Promote equality of opportunity and the elimination of discrimination

**4.302** The Draft Local Plan includes a range of policies seeking to address inequality. Policies in the 'Meeting our Housing Needs' section of the Local Plan seek to ensure that housing is available to meet the needs of specific groups including older people, Gypsies and Travellers and those in need of specialist or supported accommodation.

**4.303** The overall approach taken throughout the Draft Local Plan, of directing employment opportunities, services and facilities, to the most accessible parts of the Borough (e.g. town centres) will positively affect the achievement of this

IA objective by ensuring that jobs, services and facilities are accessible to all, including those without a car.

**4.304** Overall, the Draft Local Plan will have a minor positive (+) effect on IA objective 4: Equality.

## IA objective 5: Support improved health and wellbeing of the population and reduce health inequalities

**4.305** A large number of the policies in the Draft Local Plan will have positive effects on health. In particular, the policies in the 'Creating Healthy and Successful Communities' section of the plan directly address this issue, most notably policy LP-CM1: New Development and Health which seeks to ensure that all new development makes a positive contribution to health and wellbeing.

**4.306** The 'Promoting Sustainable Transport' section of the Draft Local Plan seeks to increase levels of walking and cycling which will benefit health by raising levels of day-to-day physical activity. This will be made more possible by the overall strategy of focussing most development in the Borough's town centres. The provision of green infrastructure and open space will also support the aim of increasing physical activity (policies LP-GI2: Open Space, Sport and Recreation, LP-GI3: Open Space, Sport and Recreation Provision in New Housing and LP-GI4: Strategic Recreation Routes). Policies in the 'Addressing Air Quality, Pollution and Hazards' section of the Local Plan will protect human health, while policies seeking to manage flood risk will help to avoid the potential impacts of flood events on peoples' physical and mental health.

**4.307** Overall, the Draft Local Plan will have a significant positive (++) effect on IA objective 5: Health.

## IA objective 6: Support improved educational attainment and skill level for all

**4.308** Many of the policies in the Draft Local Plan will have negligible effects on this objective; however there may be positive effects from some of the policies in the 'Delivering Economic Growth' section of the Draft Local Plan as economic growth and the associated job opportunities may open up improved opportunities for work-based learning and skills development. The one policy that directly addresses education, policy LP-CM2: Education Provision in New Housing, will have a significant positive effect as it directly seeks to ensure that education infrastructure is available to support new housing development. This will help to avoid existing schools becoming overloaded by increased demand. Policies LP-OI1: Digital and Communications Infrastructure and LP-OI2: Protecting Digital Infrastructure may also have positive effects by improving access to online education opportunities.

**4.309** Overall, the Draft Local Plan will have a minor positive (+) effect on IA objective 6: Education.

## IA objective 7: Promote the use of sustainable modes of transport

**4.310** Improving sustainable transport links and achieving modal shift is a cross-cutting theme throughout the Draft Local plan and a large number of policies will have positive effects on this objective, particularly those in the 'Promoting Sustainable Transport' section of the plan. Policies LP-TR1: Sustainable Transport, LP-TR2: Walking, Wheeling and Cycling, LP-TR3: Public Transport and LP-TR4: Transport Hubs all directly seek to enhance the sustainable transport network and reduce car dependency. Other plan policies relating to health and the design of new development also support these aims and the overall approach reflected in many of the policies, of focussing most development in central locations, will help facilitate modal shift.

**4.311** Some minor negative effects have been identified in relation to sustainable transport, however. Policies LP-TR5: Highways and LP-TR6: Parking Provision and Drop-off Facilities relate to improving the highways network and providing car parking within new development, which could be seen as facilitating ongoing car use and discouraging modal shift. However, it is recognised that some level of car use will always be necessary and if the highways network is not maintained accordingly, this could have negative effects on other objectives such as health and air pollution. Overall, the Draft Local Plan strongly promotes sustainable transport use and achieving modal shift and these individual policies referencing car use are not considered to detract from that overall position.

**4.312** Similarly, some of the policies in the 'Protecting the Green Belt' section of the Local Plan could have minor negative effects as they would result in some development in rural areas, where car dependency may be high – including policies LP-GB2: Conversion and Re-use of Buildings in the Green Belt, LP-GB3: Agriculture, Forestry and Other Occupational Dwellings in the Green Belt and LP-GB4: Agricultural Diversification in the Green Belt.

**4.313** Overall, the Draft Local Plan will have a mixed significant positive and minor negative (+ +/-) effect on IA objective 7: Sustainable Transport.

### IA objective 8: Improve air quality

**4.314** The cumulative effects of the Draft Local Plan in relation to air quality are broadly quite similar to those described above in relation to sustainable transport as achieving modal shift and reducing car use will help to improve the Borough's air quality by reducing emissions from vehicles. The policies addressing sustainable transport will generally have minor rather than significant positive effects on air quality, as the effects are less direct. The same potential minor negative effects are identified where development will take place in rural areas, albeit small scale, and where policies seek to enhance the highways network and provide car parking.

**4.315** However, policy LP-AP1: Air Quality and Pollution Control directly seeks to protect and enhance air quality in the Borough so will have a significant positive effect on this objective. In addition, most of the policies in the 'Protecting Green Infrastructure and Recreation' section of the Local Plan will have minor positive effects due to the benefits of Green Infrastructure in relation to air pollution.

**4.316** Overall, the Draft Local Plan will have a mixed minor positive and minor negative (+/-) effect in relation to IA objective 8: Air Quality.

## IA objective 9: Protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity

**4.317** It is possible for the overall extent of development proposed in Bury, particularly through policies LP-H1: Housing Land Provision and LP-EM1: Employment Floorspace Requirements, to have negative effects on biodiversity in the Borough; however this will depend largely on the location of development which is not specific through the Local Plan. Policy LP-GB3: Agriculture, Forestry and Other Occupational Dwellings in the Green Belt could have a minor negative effect on sensitive biodiversity in rural areas as the policy could result in development there; however the policy does include some mitigation.

**4.318** The Draft Local Plan does, however, include numerous policies seeking to protect and enhance the natural environment, including biodiversity. In particular, the policies in the 'Protecting Green Infrastructure and Recreation' section of the Local Plan will have a range of positive effects, in particular the policies that directly aim to protect and enhance biodiversity including policies LP-GI5: Biodiversity Assets, LP-GI6: Biodiversity Net Gains from New Development, LP-GI7: Local Nature Recovery Network, LP-GI8: Trees, Woodland and Hedgerows and LP-GI9: Geology and Geodiversity.

**4.319** Other policies in the plan will have indirect positive effects in relation to biodiversity and geodiversity, for example those that promote sustainable

transport will help to protect air quality which can otherwise have adverse effects on sensitive habitats and species.

**4.320** Overall, the Draft Local Plan will have a potential but uncertain minor positive (+?) effect in relation to IA objective 9: Biodiversity and geodiversity.

## IA objective 10: Ensure communities, developments and infrastructure are resilient to the effects of climate change, including flooding

**4.321** As with sustainable transport, climate change is a cross-cutting theme throughout the Local Plan and many of the policies include criteria seeking to ensure that new development is energy efficient and sustainable and does not increase flood risk. As a result of a recommendation made earlier in the IA process, Policy CC1: Climate Change has been included in the Draft Local Plan. In addition, policies LP-W1: New Development and Flood Risk and LP-W2: Sustainable Drainage directly seek to manage flood risk in the Borough and a number of policies in the 'Protecting Green Infrastructure and Recreation' section of the plan will have positive effects in terms of climate change mitigation.

**4.322** Where potential minor negative effects have been identified in relation to other IA objectives as a result of the potential for some development (albeit small-scale) in rural areas, this could also have some minor negative effects on climate change due to higher levels of car use in those areas. However, the overall strategy of the Local Plan is to direct most development to the Borough's town centres and built-up areas where the transport-related impacts on climate change will be minimised.

**4.323** Overall, the Draft Local Plan will have a minor positive (+) effect in relation to IA objective 10: Climate change resilience.

## IA objective 11: Increase energy efficiency, encourage low-carbon generation and reduce greenhouse gas emissions

**4.324** The measures in the Draft Local Plan seeking to encourage the use of sustainable modes of transport and achieve modal shift, will combine to have positive effects on this IA objective by reducing emissions from vehicles. In addition, policy LP-TR7: Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure seeks to reduce emissions by facilitating the use of electric vehicles. However, it is considered that the Local Plan could go further in relation to encouraging energy efficiency and reducing emissions, by incorporating an overarching policy addressing these matters, as noted above.

**4.325** Overall, the Draft Local Plan will have a minor positive (+) effect in relation to IA objective 11: Energy efficiency.

## IA objective 12: Protect and improve the quality and availability of water resources

**4.326** While many of the policies in the Draft Local Plan will not directly affect this IA objective, the policies in the 'Managing Water and Flood Risk' section of the plan will have broadly positive effects, in particular policies LP-W2: Sustainable Drainage, LP-W3: Water Resources, LP-W4: Water Efficiency and LP-W5: Public Water Supply Catchment Areas. Those policies directly address the issue of water resource management and seek to ensure that high standards of water efficiency are incorporated into new development.

**4.327** Overall, the Draft Local Plan will have a minor positive (+) effect in relation to IA objective 12: Water.

## IA objective 13: Protect and make accessible for enjoyment the Borough's landscapes and townscapes including by improving access to open spaces

**4.328** The overall scale of development that will result from the Local Plan, as set out through policies LP-H1: Housing Land Provision and LP-EM1: Employment Floorspace Requirements in particular, could result in negative effects on the landscapes and townscapes of the Borough. However, this is uncertain until the specific location of development and its design and layout is known, which is not determined through the Local Plan.

**4.329** The Local Plan does include a number of policies directly seeking to protect and enhance local character, such as policies LP-H8: The Form and Layout of New Housing Development and LP-H9: Alterations and Extensions to Residential Properties. The provision of enhanced green infrastructure and open space through the policies in the 'Protecting Green Infrastructure and Recreation' section of the plan will combine to have particularly positive effects.

**4.330** Overall, the Draft Local Plan will have a potential but uncertain minor positive (+?) effect in relation to IA objective 13: Landscape.

## IA objective 14: Protect and enhance the Borough's historic environment and cultural heritage

**4.331** As with IA objective 13 above, the overall scale of development resulting from the Local Plan could have adverse effects on the Borough's heritage assets, some of which are already classed as being 'at risk' by Historic England.

However, any effects are unknown until the location and design of developments is clear, which is not determined through the Local Plan.

**4.332** The Draft Local Plan also includes extensive policy protection for heritage assets, in particular through the policies which directly seek to conserve and enhance specific types of assets and their settings: LP-BE1: Conservation Areas, LP-BE2: Listed Buildings, LP-BE3: Scheduled Monuments, LP-BE4: Archaeological Features and LP-BE5: Local Non-Designated Heritage Assets.

**4.333** Overall, the Draft Local Plan will have a potential but uncertain significant positive (++) effect in relation to IA objective 14: Historic environment.

## IA objective 15: Improve efficiency in land use through the re-use of previously developed land and buildings whilst reducing land contamination

**4.334** Most of the policies in the Draft Local Plan will have negligible effects on this IA objective; however there are some that directly affect efficient land use. Policies LP-GI10: Soils and LP-AP2: Contaminated and Unstable Land will both have significant positive effects.

**4.335** The overall strategy which is cross-cutting throughout the Local Plan policies, of focussing most development in the Borough's town centres and urban areas, should help to achieve the efficient use of land. However, the plan proposes extensive housing and employment development through policies LP-H1: Housing Land Provision and LP-EM1: Employment Floorspace Requirements which could result in the take up of greenfield land, although the Local Plan does not allocate sites.

**4.336** Overall, the Draft Local Plan will have a potential but uncertain minor positive (+?) effect in relation to IA objective 15: Efficient land use.

## IA objective 16: Promote the sustainable management of resources and support the implementation of the waste hierarchy

**4.337** Most of the Draft Local Plan policies will not directly affect this objective, although a number of minor positive effects are identified in relation to policies including LP-GB2: Conversion and Re-use of Buildings in the Green Belt and LP-OI3: Public Utilities Infrastructure. While the Local Plan makes provision for large-scale housing and employment development, the extent to which sustainable waste management, for example, will be achieved will depend on other factors including individual behaviours.

**4.338** Overall, the Draft Local Plan will have a minor positive (+) effect in relation to IA objective 16: Sustainable resource management.

**Table 4.31: Cumulative Effects of the Draft Local Plan**

IA objective	Cumulative effect
1: Housing	++
2: Economy	++
3: Crime and deprivation	+
4: Equality	+
5: Health	++
6: Education	+
7: Sustainable transport	++/-
8: Air quality	+/
9: Biodiversity and geodiversity	+

IA objective	Cumulative effect
10: Climate change resilience	+
11: Energy efficiency	+
12: Water	+
13: Landscape	+
14: Historic environment	++?
15: Efficient land use	+?
16: Sustainable resource management	+

## Chapter 5

# Monitoring

**5.1** The SEA Regulations require that “the responsible authority shall monitor the significant environmental effects of the implementation of each plan or programme with the purpose of identifying unforeseen adverse effects at an early stage and being able to undertake appropriate remedial action” and that the environmental report should provide information on “a description of the measures envisaged concerning monitoring”. Monitoring proposals should be designed to provide information that can be used to highlight specific issues and significant effects, and which could help decision-making.

**5.2** Monitoring should be focused on the significant sustainability effects that may give rise to irreversible damage (with a view to identifying trends before such damage is caused) and the significant effects where there is uncertainty in the IA and where monitoring would enable preventative or mitigation measures to be taken. Given the relatively early stage of the Bury Local Plan, indicators for all IA objectives have been included. The monitoring framework will be updated at the next stage of the IA (Regulation 19) to focus on the IA objectives against which significant (including uncertain) effects have been recorded.

**5.3** The following section overleaf sets out a number of suggested indicators for monitoring the potential sustainability effects of the Bury Local Plan.

**5.4** The data used for monitoring in many cases will be provided by outside bodies. Information collected by other organisations (e.g. the Environment Agency) can also be used as a source of indicators. It is therefore recommended that the Council continues the dialogue with statutory environmental consultees and other stakeholders that has already commenced and works with them to agree the relevant sustainability effects to be monitored and to obtain information that is appropriate, up to date and reliable.

## Proposed monitoring framework for the Bury Local Plan

IA Objective 1: Provide a sustainable supply of housing including an appropriate mix of type and tenures to reflect needs

### Suggested indicators

- Five year housing land supply.
- Net additional dwellings.
- Affordability of homes
- Number of empty homes.
- Gypsy and Traveller provision.
- Unauthorised encampments.

IA Objective 2: Promote sustainable economic growth and job creation

### Suggested indicators

- Total number of jobs in Bury.
- Employment rate.
- Percentage 16-19 year olds not in education or training.
- Unemployment Rate.

- Total Businesses (Local units).
- Consented developed Employment Land/Floorspace.
- Number of visitors.
- Tourism visitor revenue.

## IA Objective 3: Reduce levels of deprivation, crime and the fear of crime

### **Suggested indicators**

- Number of wards in the most 50% deprived nationally.
- Crime count.
- Anti-social behaviour.
- 12 month rolling rates by crime type.

## IA Objective 4: Promote equality of opportunity and the elimination of discrimination

### **Suggested indicators**

- Number of essential services and facilities within local settlements.

## IA Objective 5: Support improved health and wellbeing of the population and reduce health inequalities

### Suggested indicators

- Average life expectancy.
- Teenage pregnancy rate.
- Obesity rates.

## IA Objective 6: Support improved educational attainment and skill level for all

### Suggested indicators

- Number of apprenticeships and trainees secured.
- Resident qualifications (NVQ2 equivalent and above of residents ages 16 to 64).
- Percentage of 16-19 year olds not in education or training.

## IA Objective 7: Promote the use of sustainable modes of transport

### Suggested indicators

- Bus patronage.

- Travel to work – mode of travel.

## IA Objective 8: Improve air quality

### Suggested indicators

- Number of Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs).
- Exceedances of air quality objectives.

## IA Objective 9: Protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity.

### Suggested indicators

- Number of designated Local Wildlife Sites (LWS) & Local Geological Sites (LGS).
- SSSI condition.

## IA Objective 10: Ensure communities, developments and infrastructure are resilient to the effects of climate change, including flooding

### Suggested indicators

- Recorded flood events.

**IA Objective 11: Increase energy efficiency, encourage low-carbon generation and reduce greenhouse gas emissions**

### **Suggested indicators**

- Carbon emissions in Bury.
- Renewable energy approved/completed (large scale).
- Average Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rating.

**IA Objective 12: Protect and improve the quality and availability of water resources**

### **Suggested indicators**

- Pollution events recorded.
- Water efficiency of new developments.
- Number of planning permissions granted contrary to the advice of the Environment Agency on water quality grounds.

IA Objective 13: Protect and make accessible for enjoyment the Borough's landscapes and townscapes including by improving access to open spaces

### **Suggested indicators**

- Change in quality of landscape character and condition.
- Change in areas designated for their landscape value.

IA Objective 14: Protect and enhance the Borough's historic environment and cultural heritage

### **Suggested indicators**

- Number of heritage assets on the Heritage at Risk Register.
- Number of Conservation Areas with an up-to-date and adopted character assessment.
- Number of Conservation Areas with an up to date and adopted management plan.

**IA Objective 15: Improve efficiency in land use through the re-use of previously developed land and buildings whilst reducing land contamination**

### **Suggested indicators**

- Percentage of new development on brownfield land.
- Number of empty and derelict land and property sites that have been brought back into use.

**IA Objective 16: Promote the sustainable management of resources and support the implementation of the waste hierarchy.**

### **Suggested indicators**

- The quantity of primary aggregates produced in Bury.
- Amount of development coming forward in mineral safeguarding areas.
- Total household waste collected by Bury Council.
- Total waste collected per head of population.
- Household recycling rate.
- Household waste diverted from landfill.

## Chapter 6

# Conclusions and Next Steps

**6.1** The IA of the Draft Local Plan has been undertaken to accord with current best practice and the guidance on SA/SEA as set out in the National Planning Practice Guidance. IA objectives developed at the Scoping stage of the IA process have been used to undertake a detailed appraisal of the current consultation document and the reasonable alternative options considered.

**6.2** The Draft Local Plan has been found to have broadly positive effects across the IA objectives. The plan makes provision at a general level for the delivery of the large-scale housing and employment development allocated through PfE and so will have significant positive cumulative effects in relation to housing and the local economy.

**6.3** Because the Local Plan does not allocate any specific sites for development, the potential negative effects of housing, employment and other forms of built development on the environmental objectives in particular are largely not identified through this IA. Instead, the policies contain a wide range of measures that will apply to the housing and other development coming forward through PfE, seeking to ensure that it is built to a high quality, appropriately located, and avoids increasing flood risk.

**6.4** Particularly significant positive effects have been identified in relation to health, as the Draft Local Plan provides for open space, sports and recreation facilities to meet local needs, while also seeking to deliver green infrastructure and increase levels of active travel day-to-day. These measures should have particularly positive effects given the current high levels of poor health in the Borough and the low levels of walking and cycling. The Local Plan also makes strong provision for the protection of the historic environment through a suite of specific policies.

**6.5** A number of recommendations were made earlier in the IA process for amendments or additions that could be made to policies in the Draft Local Plan in order to maximise their positive effects and reduce or avoid negative effects. These have been considered by the Council when finalising the Draft Local Plan, as detailed in Chapter 4. The addition of an overarching policy addressing climate change is a particularly notable change to the Plan as a result of the IA recommendations.

## Next Steps

**6.6** This IA Report will be available for consultation alongside the Draft Local Plan document between 17th March and 12th May 2025. The consultation responses on the Draft Local Plan and this IA Report will be taken into account in the next stages of the plan preparation process.

## Appendix A

# Scoping Report Consultation Comments

## Consultation responses received in relation to the IA Scoping Report

### Consultee Reference 002

#### Comment

- In my opinion the document is really well laid out and easy to read. I like how each issue is clearly identified and addressed. Also the way all relevant law and policy is listed.

#### IA Team's Response/Action Taken

- Noted

#### Comment

- A couple of things have confused me:
- Firstly, the references to European Directives (e.g. paragraph 2.5) which read as though the Scoping Document was drafted prior to cessation of the UK's EU membership and make it seem out of date. Is there a way of making it read less like the EU is directing UK planning policy?

## Appendix A Scoping Report Consultation Comments

- Secondly, the error in paragraph 2.11 referencing characteristics protected by the Equality Act 2010. The error is as follows:
- The Scoping Document lists the protected 'groups' as: "...race, disability, gender, gender reassignment, age, sexual orientation, religion or belief, and pregnancy and maternity."
- The Equality Act 2010 lists the protected characteristics as: "...age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation" (see link below). I cannot think of any reason why the Scoping Document (or any other document) would not use the exact wording of the Equality Act 2010 when referring to protected characteristics - please could this be amended.

### IA Team's Response/Action Taken

- Wording relating to the European Directives have been updated to be clear about their status following the UK's exit from the EU.
- The correct characteristics as protected under the Equality Act 2010 are noted.

### Comment

- May I finish by complimenting the team on the layout of the Scoping Document to date, and for presenting such a broad account of the borough: it has been really informative and interesting to read. I look forward to the finished Local Plan.

### IA Team's Response/Action Taken

- Noted

## Consultee Reference 003

### Comment

- In terms of the historic environment, on the whole, we consider that the Report has identified the majority of plans and programmes which are of relevance to the development of the Bury Local Plan, that it has established an appropriate Baseline against which to assess the Plan's proposals and that it has put forward a suitable set of Objectives and Indicators. Overall, therefore, we believe that it provides the basis for the development of an appropriate framework for assessing the significant effects which this plan might have upon the historic environment.

### IA Team's Response/Action Taken

- Noted.

### Comment

- Historic England strongly advises that the conservation and archaeological advisers to Bury MB Council are closely involved throughout the preparation of the SEA/IA of this Plan. They are best placed to advise on; local historic environment issues and priorities, including access to data held in the HER (formerly SMR); how the policy or proposal can be tailored to minimise potential adverse impacts on the historic environment; the nature and design of any required mitigation measures; and opportunities for securing wider benefits for the future conservation and management of heritage assets. Historic England has produced guidance for all involved in undertaking SEA/SA exercises which gives advice on issues relating to the historic environment. This can be found here-  
<https://content.historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/sustainability-appraisal-and-strategic-environmental-assessment-advice-note-8/heag036-sustainability-appraisal-strategic-environmental-assessment.pdf/>

## IA Team's Response/Action Taken

- Noted. LUC will seek to involve Bury Council's conservation and archaeological officers/advisors in the IA as appropriate.
- Historic England's guidance has been reviewed as part of preparation of this IA Report. Reference to the document linked has been included within Chapter 3.

## Comment

- In terms of our area of interest the Scoping Report has identified those policies, plans and programmes of importance.

## IA Team's Response/Action Taken

- Noted

## Comment

- We support the key sustainability issues identified in Figure 17. However, we suggest it is important that the implications for the plan include the need to conserve and enhance the historic environment alongside those already suggested in the middle column. In the right hand column, we suggest adding that without a plan, whilst heritage assets may be conserved under national legislation and policy it does not provide the opportunity for a positive strategy for the future enjoyment of Bury's historic environment including potential enhancement.
- We also suggest that it may be beneficial to split the landscape and historic environment objectives, as although in the majority of cases the two are mutually compatible, this is not always the case.
- Suggested changes
  - Table 6.1 Suggest a separate objective for landscape.

- Table 6.2 Implications for the Local Plan –
- The Local Plan should identify and seek to conserve and enhance the historic environment landscape character of the Borough.
- Table 6.3 Likely Evolution without the Local Plan –
- Policies in the NPPF will ensure that designated heritage assets nationally protected historic landscapes are given significant weight in the planning process.
- However, the Local Plan provides the best opportunity to provide a positive strategy for Bury's historic environment.
- However, The Local Plan will also allow for specific mitigation and enhancement opportunities relating to local non-designated heritage assets.

### IA Team's Response/Action Taken

- Noted. The key sustainability issues and implications for the Local Plan have been updated as part of this IA Report. The IA objectives for landscape and cultural heritage have been separated. Further key sustainability issues have been identified through an update to the baseline information.

### Comment

- We suggest splitting objectives on landscape and cultural heritage into two so that the SA can be simplified and there is no risk of incompatibility.
- Suggest Assessment Criteria 'Improve the landscape quality and the character of open spaces and the public realm? Is placed into a new objective on landscape.'
- It may also be easier to have separate criteria for conserving and enhancing heritage assets and cultural heritage.

- Link to issues in Chapter 5 – This should be related to Topic 11, Cultural heritage.

### IA Team's Response/Action Taken

- The IA objectives for landscape and cultural heritage have been separated as suggested, with individual assessment criteria for each.

### Comment

- We agree with the Integrated Assessment Framework Approach.

### IA Team's Response/Action Taken

- Noted

## Consultee Reference 005

### Comment

- It is noted that the IA states that the LP will be consistent with the PfE document; however, given the strategic nature of the PfE Plan, and the geographic extent of the SRN affected by the Plan, it is understood and accepted that there is a need to commit to additional assessment work through the planning process. As the IA and LP develops, BC should consider the impacts of the PfE and LP allocations on the SRN as well as cross-boundary impacts with the adjoining local authorities. WSP and National Highways are currently working with BC as well as Rochdale Council on the North Gateway project and want to continue working collaboratively together.

## IA Team's Response/Action Taken

- At present Bury Council does not intend to include any allocations in the Local Plan. If this changes later in the plan-making process, any IA work in relation to the site options will take these matters into consideration insofar as they are within the scope of the IA.

## Comment

- It is noted that the IA consultation document, at section 3, states that a comprehensive review of policies, plans and programmes has been undertaken for this IA. The IA references the Bury Let's Do It 2030 plan, however, omits the Bury Local Transport Strategy, which acknowledges that investment is needed at Northern Gateway at Investment Priority 2.
- Also, the policy, plans and programmes appraisal includes the PfE within the overarching document although has omitted the SoCG, which should be reviewed and referenced when developing the IA further. The IA makes no reference to National Highways policies. Due consideration should be applied to DfT Circular 01/2022, National Highways Route Strategies documents and Planning for the Future (2023).

## IA Team's Response/Action Taken

- The review of plans and programmes has been reviewed and updated as part of this IA Report (see Appendix B). Reference to the Bury Local Transport Plan has been included as well as DfT Circular 01/2022, National Highways Route Strategies and Planning for the Future (2023).

## Comment

- The topics identified within the IA are welcomed, particularly air/climatic factors, including transport.
- The IA provides very limited information on transport related matters, particularly the SRN, as could be expected at this stage. It is essential that

National Highways are involved with any SRN intervention proposed as the LP develops, including infrastructure provision for electric vehicles.

### IA Team's Response/Action Taken

- Noted. The baseline information and plans and programmes have been reviewed and updated as part of this IA Report. Additional information is included on transport related matters; however some transport matters such as highway capacity are outside of the scope of the IA.

### Comment

- The key issues identified both exacerbate and alleviate existing capacity issues on the SRN. For example, a key issue identified in the 'Population' key issue is ensuring the needs of the future population are met through having appropriate provision of supporting infrastructure. Whilst this would involve different types of infrastructure, transport/road infrastructure may have a direct impact on the SRN. However, there is a recognition that a key issue identified in document is to address climatic factors through promotion to access key services and reducing the need to travel including encouraging walking and cycling.
- Overall, WSP is of the view that the key issues identified in the IA are reasonable for this stage in the process. When producing the policies for the LP, BC should enforce policies set out in the DfT Circular (01/2022), supporting the vision-led development agenda.

### IA Team's Response/Action Taken

- Noted.

### Comment

- The objectives could both exacerbate and alleviate existing capacity issues on the SRN. For example, objective 3 is to ensure that there is

sufficient coverage and capacity of transport (and utilities) to support growth and development, which could lead to a direct impact on the SRN but objective 8 seeks to promote sustainable modes of transport.

- However, there is a recognition of the need to promote policy which, indirectly, could lower demand for the SRN, particularly from short-trips. Measures to support the environment – by improving air quality – and improve people’s health by enabling active travel, have the capacity to do this.
- Overall, WSP is of the view that the objectives set out in the IA Scoping Report are reasonable for this stage in the process. These include objectives that will enforce policies set out in the DfT Circular (01/2022), supporting the vision-led development agenda.

### IA Team’s Response/Action Taken

- Noted.

## Consultee Reference 007

### Comment

- As an elected councillor for Radcliffe my comments will likely be influenced by my experience and observations in Radcliffe. I believe it is important for the Council to use available data where possible rather than making assumptions based on instinct. The recently released data from the 2021 Census provides useful data that can be interrogated to a sub Lower layer Super Output Area (LSOA) which allows analysis of small areas with populations of around 250. Further useful analysis can be seen through comparison of the 2011 census data with the 2021 census data. There is a danger with the local plan that it is written from a perspective of looking at Bury MBC as a whole and in my opinion, this would be a serious mistake because it would miss the important and significant differences in levels of

deprivation, economic equality, education, health and other demographic differences and fail to tackle the inequalities.

- There appears to be a tendency of the Council to want to work with data in relation to electoral wards, this can be misleading and lead to a lack of full understanding of issues facing particular areas. If the Council wants to get a true picture and full understanding of life in Bury it is more sensible to use Middle Layer Super Output Areas (MSOAs), LSOAs and sub LSOAs, as used by the Office for National Statistics. Bury MBC should also avoid adjusting the townships used to make the figures look better. For example, grouping Radcliffe with Bury West ward makes some figures look better than the reality for some residents e.g. life expectancy.

### IA Team's Response/Action Taken

- The baseline information has been reviewed and updated based on the most up to date information available. In particular, additional information has been included on population data, water quality, surface water flooding and biodiversity. The updated and expanded baseline information is included within Appendix C of this IA report.

### Comment

- River Water Quality in Bury
- Section 4.24, page 23 of the Bury Local Plan, Integrated Appraisal Scoping Report talks about the importance of good water quality of rivers, however, for much of Bury, good river water quality is not being achieved. The River Irwell runs through the centre of Radcliffe, in recent years there have been regular discharge of sewage into the river.

### IA Team's Response/Action Taken

- The baseline information has been reviewed and updated based on the most up to date information available. In particular, additional information has been included on population data, water quality, surface water

flooding and biodiversity. The updated and expanded baseline information is included within Appendix C of this IA report.

### Comment

- Flood Risk
- The Bury Local Plan IA Scoping Report, March 2024 appears to concentrate on flood risk posed by river and open water, however any equally important risk to consider is that posed by surface water flooding. The Council should be paying attention to the surface flood risk data which is presented in a clear and understandable mapped format available from the Government on <https://check-long-term-flood-risk.service.gov.uk/map>.
- When these maps are examined, there are several high-risk areas (i.e. more than 3.3% chance each year) including on sites proposed for large scale developments, particularly in relation to the Walshaw site proposed in Places for Everyone.

### IA Team's Response/Action Taken

- The baseline information has been reviewed and updated based on the most up to date information available. In particular, additional information has been included on population data, water quality, surface water flooding and biodiversity. The updated and expanded baseline information is included within Appendix C of this IA report.

### Comment

- Protecting Biodiversity
- The report also looks at the declared wish to protect biodiversity at sites in Bury MBC without mentioning the plan to concrete over a significant number of Priority Habitats listed in the Natural England, Priority Habitats Inventory (England) which have been identified and registered on the proposed Elton Reservoir site.

## IA Team's Response/Action Taken

- The baseline information has been reviewed and updated based on the most up to date information available. In particular, additional information has been included on population data, water quality, surface water flooding and biodiversity. The updated and expanded baseline information is included within Appendix C of this IA report.

## Consultee Reference 008

### Comment

- Relevant plans included:
  - National
    - The England Tree Action Plan (2021-24) Lowland Agricultural peat Task Force Report Road to Zero Strategy (2028)
    - UK Post 2010 Biodiversity Framework
    - Environment Agency Green Infrastructure Framework (2023)
    - Natural England & Forestry Commission - Ancient Woodland, Ancient trees and veteran trees: Advice for making planning decisions (2022)
    - State of Nature Partnership – State of Nature 2023.
  - Regional
    - Greater Manchester Biodiversity Action Plan
    - GMCA Biodiversity Net Gain – Guidance for Planners and Applicants

## IA Team's Response/Action Taken

- Noted.

- A review of the relevant plans and programmes has been undertaken as part of this IA Report. The plans and programmes referred to have been referenced within Chapter 3 and Appendix B of this IA report.

### Comment

- With regard to ensuring land and buildings are used in an effective and efficient manner, maximising the use of brownfield land, we feel that attention needs to be drawn to the value some brown-field sites have for their biodiversity interest. They can represent biodiversity hotspots within an urban environment and can be particularly important for invertebrate communities. This interest needs to be protected and enhanced. Brown-field sites can also act as key ecological corridors and steppingstones contributing to a coherent and resilient ecological network and it should be made clear within planning policies that appropriate assessment needs to be made before development is considered appropriate.
- We feel that the objective on protecting and enhancing soils and remediation of contaminated land should include a specific reference to peat and to the importance of protecting and rewetting peat soils.
- The objective for climatic factors should also include a reference to peat soils and their importance in mitigating climate impacts.
- The Landscape objective should reference the protection and enhancement of the West Pennine Moors SSSI.

### IA Team's Response/Action Taken

- The following appraisal question has been included under IA Objective 16: Improve efficiency in land use through the re-use of previously developed land and buildings whilst reducing land contamination:
  - Protect peat soils and prevent damage to peat soils?
- An appraisal question on protecting designated wildlife sites and protected species is already included under IA Objective 10: Protect and enhance current levels of biodiversity and geodiversity. Therefore, there is no need

to include specific reference to the protection and enhancement of the West Pennine Moors SSSI.

### Comment

- Whilst we are in general agreement with the issues identified, there are a number of other key issues that we feel need to be addressed. These are as follows;
- Stage 2 – Baseline information
- Biodiversity – There is no baseline information on the location, depth or quality of the boroughs peat soils. Peat soil maps should be consulted and the baseline data presented. Please note that Natural England are currently updating the soil maps and once prepared, these should be used to plot areas of deep peat.
- There is no indication as to the condition of the SBI's listed. Are the SBI's biodiversity interest being maintained or are they in decline and how many are in conservation management. This information might not all be currently available but gathering the data will be important in assessing how effective the biodiversity policies are in protecting/enhancing local wildlife sites.
- There is little to no information provided for important species found within the borough. What species is Bury important for and what are their population sizes. This information is especially important for Section 41 Priority Species. S41 species can be a material consideration when it comes to determining planning permissions. The GMLNRS has a dedicated species sub-group, which is identifying a short-list of species that will require additional conservation efforts outside of habitat protection and this list should then be included within the appraisals to assess if proposals are likely to adversely impact these important species. Where available, the distribution of protected and priority species within Bury should be assessed. Implications are that development should seek to prevent reductions in the population sizes of priority species and seek to increase population sizes and the viability and connectivity of local populations of S41 species.

- The framework will also need to take into account the developing Greater Manchester Local Nature Recovery Strategy (GMLNRS) and the developing habitat networks. This will form the baseline evidence against which future gains and losses can be assessed.
- Air/Climatic Factors (including Transport) – As within the biodiversity section, the baseline condition of the boroughs peat soils should be assessed. Degraded peat soils emit carbon. Once rewetted they act as a sink and can acquire carbon. The current and proposed future condition of the borough's peat soils need to be stated.

### IA Team's Response/Action Taken

- The baseline information has been reviewed and updated as part of this IA Report (see Appendix C).
- Where available, information has been included on the presence of peat soils within Bury.
- Where available, information on the condition of Sites of Biological Importance and important species has been included.
- The Greater Manchester's Local Nature Recovery Strategy Pilot Final Report was referenced within the IA Scoping Report. Any further updates to the Local Nature recovery Strategy have been included within this IA Report.

### Comment

- Stage 3: Sustainability issues and Problems:
- Biodiversity – We would argue that the key issue for biodiversity is the biodiversity emergency we are facing and the loss of habitat area as well as species population declines. The problem faced is how to reverse these declines. As discussed above, without key baseline data on the current quality of habitats and distribution/population sizes of species within the borough comparisons of success or failures will be difficult. We would refer

back to the proposed new approach of designating Wildbelt land and providing designating land specifically for environmental enhancement.

- The implication for the plan would be to provide policies that stop and reverse the current biodiversity losses. This requires up to date data and the current quality and distribution of the biodiversity resource. Policies should seek to protect the existing ecological resource and provide opportunities to enhance and increase biodiversity across the Borough. The likely evolution without the updated plan would be to continue with outdated policies that are based on old information and thinking and this strategy would therefore reduce the effectiveness of biodiversity protection across the Borough.
- Flood Risk - The main risks here are the increase in flood events due to climate change, the increase in non-porous surfaces within developments that is leading to an increased water flow into watercourses, as well as a lack of capacity within watercourses to accommodate increased flow rates due to the above factors. We recommend that addition of the wording as follows; 'The Local Plan, as well as supporting sustainable building practice, including the use of SuDS should support the use of porous surfaces in preference to non-porous surfaces.
- The Implications for Plan: The use of eco-system services in aiding sustainable water management should be highlighted here.
- Climatic Factors - Transport and Commuting – The key issues that should be highlighted would be the increased risk of flood and drought events, failure of created GI due to adverse weather patterns and increased heat island effects within urban areas.
- Implications for Plan: Policies should encourage the provision of cooling GI within new development such as trees and open water areas. GI should be considered that is drought tolerant. We also feel that protection and rewetting of peat soils is a key implication for plan policies. Degraded peat soils emit carbon. Once rewetted they act as a sink and can acquire carbon from the atmosphere.
- Landscape - Implications for the plan: We would recommend including the provision of design codes and place making guides as part of the plan process. We would draw attention to and recommend initiatives such as

the Wildlife Trust's Building with Nature (BwN) Project. This is a voluntary agreement with developers that offers an assessment and accreditation service to secure the delivery of high quality green infrastructure in new and existing communities. It can be used to certify a development or can award accreditation to policy documents for those councils seeking independent validation of the quality of their policy in relation to delivery of high-quality GI. BwN serves as a national exemplar of a standard to be expected in the context of development and green infrastructure, including biodiversity. As the first UK green infrastructure benchmark, BwN is increasingly being recognised, within local and national government and across the built- environment sector, as the "go-to" standards framework for GI. This approach will ensure that nature can be interwoven in to the fabric of Burys infrastructure.

- Green Infrastructure/Recreation - Implications for Plan: We agree with and welcome the acknowledgement that GI should have a multiple roles and help to deliver biodiversity objectives. The GI should also contribute to the GMLNRS.
- Health and wellbeing - We welcome the acknowledgement that access to green space can aid health and wellbeing in communities.

### IA Team's Response/Action Taken

- Noted.
- The key sustainability issues and implications for the Local Plan have been reviewed and updated as part of this IA Report, informed by the updated baseline information within Appendix C.

### Comment

- Objective 6: The Trust agrees with the objectives but feels that reference to increasing access to open greenspace should be included, acknowledging the health benefit that nature provides.

- Objective 9: The Trust agree with this objective, but feels that reference to the West Pennine Moors SSSI should be made here and that any development within the Impact Risk Zone (IRZ) should be providing a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) detailing how potential air quality impacts will be mitigated.
- Objective 10: Whilst agreeing with the general intent of objective 10, the target of aiming for no net loss in biodiversity is not ambitious enough and does not take into account the now mandatory legal obligation that development provides for at least a 10% net gain in biodiversity. The wildlife trust's believes the 10% target itself is not enough to tackle the biodiversity crisis we are facing and the BNG increase should be at least 20% if we are to reverse the trend of alarming biodiversity losses. In 2020, the UK Government committed to protecting 30% of the UK land by 2030 (the 30 by 30 target). The 30 by 30 target needs to be identified as a major objective to be delivered through the local plan policies.
- The objective needs to include protecting and enhancing both priority Section 41 habitats and species and providing opportunities for habitat and species population expansions. We welcome the commitment to provide opportunities to develop or enhance new and existing wildlife sites. The wording should however be amended to 'Provide opportunities to develop and/or enhance new and existing wildlife sites, which will result in meaningful biodiversity gains and provide for the conservation of wildlife on a landscape scale.' To achieve the biodiversity gains on a landscape scale, we would recommend a new approach being championed by the wildlife trusts, of designating Wildbelt land. Wildbelt seeks to identify and designate areas of land with currently low biodiversity value, and protect them whilst the necessary work is undertaken to support nature's recovery, through either creating new habitats or bringing nature back. The idea of Wildbelt is that it protects the space that nature needs for the future. Wildbelt would work alongside existing designations, such as National Parks and SSSI's, and could be used to help connect existing areas of ecological importance to one another, as well as helping to speed up the creation of Local Nature Recovery Strategies.
- We welcome the aim to maintain and improve green infrastructure but feel that this should be expanded to read; 'Maintain and improve provision of

green infrastructure to enhances wildlife corridors, networks and stepping stones and contributes to the development and function of the Greater Manchester Local Nature Recovery Strategy and Network’.

- Objective 11: The Trust feels that the important role peat soils play in capturing and storing carbon should be highlighted. In a dry degraded state, peaty soils emit greenhouse gases, contributing to climate change. Rewetted, they can form carbon sinks, locking up the carbon, mitigating the effects of climate change. These soils must be protected from inappropriate development and in line with England’s Peat Action Plan, the local plan should ensure that ‘All uses of peatland should keep the peat wet and in the ground.’ There needs to be a policy that all landscaping and planting schemes are delivered utilising peat free soils.
- Objective 12: The Trust welcomes the intent that development in areas of flood risk should be restricted but would advise that prevent development in areas of flood risk would be a better strategy. We agree that development should not increase flood risk due to increased run off rates. We agree with and welcome that sustainable urban drainage systems will be incorporated into the design of new development, but feel that rather than encouraged, SuDS should be expected to be incorporated within developments. We agree that development is appropriately future proofed to accommodate future levels of flood risk and that the plan will encourage the inclusion of new green spaces and habitat creation to help mitigate flood risk. We would however recommend that the wording ‘encourage’ is replaced by ‘expect’.
- Objective 13: The Trust welcomes and agrees with the aim of the objective to protect and improve the quality of water resources, especially protection of water features from pollution. We do however feel that promote management practices that will protect water features from pollution is not strong enough and would suggest replacing ‘Promote’ with ‘Expect’
- Objective 14: The Trust agrees with and welcomes this objective, especially the commitment to improving the landscape quality and the character of open spaces and the public realm.

- Objective 15: Whilst in agreement with the objective to promote access to green infrastructure, we would caution that any sensitive and vulnerable habitat and/or species need to be protected and that access should not increase undue disturbance to such wildlife features.
- Objective 16: Whilst in general agreement that development should be focused on previously developed land, attention should be drawn to the value some brown-field sites have for their biodiversity interest. They can represent biodiversity hotspots within an urban environment and can be particularly important for invertebrate communities. This interest needs to be protected and enhanced. Brown field sites can also act as key ecological corridors and stepping-stones contributing to a coherent and resilient ecological network and it should be made clear within planning policies that appropriate assessment is needed before development is considered appropriate. With regard to protecting the best and most versatile agricultural land/soil resources from inappropriate development, we feel that specific reference should be made to the value of peat soils and their protection.
- Providing the above amendments are included, we would agree with the assessment framework approach to assessing the likely effects of the policies and site options included in the Local Plan on each of the IA objectives.

## IA Team's Response/Action Taken

- Noted.
- The following additional appraisal assessment criterion has been included under IA Objective 6: Support improved health and wellbeing of the population and reduce health inequalities:
  - Improve access to high quality green spaces?
- IA Objective 10 includes assessment criteria covering the protection of designated wildlife sites and protected species which will cover SSSIs. Therefore, there is no need to also include this under IA Objective 9 which specifically relates to air quality although it is recognised that these issues are related. It is not appropriate for the IA framework to include wording

relating to the requirement for HRA to be undertaken. The following additional appraisal assessment question has been included under IA Objective 10: Protect and enhance current levels of biodiversity and geodiversity:

- Will it deliver Biodiversity Net Gain?
- The following appraisal assessment criteria has been amended:
  - Provide opportunities to develop or enhance new and existing wildlife sites, networks and corridors?
- It is for the Council to decide the level of biodiversity net gain it wishes to adopt and what is most appropriate for Bury.
- An additional appraisal assessment criterion has been included under IA Objective 16 which covers the protection of peat soils.
- The proposed amendment to the appraisal assessment criteria under IA Objective 13 would not change how a policy option performs against the IA Objective so has not been made.
- Any policies and/or site options will be appraised in relation to their effect on IA Objective 10 and 15. Therefore, any policy and/or site option that promotes access to green infrastructure that could impact sensitive habitats will be reflected within the effects identified for the policy and/or site option.
- Any policies and/or site options will be appraised in relation to their effect on IA Objective 10 and 16. Therefore, any policy and/or site option that encourages development of brownfield land that could impact sensitive habitats will be reflected within the effects identified for the policy and/or site option. However, the IA process is a high level appraisal and it may not be known the biodiversity interests of individual brownfield sites. It will be for any site-specific policies to detail mitigation required to support the development of the site.

## Consultee Reference 9b

### Comment

- The inclusion of the HIA in the is specifically welcomed. An HIA is a process that identifies the health and wellbeing impacts of any plan or development project. Although Sport England recognise the production of an HIA is not a statutory requirement, it is considered to be an effective way of front loading the consideration of issues which affect the creation of active environments in the plan making process. Such an approach is in accordance with section 8 (Promoting Healthy and Safe Communities) of NPPF.
- Bury's Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy 2019 should be included in the final topic for 'Health and Wellbeing, education and Communities (Population/Human Health) as this offers the latest evidence base although recognised as being out of date. This should replace the referred to 'Bury Sports Pitch Strategy (2011). It should also be noted that Bury is currently in the final stages of preparing a fresh Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy.
- Para. 4.62 4.68 & Fig 12: -
- Bury Greenspace Strategy 2015 - Sport England do not support the use of a 'standards' approach to determine requirements for indoor and outdoor sport, although we are not involved in the use of standards for other open space typologies. These comments have also been made through the GMCA (2023) PfE consultation process. Sport England can provide further explanations with regard to this if requested.
- Include reference to evidence based rather than standards based approach and referral to needs based assessments i.e. Playing Pitch Strategy/Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy.
- The baseline data for Recreation should reference the latest sports facilities evidence base. It should be noted that the evidence base for recreation should be based on needs assessments and not a 'standards based' approach.

- Reference is made to an out of date Sports Pitch Strategy 2011 - it is noted that Bury has a more recent Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy – 2019. This too is out of date but should be used as a point of reference as evidence base for outdoor sports provision rather than the 2011 document. It should also be noted that Bury is currently in the final stages of preparing a fresh Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy.
- Sport England's Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance (October 2013) states that "if no review and subsequent update has been carried out within three years of the PPS being signed off by the steering group, then Sport England and the NGBs would consider the information on which it is based to be out of date" (page 57). Paragraph 102 of the NPPF states that "Planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the need for open space, sport and recreation facilities (including quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses) and opportunities for new provision. Information gained from the assessments should be used to determine what open space, sport and recreational provision is needed, which plans should then seek to accommodate." Based on our guidance the current PPOSS is considered out of date and therefore does not constitute a robust foundation for the Integrated Assessment or plan making for Bury. Sport England have been recently involved in work with the Council to update the 2019 Bury PPOSS and would welcome the satisfactory completion and adoption in order to ensure the plan is developed based on the most up to date information available.
- The evidence base should also include indoor recreation provision. Sport England encourage the preparation of a Built Facilities Strategy to establish an evidence base for indoor provision for sports and healthy lifestyles.

### IA Team's Response/Action Taken

- Noted. Reference to Bury's Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy 2019 has been included within the Plans and Programmes in Appendix B of this IA Report.
- Additional information on recreation, including sports facilities and indoor recreation provision, has been included within the baseline information

contained with Appendix C of this IA Report. Any subsequent versions of the IA Report will include draw on any available updated evidence relating to recreational facilities.

### Comment

- Key Issue 13 should also include reference to policies in the NPPF to 'protect' playing fields – i.e. paragraph 103.
- Key Issue 15 should also include reference to the need for access to indoor sport/physical activity provision.
- Para. 4.90 Links across the Integrated Assessment - should also identify the need to deliver additional indoor and outdoor sports facilities based on the demand resulting from the subsequent increase in population and in order to promote healthy lifestyles.
- p.77 – Overarching (all SEA topics) - should also identify the need to deliver additional indoor and outdoor sports facilities based on the demand resulting from the subsequent increase in population and in order to promote healthy lifestyles.

### IA Team's Response/Action Taken

- The key sustainability issues and likely evolution without the plan have been reviewed and updated as part of this IA report, informed by a review and update to the baseline information.

## Consultee Reference 10a/10b

### Comment

- Natural England has not reviewed the plans listed. However, we advise that the following types of plans relating to the natural environment should be considered where applicable to the plan area:

- Green and Blue infrastructure strategies
- Local Nature Recovery Strategies
- Biodiversity plans and strategies
- Rights of Way Improvement Plans
- River basin management plans
- Relevant landscape plans and strategies

### IA Team's Response/Action Taken

- The relevant plans and programmes have been reviewed as part of this IA Report.

### Comment

- 4 Stage A2 - Baseline Information
- Please see attached Annex A for our advice on sources of development plan evidence on the natural environment

### IA Team's Response/Action Taken

- The sources of evidence on the natural environment included within the consultee's Annex A have been reviewed as part of the update to the baseline information.

### Comment

- Links Across the Integrated Assessment
  - We suggest consideration of the relationship between environmental and economic sustainability issues. Investment in green jobs and skills, such as in habitat creation and management, and in wildlife surveying and monitoring will also contribute to environmental issues.

### ■ Stage A3 – Identify Sustainability Issues and Problems

- We suggest this section is changed to Sustainability Issues and Opportunities

### ■ Figure 17 - Key Issues

- Natural England advise that some amendments are required to ensure that the key issues identified are specific to Bury.

### ■ Biodiversity/Flora/Fauna/Soil

- Designated Sites: We welcome the recognition of biodiversity as a key sustainability issue. We advise that this section could be strengthened by referring to the challenging issue which West Pennine Moors Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) faces from the increasing demand for access without comprising the integrity of the site and any associated supporting habitat. The frequent disturbance can cause disturbance of species which in turn may affect behaviours such as foraging and breeding and habitat degradation or loss. This in turn can cause the decline of such species. Within Section 8.38 of Places for Everyone, cross- boundary working is needed to address issues affecting this upland area and should be clearly reflected within this section.
- Wider Biodiversity Assets: We also advise that this section could be strengthened through the acknowledgement of Local Nature Recovery Strategies, Nature Recovery Network and wider biodiversity assets such as irreplaceable habitats, locally designated sites, priority habitats and species and protected species.
- Peat: In addition, in light of Natural England's statutory purpose (Section 2 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006) and the Environmental Improvement Plan 2023 - GOV.UK ([www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)), we do not support development on peat, nor the extraction or importation of peat resources.
- Potential locations of peat can be found at Peaty Soils Location, Natural England Open Data Publication. This mapping indicates peat presence within the northern and eastern regions of Bury with other peat deposits associated to Policy JP Allocation 1.2 Simister and Bowlee (Northern Gateway) within Places for Everyone in the south.

We recommend that the presence of peat is highlighted as key issue and opportunity.

- Peat is a finite resource which we believe should be protected from inappropriate development for its carbon store and habitat value which is discussed in more detail within the section, 4 and 5 Air – Quality and Greenhouse Gas Emissions. Natural England has been working with partners to develop restoration methods which effectively restore even the most damaged and dry peat. Peat can be restored to hold water and sequester carbon if it remains in-situ and undeveloped. Natural England would therefore expect to see key issues clearly demonstrate the protection of peat.
- Water – Flood Risk and Resources
  - Nature Based Solutions: Opportunities to reduce flood risk should be made by working with natural processes, green infrastructure provisions and other nature-based solutions such as sustainable urban drainage systems should be identified as a key opportunity. They can perform a range of functions including improved flood risk management, provision of accessible green/blue space, climate change adaptation and biodiversity enhancement. Positive management of upland peatland including West Pennine Moors SSSI can reduce the risk of flood.
- Air – Quality and Greenhouse Gas Emissions
  - Traffic: We would expect the plan to address the impacts of air quality on the natural environment. It should address the traffic impacts associated with new development, particularly where this impacts on designated sites such as West Pennine Moors SSSI.
  - As part of the assessment of traffic impacts, you may also need to consider Manchester Mosses Special Area of Conservation (SAC) as a key issue. The Places for Everyone Plan states if any application requires a transport assessment, it should assess if it will lead to more than 100 vehicles or 20 heavy good vehicles a day past Holcroft Moss SSSI under Policy JP-C7 Transport Requirements of New Developments (MDC1).

## Appendix A Scoping Report Consultation Comments

- Climate Change: Air quality concerns can also be exacerbated with climate change. Opportunities for nature-based solutions and green infrastructure should be explored as a means of delivering mitigation and resilience.
- Peat: You may also wish to consider peat as a key issue and opportunity. Peat is an irreplaceable asset and once removed, is lost forever. It will no longer be capable of restoration or able to sequester carbon. Peat provides a range of other valuable benefits including natural flood management. When in a degraded state, peat can actively contribute to greenhouse gas emissions.
- Material Assets – Land Resources
  - Brownfield Sites: Whilst we support the development of brownfield sites, some brownfield sites are important for historic importance, wildlife and can be of high environmental value. Particularly invertebrate diversity. You may wish to update the key issues to reflect the balance which must be met.
  - Best and Most Versatile Agricultural Land: A key issue should also reflect the safeguarding of the long-term capability of Best and Most Versatile (BMV) agricultural land (Grades 1, 2 and 3a in the Agricultural Land Classification).
  - Local Nature Recovery Strategies: We recommend avoiding areas identified within LNRS. More information can be found within Greater Manchester's Nature Recovery Plan.
  - Peat: Natural England do not support the development on or near to peat resources. We recommend this is considered as a key issue.
- Material Assets – Extractive Resources
  - Peat: Natural England recommend that the 'protection of peat bogs' is extended to all peat-based assets which are capable of restoration.
- Landscape
  - National Character Areas: Bury also contains the National Character Areas Manchester Pennine Fringe and Southern Pennines which requires consideration.

### ■ Green Infrastructure/ Recreation

- Deficiencies in Access to Nature: This section must utilise the presented baseline information to identify key issues. This includes the findings of the Greater Manchester Green Infrastructure Network as identified within Section 8.15 of Places for Everyone, Bury Greenspace Strategy (February 2015) and Sports Pitch Strategy (September 2011). This includes a lack of provision in Whitefield and Prestwich, lack of natural/semi natural greenspaces in Bury East and West and under provision of allotments.

### ■ Health and Wellbeing

- Green Social Prescribing: We also wish to highlight that Green Social Prescribing (GSP) is the practice of supporting people in engaging in nature-based interventions and activities to improve their mental health, whilst offering nature recovery benefits. We advise the value of GSP is recognised as a key opportunity.

## IA Team's Response/Action Taken

- The key sustainability issues and likely evolution without the plan have been reviewed and updated as part of this IA report, informed by a review and update to the baseline information.

## Comment

### ■ Objectives and Assessment Criteria

- Ensure each objective has a suitable assessment criteria question and a quantitative monitoring indicator.

### ■ Support Improved Health And Wellbeing Of The Population And Reduce Health Inequalities

- Natural England recommend further assessment criteria questions are added which reflect connecting people with nature and delivery of green infrastructure.

## Appendix A Scoping Report Consultation Comments

- Monitoring indicators may include: percentage of people utilising GSP; percentage increase of local green spaces; percentage of the population having access to a natural greenspace within 400 metres of their home; length of greenways constructed; hectares of accessible open space per 1000 population; number of new or retrofitted urban green infrastructure.
- Improve Air Quality
  - This objective focuses on human health receptors but is also applicable to biodiversity/flora/fauna and soil. We advise this section is updated to reflect this.
  - Monitoring indicators may include: number of trees planted; hectares of peat engaged in restoration efforts; tonnage of emissions generated annually from roads.
- Protect And Enhance Current Levels Of Biodiversity And Geodiversity
  - Natural England recommend that objectives specifically reference creating opportunities for biodiversity and wildlife habitats. This includes bolstering ecological networks.
  - Monitoring indicator examples include: number of planning approvals that generated any adverse impacts on sites of acknowledged biodiversity importance; net gain in biodiversity using the Defra Metric.
- Ensure Communities, Developments And Infrastructure Are Resilient To The Effects Of Expected Climate Change
  - The objective can be improved to ensure biodiversity assets are also resilient to the effects of climate change.
- Protect and Improve the Quality and Availability of Water Resources
  - Monitoring indicators may include: percentage of relevant development incorporating sustainable drainage systems and water quality/ecological status of rivers.
- Improve Efficiency In Land Use Through The Re-Use Of Previously Developed Land And Buildings Whilst Reducing Land Contamination

- We recommend that the protection and enhancement of soils of environmental value, including BMV and peat is reflected in the objectives.
- Monitoring indicators may include the percentage of new dwellings or employment space on previously developed land, hectares of soil with high environmental value lost to development, hectares of peat lost to development.

### IA Team's Response/Action Taken

- The IA framework has been reviewed and subject to a small number of amendments as part of preparing this IA Report.
- The monitoring framework that has been developed as part of this IA is contained within Chapter 5 of this Report. This will be continually reviewed and updated, where required, at each iteration of the IA Report.

## Consultee Reference 14

### Comment

- Water Efficiency and Climate Change
  - We request that water supply resources and our recommendation to include the optional standard for water efficiency is referred to in the Integrated Appraisal Scoping Report, within that section which relates to water.

### IA Team's Response/Action Taken

- Additional baseline information has been included on water resources and flood risk including surface water and groundwater flooding within this IA Report. This is contained within Appendix C of the IA Report.

### Comment

#### ■ On-Site Flood Risk

- We note that the Integrated Appraisal Scoping Report (March 2024) which references the need to consider flood risk. This tends to focus on fluvial flood risk. We request that this more explicitly refers to flood risk from all sources for consistency with the National Planning Policy Framework and National Planning Practice Guidance. We specifically request that any assessment of your potential sites for allocation ensures that flood risk from all sources is considered. To do this, you will need to liaise directly with UuW as information relating to sewer flood risk is not publicly available.

### IA Team's Response/Action Taken

- Additional baseline information has been included on water resources and flood risk including surface water and groundwater flooding within this IA Report. This is contained within Appendix C of the IA Report.

## Consultee Reference 024

### Comment

- The Local Plan documentation includes an Integrated Appraisal Scoping report. We request that the objective "Support improved health and wellbeing of the population and reduce health inequalities" should include an additional Assessment Criteria, 'Improve access to outdoor/green and blue exercise areas and facilities'.

### IA Team's Response/Action Taken

- Improving access to outdoor/green and blue exercise areas and facilities is covered under the assessment questions for IA Objective 15: Ensure

## Appendix A Scoping Report Consultation Comments

access to and protection and enhancement of high quality public open space and natural green space. However, the following assessment question has been updated to cover access to blue infrastructure under IA Objective 15:

- Will it promote access to green and blue infrastructure such as natural greenspace?

## Appendix B

### Review of Plans, Policies and Programmes

#### International Plans, Policies and Programmes

Overarching (all SEA topics)

EU Renewed Sustainable Development Strategy  
(2006)

Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and  
IA

- Key Objectives:
  - Environmental Protection
  - Social Equity and Cohesion
  - Economic Prosperity

How will the plan and programme be addressed in the IA

- IA objectives on environmental protection, economic growth and social development.

## Biodiversity (Biodiversity/Fauna/Flora/Soil)

The EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 (2020, European Commission) Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (1992, JNCC)

Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA

- Conserve wild flora, fauna and natural habitats of EU importance
- Encourage management of features of the landscape that are essential for migration of wild species
- Establish framework of protected areas to maintain biodiversity and promote conservation

How will the plan and programme be addressed in the IA

- IA objective on protecting and enhancing biodiversity

The Ramsar Convention, 1976 (formally, the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, especially as Waterfowl Habitat)

Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA

- The Convention's mission is "the conservation and wise use of all wetlands through local and national actions and international cooperation,

as a contribution towards achieving sustainable development throughout the world".

How will the plan and programme be addressed in the IA

- Wetlands are considered as part of the biodiversity IA objective

Directive 2009/147/EC on the conservation of wild birds (the codified version of Council Directive 79/409/EEC) as amended (2009, JNCC)

Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA

- The main provisions of the Directive include:
  - The maintenance of the populations of all wild bird species across their natural range.
  - The identification and classification of Special Protection Areas (SPAs) for rare or vulnerable species.

How will the plan and programme be addressed in the IA

- IA objective relating to the protection and enhancement of biodiversity

## Resources/Water Resources (Climatic Factors/Water/Soil/Human Health)

### EU Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC)

Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA

- The Directive seeks to: -
  - Prevent further deterioration and protect and enhance status of aquatic ecosystems and wetlands
  - Promote sustainable water use (reduce pollutants of waters)
  - Contribute to mitigating effects of floods and droughts
  - Prevent further deterioration and risk of pollution in ground waters

How will the plan and programme be addressed in the IA

- IA objective related to water quality and flood risk.

### Council Directive 90/676/EEC of 12 December 1991 concerning the protection of waters against pollution

## caused by nitrates from agricultural sources (Nitrates Directive) (1991, Eur-Lex)

Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA

- This Directive has the objective of reducing water pollution caused or induced by nitrates from agricultural sources and preventing further such pollution.

How will the plan and programme be addressed in the IA

- IA objective related to water quality.

## Council Directive 91/271/EEC for urban wastewater treatment communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the regions (2011, European Commission)

Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA

- This Directive concerns the collection, treatment and discharge of urban waste water and the treatment and discharge of waste water from certain industrial sectors. The objective of the Directive is to protect the environment from the adverse effects of the above mentioned waste water discharges.

How will the plan and programme be addressed in the IA

- IA objective related to water quality.

### Council Directive 98/83/EC on the quality of water intended for human consumption (1998, EUR-Lex)

Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA

- The objective of this directive is to protect human health from the adverse effects of any contamination of water intended for human consumption by ensuring that it is wholesome and clean.

How will the plan and programme be addressed in the IA

- IA objective related to water quality.

### Air Quality, Climate Change and Energy Efficiency (Climatic Factors/Air/Human Health)

### Directive 2008/50/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 May 2008 on ambient air

## quality and cleaner air for Europe (Air Quality Directive) (2008, EUR-Lex)

### Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA

- The Directive merges four directives and sets standards and target dates for reducing concentrations of fine particles, which together with PM10, already subject to legislation are among the most dangerous pollutants for human health.

### How will the plan and programme be addressed in the IA

- IA objective on air quality.

## The Cancun Agreement (2011, UNFCCC) Directive 2009/28/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources (2009, EUR-Lex)

## Directive 2009/28/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources (2009, EUR-Lex)

### Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA

- The objectives of the agreements are to establish objectives for reducing human-generated greenhouse gas emissions over time to keep the global average temperature rise below two degrees; assist vulnerable people to

adapt to the impacts of climate change; protect the world's forests, which are a major repository of carbon.

How will the plan and programme be addressed in the IA

- IA objective to reduce energy use and promote energy efficiency.
- IA objective to protect and enhance green infrastructure.

### Directive (EU) 2016/2284 of the European Parliament and of the Council the reduction of national emissions of certain atmospheric pollutants (2016, EUR-Lex)

Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA

- This Directive establishes the emission reduction commitments for Member States emissions of sulphur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>), nitrogen oxide (NO<sub>x</sub>), non-methane volatile organic compounds (NMVOC), ammonia (NH<sub>3</sub>) and fine particulate matter (PM<sub>2,5</sub>) and requires that national air pollution control programmes be drawn up, adopted and implemented and that emissions of those pollutants and the other pollutants referred to in Annex 1 be monitored and reported.

How will the plan and programme be addressed in the IA

- IA objective to protect and improve air quality.

## United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change 2015: The Paris Agreement (2015, United Nations)

### Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA

- The Paris Agreement central aim is to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change.
- The agreement also aims to strengthen the ability of countries to deal with the impact of climate change.

### How will the plan and programme be addressed in the IA

- IA objective to reduce energy use and promote energy efficiency, renewable and low carbon energy.
- IA objective to protect and improve air quality.

## Waste (Material Assets)

### Directive 2008/98/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 November 2008 on waste

## and repealing certain Directives (Waste Framework Directive) (2008 European Commission)

Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA

- Limit waste production through the promotion of clean technology and reusable or recyclable products.
- Promote prevention, recycling and conservation of waste with the view to re-use.
- Waste should be managed with minimal environmental impact.

How will the plan and programme be addressed in the IA

- IA objective related to sustainable waste management.

## Directive 2018/850 on the landfill of waste (2018, European Commission)

Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA

- The objective of the Directive is to prevent or reduce as far as possible negative effects on the environment, in particular on surface water, groundwater, soil, air and on human health from the landfilling of waste by introducing stringent technical requirements for waste and landfills.

How will the plan and programme be addressed in the IA

- IA objective related to sustainable waste management.

## Landscape

### The European Landscape Convention (Florence Convention) (2000, Council of Europe)

Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA

- Encourage the adoption of policies relating to the protection, management and planning of landscapes

How will the plan and programme be addressed in the IA

- IA objective related to conservation and enhancement of landscape and townscape character

## Historic Environment (Cultural Heritage)

### The European Convention on the Protection of the Architectural Heritage, 1985

Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA

- Promote policies for the conservation and enhancement of Europe's heritage

How will the plan and programme be addressed in the IA

- These plans are not directly relevant to the IA however, they are listed here because they provide the wider context for heritage considerations within the IA Framework.

### European Convention on the Protection of Archaeological Heritage (Valetta Convention, 1992, Council of Europe)

Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA

- Conservation and enhancement of archaeological heritage

How will the plan and programme be addressed in the IA

- IA objective to protect and enhance the historic environment.

### General Conference of UNESCO, 1972

Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA

- A single text was agreed on by all parties, and the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage was adopted

How will the plan and programme be addressed in the IA

- IA objective to protect and enhance the historic environment.

## Noise (Human Health)

Directive 2002/49/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council relating to the assessment and management of environmental noise (2002, EUR-Lex)

Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA

- The aim of this Directive is to define a common approach intended to avoid, prevent or reduce the harmful effects, including annoyance, due to exposure to environmental noise.

How will the plan and programme be addressed in the IA

- IA objective to protect and improve local environmental quality.

## Minerals (Material Assets)

Directive 2006/21/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the management of waste from extractive industries (2006, EUR-Lex)

Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA

- This Directive provides for measures, procedures and guidance to prevent or reduce as far as possible any adverse effects on the environment, in

particular water, air, soil, fauna and flora and landscape, and any resultant risks to human health, brought about as a result of the management of waste from the extractive industries.

How will the plan and programme be addressed in the IA

- IA objective on the appropriate extraction, protection and restoration of mineral infrastructure.

## National Plans, Policies and Programmes

Overarching (all SEA topics)

### National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA

- The NPPF sets out how the planning system should contribute to the achievement of sustainable development through:
  - An economic role – to help build a strong, responsive and competitive economy by ensuring that sufficient land of the right type is available to support growth, innovation and productivity and by identifying and coordinating the provision of infrastructure;
  - A social role – 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 well-designed, beautiful and safe 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 carefully, minimising waste and pollution and mitigating and adapting to climate change.

How will the plan and programme be addressed in the IA

- IA objective on sustainable development

### Levelling Up and Regeneration Act

Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA

- The Act will ensure new development is built more beautifully, produces more local infrastructure, is shaped by local people's democratic wishes, enhances the environment and creates neighbourhoods where people want to live and work.
- The Act seeks to ensure homes are built where they are needed in urban areas and the countryside is enhanced.

How will the plan and programme be addressed in the IA

- IA objective on high quality design, efficient use of land and buildings and a sufficient supply of housing

## Get Britain Working White Paper (2024)

### Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA

- The White Paper sets out plans to reform employment, health and skills support to tackle rising economic inactivity levels, support people into good work, and create an inclusive labour market in which everybody can participate and progress in work.

### How will the plan and programme be addressed in the IA

- IA objective on economic growth and health and well-being.

## English Devolution White Paper (2024)

### Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA

- The English Devolution White Paper sets out the government's plans to widen and deepen devolution across England, providing mayors with unprecedented powers and funding and hardwiring them into the way government works.
- It also outlines how the government will rebuild and reform local government, as the foundation for devolution, reset the relationship between central and local government, and give communities stronger tools to shape the future of their local areas, while improving accountability and building capacity across the local government sector.

### How will the plan and programme be addressed in the IA

- IA objective on deprivation and equality.

## Design (Human Health/Population)

### National Model Design Code (MHCLG, 2021)

Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA

- The National Model Design Code (NMDC) and National Design Guide (NDG) advises on creating a Design Code, setting out detailed standards for key elements of successful placemaking.

How will the plan and programme be addressed in the IA

- IA objective on high quality design.

### National Design Guide (2021, MHCLG, Tibbalds Planning and Urban Design)

Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA

- Establishes 10 criteria that makes a “great place” these being:
  - Context – enhances the surroundings.
  - Identity – attractive and distinctive.
  - Built form – a coherent pattern of development.
  - Movement – accessible and easy to move around.
  - Nature – enhanced and optimised.
  - Public spaces – safe, social and inclusive.

- Uses – mixed and integrated.
- Homes and buildings – functional, healthy and sustainable.
- Resources – efficient and resilient.
- Lifespan – made to last

How will the plan and programme be addressed in the IA

- IA objective on high quality design.

## Economic Growth (Population)

### Northern Powerhouse Strategy (2016, HM Government)

Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA

- The Vision is to join up the North's cities, towns and counties to unlock the their economic potential.
- The Northern Powerhouse's objective is to achieve an increase in productivity and focuses on four areas of improvement:
  - Connectivity
  - Skills
  - Enterprise and Innovation
  - Trade and Investment

How will the plan and programme be addressed in the IA

- IA objective on connectivity, skills and investment.

## Build Back Better – Our Plan for Growth (HM Treasury, 2021)

Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA

- The government will focus on three core pillars of growth:
  - Infrastructure;
  - Skills; and
  - Innovation

How will the plan and programme be addressed in the IA

- IA objectives on Infrastructure, skills and innovation.

## Climate Change and Energy (Climatic Factors)

### Climate Change Act (2008)

Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA

- The Climate Change Act 2008 is the basis for the UK's approach to tackling and responding to climate change. It requires that emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases are reduced by 2050 by

100% lower than 1990 baseline and that climate change risks are adapted to.

How will the plan and programme be addressed in the IA

- IA objective to mitigate climate change and to improve air quality

### The Third National Adaptation Programme (NAP3) and the Fourth Strategy for Climate Adaptation Reporting (HM Government, 2023)

Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA

- The vision is for a country that effectively plans for and is fully adapted to the changing climate, with resilience against each of the identified climate risks. The programme sets out actions in relation to:
  - Infrastructure
  - Natural environment
  - Health, communities and the built environment
  - Business and Industry
  - International impacts
  - Adaptation Reporting Power
  - Supporting evidence

How will the plan and programme be addressed in the IA

- IA objective to mitigate climate change

## Net Zero Strategy: Build Back Greener (2022, HM Government)

Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA

- This strategy aims to help deliver the UK's carbon budgets as set out in the Climate Change Act, the 2030 Nationally Determined Contribution, and carbon net zero by 2050. It includes our decarbonisation pathways to net zero by 2050, including illustrative scenarios policies; proposals to reduce emissions for each sector and cross-cutting action to support the transition

How will the plan and programme be addressed in the IA

- IA objective to mitigate and be resilient to climate change.

## British Energy Security Strategy (2022, DBEIS and DESNZ)

Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA

- This strategy sets out how Britain will accelerate homegrown power for greater energy independence. The plan sets out energy plan objectives and key measures to up to 2050.

How will the plan and programme be addressed in the IA

- IA objective on low carbon and renewable energy

## Green Infrastructure and Biodiversity (Biodiversity/Fauna, Flora/Soil)

### Environment Agency Green Infrastructure Framework (2023)

Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and  
IA

- Natural England launched the Green Infrastructure (GI) Framework to support the creation of good quality Green Infrastructure which maximises benefits for people and nature. GI helps local authorities, communities and developers create better places for people to live, work, learn and relax.

How will the plan and programme be addressed in the IA

- IA Objective on access to green infrastructure

### State of Nature Partnership- State of Nature 2023

Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and  
IA

- State of Nature uses the latest and best data from biological monitoring and recording schemes, collated by the incredible work of thousands of skilled people, most of whom are volunteers, to provide a benchmark for the status of our wildlife.

How will the plan and programme be addressed in the IA

- IA Objective on enhancing biodiversity

## The Environment Act (2021, Defra)

Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA

- The Act will clean up the country's air, restore natural habitats, increase biodiversity, reduce waste and make better use of our resources.
- It will halt the decline in species by 2030, require new developments to improve or create habitats for nature, and tackle deforestation overseas

How will the plan and programme be addressed in the IA

- IA objectives on enhancing biodiversity

## The Environment Improvement Plan (HM Government, 2023)

Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA

- The plan is the first revision to the Government's 25- year environment plan and continues to build on the ten goals:
  - Thriving plants and wildlife
  - Clean air
  - Clean and plentiful water
  - Managing exposure to chemicals and pesticides

- Maximise our resources, minimize our waste
- Using resources from nature sustainably
- Mitigating and adapting to climate change
- Reduced risk of harm from environmental hazards
- Enhancing biosecurity
- Enhanced beauty, heritage, engagement with the natural environment

How will the plan and programme be addressed in the IA

- IA objectives on protecting and enhancing biodiversity, environmental quality and mitigation of climate change.

### Natural England & Forestry Commission - Ancient Woodland, Ancient trees and veteran trees: Advice for making planning decisions (2022)

Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA

- Natural England and Forestry Commission 'standing advice' for ancient woodland, ancient trees and veteran trees. It is a material planning consideration for local planning authorities (LPAs).

How will the plan and programme be addressed in the IA

- IA objectives on enhancing biodiversity

## The England Tree Action Plan (2021-24) Lowland Agricultural peat Task Force Report Road to Zero Strategy (2028)

Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA

- The England Trees Action Plan 2021 to 2024 sets out the government's long-term vision for the treescape it wants to see in England by 2050 and beyond. The plan provides a strategic framework for implementing the Nature for Climate Fund and outlines over 80 policy actions the government is taking over this Parliament to help deliver this vision.

How will the plan and programme be addressed in the IA

- IA objectives on enhancing biodiversity

## The Path to Sustainable Farming: An Agricultural Transition Plan 2021 to 2024 (2020, Defra)

Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA

- By 2028, we want to see a renewed agricultural sector, producing healthy food for consumption at home and abroad, where farms can be profitable and economically sustainable without subsidy and farming and the countryside contributing significantly to environmental goals including addressing climate change

How will the plan and programme be addressed in the IA

- IA objectives on enhancing biodiversity

## UK Post 2010 Biodiversity Framework

### Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA

- The UK Biodiversity Framework supports this ambition by setting out shared objectives for co-operation and collaboration across the four countries of the UK, establishing a governance structure for overseeing and achieving the shared objectives, and providing a means for the four countries to communicate what they are doing individually and collectively to meet the UK's international biodiversity commitments.

### How will the plan and programme be addressed in the IA

- IA objectives on enhancing biodiversity

## Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981)

### Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA

- Covers: SSSIs, SPAs and RAMSAR sites. Also includes schedules on birds, animals, plants and invasive species. Protection may include prohibition of some or all of: killing, injuring, disturbing, taking, sale/barter or possession of species.

### How will the plan and programme be addressed in the IA

- IA objectives on enhancing biodiversity

## The Hedgerows Regulations (1997)

Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA

- Allows the identification of important hedgerows and requires permission to remove them without permission from the local planning authority.

How will the plan and programme be addressed in the IA

- IA objectives on enhancing biodiversity

## The Countryside and Rights of Way Act (2000, JNCC)

Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA

- Under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CROW), the public can walk freely on mapped areas of mountain, moor, heath, down-land and registered common land without having to stick to paths.
- People across England now have approximately 865,000 hectares of land across which they can walk, ramble, run, explore, climb and watch wildlife as they are given the freedom to access land, without having to stay on paths.
- The new rights, for which people have been campaigning for over 100 years, came into effect across all of England on 31 October 2005.

How will the plan and programme be addressed in the IA

- IA objective on biodiversity and access to green infrastructure

## Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (2006)

### Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA

- Came into force on 1st Oct 2006. Section 40 of the Act requires all public bodies to have regard to biodiversity conservation when carrying out their functions.
- This is commonly referred to as the 'Biodiversity duty'
- This duty extends to all public bodies the biodiversity duty of section 74 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CROW), which placed a duty on Government and Ministers.

### How will the plan and programme be addressed in the IA

- IA objectives on enhancing biodiversity

## The Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations (2019)

### Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA

- The Regulations provide for the designation and protection of 'European sites', the protection of 'European protected species', and the adaptation of planning and other controls for the protection of European Sites.
- Under the Regulations, competent authorities i.e. any Minister, government department, public body, or person holding public office, have a general duty, in the exercise of any of their functions, to have regard to the EC Habitats Directive.

How will the plan and programme be addressed in the IA

- IA objectives on enhancing biodiversity

## Air Quality and Contaminated Land (Air/Soil)

### Part IV of the Environmental Act (1995)

Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA

- Requires local authorities in the UK to review air quality in their area and designate air quality management areas if improvements are necessary.
- Where an air quality management area is designated, local authorities are also required to work towards the Strategy's objectives prescribed in regulations for that purpose.
- An air quality action plan describing the pollution reduction measures must then be put in place.
- These plans contribute to the achievement of air quality limit values at local level.

How will the plan and programme be addressed in the IA

- IA objective on air quality

## Clean Air Strategy (2019, Defra and MHCLG)

Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA

- The Clean Air Strategy sets actions to meet goals in relation to air pollution targets. This includes the creation of Clean Air Zones to lower emissions from all sources of air pollution and policy options to further improve air quality in the UK from today into the long term.

How will the plan and programme be addressed in the IA

- IA objective for improvement of air quality.

## Safeguarding our Soils: A Strategy for England (2009, Defra)

Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA

- The Vision is that by 2030, all England's soils will be managed sustainably and degradation threats tackled successfully.

How will the plan and programme be addressed in the IA

- IA objective on the protection and enhancement of soils and the remediation of contaminated land.

## Water Resources and Flood Risk (Climatic Factors/Water/Biodiversity/Population/Human Health)

### The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Regulations, 2017)

Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA

- Regulations address water quality, including groundwater against pollution and deterioration. Establishes the need for river basin management plans.

How will the plan and programme be addressed in the IA

- IA objective on improvement of water quality.

### Flood and Water Management Act (2010)

Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA

- The Act aims to provide better, more sustainable management of flood risk for people, homes and businesses, help safeguard community groups from unaffordable rises in surface water drainage charges and protect water supplies to the consumer.

## How will the plan and programme be addressed in the IA

- IA objective on management of flood risk and sustainable management of water resources.

## National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy for England (updated 2022, Environment Agency)

### Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA

- This policy statement sets out the government's long term ambition to create a nation ready for and resilient to flooding and coastal change. It has 3 long-term ambitions:
  - Climate resilient places
  - Making the right investment and planning decisions to secure sustainable growth and environmental improvements, as well as infrastructure resilient to flooding and coastal change;
  - A nation ready to respond and adapt to flooding and coastal change.

## How will the plan and programme be addressed in the IA

- IA objective to avoid and mitigate against flood risk and to be resilient to climate change.

## Historic Environment (Cultural Heritage)

### Planning (Listed Building and Conservation Areas) Act (1990)

Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA

- Act which seeks to protect special sites, buildings and areas of special architectural or historic interest.

How will the plan and programme be addressed in the IA

- IA objective to protect and enhance the historic environment.

### The Historic Environment in Local Plans (2015, Historic England)

Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA

- The advice note provides information on implementing historic environment policy in NPPF and National Planning Practice Guidance.

How will the plan and programme be addressed in the IA

- IA objective to protect and enhance the historic environment.

## Historic England's Industrial Heritage Strategy – Draft (2021, Historic England)

Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA

- This vision is England's industrial heritage is of major social, economic, environmental and cultural value.
- Historic England will engage and work with a wide range of partners to ensure the wider public recognises and benefits from this legacy.

How will the plan and programme be addressed in the IA

- IA objective to protect and enhance the historic environment.

## Water (Material Assets)

### National Planning Policy for Waste, DCLG (2014)

Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA

- Sets out that waste planning authorities should prepare Local Plans which identify sufficient opportunities to meet the identified needs of their area for the management of waste streams.

How will the plan and programme be addressed in the IA

- IA objective on waste management.

## Waste Management Plan for England, Defra (2021)

### Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA

- The plan provides an overview of waste management in England.
- Waste management plans must includes the measures to be taken so that, by 2035, the preparing for the re-use and the recycling of municipal waste is increased to minimum of 65% by weight and the amount of municipal waste landfilled is reduced to 10% or less of the total amount of municipal waste generated (by weight)

### How will the plan and programme be addressed in the IA

- IA objective on waste management.

## Housing (Population)

### The Housing Act (2004)

### Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA

- The Act makes provision for housing conditions to:
  - Regulate houses in multiple occupation and certain other residential accommodations;
  - Make provision for home information packs in connection with the sale of residential properties;
  - Make provision about secure tenants and the right to buy;

- Make provision about mobile homes and the accommodation needs of gypsies and travellers; and
- Make other provision about housing.

### How will the plan and programme be addressed in the IA

- IA objective on a sustainable housing land supply and an appropriate mix of sizes, types and tenures to meet local housing needs.

## The Charter for Social Housing Residents White Paper (2021, MHCLG)

### Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA

- The charter sets out that every social housing resident should be able to expect. This includes:
  - To be safe in your home.
  - To have a good quality home and neighbourhood to live in, with your landlord keeping your home in good repair.
  - To be supported to take your first step to ownership.

### How will the plan and programme be addressed in the IA

- IA objective on sustainable housing land supply and an appropriate mix of sizes, types and tenures to meet local housing needs.

## Planning Policy for Travellers Sites (2024, DCLG)

Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA

- This is an updated version of Planning policy for traveller sites following the government consultation: Proposed reforms to the National Planning Policy Framework and other changes to the planning system.
- The government's overarching aim is to ensure fair and equal treatment for travellers, in a way that facilitates the traditional and nomadic way of life of travellers while respecting the interests of the settled community.

How will the plan and programme be addressed in the IA

- IA objective on sustainable housing land supply and an appropriate mix of sizes, types and tenures to meet local housing needs.

## Housing White Paper "Fixing our Broken Housing Market" (2017, DCLG)

Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA

- The White Paper aims to boost housing supply and create a more efficient housing market. IA objective on sustainable housing land supply and an appropriate mix of sizes, types and tenures to meet local housing needs.

How will the plan and programme be addressed in the IA

- IA objective to ensure land and buildings are used in an effective and efficient manner, maximising the use of brownfield land.

## Transport (Climatic Factors/Human Health)

### Gear Change (2020, Department for Transport)

Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA

- Gear Change is the first national cycling strategy. It introduces the case for increasing the amount of trips that are undertaken by walking and cycling, rather than the private car.
- The Strategy outlines four themes which will focus on enabling walking and cycling to be the preferred way of making short journeys.

How will the plan and programme be addressed in the IA

- IA objective on a fully integrated transport network including walking and cycling.

### Cycle Infrastructure Design (LTN1/120), Department for Transport (2020)

Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA

- This Local Transport Note provides guidance and good practice for the design of cycle infrastructure, in support of the Cycling and Walking Investment Strategy.
- The scope of the document is limited to design matters. Networks and routes should be Coherent, Direct, Safe, Comfortable and Attractive.

## How will the plan and programme be addressed in the IA

- IA objective on a fully integrated transport network including walking and cycling.

## DfT Circular 01/2022

### Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA

- DfT Circular 01/2022 explains how National Highways will:
  - engage with the planning system
  - fulfil its remit to be a delivery partner for sustainable economic growth whilst maintaining, managing and operating a safe and efficient strategic road network

## How will the plan and programme be addressed in the IA

- IA Objective on economic growth and efficient transport

## National Highways Route Strategies and Planning for the Future (2023)

### Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA

- This document, our planning guide , describes the approach we take to engaging in the planning system and the issues we look at when considering draft planning documents and planning applications. It should be read in conjunction with the Department for Transport (DfT) Circular 01/2022 : Strategic road network and the delivery of sustainable

development, which explains how National Highways will engage in the planning system and sets out the policy of the Secretary of State for Transport in relation to the strategic road network (SRN).

How will the plan and programme be addressed in the IA

- IA Objective on sustainable transport

## Health and Well-Being (Human Health/Population)

Health and Social Care Integration: Joining up care for people, places and populations, DHSC, (2022)

Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA

- This plan seeks to make a positive impact on population health through integrated services which shift to prevention and address people's needs promptly and effectively.

How will the plan and programme be addressed in the IA

- IA objective on improving health inequalities and having appropriate provision of supporting infrastructure to meet development needs.

## People at the heart of Care: Adult Social Care Reform White Paper, DHSC (2021)

Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA

- This paper has three objectives:
  - People have choice, control and support to live independent lives.
  - People can access outstanding quality and tailored care and support.
  - People find adult social care fair and accessible.

How will the plan and programme be addressed in the IA

- IA objective on improving health and well-being and reducing health inequalities and to promote inclusive sustainable communities.

## PHE Strategy 2020 -25, Public Health England (2020)

Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA

- This guidance note sets out 12 principles:
  - Recognise and give weight to the benefits of sport and activity
  - Undertake, maintain and apply robust up to date assessments of need and strategies for sport and physical activity provision and base policies and decisions on them.
  - Plan, design and maintain buildings, developments, facilities, land and environments that enable people to lead active lifestyle.

## Appendix B Review of Plans, Policies and Programmes

- Protect and promote existing sport and physical activity provision and ensure new development does not prejudice its use.
- Ensure long term viable management and maintenance of new and existing sport and physical activity provision.
- Support improvements to existing sports and physical activity provision where they are needed.
- Encourage and secure wider community use of existing and new sport and physical activity provision.
- Support new provision, including allocating new sites for sport and physical activity which meets identified need.
- Ensure a positive approach to meeting the needs generated by new development for sport and physical activity provision.
- Provide sport and physical activity provision which is fit for purpose and well designed.
- Plan positively for sport and physical activity provision in designated landscapes and the Green Belt.
- Proactively address any amenity issues arising from sport and physical activity developments.

### How will the plan and programme be addressed in the IA

- IA objective on improving health and well-being and reducing health inequalities and having appropriate provision of supporting infrastructure to meet development needs including promoting quality and accessible open spaces.

## Sporting Future: A New Strategy for an Active Nation), (2023)

### Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA

- The Strategy aims to ensure that everyone can benefit from sport and increase not only participation but harness the multi-dimensional and far-reaching benefits of sport to change people's lives for the better.
- Local government's role is to ensure that the multiple benefits of sport can be achieved for communities by investing in green spaces and routes as venues for sport and healthy activity.

### How will the plan and programme be addressed in the IA

- IA objective to improve health and well being and ensure access to open space and sports facilities.

## Sport England Active Design – Creating Active Environments Through Planning and Design, Sport England, Active Travel England, (2023)

### Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA

- The guidance sets out 10 principles for active design:
  - Activity for all
  - Walkable communities
  - Providing connected active travel routes
  - Mixing uses and co-locating facilities

- Network of multi-functional open spaces
- High quality streets and spaces
- Providing activity infrastructure
- Active buildings, inside and out
- Maintaining high-quality flexible spaces
- Activating spaces

How will the plan and programme be addressed in the IA

- IA objective to improve health and well-being and a fully integrated transport network including walking and cycling

Public Health in Planning: Good Practice Guide,  
Town and Country Planning Association (2015)

Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA

- The guide states that there are several opportunities for public health to integrate into planning, including:
  - Engaging public health on major planning applications;
  - Involve health in infrastructure planning;
  - Require Health Impact Assessments for certain planning applications;
  - Include the measuring of planning's influence on health and wellbeing in monitoring practices.

## How will the plan and programme be addressed in the IA

- IA objective on improving health and well-being and reducing health inequalities

NHS Healthy New Towns Programme, NHS, Public Health England, Town & Country Planning Association, The Kings Fund, PA Consulting and the Young Foundation (2019)

## Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA

- The report outlines 10 Principles for Healthy Places, these being:
  - Plan ahead collectively
  - Assess local health and care needs and assets
  - Connect, involve and empower people and communities
  - Create compact neighbourhoods
  - Maximise active travel
  - Inspire and enable healthy eating
  - Foster health in homes and buildings
  - Enable healthy play and leisure
  - Develop health services that help people stay well

## How will the plan and programme be addressed in the IA

- IA objective on improving health and well-being and reducing health inequalities

## Education (Population)

### Opportunity for All – Strong School with Great Teachers for your Child, DfE (2022)

#### Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA

- By 2030:
  - every child will be taught by an excellent teacher trained in the best evidenced approaches
  - every child will be taught a broad and ambitious curriculum in a school with high expectations and strong standards of behaviour
  - every child who falls behind in English or maths will get the right support to get back on track
  - all children will benefit from being taught in a family of schools, with their school in a strong multi academy trust or with plans to join or form one.

#### How will the plan and programme be addressed in the IA

- IA objective to improve education attainment and skill levels.

## Delivering Schools to Support Housing Growth, DfE, DLUHC) (2023)

Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA

- Guidance for local authorities on planning new education infrastructure that is required due to housing growth, through the provision of new or expanded schools and other educational and childcare settings.

How will the plan and programme be addressed in the IA

- IA objective on having appropriate provision of supporting infrastructure to meet development needs.

## Regional and Greater Manchester Plans, Policies and Programmes

Overarching (all SEA topics)

### Places for Everyone

Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA

- Places for Everyone is the plan for sustainable growth across nine Greater Manchester borough's. It sets out how they should develop for the years 2022-2039, provides the strategic framework for Local Plans; sets specific requirements to be taken forward in local plans in terms of housing,

offices, and industry and warehousing, and the main areas in which this will be focused; sets out policies to inform the preparation and determination of planning applications, identifies the important environmental assets which will be protected and enhanced; allocates sites for employment and housing outside of the urban area; supports the delivery of key infrastructure such as transport and utilities; and defines a new Green Belt boundary for the nine boroughs. The Local Plan should support implementation of the Places for Everyone and be in conformity with the policies within it.

### How will the plan and programme be addressed in the IA

- IA objectives on sustainable development, housing supply, economic growth, access to green spaces, education and skills, protection of the historic environment, low carbon, air quality, flood risk, biodiversity, health and well-being and a fully integrated transport network including walking and cycling

## Greater Manchester Strategy (2021-2031, GMCA)

### Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA

- The vision is Good Lives for All: that Greater Manchester is a great place to grow up, get on and grow old; a great place to invest, do business, visit and study. The three shared outcomes are:
  - People's Wellbeing – with better homes, jobs, transport and health, living in a vibrant communities.
  - Thriving businesses – which succeed and look after their people, places and planet.
  - Leading the UK and the world – in sectors including low carbon and digital.

How will the plan and programme be addressed in the IA

- IA objectives on housing supply, economic growth, low carbon, health and well being.

## Climate Change and Air Quality (Climatic Factors/Air/Biodiversity/Fauna/Flora/Soil/Water/Material Assets and Human Health)

### Greater Manchester 5-Year Environment Plan, GMCA (2019)

Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA

- The Greater Manchester Five-Year Environment Plan, published by the GMCA in 2019, identifies 5 major environmental challenges that threaten the future health and prosperity of the city region. These are:
  - Mitigating climate change
  - Air quality
  - Production and consumption of resources
  - Natural environment
  - Resilience and adaptation to the impacts of climate change

How will the plan and programme be addressed in the IA

- IA objective on Climate Change resilience, air quality, sustainable management of resources, landscape and climate change resilience

## Greater Manchester Clean Air Plan, 2023

### Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA

- Greater Manchester is under direction from government to meet legal limits form nitrogen dioxide on local roads in the shortest possible time and by 2026 at the latest. At a meeting on 20 December 2023, Greater Manchester's Air Quality Administration Committee agreed the latest Clean Air Plan proposals for submission to the government's Joint Air Quality Unit. Government will then decide what the final Clean Air Plan includes. The proposed plan would see £86.7m invested in cleaner buses, taxis and measures to manage traffic flows on some roads in Manchester and Salford, specifically:
  - Investment in 64 zero-emission electric buses and EV charging infrastructure at bus depots;
  - Clean Taxi Fund;
  - Investment in local traffic measures
- The next steps for the Greater Manchester Clean Air Plan are dependent on feedback from the government.

### How will the plan and programme be addressed in the IA

- IA Objective on sustainable transport and air quality

## Green Infrastructure (Climatic Factors, Biodiversity, Fauna, Flora, Soil, Air, Water)

### Greater Manchester Natural Capital Investment Programme, GMCA (2019)

#### Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA

- The programme will encourage investment in the natural environment to secure financial and social returns.
- The baseline review identified the following key priorities and opportunities which the investment plan can help achieve, several of which are linked to the Local Plan:
  - Improved health outcomes;
  - A more attractive place to live and work;
  - Building resilience, principally addressing climate change and flood risks;
  - Supporting the local economy;
  - Conserving and enhancing habitat and wildlife;
  - Sustainable travel;
  - Water quality and flood management;
  - Climate regulation including carbon storage and sequestration.

How will the plan and programme be addressed in the IA

- IA objectives on mitigating climate change, enhancing biodiversity, improving health, promoting economic growth, sustainable travel and water quality.

## All Our Trees – Greater Manchester’s Tree and Woodland Strategy, GMCA/City of Trees, (2020)

Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA

- The government will focus on three core pillars of growth:
  - Infrastructure;
  - Skills; and
  - Innovation

How will the plan and programme be addressed in the IA

- IA objectives on Infrastructure, skills and innovation.

## Greater Manchester’s Local Nature Recovery Strategy Pilot Final Report, GMCA (2021)

Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA

- In August 2020, Local Natural Recovery Strategy (LNRS) pilot studies were set up in five areas including Greater Manchester, to help map the most valuable sites and habitats for wildlife in their area and identify where nature can be restored.

- The study was to test how the recovery of England's landscapes and wildlife can be driving locally.
- The pilot LNRS maps out opportunities for nature.

### How will the plan and programme be addressed in the IA

- IA objective on the protection and enhancement of valuable sites and habitats for wildlife.
- IA objective on the management of landscapes.

## Greater Manchester's Local Nature Recovery Strategy: our plan for nature recovery

### Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA

- Greater Manchester Combined Authority has developed a draft Local Nature Recovery Strategy for the city-region. The strategy sets out our vision for a greener Greater Manchester, where space for nature to flourish is grown and enhanced, more people can access and enjoy the natural environment, and the many benefits nature brings are increased for everyone – from supporting mental and physical wellbeing to creating leisure space and supporting biodiversity.

### How will the plan and programme be addressed in the IA

- IA Objective on enhancing biodiversity and health and well-being

## Quarries: The Greater Manchester Biodiversity and Geodiversity Action Plan, Natural England (2011)

### Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA

- There are no specific UK Biodiversity Action Plan objectives for quarry sites, although targets do exist for several of the habitats they support, for example upland and lowland heathland blanket bog, acid grasslands and ponds.

### How will the plan and programme be addressed in the IA

- IA objective for the protection and enhancement of biodiversity and geodiversity.

## Greater Manchester Biodiversity Action Plan

### Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA

- The Greater Manchester Biodiversity Action plan (GM BAP) aims to provide an over-arching document across all ten districts in Greater Manchester; these are Bolton, Bury, Manchester, Oldham, Rochdale, Salford, Stockport, Trafford, Tameside and Wigan. The overall aim of the GM BAP is:
- "To promote the conservation, protection and enhancement of biological diversity in Greater Manchester for current and future generations".

### How will the plan and programme be addressed in the IA

- IA Objective to enhance biodiversity

## GMCA Biodiversity Net Gain- Guidance for Planners and Applicants

Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA

- This guidance has been prepared to enable developers and potential offset providers to run biodiversity assessments in a consistent way across Greater Manchester. The document also enables the consistent verification of biodiversity assessments by local planning authorities and the Greater Manchester Ecology Unit (GMEU).

How will the plan and programme be addressed in the IA

- IA Objective to enhance biodiversity

## Water Resources and Flood Risk (Climatic Factors/Water/Biodiversity/Population/Human Health)

### Greater Manchester Strategic Flood Risk Management Framework, GMCA (2018)

Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA

- The aim of the framework/strategy is to manage current and future flood risks to enable the sustainable development of Greater Manchester by adopting a catchment-based approach and working with natural processes where possible. This will be achieved by several actions including:

## Appendix B Review of Plans, Policies and Programmes

- Avoiding development in areas that are most at risk of flooding now and in the future;
- Adopting a catchment-based approach to the development of flood risk management initiatives that focuses on working with natural processes;
- Focusing interventions in the areas of Greater Manchester that present the most significant risk now, and in the future;
- Developing a consistent approach to the management of surface water flood risk.

### How will the plan and programme be addressed in the IA

- IA objective to avoid, minimise and manage flood risk including through natural management.

## Drainage and Wastewater Management Plan, United Utilities (2023)

### Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA

- The Drainage and Wastewater Management Plan (DWMP) is a long-term plan, which sets out how United Utilities (UU) proposes to ensure robust and resilient drainage and wastewater services for the North West.

### How will the plan and programme be addressed in the IA

- IA objective to manage drainage and wastewater.

## Final Drought Plan, United Utilities, (2022)

Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA

- The drought plan outlines United Utilities' approach in managing water supplies to make sure there is always enough clean, safe water available during a drought.
- Greater Manchester falls within the Strategic Resource Zone.
- The plan explains the drought triggers applicable to this zone.

How will the plan and programme be addressed in the IA

- IA objective to promote the efficient use of water.

## Revised Draft Water Resources Management Plan, United Utilities (2024)

Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA

- The Management Plan sets out a strategy to achieve a long-term, best value and sustainable plan for water supplies in the North West. It ensures that there is an adequate supply to meet demand over the 25 years 2025-2050.

How will the plan and programme be addressed in the IA

- IA objective to promote the efficient use of water.

## North West River Basin Management Plan, Environment Agency (2022)

### Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA

- The North West River Basin Management Plan sets out measures to protect and improve the water environment. The interactive maps set out ecological and chemical objectives for surface water and quantitative and chemical objectives for groundwater with dates of 2027 and 2063.

### How will the plan and programme be addressed in the IA

- IA objective to protect and improve water quality.

## Irwell Catchment Plan 2019-2027, Irwell Catchment Partnership (2019)

### Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA

- The objective is to work collaboratively to make the water environment in the Irwell catchment, more adaptive and resilient to climate change, whilst addressing environmental inequalities. The Partnership will:
  - Create clean and plentiful water for wildlife and people;
  - Restore rivers to improve their natural forms and function;
  - Work to improve biodiversity and protect habitats;
  - Engage and connect more with their local water environment;
  - Influence decision makers to ensure the natural environment is enhanced and protected; and

- Support and contribute to integrated waste management practice.

How will the plan and programme be addressed in the IA

- IA objective to protect and improve water quality, enhance nature and be resilient to climate change.

### Greater Manchester Integrated Water Management Plan, GMCA (2023)

Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA

- The Plan sets out objectives for 2023, 2040 and 2050 on reducing flood risk, improving water quality, incorporating SUDs in new development, reducing agricultural run-off, creating new/enhanced green and blue infrastructure and have resilience to drought.

How will the plan and programme be addressed in the IA

- IA objective to manage flood risk, improve water quality, enhance green infrastructure and be resilient to climate change.

## Waste (Material Assets)

### Greater Manchester Waste Development Plan Document, AGMA (2012)

Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA

- The plan sets out a waste planning strategy to 2027 which enables the adequate provision of waste management facilities in appropriate locations for municipal, commercial and industrial, construction and demolition and hazardous wastes.

How will the plan and programme be addressed in the IA

- IA objective on managing waste sustainably.

## Minerals (Material Assets)

### Greater Manchester Minerals Development Plan Document, AGMA, 2013)

Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA

- The plan provides guidance up to 2027 to minerals operators and the public about:
  - The locations where mineral extraction may take place;

- The safeguarding of sensitive environmental features and of minerals resources with future extraction; and
- All aspects of environmental amenity and resource protection.

How will the plan and programme be addressed in the IA

- IA objective for the appropriate extraction, protection and restoration of mineral infrastructure.

## Transport (Climatic Factors/Air/Population/Human Health)

### Greater Manchester Transport Strategy 2040, TfGM (2021)

Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA

- The 2040 Vision is to have: “World Class connections that support long-term growth, sustainable economic growth and access to opportunity for all”. The four key elements of this vision are:
  - Supporting sustainable economic growth;
  - Protecting our environment;
  - Improving quality of life for all; and
  - Developing an innovative city-region.
- The ambition is to enable people to move seamlessly between services on a single, high quality, easy to use network, providing choice and supporting low car lifestyles, made possible by integrated land use and transport planning.

How will the plan and programme be addressed in the IA

- IA objective around a fully integrated transport network including walking and cycling.

## Greater Manchester Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy, TfGM

Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA

- The vision is to be an exemplar city region for enabling the electrification of transport in the context of a smart, integrated, sustainable mobility network. By 2030, Greater Manchester's businesses, residents and visitors to the region, who have no choice but to travel by car or LGV, will be able to use electric vehicles with the confidence that they will be able to conveniently recharge them (via public or private charging points) and in doing so will help to improve air quality and reduce tailpipe carbon emissions across the conurbation.

How will the plan and programme be addressed in the IA

- IA on improving transport infrastructure.

## Change the Region to Change a Nation: Greater Manchester's Walking and Cycling Investment Plan, TfGM and GMCA (2020)

### Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA

- This investment plan provides details of how the Bee Network will support the delivery of 'Our Network'.
- Greater Manchester's plan for an integrated simple and convenient London-style transport system.
- It will allow people to change easily between different modes of transport, with simple affordable ticketing and an aspiration to have a London-style cap across all modes.
- This would include orbital routes that allow people to travel around the city region, as well as in and out of the centres.
- These activities will work to deliver the GM Transport Strategy 2040 which sets out a vision for at least 50% of all journeys in Greater Manchester to be made by walking, cycling and public transport by 2040.

### How will the plan and programme be addressed in the IA

- IA objective around a fully integrated transport network including walking and cycling

## Our 5 Year Transport Delivery Plan 2021-2026, TfGM (2021)

Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA

- This plan is the delivery plan for the GM Transport Strategy.
- It sets out the priorities to deliver the strategy under the following headings:
  - Our Bus
  - Our Metrolink
  - Our Rail
  - Our Streets
  - Our Integrated Network

How will the plan and programme be addressed in the IA

- IA objective around a fully integrated transport network including walking and cycling

## Greater Manchester Freight and Logistics Strategy, TfGM (2016)

Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA

- The purpose of this strategy is to consider current GM Freight distribution, delivery, servicing and logistics activities and set out the ambitions of the region, balancing the conflicting needs of freight and passenger demand for our transport network and systems.

How will the plan and programme be addressed in the IA

- IA objective around the transport network.

## Our Network (2019, GMCA)

Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA

- Our Network sets out a ten-year investment plan to improve our public transport and walking and cycling networks.
- It includes £160m investment in walking and cycling infrastructure and Park and Ride improvements, alongside aspirational projects dependant on further funding such as extensions to Metrolink and improvements to the bus network.

How will the plan and programme be addressed in the IA

- IA objective around a fully integrated transport network including walking and cycling

## Streets for All, GMCA & TfGM, (2024)

Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA

- Streets for All presents a new approach to planning the streets of Greater Manchester.
- The initiative looks to create streets that better balance the movement of people and goods with the creation of more people-friendly places.

- Streets for All takes account of both movement and place functions within streets.
- Streets for All moves away from planning for transport modes, and towards putting people first to better shape and manage our streets.
- This will help create more sustainable, healthy and resilient places across Greater Manchester; overall leading to an improved quality of life for those who live, work and visit our great city region.

### How will the plan and programme be addressed in the IA

- IA objective around a fully integrated transport network including walking and cycling

## Greater Manchester Low Emission Strategy, GMCA & TfGM, (2016)

### Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA

- The aims of the strategy are to: support the UK government in meeting all EU thresholds for key pollutants at the earliest date; contribute to reducing Greater Manchester's carbon footprint, and reduce air pollution as a contributor to ill-health in Greater Manchester. Measures include: hanging travel behaviours; Managing emissions; greening vehicle fleets; and awareness-raising.

### How will the plan and programme be addressed in the IA

- IA objective on improving air quality and ensure developments are located close to key services and public transport to reduce the need to travel and encourage active travel and public transport.

## Health and Well Being (Population/Human Health)

### Creating Age-Friendly Developments: A Practical Guide for Ensuring Home and Communities Support Aging in Place, GMCA (2023)

Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA

- Key features to consider include: Celebrating Older People Planning for Age-Friendly Neighbourhoods Designing Age-Friendly Homes

How will the plan and programme be addressed in the IA

- IA objective on housing to meet local needs.

### Greater Manchester Age-Friendly Strategy, GMCA (2018)

Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA

- In Greater Manchester, we will:
  - Establish age-friendly communities across GM, promoting volunteering and bringing generations together;
  - Build a health and social care system that works for older people;
  - Increase housing choice to promote social connections and wellbeing in later life;

## Appendix B Review of Plans, Policies and Programmes

- Create opportunities to maximise the skills and experience of older workers;
- Create a transport network that supports older people to stay connected and active;
- Develop an age-friendly plan for each local authority area
- Become a world leader in research and innovation for an ageing society
- Campaign for positive change in the way older people are viewed
- Make sure access to entitlements and benefits is easier and simpler.
- Show leadership in developing age friendly initiatives at all levels and across all sectors
- Support more people to be physically active as they age
- Engage and involve older people in arts and cultural activities across Greater Manchester and
- establish a Centre for Age Friendly Culture.

How will the plan and programme be addressed in the IA

- IA objective on housing to meet local needs.

### Greater Manchester Moving in Action 2021-2031, Greater Manchester Moving (2021)

Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA

- The mission is active lives for all. The five key priorities are:

1. people, families and communities

2. inclusive participation and access
3. active places
4. whole system integration
5. culture change

How will the plan and programme be addressed in the IA

- IA objective on health and well-being

### Taking Charge of Our Health and Social Care in Greater Manchester, GMCA & NHS (2015)

Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA

- The Strategy aims to close the gap between Greater Manchester and England by raising population health outcomes.

How will the plan and programme be addressed in the IA

- IA objective on health and well-being

### Standing Together – Our Plan for a New Era of Accountable and People Centred Policing,

## Community Safety and Criminal Justice Services for Greater Manchester 2022- 2025, GMCA (2022)

Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA

- The plan sets out 3 priorities:

1. Keeping People Safe and Supporting Victims
2. Reducing Harm and Offending
3. Strengthening Communities and Places

How will the plan and programme be addressed in the IA

- IA objectives on design and inclusive communities.

## Economic Growth (Population)

### Greater Manchester Local Industrial Strategy, GMCA, GM Local Enterprise Partnership and UK Government (2019)

Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA

- The GM LIS is a long-term plan which will aim to develop increased productivity and wealth creation across Greater Manchester.

How will the plan and programme be addressed in the IA

- IA objective on economic growth.

## Housing (Population)

### Greater Manchester Housing Strategy 2019-2024, GMCA (2019)

Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA

- The Strategy builds upon the Greater Manchester Strategy which, sets out priorities to deliver the vision of 'safe, decent and affordable housing'.
- The Strategy is structured around three main elements - housing, people and place; existing stock; and new homes needed.

How will the plan and programme be addressed in the IA

- IA objective on housing supply and meeting needs.

## Surrounding Development Plans

### Rossendale Local Plan 2019 to 2036

Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA

- The Local Plan has the following key strategic priority: “Improving links to Greater Manchester, such as the Manchester to Rawtenstall Valley Rail Link and supporting improvements to the M60, M62 and A56”

How will the plan and programme be addressed in the IA

- IA Objective on transport

### Blackburn with Darwen Local Plan 2021-2037

Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA

- As part of DM Policy 37: Tourism: The West Pennine Moors (WPM) is an area of open countryside covering 90 square miles and attracts a large numbers of walkers, cyclists, horse riders and day visitors each year. It comprises uplands, reservoirs, wooded valleys and historic villages and is bounded by Blackburn and Darwen to the north, Bolton and Bury to the south, Chorley to the west and Haslingden to the east

How will the plan and programme be addressed in the IA

- IA Objective on economic growth and health and well-being

## Rochdale Core Strategy 2016

Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA

- As part of Strategic Objective 1: To deliver a more prosperous economy. The strategy will focus on ensuring good transport accessibility to jobs and markets within and beyond Greater Manchester

How will the plan and programme be addressed in the IA

- IA Objective on economic growth and transport

## Manchester's Local Development Framework Core Strategy Development Plan Document 2012

Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA

- The strategy highlights the importance to the growth of the Greater Manchester economy of identifying employment sites which reflect the needs of the market, whilst ensuring that the jobs created are accessible to local people

How will the plan and programme be addressed in the IA

- IA Objective on economic growth and transport

## Salford Local Plan Development Management Policies and Designations

Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA

- A purpose of the plan is to continue to deliver growth, in both housing and jobs, and is helping to drive forward the Greater Manchester economy

How will the plan and programme be addressed in the IA

- IA Objective on housing and economic growth

## Bolton's Core Strategy 2011

Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA

- Strategic Objective 5 states: To ensure that Bolton takes full economic advantage of its location in the Greater Manchester City Region

How will the plan and programme be addressed in the IA

- IA Objective on economic growth

## Bury Plans, Policies and Programmes

### Overarching (all SEA topics)

#### Bury Let's Do It 2030

#### Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA

- Bury's Let's Do It Strategy is a ten-year vision and strategy for the Borough.
- It seeks to build upon a shared sense of local pride and act as a call to arms for progressing the local vision of achieving 'faster economic growth than the national average, with lower than national average levels of deprivation'.
- It is a single strategy for the council, police, health, other public services, the voluntary, community and faith sector and business communities and some of its key aims are to:
  - Develop every township in the borough to be better and stronger than before the Covid-19 pandemic;
  - Tackle the causes of inequality and ensure that our children have a better start in life, with access to improved education and broader horizons;
  - Help every adult to have the opportunity to be their very best through access to high quality, local work and to help our older residents stay connected and independent;
  - Support local businesses as they seek to recover and thrive; and
  - Deliver net zero emissions and a cleaner environment for all.

How will the plan and programme be addressed in the IA

- All the IA objectives seek to achieve the aims of this document.

## Historic Environment (Cultural Heritage and Landscapes)

### Bury Heritage Strategy, (2002)

Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA

- Recognise and promote the Borough's heritage resource as a continually evolving asset and a feature of national and regional importance which merits special consideration.
- Promotes the heritage resource as a focus for area based regenerations,
- Develops initiatives to secure a viable future for the components of the heritage resource. Furthermore it Secures effective management of the Borough's heritage resources,
- Promotes best practice with regard to development which affects the heritage resource and seeks to develop relevant partnerships to promote both preservation and enhancement of the heritage resource.

How will the plan and programme be addressed in the IA

- IA objective to protect and make accessible for enjoyment the Borough's landscape, townscape cultural heritage and historic environment.

## Bury Urban Historic Landscape Characterisations Interim Report, (2008)

Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and  
IA

- The Report identifies landscape character types and historic character areas within Bury and provides an assessment of the relationship between present character, past historical character and its context.

How will the plan and programme be addressed in the IA

- IA objective to protect and make accessible for enjoyment the Borough's landscape, townscape cultural heritage and historic environment.

## Bury Conservation Area Appraisals and Management Plans

Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and  
IA

- These appraisals and management plans seek to protect important features of townscapes within the Borough.

How will the plan and programme be addressed in the IA

- IA objective to protect and make accessible for enjoyment the Borough's landscape, townscape cultural heritage and historic environment.

## Bury Landscape Character Assessment, (2009)

Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA

- The assessment identifies the features or combinations of elements that make one landscape unique from another.

How will the plan and programme be addressed in the IA

- IA objective to protect and make accessible for enjoyment the Borough's landscape, townscape cultural heritage and historic environment.

## Physical Activity and Sport Strategy, Bury Council (2015)

Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA

- The Strategy provides the framework to increase participation in physical activity and sport and act as a lever for change to improve the health and wellbeing and quality of life for individuals, their families and the wider community.

How will the plan and programme be addressed in the IA

- IA objectives to provide sufficient quantity and quality of greenspace to meet the needs of residents and to ensure access to and protection and enhancement of high quality public open space and natural green space.

## Bury Greenspace Audit and Strategy, Bury Council (2015)

### Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA

- The Greenspace Audit and Strategy includes an audit and assessment of open space, sport and recreation. It assesses the long term requirements in terms of quantity, quality and accessibility of the various types of open space, sport and recreation for future provision in meeting local need, through establishing minimum standards to be achieved.

### How will the plan and programme be addressed in the IA

- IA objectives to provide sufficient quantity and quality of greenspace to meet the needs of residents and to ensure access to and protection and enhancement of high quality public open space and natural green space.

## Climate Change (Climatic Factors/Air/Biodiversity/Soil/Fauna/Flora/Water)

### Bury Climate Action Strategy (2021)

### Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA

- The Bury Climate Action Strategy outlines the challenges facing the borough and the changes, actions and initiatives required in order to achieve carbon neutrality by 2038.

## Appendix B Review of Plans, Policies and Programmes

- The Bury Climate Action Plan is a fluid and organic document that will be annually updated, tracking the progress of climate change initiatives and highlighting where more work is required.
- The Action Plan will keep track of the different projects across different departments, groups and organisations throughout the borough.
- The Climate Action Plan will help Bury stay on track towards the end goal of carbon neutrality and provide as much accountability and transparency as possible.
- The Bury Climate Action Plan was last updated in March 2023.

### How will the plan and programme be addressed in the IA

- IA objective to ensure communities, developments and infrastructure are resilient to the effects of expected climate change

## Bury's Greenhouse Gas Emissions Report

### Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA

- Since 2008/09 we have measured the greenhouse gas emissions from council activities and each year we produce a greenhouse gas report which describes our progress.
- Bury Council have set an objective of being carbon-neutral by 2038 and Bury Council's latest Carbon Emissions Report (Green House Gas Emissions) 2022/23 identifies there has been a 68% reduction in carbon emissions since the base year of 2008/09 and has made a significant reduction of 16% from 21/22.

## How will the plan and programme be addressed in the IA

- IA objective to ensure communities, developments and infrastructure are resilient to the effects of expected climate change

## Local Flood Risk Management Strategy, Bury Council (2018)

### Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA

- The aim of the Strategy is to identify how the Council will manage and communicate the risks and consequences of flooding arising from surface runoff, groundwater and ordinary watercourses in Bury.
- The Action Plan includes a number of potential flood alleviation schemes which require further investigation to assess their viability, schemes which have been submitted for government funding, schemes recommended within technical documents and potential improvement works.

## How will the plan and programme be addressed in the IA

- IA objective relating to reducing the risk of flooding to people and property

## Housing (Population)

### Radcliffe Strategic Regeneration Framework, (2020)

#### Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA

- This Framework provides a single integrated plan for the redevelopment of Radcliffe.
- The vision for Radcliffe is: “Radcliffe will be a prospering community, based upon a thriving and distinctive town centre, incorporating sustainable transport and growth, promoting healthy lifestyle opportunities, a good range of homes, along with a strong education, employment and leisure offer, for all residents”.

#### How will the plan and programme be addressed in the IA

- All the IA objectives seek to achieve the objectives of this document.

### Bury Town Centre Masterplan, Bury Council (2021)

#### Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA

- The Masterplan provides a clear vision to ensure the future sustainability of Bury Town Centre. The overarching aim is to deliver an attractive, thriving and healthy town which is forward-looking, and one which people want to live, work, study and visit.

How will the plan and programme be addressed in the IA

- All the IA objectives seek to achieve the objectives of this document.

## Bury Millgate Strategic Regeneration Framework (Bury Council, (2024))

Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA

- The Framework provides a clear long term vision for the future of the Millgate and provides the strategic basis to guide the coordinated delivery of future development phases to maximise the environmental, economic and social potential of the town centre.

How will the plan and programme be addressed in the IA

- All the IA objectives seek to achieve the objectives of this document.

## Bury Housing Strategy (2021)

Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA

- Bury Housing Strategy seeks the following outcomes over the period 2021-2025:
  - More homes in the borough.
  - Increased affordable housing supply – through new build, leasing and acquisition.

## Appendix B Review of Plans, Policies and Programmes

- A more dynamic housing market – a broader range of housing tenures and more tailored support for people to access a suitable home they want in any tenure.
- Good quality, healthy homes and places.
- Support that enables people to live well in the community.
- Intelligent, evidence-driven, targeted investment to improve health through housing.
- Towards a township housing strategy shaped to support the future of each town centre and neighbourhoods.
- To eliminate rough sleeping by 2025 – through an evidenced approach to preventing homelessness, increasing supply of affordable new homes, supporting accessibility and ‘enabling support’ towards independence.
- Rapid movement towards low carbon housing.

### How will the plan and programme be addressed in the IA

- IA objective to provide a sustainable supply of housing including an appropriate mix of types and tenures to reflect needs

## Love Prestwich (2009)

### Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA

- The Development Strategy sets out a cohesive vision for future regeneration, growth and investment in Prestwich Town Centre

### How will the plan and programme be addressed in the IA

- All the IA objectives seek to achieve the objectives of this document.

## Brownfield Land Strategy (2018)

### Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA

- The purpose of the register is to provide up-to-date and consistent information on sites that local authorities consider appropriate for residential development.

### How will the plan and programme be addressed in the IA

- Improve efficiency in land use through the re-use of previously developed land and buildings whilst reducing land contamination

## Housing Need and Demand Assessment (2020)

### Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA

- The Housing Need and Demand Assessment identified:
  - Future housing need and demand;
  - The level of affordable housing needed by size and type;
  - The housing needs of particular groups i.e. households with support needs, older people and ethnic minority communities;
  - Housing market issues relating to house prices, tenure, migration, travel to work, overcrowding and private rented sector.
- The policy implications in respect to housing markets, new housing provision, targets for affordable housing and overall housing targets.

## How will the plan and programme be addressed in the IA

- IA objective to provide a sustainable supply of housing including an appropriate mix of types and tenures to reflect needs

## Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (2023)

### Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA

- The Assessment identifies potential sites for residential development.
- It assesses how many units can be accommodated on identified sites and suggests a time frame for when these sites are likely to be available.
- It also identifies limitations associated with bringing potential sites forward and how and when these can be eliminated to help improve the potential for housing.

## How will the plan and programme be addressed in the IA

- IA objective to provide a sustainable supply of housing including an appropriate mix of types and tenures to reflect needs

## Health and Wellbeing, Education and Communities (Population/Human Health)

### Walking Strategy for Bury, Bury Council (2004)

Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA

- The Strategy identified a network of walking routes linking key places and generally aimed to increase the number of walking trips, particularly for short journeys.

How will the plan and programme be addressed in the IA

- IA objective to promote sustainable modes of transport

### Bury Cycling Strategy, Bury Council (2004)

Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA

- The Strategy identified direct and quiet route networks for development and improvement as well as including policies for infrastructure provision, encouragement of cycling, training, enforcement and monitoring.

How will the plan and programme be addressed in the IA

- IA objective to promote sustainable modes of transport

## Bury Joint Strategic Need Assessment (2010)

Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA

- The assessment provides an analysis of the health and well-being needs of the people of Bury. It illustrates health conditions and social care issues that Bury people experience now and that they may face in the future.

How will the plan and programme be addressed in the IA

- IA objective to support the improved health and wellbeing of the population and reduce health inequalities

## Bury Sports Pitch Strategy, (2011)

Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA

- The strategy conducts an assessment of the supply and demand for outdoor playing pitches and includes an analysis of their quantity and quality and advises on provision standards for outdoor sports facilities.

How will the plan and programme be addressed in the IA

- IA objective to provide sufficient quantity and quality of greenspace to meet the needs of residents.

## Bury Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy 2019

### Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA

- This strategy provides a strategic framework which ensures that the provision of outdoor playing pitches and sports facilities meet the local needs of existing and future residents across Bury.

### How will the plan and programme be addressed in the IA

- IA objective to provide sufficient quantity and quality of greenspace to meet the needs of residents.

## Bury Cultural Economic Strategy 2015-2018

### Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA

- This Strategy will promote sustainable economic growth from our natural, built and community assets.
- It reflects the ambition of the Economic Strategy for Bury 2010-2018, to achieve 'increased recognition and quality of Bury's local tourism and cultural products and better linkages between local attractions leading to more visitor and resident spend'.
- The strategy identifies three key objectives which make the most of existing assets and emerging opportunities:
  - a leadership position in UK cultural economy innovation
  - contributing to local economic prosperity and employment opportunities

- Making the most of the Borough's cultural offer

How will the plan and programme be addressed in the IA

- All the IA objectives seek to achieve the objectives of this document.

## Bury Economic Strategy, Bury Council (2024)

Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA

- The Strategy outlines priorities and a framework to work together to create a local economy which is sustainable, competitive, inclusive and resilient.

How will the plan and programme be addressed in the IA

- IA objective on economic growth.

## Bury Retail Capacity Study, Bury Council (2012)

Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA

- The retail study assesses the need/capacity for additional retail floorspace up to 2028 in each of the Borough's main town centres.

How will the plan and programme be addressed in the IA

- IA objective to promote sustainable economic growth and job creation

## Bury Employment Land Review, Bury Council (2013)

### Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA

- The Employment Land Review assesses the quantity and quality of employment land within the Borough and considers the extent to which this land can meet projected employment land requirements. The review identifies those sites which are no longer considered to be required for continued employment use and identifies a portfolio of future employment sites that meet local and strategic planning objectives and the requirements of businesses and developers.

### How will the plan and programme be addressed in the IA

- IA objective to promote sustainable economic growth and job creation

## Zero Waste Strategy, Bury Council (2014)

### Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA

- The Strategy provides a framework to sharply increase recycling rates and manage waste to achieve a more resource efficient society. The aim is to
  - Recycle 60%+ by March 2016;
  - Reduce disposal costs by cutting the amount of waste going to landfill;
  - Support the Greater Manchester Strategy on reducing carbon emissions.

## How will the plan and programme be addressed in the IA

- IA objective to promote sustainable consumption of resources and support the implementation of the waste hierarchy.

## Transport

### Bury Local Transport Strategy

## Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA

- By 2040, the borough's towns will be connected to each other, to Greater Manchester and beyond by an affordable, safe, reliable and well-maintained low carbon transport system. It will be easy to get around by public transport, on foot and by bike. Walking and cycling will be the first choice for short journeys for those who are able to walk and cycle. Investment in transport will help to grow the economy, reduce deprivation and improve the health and well-being of residents.

## How will the plan and programme be addressed in the IA

- IA Objective on sustainable transport

## Appendix C

### Baseline Information

#### Introduction

**C.1** The term “baseline information” refers to the existing environmental, economic and social characteristics of the area likely to be affected by the Local Plan, and their likely evolution without implementation of new policies. Data are included on historic and likely future trends wherever possible. The baseline information identified in this report will evolve over time, and future Integrated Assessment reports will reflect changes to the baseline.

**C.2** The mapped figures referred to throughout the Baseline Information can be found at the end of this appendix.

#### Climate Change, Adaptation and Mitigation

**C.3** Climate change presents a global risk, with a range of different social, economic and environmental impacts that are likely to be felt within Bury across numerous receptors. A key challenge in protecting the environment will be to tackle the causes and consequences of climate change. The consequences include predictions of warmer, drier summers and wetter winters with more severe weather events all year as well resulting in higher sea levels and increased river flooding. A strong reaction is required from planning to ensure appropriate action can be taken to help species and habitats adapt and to enable the agricultural sector to continue to deliver diverse, affordable and good quality produce.

**C.4** There has been a general trend towards warmer average temperatures in recent years with the most recent decade (2012–2021) being on average 0.2°C warmer than the 1991–2020 average and 1.0°C warmer than 1961–1990. All the top ten warmest years for the UK in the series from 1884 have occurred this century [\[See reference 10\]](#).

**C.5** Heavy rainfall and flooding events have the potential to increase in the UK as the climate has generally become wetter. For example, for the most recent decade (2012–2021) UK summers have been on average 6% wetter than 1991–2020 and 15% wetter than 1961–1990 whilst winters have been 10% and 26% wetter respectively [\[See reference 11\]](#).

**C.6** With 2022 recorded as the warmest year on record in the UK, July and August experienced especially dry months and drought conditions were declared across parts of England and Wales. In total, the rainfall for 2022 was 1,051 mm which is 90% of the 1991 –2020 decade average [\[See reference 12\]](#). The UK encountered more sun across 2022 than the average year. England experienced the sunniest January in 2023 [\[See reference 13\]](#).

**C.7** The IPCC AR6 Synthesis Report (2023) highlights that greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions are predicted to continue into 2030, making it likely that global warming will exceed 1.5°C, which in turn means that GHG emissions will become harder to maintain below 2°C. As a result of this, increased global warming will occur and elicit climate hazards such as increased incidences of heatwaves, droughts, increased global monsoon precipitation, tropical storms, very wet and very dry weather. Our natural land and ocean carbon sinks will become less effective, sea levels will rise, become more acidic and experience deoxygenation amongst other climate events [\[See reference 14\]](#). The Paris Agreement is a legally binding international treaty involving 196 Parties. The overarching goal of this agreement is to limit global warming increasing to 1.5°C by the end of the century. Achieving this goal still requires a lot of action but since 2016 when the agreement was established, low-carbon solutions and new markets for climate resilience have been sparked.

**C.8** The Tyndall Centre has undertaken work to calculate the ‘fair’ contribution of local authorities towards the Paris Climate Change Agreement. Based on the analysis undertaken the following recommendations have been made for Bury [\[See reference 15\]](#):

- Stay within a maximum cumulative carbon dioxide emissions budget of 5.4 million tonnes (MtCO<sub>2</sub>) for the period of 2020 to 2100. At 2017 CO<sub>2</sub> emission levels, Bury would use this entire budget within seven years from 2020.
- Initiate an immediate programme of CO<sub>2</sub> mitigation to deliver cuts in emissions averaging a minimum of -13.1% per year to deliver a Paris aligned carbon budget. These annual reductions in emissions require national and local action and could be part of a wider collaboration with other local authorities.
- Reach zero or near zero carbon no later than 2042. This report provides an indicative CO<sub>2</sub> reduction pathway that stays within the recommended maximum carbon budget of 5.4 MtCO<sub>2</sub>. At 2042 5% of the budget remains. This represents very low levels of residual CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by this time, or the Authority may opt to forgo these residual emissions and cut emissions to zero at this point. Earlier years for reaching zero CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are also within the recommended budget, provided that interim budgets with lower cumulative CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are also adopted.

**C.9** Like all the Greater Manchester local authorities, Bury Council has declared a climate emergency and set a target to be carbon neutral by 2038. The Council's Climate Action Strategy, 2021 sets out a strategy for achieving carbon neutrality by 2038.

## Carbon Dioxide Emissions

**C.10** The Government regularly publishes Local Authority and regional carbon dioxide emissions national statistics. Emissions for Bury between 2005-2022 have fallen from 7.7 tco<sub>2</sub>E per capita to 4.0 Tco<sub>2</sub>E per capita [\[See reference 16\]](#). Per capita emissions in the plan area within the scope of influence of the

local authority fell almost every year between 2005 and 2022, except from 2005-2006 and 2017-2018 where the per capita emissions remained the same and 2009-2010 and 2011-2012 where the per capita emissions slightly rose. This is shown in **Table C.1**.

**Table C.1: Carbon dioxide emission estimates in Bury 2005 to 2022**

Year	Total Emissions (kt)	Per Capita Emissions (Tco2E)
2005	1,389.6	7.7
2006	1,392.0	7.7
2007	1,368.4	7.5
2008	1,309.3	7.2
2009	1,199.7	6.5
2010	1,253.8	6.8
2011	1,148.2	6.2
2012	1,181.1	6.3
2013	1,162.1	6.2
2014	1,056.0	5.6
2015	1,033.4	5.5
2016	986.5	5.2
2017	946.3	4.9
2018	948.6	4.9
2019	921.9	4.7
2020	825.7	4.2
2021	869.6	4.5
2022	768.8	4.0

**C.11** In Bury the main contributor of carbon dioxide emissions was from domestic and transport. However, between 2005 and 2022, the levels of emissions from transport and domestic sources have dropped significantly for Bury, by 22% and 50% respectively. This is shown in **Table C.2**.

**Table C.2: Changes in carbon dioxide emissions by sector for Bury between 2005 and 2020**

Source of emissions	2005	2022
Industry	181.3	77.3
Commercial	139.3	55.8
Public Sector	101.2	29.7
Domestic	473.6	236.5
Transport	446.3	346.4
Grand Total	1,389.6	786.8

**C.12** **Figure C.2** shows the per capita CO<sub>2</sub> emissions of Bury compared to neighbouring Greater Manchester authorities.

## Overall Energy Consumption

**C.13** The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy produced the following consumption figures for Bury in 2022. These figures are presented as Ktoe (kilotonnes of oil equivalent):

- All fuels – A total of 306.9 Ktoe across domestic, transport and industrial and commercial use.
- Coal – A total of 1.7 Ktoe predominantly through industrial and commercial use.

## Appendix C Baseline Information

- Manufactured fuels – A total of 0.5 Ktoe through domestic and industrial and commercial use.
- Petroleum – A total of 128.6 Ktoe predominantly from road transport.
- Gas – A total of 110.2 Ktoe predominantly through domestic use.
- Electricity – A total of 48.2 Ktoe through domestic and industrial and commercial use.
- Bioenergy and wastes – A total of 17.7 Ktoe predominantly through industrial and commercial use.

**C.14 Table C.3** below highlights the energy consumption for Bury between 2005 to 2022 by type. With the exception of energy from biomass and wastes and manufactured fuels. The consumption of coal, petroleum, gas and electricity fell between 2005 and 2022 [\[See reference 17\]](#).

**Table C.3: Energy consumption in Bury in type**

Energy Type	Energy Consumption in Ktoe (2005)	Energy Consumption in Ktoe (2022)
Coal	2.7	1.7
Manufactured Fuels	0.4	0.5
Petroleum	156.8	126.8
Gas	199.8	110.2
Electricity	65.2	48.2
Bioenergy and Wastes	1.2	17.7
All fuels total	426.2	306.9

## Renewable Energy

**C.15** Renewable energy is recognised as an important contributor to reducing reliance on fossil fuels and adapting to climate change. Within the North west of England, there was a total of 133,506 sites that were generating electricity from renewable sources in 2023. This represents 9% of all the sites within the UK that generate renewable energy. In 2023, the North West generated a total of 10,428.7 GWh (Gigawatt hours) of renewable energy. This is a 267% increase in renewable energy generation since 2011. In 2023, a total of 2,112 photovoltaic panels and four onshore wind turbines were installed in Bury. This is an increase from 2014 when 885 photovoltaic panels were installed [\[See reference 18\]](#).

**C.16** Bury Council's Climate Action Strategy 2021 [\[See reference 19\]](#) highlights that for Bury to meet its carbon neutral target, renewable heat and power generation needs to be maximised and electricity sourced from certified renewable or zero carbon sources. The strategy also highlights that there needs to be an increase in the efficiency of renewable energy generation technology such as in solar photovoltaic panels or onshore wind turbines.

**C.17** The Bury Climate Action Plan which was updated in March 2024 [\[See reference 20\]](#) has seen a 5% increase in renewable energy generation since the strategy was published in 2021.

**C.18** Bury's Housing Strategy 2021-2025 [\[See reference 21\]](#) identifies the following two renewable energy steps to take place to help Bury meet its housing target of 100% net-zero carbon new homes by 2028 and 100% carbon neutral homes by 2038:

- Making sure electricity is sourced from certified renewable or zero carbon sources.
- Identifying, sourcing/producing and installing modern renewable energy technologies and making provision for retrofitting homes with new sources and technologies that may emerge in future years.

**C.19** The Bury Housing Strategy also highlights how, through partnership working with other local authorities through the Greater Manchester Combined Authority and with the GM Housing Providers group and GM Local Energy Market, Bury is better placed to:

- Exploit renewable energy potential in relation to solar, hydro and wind on our land and buildings.
- Establish local energy networks to supply renewable energy to Bury residents.
- Build the green energy sector to ensure we have sufficient service providers that can deliver new retrofit components and renewable heating systems.
- Equip and upskill our local workforce and construction industry with the necessary skills to deliver renewable heat and energy systems in the domestic and commercial sector – coordinated with training colleges.
- Develop local supply networks for installation and maintenance of energy efficiency measures and renewable energy.
- Make energy efficiency and renewable energy options more accessible and attractive to our residents.

## Population, Health and Well-being

### Population

**C.20** Bury's population has increased by 4.7% from 185,100 in 2011 to 193,800 in 2021. This is lower than the overall increase for Greater Manchester (6.9%), the North West (5.2%) and England (6.6%) over the same period **[See reference 22]**. Nearby areas such as Salford and Manchester have seen their populations increase by around 15.4% and 9.7%, respectively, while others such as Blackburn with Darwen saw an increase of 5.0% and Rossendale saw smaller growth (4.1%). In 2021, Bury ranked 97th for total population out of 309 local authority areas in England, which is a fall of one place in a decade. Bury

was the 10th most densely populated of the North West's 39 Local Authority Areas in 2021 [\[See reference 23\]](#).

**C.21** The Borough's population is projected to increase to 198,241 by 2030 and to 202,568 by 2037, an overall increase of 5.6% [\[See reference 24\]](#).

**C.22** The population in Bury is spread out across five neighbourhoods which contain a number of wards:

- North (Elton, North Manor, Ramsbottom and Tottington)
- East Bury (Bury East, Moorside and Redvales)
- West (Bury West, Radcliffe East, Radcliffe North & Ainsworth and Radcliffe West)
- Whitefield (Besses, Pilkington park and Unsworth)
- Prestwich (Holyrood, St. Mary's and Sedgley)

**C.23** The most populated ward in Bury is Sedgley (13,467), followed by Bury East (13,315) and Radcliffe North & Ainsworth (12,020). The least populated wards include North Manor (9,744) and Pilkington Park (9,884). Only three wards in Bury have seen a decrease in their population from 2011-2021, these wards include Unsworth, Ramsbottom and North Manor.

**C.24** In 2021, 49% of Bury's population was male and 51% was female. This is similar to the North West as a whole, where 50.9% of residents are females (compared with 49.1% males) [\[See reference 25\]](#). Through the Census years from 1991 to 2021, Bury has continued to have a slightly higher number of females compared with males, however the difference has slowly reduced at each Census.

**C.25** In Bury [\[See reference 26\]](#), 94.37% of people aged 16 years and over in Bury have a gender identity the same as their sex registered at birth. In comparison, this is above national statistics which indicated 93.5% have the same gender identity as their sex registered at birth.

**C.26** The average age in Bury, recorded in the latest 2021 Census, remained 40 years, ten years on from the 2011 Census. This is the same average age as the North West and England, also 40 years. Bury saw a 19.8% increase in residents aged 65 and over, an increase of 1% in people aged 15-64 and an increase of 5.2% in children aged under 15 years between 2011 and 2021. These trends mirror that seen across with England with increases of 20.1% in people aged over 65 and a 3.6% increase in people aged 15-64. Within this, the number of people aged 50 to 64 years rose by around 3,600 (an increase of 10.3%), while the number of residents between 35 and 49 years fell by around 2,900 (7.2% decrease). Bury saw a slightly higher increase in children aged under 15 compared to a 5% increase in England [\[See reference 27\]](#).

**C.27** In 2021 [\[See reference 28\]](#), 8.5% of Bury residents identified as being disabled and limited a lot. This figure decreased from 10.1% in 2011. In 2021, just over 1 in 10 people (10.5%) were identified as being disabled and limited a little, compared with 10.7% in 2011. The proportion of Bury residents who were not disabled increased from 79.3% to 80.9%. The decrease in the proportion of residents who were identified as being disabled and limited a lot was greater across the North West (2.1 percentage points, from 11.2% to 9.1%) than in Bury (1.6 percentage points). Across England, the proportion fell by 1.6 percentage points, from 9.1% to 7.5%.

**C.28** In Bury in 2021, just under half of all people (45.3%) were married or in a registered civil partnership, compared with 47.5% in 2011. The percentage of adults in Bury that had divorced or dissolved a civil partnership decreased from 9.5% in 2011 to 9.3% in 2021. The increase in the percentage of people aged 16 years and over who had never been married or in a civil partnership in Bury (3.7 percentage points) was similar to the increase across the North West (3.8 percentage points, from 35.6% to 39.4%). Across England, the percentage increased by 3.3 percentage points, from 34.6% to 37.9%.

**C.29** Bury's population is predominately white (82.9%, of which 78.2% of the total population in Bury identified their ethnic group as "English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British") followed by Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh accounting for 10.6%. The percentage of residents who are Asian, Asian British

or Asian Welsh is above the North West (8.4%) and England (9.6%) averages for 2021.

**C.30** Within Bury, the Middle Layer Super Output Areas (MSOAs) with the highest proportion of people living there who reported their ethnicity as White (White: English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British) are Nuttall and Tottington, closely followed by Summerseat and the MSOAs with the lowest proportion of residents who identify as 'white' are Fernhill and Pimhole, followed by Buckley Wells and Fishpool. The highest proportion of residents in Bury who identify their ethnicity as 'Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh' live in Fernhill and Pimhole MSA.

**C.31** According to the 2021 Census, Bury's main religious belief is Christian (48.8%) followed by Muslim (9.9%) and Jewish (5.5%). The percentage of people who are Muslim and Jewish is above the North West (7.6% Muslim and 0.4% Jewish) and England (6.7% Muslim and 0.5% Jewish) averages for 2021.

## Housing

**C.32** In 2022, it was estimated by the Office for National Statistics that full-time employees could typically expect to spend around 8.3 times their workplace-based annual earnings on purchasing a home in England. This is a decrease compared with 2021, when it was 9.1 times their workplace-based annual earnings. Average house prices nationally increased by 14% in 2021, while average earnings fell by nearly 1%. This has led to housing becoming less affordable [\[See reference 29\]](#). The Housing Affordability Ratio is defined as housing affordability estimates calculated by dividing house prices by annual earnings to create a ratio. It can be used to compare affordability over time and between areas. A larger number reflects a less affordable area [\[See reference 30\]](#).

**C.33** At the local level, housing affordability improved in 235 out of 331 (71%) local authorities in 2021. Average house prices increased in 64% of local authority districts in England and Wales, while average earnings increased in

71% of local authorities in 2021. In Bury, the housing affordability ratio was 7.5 in 2021, and like other local authorities, has steadily increased in recent years. This figure has increased by 33% since 2011 from 5.1 to 7.5 in 2021 [\[See reference 31\]](#).

**C.34** The average house price for a property in Bury as of April 2024 was £242,760 which is above the North West (£216,714) and lower than the England (£298,299) averages [\[See reference 32\]](#).

**C.35** In 2021, there were 80,696 households in Bury. Of these, 17.7% rented privately in 2021, up from 13.8% in 2011. In 2021, just over one in seven households (14.9% lived in socially rented housing, compared with 15.0% in 2011. The proportion of Bury households that owned their home (outright or with a mortgage or loan) decreased from 69.6% to 66.9%.

**C.36** The increase in the percentage of privately rented homes in Bury was similar to the increase cross the North West (3.9%, from 15.4% to 19.2%). Across England, the percentage increased by 3.6% from 16.8% to 20.5%.

**C.37** Semi-detached houses are the predominant house type (38.6% of households), followed by terraced (28.3%), detached 18.8% and purpose-built flats or tenement (12.1%).

**C.38** 83.1% of households have mains gas heating.

**C.39** The total housing land supply in Bury, as of March 2023 is 9,648 potential units for the period 2023-2039.

## Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople

**C.40** In the 2021 Census, 0.1% of the people of Bury Borough described themselves as White: Gypsy or Irish Traveller [\[See reference 33\]](#)

**C.41** The Bury Unitary Development Plan [\[See reference 34\]](#) looks at the Provision for Gypsies and Travellers. The Council will monitor the land use needs of Gypsies and Travellers, and in considering proposals for new sites, will wish to ensure that they are:

- located within a reasonable distance of medical and community facilities;
- accessible to public transport;
- accessible to infrastructure; and
- located in such a way as not to have an unacceptable adverse effect on the amenity of neighbouring properties and their occupants.

**C.42** A Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Showperson Accommodation Assessment Update was produced by Greater Manchester Combined Authority in 2018. The Assessment recommended that the Spatial Framework recognises a cultural need for 103 additional pitches and 204 additional plots over the Plan Period to 2035/36 and a Planning Policy for Traveller Sites (PPTS) need for 44 Gypsy and Traveller pitches and 204 Travelling Showperson plots. The assessment found there were two Gypsy and Traveller Sites in Bury:

- Fernhill Caravan Site, Every Street
- Todd Street Caravan Site, Todd Street

## Education

**C.43** Compared to the North West and the national averages, Bury has a higher proportion of residents qualified to RQF4 equivalent and above (e.g. HND, Degree and Higher Degree level qualifications or equivalent).

**C.44** Bury has a lower proportion of people with no qualifications than the North West average and a slightly greater proportion than England.

**C.45** Currently there are sufficient primary and secondary school places to support existing pupils, although some schools are in excess of capacity and

other schools have unfilled places. There may be a need to expand/create new schools to meet project forecasts.

## Health

**C.46** Health is a cross-cutting topic and as such many topic areas explored in this report influence health either directly or indirectly. In the 2021 Census, 46.9% of the population of Bury Borough identified themselves as being in very good health and 5.8% in bad health or very bad health. This is below the national average for very good health and above the national average for bad or very bad health. Regionally, it is above the average for very good health and below the average for bad or very bad health.

**C.47** Approximately 8.5% of people in Bury are disabled under the Equality Act where their day-to-day activities are limited a lot. This number decreased from the 2011 Census where it was 10.1% and is below the regional average (9.1%) but above the national average (7.5%)

## Life Expectancy

**C.48** Bury's life expectancy is 78.7 for males and 81 for females, which is broadly in line with the North West averages (78.3 and 81.9) but slightly lower than the England averages (79.6 and 83.2) [\[See reference 35\]](#).

## Obesity and Physical Activity Levels

**C.49** Being overweight or obese carries numerous health risks, including increased likelihood of type 2 diabetes, cancer, heart and liver disease, stroke and related mental health conditions. It is estimated this health issue places a cost of at least £5.1 billion on the NHS and tens of billions on the wider UK society every year.

**C.50** In 2019/20, 63% of adults were overweight or obese. This is an increase of 4% when compared with 2018/19. Bury does have lower levels of overweight and obesity than the North West average (66.5%).

**C.51** With regards to children the most recent data available from the national childhood measurement programme (NCMP) from 2019-2023/2024 shows the percentage of overweight and obese children in reception and year 6 in Bury is 9.2% and 23.2% respectively. This is below the England average of 9.7% for Reception children and above the England average of 21.9% for Year 6 children [\[See reference 36\]](#).

## Perception of well-being

**C.52** Residents of Bury reported having slightly higher levels of life satisfaction (7.49 out of 10.00) than the average of the UK (7.45) in the 2022/23 period. Average figures recorded relating to "feeling the things done in life are worthwhile" were higher (7.89 in Bury) than the UK (7.73) whilst happiness in Bury was higher than the UK (7.50 and 7.39 respectively). Levels of anxiety increased over this time from 2011 to 2023 from 3.30 in 2011 to 3.43 in 2023 [\[See reference 37\]](#).

## Open Space

**C.53** Parks and open spaces are important to the communities that they serve. They benefit local communities and provide meeting and social spaces, health and wellbeing, the local economy, community and safety, climate cooling and increasing the appearance and profitability of the area. Open spaces provide opportunities for outdoor exercise and offer the opportunity to help increase levels of health and reduce obesity. They also help to maintain good mental health and reduce stress by encouraging relaxations through interaction with the natural environment.

**C.54** Bury has a range of open spaces, parks and conservation areas including 15 Green Flag winning spaces for their high quality and standard. The Green Flag Award scheme recognises and rewards well managed parks and green spaces and sets a benchmark standard for recreational outdoor spaces. The winning parks and cemeteries in Bury are: Burrs Country Park, Clarence Park, Manchester Road Park, Openshaw Park, Whitehead Park, St Mary's Park, Bolton Road Park, Close Park, Nuttall Park, Private Peachment VC Town Meadow Park, Whitefield Park, Hamilton Road Park, Radcliffe Cemetery and Ramsbottom Cemetery [\[See reference 38\]](#).

## Deprivation

**C.55** The Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) uses Lower Layer Super Output Areas (LSOA) to measure deprivation at local authority and county level. The seven distinct domains of deprivation (Income; Employment; Health Deprivation and Disability: Education and Skills Training; Crime: Barriers to Housing and Services: and Living Environment) which when weighted and combined from the IMD 2019 have been mapped for the borough (see **Figure C.3**).

**C.56** C.56 Bury ranks 95th of the 317 Local Authorities in England (2019), this is higher than 2015 when the Borough was ranked 117th, suggesting that the Borough has become more deprived relative to other places over the intervening four years. However, Bury is one of the least deprived GM boroughs, ranked 8th out of 10 [\[See reference 39\]](#).

**C.57** East (44) and Moorside (43) are the most deprived wards in Bury and North Manor (9) and Tottington (11) are the least deprived wards. East and Moorside is significantly more deprived than the Bury total (24) and England (22) total. Additionally, Bury scores a slightly higher IMD score than England. Changes in the IMD from 2015 to 2019 include 4 Bury LSOAs becoming relatively more deprived (one LSOA in St. Marys ward, one in Pilkington Park ward and two LSOAs in Church ward) and 35 LSOAs have become relatively less deprived [\[See reference 40\]](#).

## Crime and Safety

**C.58** The absence of a safe and secure place in which to live can have an extremely negative impact on physical and emotional health and wellbeing.

**C.59** In September 2024, Bury recorded 98.26 crimes per 1,000 people. This had decreased from 110.40 crimes per 1,000 people in the last equivalent period. The number of recorded offences (excluding fraud) in Bury for the past 12 months was 19,208 crimes. This ranks Bury 94 out of 153 in all English single tier and county councils. The most frequently recorded crime over this period was 'violence against the person - without injury offences recorded'. This was different to the equivalent period in 2023 where stalking and harassment offences were the most recorded crime. In the 2023 period, violence against the person - without injury offences recorded was third on the list [\[See reference 41\]](#).

## Green Infrastructure/Recreation Provision

**C.60** National Planning Guidance defines green infrastructure as a network of multi-functional greenspace which delivers a wide range of benefits. Its individual components include parks, open spaces, playing fields, woodlands, street trees, allotments, private gardens, waterbodies and green roofs.

**C.61** Green infrastructure benefits biodiversity, human health and climate change. Often Green Infrastructure is considered alongside blue infrastructure, which is land required to reduce flood risk or improve the quality of waterbodies and watercourses.

**C.62** Places for Everyone identifies a Greater Manchester green infrastructure network as set out in **Figure C.4**. The Local Plan will identify a local network for Bury. It is expected to be largely centred on the river valley of the Irwell and Roch and their tributaries.

**C.63** Recreation is one of the main uses of Green Infrastructure. About 12% of the Borough's land (1220ha) is managed primarily for recreation, with about a quarter of this (305ha) being golf courses [\[See reference 42\]](#). The provision of land for open space, sport and recreation in the Borough is considered in the Council's 2015 Greenspace Strategy, following an audit carried out in 2012 which identified six typologies of open space: Parks and Gardens, Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace, Outdoor Sports Pitches, Amenity Greenspace, Play Areas and Allotments.

**C.64** The Greenspace Strategy highlighted the following deficiencies in particular typologies across the Borough:

- Parks and Gardens: significant deficiencies (15ha) in Whitefield and Prestwich.
- Natural/Semi-Natural Greenspace: significant deficiencies in Bury East and Bury West and poor quality space across much of the Borough.
- Outdoor Sports: Playing pitches below provision standard in all areas (shortfall of between 2 and 12ha) except Bury East.
- Amenity Greenspace Performance generally to standard, although pockets of access deficiency around Bury Town Centre, Tottington, East Radcliffe and Prestwich.
- Provision for Children and Young People: Two Township are without skate parks.
- Allotments: General under provision across the Borough (deficiencies of between 18-100 in every Township apart from Ramsbottom and Prestwich).

**C.65** A Sports Pitch Strategy was published in September 2011 and includes sports pitch assessment report with an audit of existing outdoor sports pitch provision facilities looking at supply and demand. Key findings from the Sports Pitch Strategy include:

- The undersupply of junior and mini football pitches across the Borough.

- The undersupply of cricket pitches in Ramsbottom, Tottington and North Manor and Prestwich.
- Significant deficiency in junior rugby pitches in Whitefield and Unsworth.

## Economy

**C.66** Nationally, employment rates continued to increase during 2023. In Bury, between July 2023 and June 2024, 80,300 people were in employment. However, the percentage of people in employment in Bury (67.7%) is below the North West (72.9%) and Great Britain (75.5%) average. Furthermore, Bury has a higher percentage of people economically inactive (29.6%) than the North West (23.7%) and Great Britain (21.6%) average. There has been an increase in the past year from 4% in October 2023 to 4.9% in October 2024 in those claiming out of work benefits. This is above both the regional (4.7%) and national (4.3%) averages [\[See reference 43\]](#).

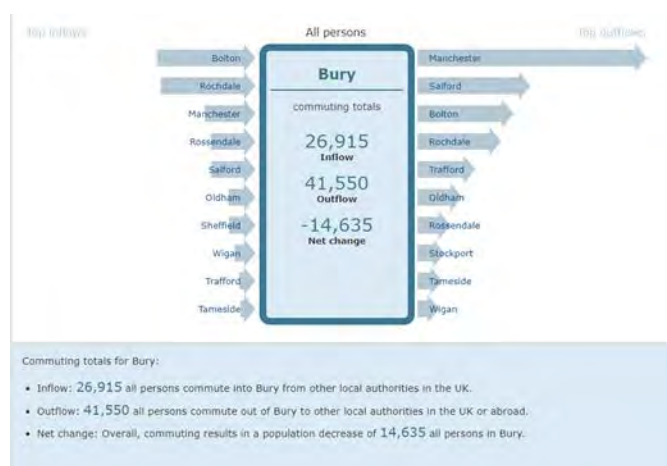
**C.67** The gross weekly pay in Bury for full time workers is £690.70 which is below the North West (£692.90) and Great Britain (£729.60) level. Per year, this equates £35,916.40 in Bury, £36,030.80 in the North West and £37,939.20 in Great Britain [\[See reference 44\]](#).

**C.68** The Covid-19 pandemic has had an impact on people's working life leading to changes in commuting patterns and home working. In Bury in 2021, 30% of the people aged 16 years and over in employment worked mainly at or from home. This is up 27% from the 2011 Census, where only 3% worked at home; however may be higher than the current figure as working patterns were still affected following the Covid lockdowns. Provision of high-speed digital infrastructure is considered a key requirement of attracting business and investment. The GM Broadband and Digital Programme aims to maximise the availability of superfast broadband, with plans to deliver high speed digital connectivity through 4G and 5G access and full fibre across Greater Manchester by 2025.

## Appendix C Baseline Information

**C.69** In 2011, 26,915 people were commuting into Bury from other local UK authorities and 41,550 people commuting out of Bury to other local authorities. Based on the people commuting out of Bury, 12,130 people were commuting to Manchester. This is shown in the **Figure C.1** below.

**Figure C.1: Flow of commuters in and out of Bury (total)**



**C.70** Post-Pandemic Bury has seen a decrease in people within employment by 2.7% and a decrease in those unemployed by 1.3%.

**C.71** The proportion of people aged 16 and over who were employment (excluding full time students) declined by 2.1% between 2011 and 2021 within the Borough. 2.7% of economically active residents were unemployed. 39.7% of residents were economically inactive [\[See reference 45\]](#).

**C.72** In 2021, 88,475 residents were aged 16 and over and in employment the week before the Census. The highest proportion of these residents were employed in the 'Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles (16.7), followed by 'Human health and social work activities (15.8%) and Education (11.4%).

**C.73** Levels of employment floorspace completed and land developed for business and industry has varied considerably. Monitoring shows that the total

amount of employment land available for industrial and commercial use (Use Class B1, B2 and B8) as at 31st March 2023 was 546,714.25 m2.

# Transport

**C.74** The transport network is one of the biggest contributors to carbon emissions. Transport decarbonisation will be achieved by encouraging people and businesses to use zero emission vehicles such as electric buses and vans which will be supported by plans in Bury for electric vehicle charging infrastructure points. Decarbonising can be achieved if a higher proportion of travel is by walking, cycling and wheeling, particularly for short trips to school, work or transport interchanges with bus and Metrolink.

**C.75** There are 689km of road in Bury consisting of 21km motorway, 55km A road, 33km B road and 581km of minor roads.

**C.76** The highway network in Bury is one of the key elements underpinning the strong performance economy of the Borough. However, there are several issues that directly impact the operation of the local road network. The Metrolink provides a convenient link from south and central Manchester, with stops throughout the south of the borough (Prestwich, Whitefield and Radcliffe) and terminates at the central interchange in Bury. Several bus services operate from the interchange in Bury centre and provide transport links around the Borough **[See reference 46]**.

**C.77** The ring round in Bury (A58) for example, provides strong links to the M66, Rochdale, Bolton, Manchester, however it creates a car dominated environment and severance for pedestrians and cyclists travelling into and out of Bury town centre. There are also road safety challenges across the highway network but particularly in East ward, Unsworth and Holyrood where casualty rates per 1,000 people living in the ward are high.

**C.78** To reduce congestion, there is a need to encourage more sustainable travel to work through improved public transport infrastructure and services and

through improving infrastructure and conditions for pedestrians and cyclists. In 2021, 49.7% drove a car or van to work, whilst the proportion of car ownership has increased from 76% to 77.9% between 2011 and 2021 [\[See reference 47\]](#). These trends highlighting the challenge in shifting travel to work patterns towards public transport, walking and cycling.

**C.79** In November 2023 the proportion of adults who do any walking or cycling at least once per month was the same in Bury (76.3) as in the North West (76.3). However, this was slightly below the England figure (77.9). This number in Bury has decreased from a high of 80.2 in 2019 [\[See reference 48\]](#).

**C.80** There are several locations in the Borough which generate significant freight traffic, such as Pilsworth and is impacted by major commercial development beyond its boundary including the Heywood Distribution Park. Nearly all freight in Bury is carried by road. This increases the economic impact of congestion but also results in more vehicles on our roads, increased carbon emissions, poor air quality, noise pollution and conflict with vulnerable road users.

**C.81** The Transport Strategy for Bury is highlighted in the Greater Manchester Transport Strategy 2040 [\[See reference 49\]](#) sets out Greater Manchester's long-term ambition for transport. The vision is for Greater Manchester to have 'World-class connections that support long-term sustainable economic growth and access to opportunity for all'. It sets out a strong commitment to provide a transport system which: supports sustainable economic growth and the efficient and effective movement of people and goods; improves the quality of life for all by being integrated, affordable and reliable; protects our environment and supports our target to be net zero carbon by 2038 as well as improving air quality; and capitalises on new technology and innovation.

## Air Quality

**C.82** Poor air quality damages everyone's health, but it can be particularly significant on the most vulnerable in our communities. Long-term exposure to

elevated levels of particulates and nitrogen dioxide can contribute to the development of cardiovascular or respiratory diseases and may reduce life expectancy. The main source of nitrogen dioxide is road vehicles (especially older, diesel ones). Reducing these emissions is vital to clean up the air and to prevent people contracting and suffering from serious health conditions. The transport links within Bury are shown in **Figure C.5** and services and facilities in Bury are shown in **Figure C.6**.

**C.83** **Figure C.7** shows the Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA) that has been declared in the Borough. One Air Quality Management Area (Greater Manchester Combined Authority AQMA) was declared by Bury Metropolitan Borough Council on 17th July 2002 and was amended on 19th March 2007 and 1st May 2016. The pollutant in this area is Nitrogen dioxide NO2 Particulate Matter PM10 [\[See reference 50\]](#). The AQMA incorporates the majority of the major strategic roads in the Borough including the A56, A58, M62 and M66 while **Table C.4** sets out the attributable death and years of life lost in the Borough due to air quality issues.

**Table C.4: Attributable Death and Years of Life Lost due to Air Quality Issues** [\[See reference 51\]](#)

Attributable Death and Years of Life Lost due to Air Quality Issues	Bury (2018)
Number of deaths (age 25+)	1,798
Percentage of attributable death dues to exposure to man-made PM2.5	4.5%
Estimated number of attributable deaths due to exposure to man-made PM2.5	81

**C.84** The GMCA 2023 Air Quality Annual Status Report [\[See reference 52\]](#) found there has been a slight improvement in nitrogen dioxide concentrations. All the nitrogen dioxide concentrations measured at the automatic sites are well below the nitrogen dioxide annual mean objective and all decrease in 2023.

**C.85** It is estimated that approximately 5% of deaths in Greater Manchester are attributable to particulate pollution, the equivalent figure for Bury being 4.5%. Currently, Greater Manchester and Bury are compliant with the legal limits of particulate matter, but because of its impact on health it is important to ensure that it is reduced as much as possible.

**C.86** Greater Manchester's Clean Air Plan air quality monitoring indicates that the A58 Bolton Street, Bury Bridge is one of 13 points in Greater Manchester where roadside nitrogen dioxide exceedances of legal levels are forecast to persist to 2025.

**C.87** Greater Manchester local authorities, including Bury, are currently working together to develop and implement a Greater Manchester-wide Clean Air Plan to tackle exceedances of nitrogen dioxide legal levels.

## Land and Water Resources

### Minerals and Waste

**C.88** Joint Greater Manchester Development Plans have been prepared for Minerals and Waste and these form part of Bury's development plan. Regard will be had to these when preparing the Local Plan.

**C.89** Bury adopted a Zero Waste Strategy in July 2014 [\[See reference 53\]](#). Bury's ambition is to reduce the amount of waste sent for treatment and disposal and to maximise recycling through ongoing education and awareness raising. Recycling rates for collected bin waste in Bury increased from 29.4% in 2010/11 to 47.6% in 2013/14. This was the third highest rate in Greater Manchester. There are two household waste and recycling centres in the Bury borough:

- Bury Household Waste and Recycling Centre, Every Street, Bury, BL9 5BE

- Radcliffe Household Waste and Recycling Centre, Cemetery Road, Radcliffe, M26 4FT

**C.90** Between 2020 to 2021, a total of 72,585 tonnes of waste was collected in Bury, 67,985 of which was household waste. 50% of this was being sent for recycling composting reuse which is above the regional Household Recycling Rates. In relation to non-household rates, 0% of the waste produced was not sent for recycling-composting reuse [\[See reference 54\]](#).

## Water

**C.91** Utilities infrastructure is vital to the functioning of the Borough and has to respond to the increasing pressures of economic and population growth.

**C.92** Water supply and sewerage is supplied by United Utilities to Bury. Most of the water supply to the Borough comes from the Haweswater reservoir via the Haweswater Aqueduct and Woodgate Hill Water Treatment Works and a variety of connections on the Manchester Ring Main. There are some supplies from Wayoh Water Treatment Works which primarily feeds Tottington and parts of Ainsworth. The northern areas of the Borough such as Holcombe and Ramsbottom receive a mixture of Haweswater and Haslingden Grane Water Treatment Works supplies.

**C.93** United Utilities also provide waste water treatment services to domestic and commercial customers across Bury. Waste water infrastructure includes networks of sewers, pumping stations and treatment works. United Utilities have committed to investing in their sewer infrastructure so it can meet demand from the region's growing population and business sector. They will also work closely with local authorities and developers to make sure there is adequate sewer capacity to support the development and economy of the North West.

## Flood Risk

**C.94** Bury falls in the Northwest River Basin Management Plan area and the River Irwell Catchment. **Figure C.8** shows the watercourses in Bury.

**C.95** The Environment Agency (EA) produce modelled flood risk maps which show flood risk from a range of sources including fluvial, surface water and groundwater, which are generally the most up to date sources of information.

**C.96** **Figure C.9** shows the extent of the modelled fluvial (from main rivers) flood risk within Bury.

**C.97** A Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) was carried out to support Places for Everyone (PfE). The SFRA identifies flood risk from all sources and identified hydrological connections within the sub-region. The main source of flood risk in the Borough is from the River Irwell and its tributaries, including Holcombe Brook, Pigs Lee Brook, Kirklees Brook and the River Roch. The greatest risk is in Ramsbottom and the 'Irwell Bank' corridor between Bury and Radcliffe town centres.

**C.98** There is some risk of flooding from river sources in Bury, particularly within Bury Ground (Chamberhall) and the former canal wharf.

**C.99** Large parts of Radcliffe have a high risk of flooding, the issues are complex with interactions between the rivers, canal, reservoirs, sewers and goits. Radcliffe is also at the confluence of the Roch and Irwell whose flow is constricted by the various bridges and therefore 'backs up' towards the Dumers Lane area and beyond.

**C.100** The recently completed Radcliffe and Redvales Flood Risk Management Scheme aims to reduce the flood risk from the River Irwell south of Bury and west of Radcliffe. The scheme defences have been designed with a 100 year design life and will provide protection against a flood with a 1% chance of

occurring in any one year, taking into account predicted climate change increases. The scheme will reduce flood risk to 873 properties currently at risk.

**C.101** Ramsbottom is at risk of river and surface water flooding. The town centre is defended but is at risk from a flow path which originates in Stubbins but flows alongside the East Lancashire Railway

**C.102** Bury has experienced historical flood events including on Boxing Day in 2015 which resulted in flood damage to over 700 residential buildings, multiple commercial properties and critical infrastructure such as Bury Wastewater Treatment Works (WwTW) and electricity substations [\[See reference 55\]](#). Furthermore, on 9th February 2020, Storm Ciara hit Greater Manchester with wind speeds in excess of 80mph. The storm impacted 32 households and four business properties in Bury [\[See reference 56\]](#).

## Utilities

**C.103** The gas transmission and distribution system in the UK is owned and operated by National Grid. With increasing population, aging energy infrastructure and climate change commitments there is a key challenge of how the Borough meets its future energy needs. National Grid's Future Energy Scenarios Report (2017) [\[See reference 57\]](#) confirmed that gas will have a long-term role as a flexible, reliable and cost-effective energy source but new technologies are rapidly transforming the energy sector and an energy system with high levels of distributed and renewable energy generation has become a reality. This highlights the need to develop specific proposals for heat networks, energy from renewables and building scale renewable heat models throughout the Borough.

## Soil

**C.104** The Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) system [\[See reference 58\]](#) provides a framework for classifying land according to the extent to which its

physical or chemical characteristics impose long-term limitations to agricultural use. The principal factors influencing agricultural production are soil wetness, drought and erosion. These factors, together with interactions between them, form the basis for classifying land use into one of five grades, where 1 describes land as excellent (land of high agricultural quality and potential) and 5 describes land as very poor (land of low agricultural quality and potential). Land falling outside these scores is deemed to be 'primarily in non-agricultural use', or 'predominantly in urban use'. Grade 3 can be further separated into grades 3a and 3b, although this requires further local surveys and therefore such data is only available for small areas. Grades 1, 2 and 3a are considered to be the best and most versatile agricultural land.

**C.105** The majority of land in Bury is urban. However, land surrounding the built-up area is a mix of Grade 3 and Grade 4 agricultural land as shown in **Figure C.10**.

**C.106** In Bury, peaty shallow soils are found in the north of the Borough in the upper moorland areas. Holcombe Moor is an area of peat which has been exposed to significant damage. Work is currently being done to improve Holcombe Moor [\[See reference 59\]](#). This includes through

- Creating permeable dams by lifting stones into eroded gullies to restrict the flow of flood water. Initially, this work will be carried out in the Alden Ratchers area by transporting stones by helicopter from a quarry just 1km away.
- Using excavation methods to create bunds and pools in select areas. This will also help in reducing the free flow of water across the moorland plateau.
- Re-introducing sphagnum moss in newly rewetted areas. This will eventually make the top layers of the peat much more permeable and able to retain more water, rather than allowing it to flow over the surface as it does currently

## Contaminated Land

**C.107** Bury Council has a duty under Part 2A Environmental Protection Act 1990 to identify land that presents an unacceptable risk to human health or the environment and ensure that those who are responsible for the contamination clean it up. Bury Council's Contaminated Land Strategy sets out the way we deal with potentially contaminated land. The strategy is currently under review. There are currently no entries on Bury Council's Contaminated Land Register [See reference 60].

## Biodiversity

**C.108** The Borough has a wide range of landscapes and habitats. The land is undulating but incised and drained by the valleys of the River Irwell and Roch. The Borough's highest point is in the north, on the plateau of Holcombe Moor, reaching 428 metres above sea level on Bull Hill.

**C.109** The River Irwell flows south through the Borough, before turning west at its confluence with the River Roch, then south again at its confluence with the Croal. These river valleys not only provide an important habitat for wildlife but also act as a corridor through which species can move, extending potential territories and increasing population viability.

**C.110** Terrestrial habitats include important areas of moorland (upland heath and blanket bog), as well as broad-leaved clough woodland, such as Ringley Woods, much of which is ancient. Over 15% of the Borough is semi-improved neutral grassland, with significant areas of unimproved acid and neutral grassland.

**C.111** Bury has one of the highest concentrations of ponds in Greater Manchester together with several important lodges and reservoirs. The Manchester, Bolton and Bury Canal also runs through the Borough.

**C.112** The biodiversity interest of the Borough is recognised in various site designations:

- Two Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)
- 49 Sites of Biological Importance
- 13 Ancient Woodlands
- Seven Local Nature Reserves
- Five protected species (badger, otter, barn owl, kingfisher, great crested newt)
- C. 112km of wildlife links and corridors

**C.113** Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) are of national importance for their wildlife, geology or landform and are designated by Natural England. Bury has two SSSIs. One is a small part of the West Pennine Moors SSSI and the other is at Ashclough on the Bury/Bolton boundary.

- West Pennine Moors SSSI is designated for the quality of its mosaic of upland and upland fringe habitats and is notable for its skylark and curlew populations. The site is 7,615.491 ha and has eight main habitats. The current condition of the SSSI is unfavourable or unfavourable recovering.
- Ashclough SSSI is a river cliff important for the geology exposed. The site has one main habitat and is around six hectares in size. The site is in unfavourable condition.

**C.114** Bury currently has 50 Sites of Biological Importance (SBIs) which are Bury's best sites for flora and fauna. They are surveyed and designated on behalf of Bury by the Greater Manchester Ecology Unit. Bury currently has seven Local Nature Reserves:

- Philips Park
- Chesham Woods
- Hollins Vale
- Redisher Woods

## Appendix C Baseline Information

- Kirklees Valley
- Chapelfield
- Springwater Park

**C.115** Bury has c112km of wildlife links and corridors which join together the designated sites, making them more valuable than they would be as isolated sites, since they permit dispersal and extend the territory available to species.

**C.116** There are no European designated nature conservation sites within Bury although there are some within 20km. European sites include Special Areas Conservation (SACs), Special protection Areas (SPAs) and Ramsar Sites. No more than 20km to the east of Bury is Rochdale Canal SAC and Peak District Moors (South Pennine Moors Phase 1) SPA and South Pennine Moors SAC. 15km to the north of Bury is South Pennine Moors Phase 2 SPA and South Pennine Moors SAC. Around 12km to the south is Manchester Mosses SAC.

**C.117** A map showing the designated biodiversity and geodiversity assets in Bury is provided in **Figure C.11**.

**C.118** Greater Manchester was picked as one of the pilots to test how the recovery of England's landscapes and wildlife can be driven locally. The pilot ran from autumn 2020 to summer 2021. It brought together stakeholders across the city region to set out local priorities for restoring and linking up habitats to tackle the biodiversity emergency and agree the best places to do that and, at the same time, deliver wider benefits for people and the environment.

**C.119** Greater Manchester Combined Authority has developed a draft Local Nature Recovery Strategy [\[See reference 61\]](#) for the city-region. The strategy sets out a vision for a greener Greater Manchester, where space for nature to flourish is grown and enhanced, more people can access and enjoy the natural environment, and the many benefits nature brings are increased for everyone – from supporting mental and physical wellbeing to creating leisure space and supporting biodiversity.

## Water Resources

**C.120** Bury's origin and development is intimately associated with its watercourses. Settlements grew up at bridging point and factories were built on sites where they could exploit water to power machinery and treat cloth. Settlements also used watercourses as waste conveyors. As a result, the Borough's watercourses have been much altered and have suffered from excessive pollution since the late 18th century.

**C.121** The River Irwell catchment is now protected and managed according to the principle of the European Water Framework Directive (WFD). Water quality is generally managed by the Environment Agency and United Utilities through their discharge consent systems.

**C.122** An assessment is made in respect of the whole water environment to help direct action to where it is most needed and is based on the requirements of the WFD. The Directive requires consideration to be given to over 30 measures grouped into two key measures – ecological considerations and chemical assessment. For a water body to be in overall 'good' status both ecological considerations and chemical status must be at least good.

**C.123** An assessment of chemical status is required in water bodies where priority substances and other specific pollutants are known to be discharged in significant quantities. In 2019, the method of assessing chemical status changed and as a result all waterbodies since then now fail the chemical status assessment. Guidance states that there are four groups of global pollutants (uPBTs) causing these failures. There is actually little underlying change in chemical status for chemicals that are not uPBTs. The slight difference is attributable to newly introduced substances, such as cypermethrin. If uPBTs are excluded, then chemical status assessment is comparable to previous years assessments.

**C.124** Reasons for not achieving good status and the deterioration in the quality of the Borough's water bodies include poor livestock management, urbanisation and sewage discharge.

# Historic Environment

**C.125** Bury has 12 Conservation Areas across the Borough. Eight are located in the north of the Borough (Walmersley, Holcombe, Mount Pleasant, Pot Green, Ramsbottom, Rowlands/Brooksbottom, Summerseat and Ainsworth) which have been designated to preserve the older, stone built features and settlements. Part of Bury Town Centre is designated as a Conservation Area and three others are located in the south of the Borough in Whitefield and Prestwich (All Saints, Poppythorn and St Mary's Park).

**C.126** There are numerous buildings of historic interest around the Borough. Radcliffe Tower is the remains of a medieval manor house. St Mary's Church at Radcliffe is medieval. Brooksbottom Mill at Summerseat is a good example of a textile mill in an attractive setting. Bury Parish Church is an excellent example of a Victorian church.

**C.127** There are four Scheduled Monuments within the Borough. These are:

- Bury Castle
- Radcliffe Tower
- Affetside Cross
- Castlesteads

**C.128** There are currently 244 listed buildings in Bury, five are Grade I Listed and 239 are Grade II. Historic England deems four to be at risk as per the Risk Register. The condition of these listed buildings at risk are summarised in **Table C.5** below.

**Table C.5: Listed buildings heritage at risk**

Name	Condition
Church of St Paul, Crow Lane, Ramsbottom	Poor
Church of All Saints, Church Lane, Stand	Poor
Church of St Marie, Manchester Road, Bury	Very Bad
Lower Chesham Hall, Bell Lane	Fair

**C.129** Listed Buildings are found throughout the Borough but there are predictably concentrations within the Borough's Conservation Areas. Most are Grade II, but the following have a higher grade:

- Radcliffe Cenotaph – Grade 2\*;
- St Mary's Church, Prestwich – Grade 1;
- Monument to John Brooks, Prestwich – Grade 2\*;
- Hey House, Holcombe – Grade 2\*;
- Lower Chesham – Grade 2\*;
- Brandlesholme Old Hall – Grade 2\*;
- St Mary's Church, Radcliffe – Grade 1;
- Christ Church – Grade 2\*;
- Ainsworth Chapel – Grade 2\*;
- Radcliffe Tower – Grade 1;
- Dearden Fold Farm – Grade 2\*;
- All Saints Church, Whitefield – Grade 1

**C.130** Bury also has a ‘local list’ of 470 buildings or structures of local interest which are not protected nationally but are included on a draft local list of buildings.

**C.131** The designated heritage assets within the Bury can be seen in **Figure C.12**.

## Landscape

### Landscape Character

**C.132** National Character Area (NCA) profiles created by Natural England are used to define the specific combination of landscape, geodiversity, biodiversity, history, culture and economic activity in the area. NCAs follow natural lines in the landscape instead of administrative boundaries.

**C.133** Bury falls within the Manchester Pennine Fringe National Character Area (see **Figure C.13**).

**C.134** Manchester Pennine Fringe: The Manchester Pennine Fringe occupies the transitional zone between the open moorlands of the Dark Peak and Southern Pennines, and the densely populated urban conurbation of Manchester. The area wraps around Manchester from Bolton in the north-west to the edge of Hazel Grove in the east, and includes the industrial towns of Bury, Bolton, Rochdale, Oldham, Dukinfield and Glossop .

**C.135** A Greater Manchester Landscape Character and Sensitivity Assessment was carried out by LUC on behalf of GMCA and the Greater Manchester local authorities in 2018. This identifies the following landscape types within Bury:

- Open Moorlands and Enclosed Upland Fringes
- Pennine Foothills

## Appendix C Baseline Information

- Reclaimed land/Wetlands
- Incised Urban Fringe Valleys
- Urban Fringe Farmland
- Mosslands and Lowland Farmland
- Historic Parks and Wooded Estate Farmland

**C.136** There are ten Landscape Character Areas (LCA) in Bury:

- 16: River Irwell (south Bury) and River Croal - Incised Urban Fringe Valleys;
- 19: Heaton, Prestwich, Whitefield and Stand Parklands - Historic Parks and Wooded Estate Farmland;
- 20: Affetside and Ainsworth - Pennine Foothills (West/South Pennines) and Open Moorlands and Enclosed Upland Fringes (West/South Pennines);
- 21: Little Lever and Elton Reservoir - Urban Fringe Farmland;
- 22: Holcombe to Greenmount and Higher Summerseat - Open Moorlands and Enclosed Upland Fringes (West/South Pennines) and Urban Fringe Farmland;
- 23: River Irwell (north Bury) and Kirklees - Incised Urban Fringe Valleys;
- 24: Knowl and Rooley Moors, Fringes and Foothills - Pennine Foothills (West/South Pennines);
- 25: River Roch - Incised Urban Fringe Valleys;
- 26: Prettywood, Pilsworth and Unsworth Moss - Mosslands and Lowland Farmland and Reclaimed Land / Wetlands; and
- 27: Simister, Slattocks and Healds Green - Urban Fringe Farmland.

**C.137** The assessment indicates that LCA areas 19, 22 and 23 have a moderate-high sensitivity to residential development and related transport infrastructure, and a high sensitivity to commercial and industrial development.

**C.138** The assessment identifies the sensitivity rating of each landscape type and key characteristics (such as topography, land use, habitats, archaeology and cultural heritage) and sets out guidance and opportunities to consider within each landscape type to help retain and enhance local distinctiveness, identity and sense of place.

**Figure C.2: Per Capita CO2 Emissions Compared to Neighbouring Authorities**

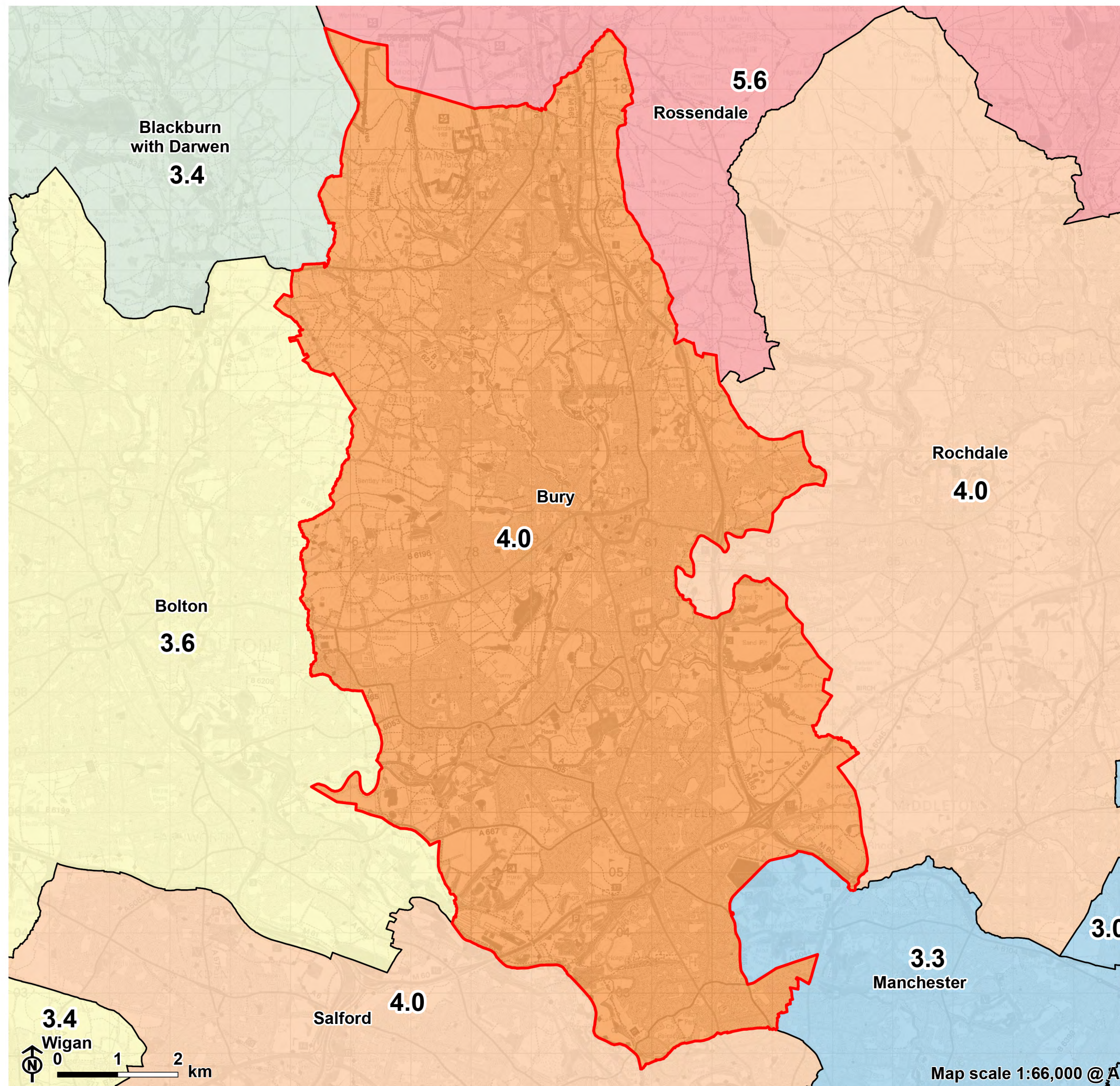


Figure C.3: Indices of Multiple Deprivation

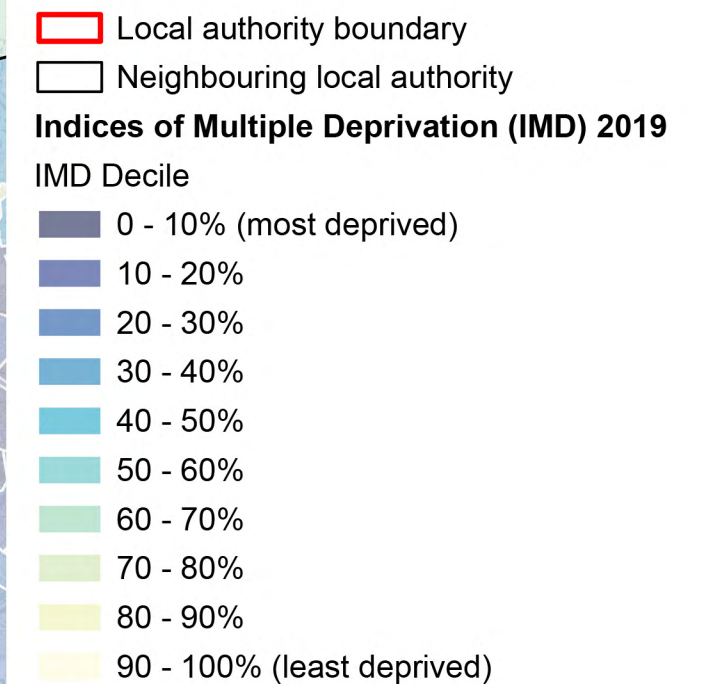
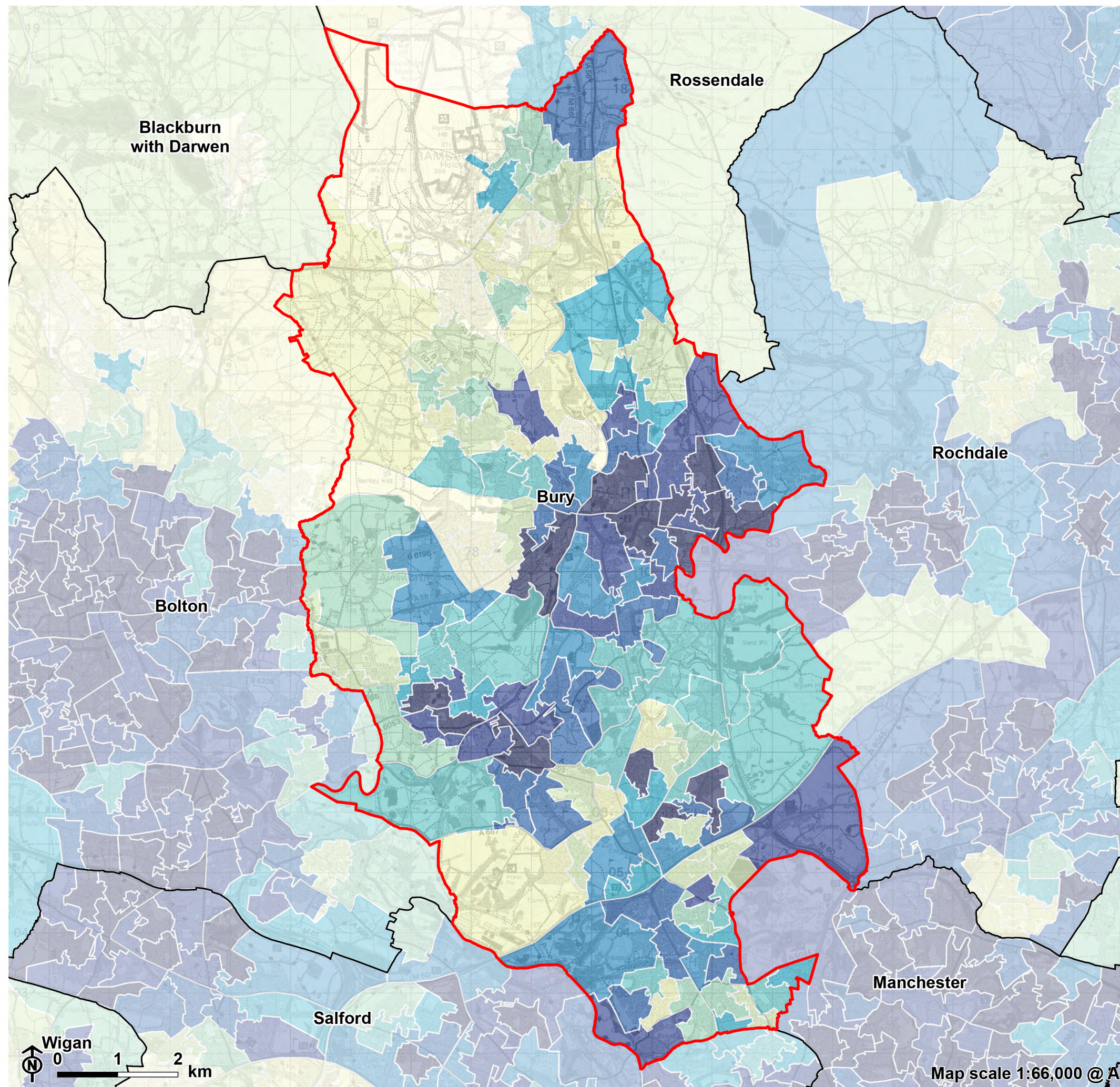
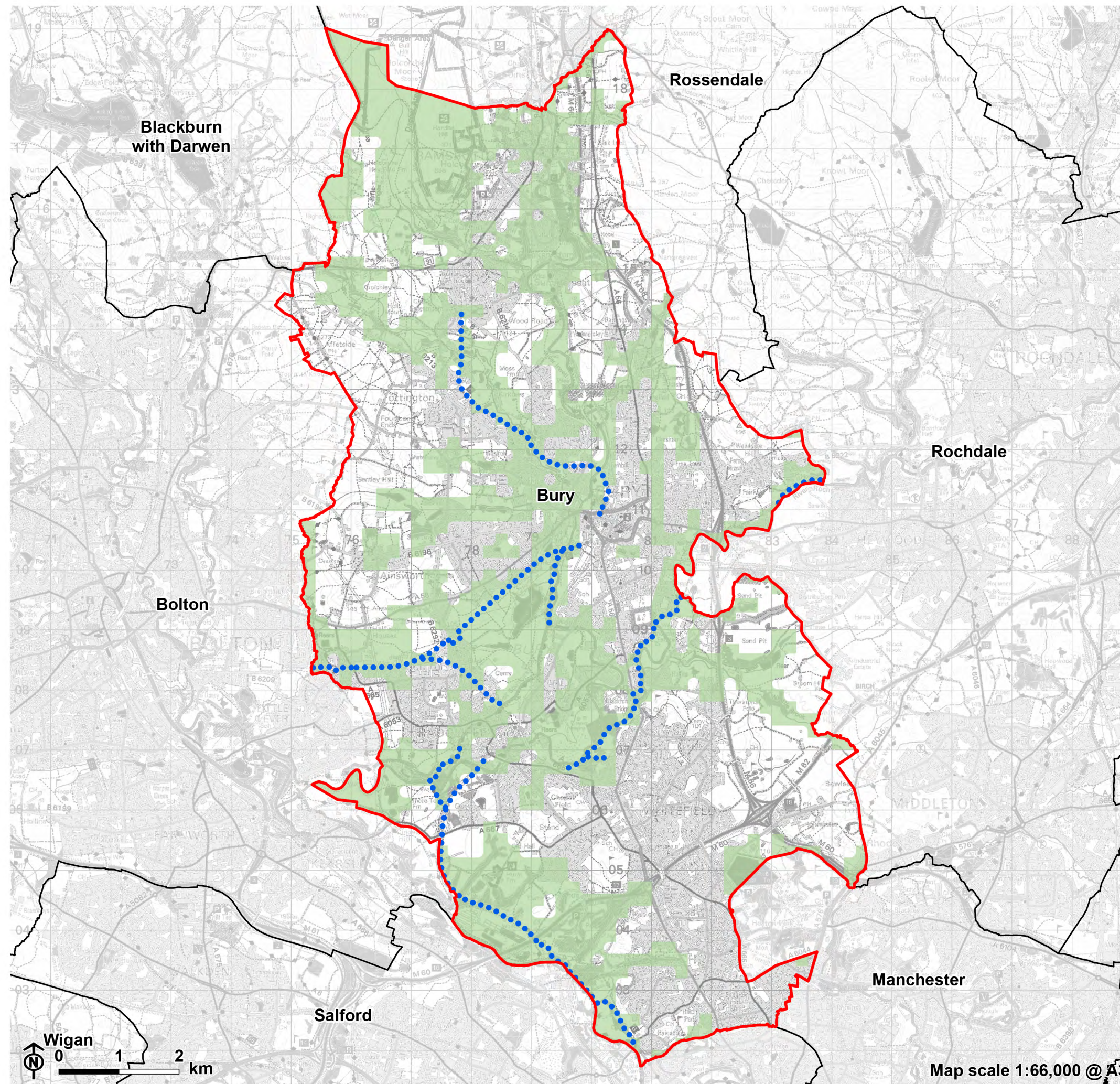
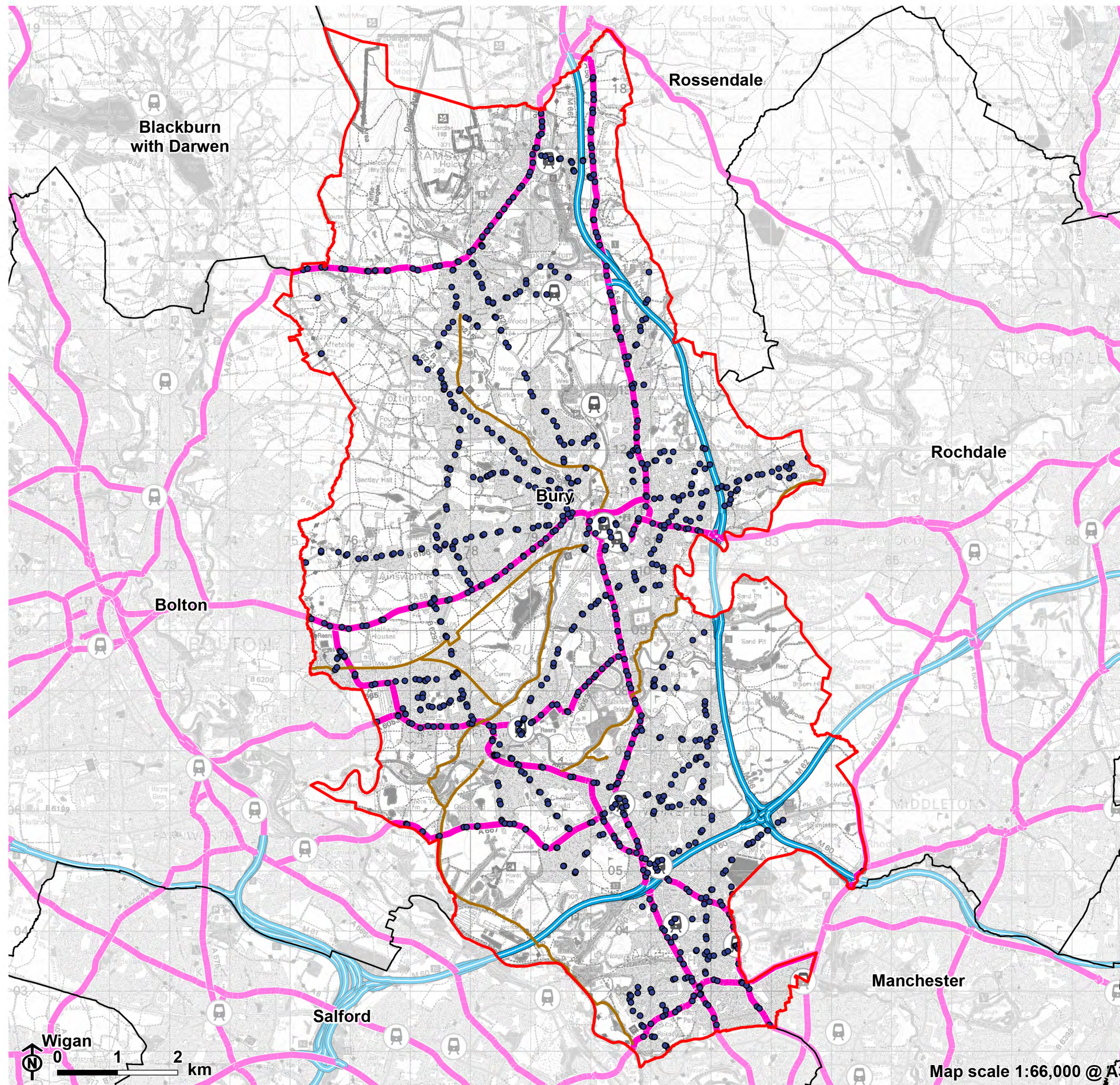


Figure C.4: Green Infrastructure Network



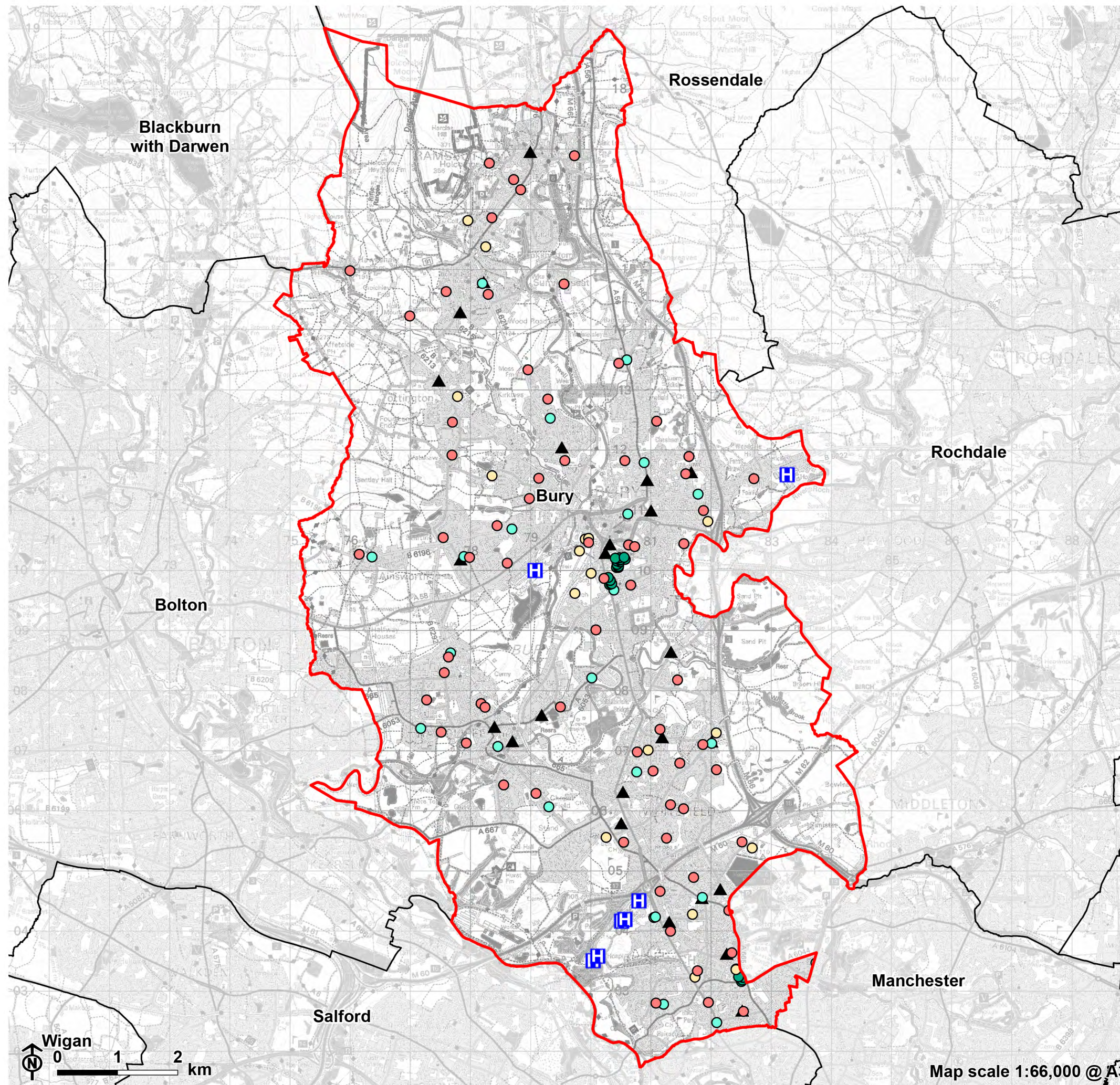
- Local authority boundary
- Neighbouring local authority
- ..... Recreational route
- Green infrastructure

Figure C.5: Transport Network



- Local authority boundary
- Neighbouring local authority
- Cycle route
- A Road
- Motorway
- Bus stop
- 🚂 Railway station

Figure C.6: Services and facilities in Bury



- Local authority boundary
- Neighbouring local authority
- Primary school
- Secondary school
- Further education
- Post office
- ▲ GP surgery
- H Hospital

Figure C.7: Air Quality Management Areas

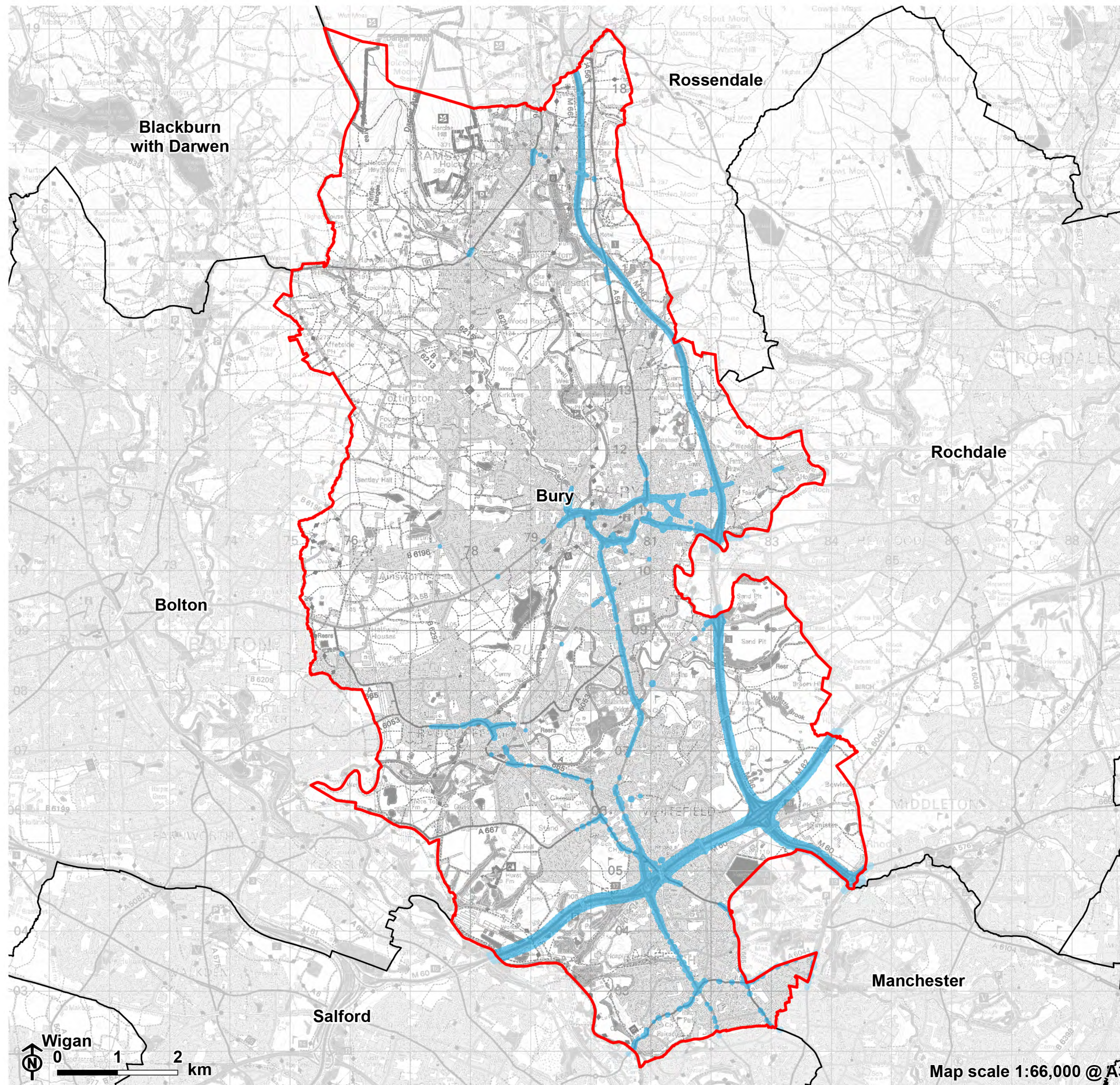
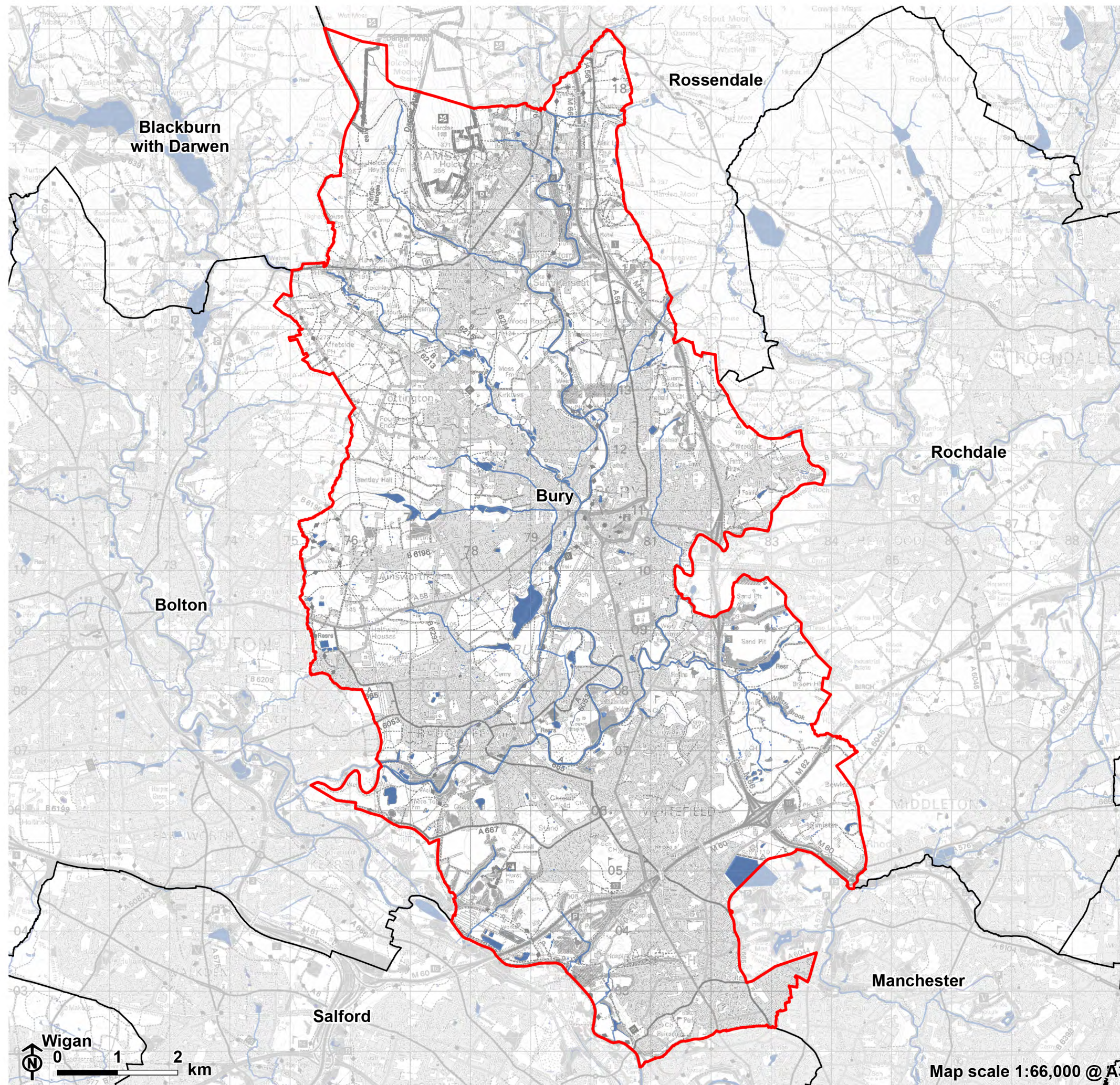
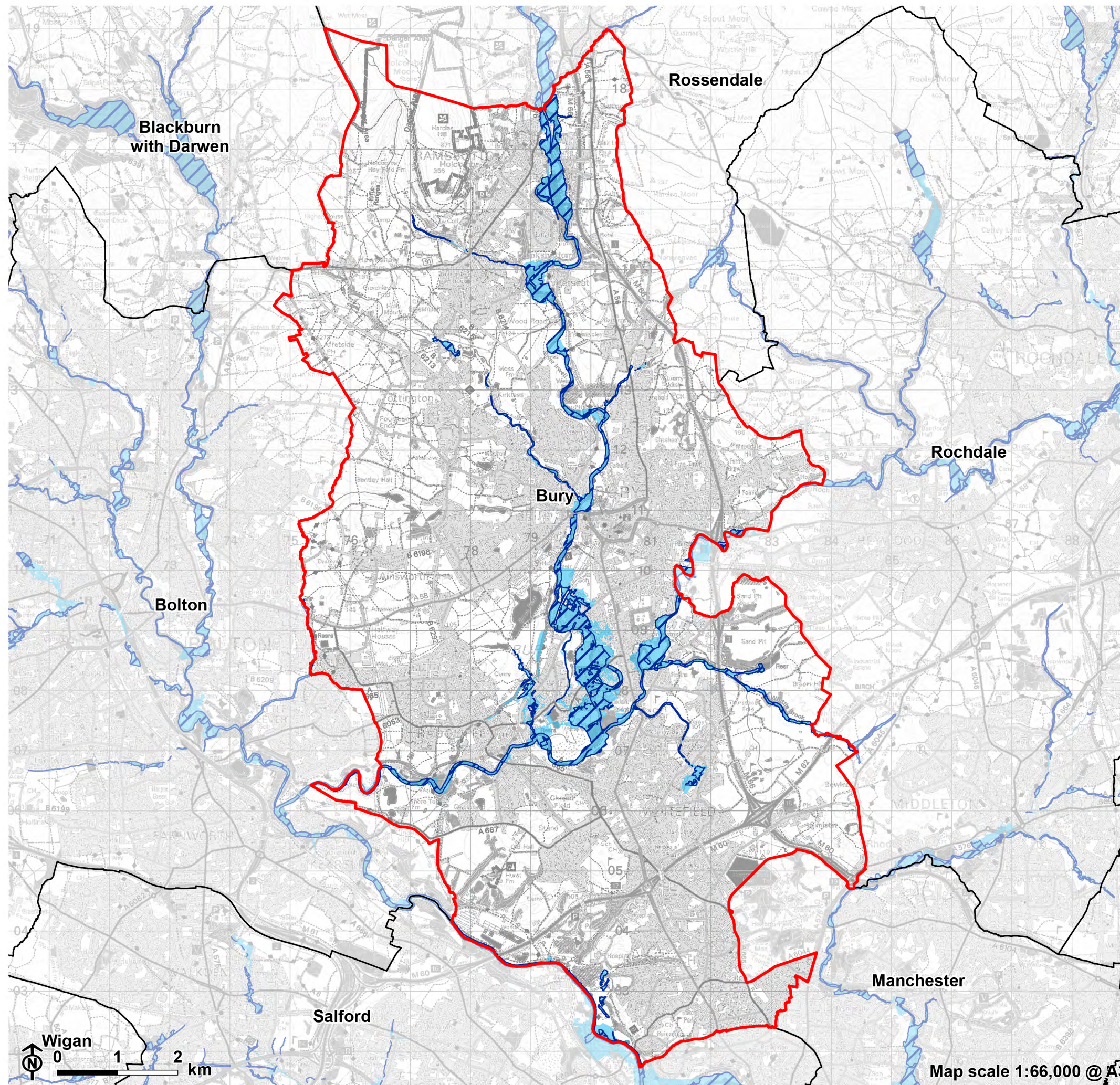


Figure C.8: Watercourses in Bury



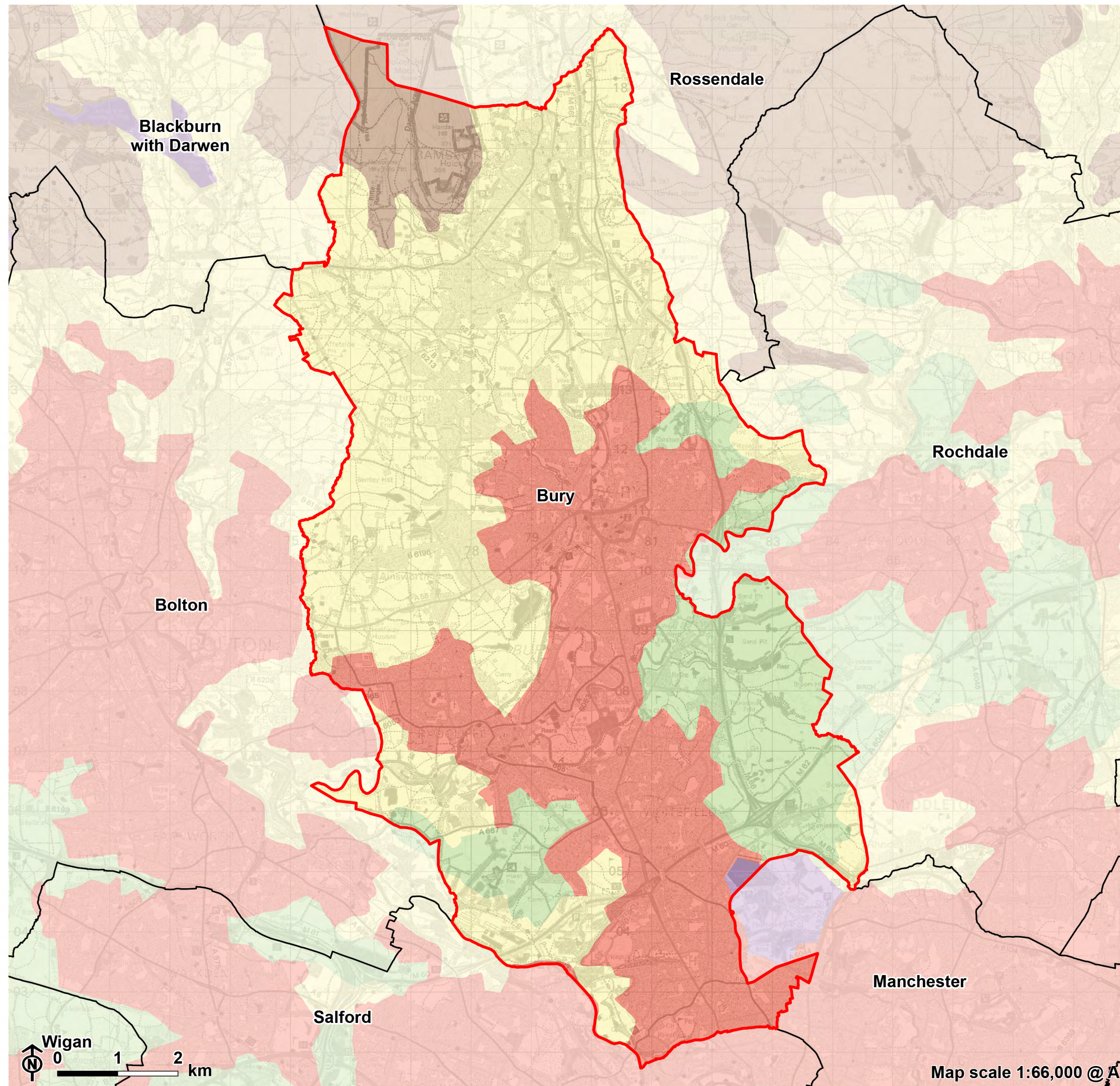
- ▬ Local authority boundary
- ▬ Neighbouring local authority
- ▬ Watercourse and waterbody

Figure C.9: Flood Risk

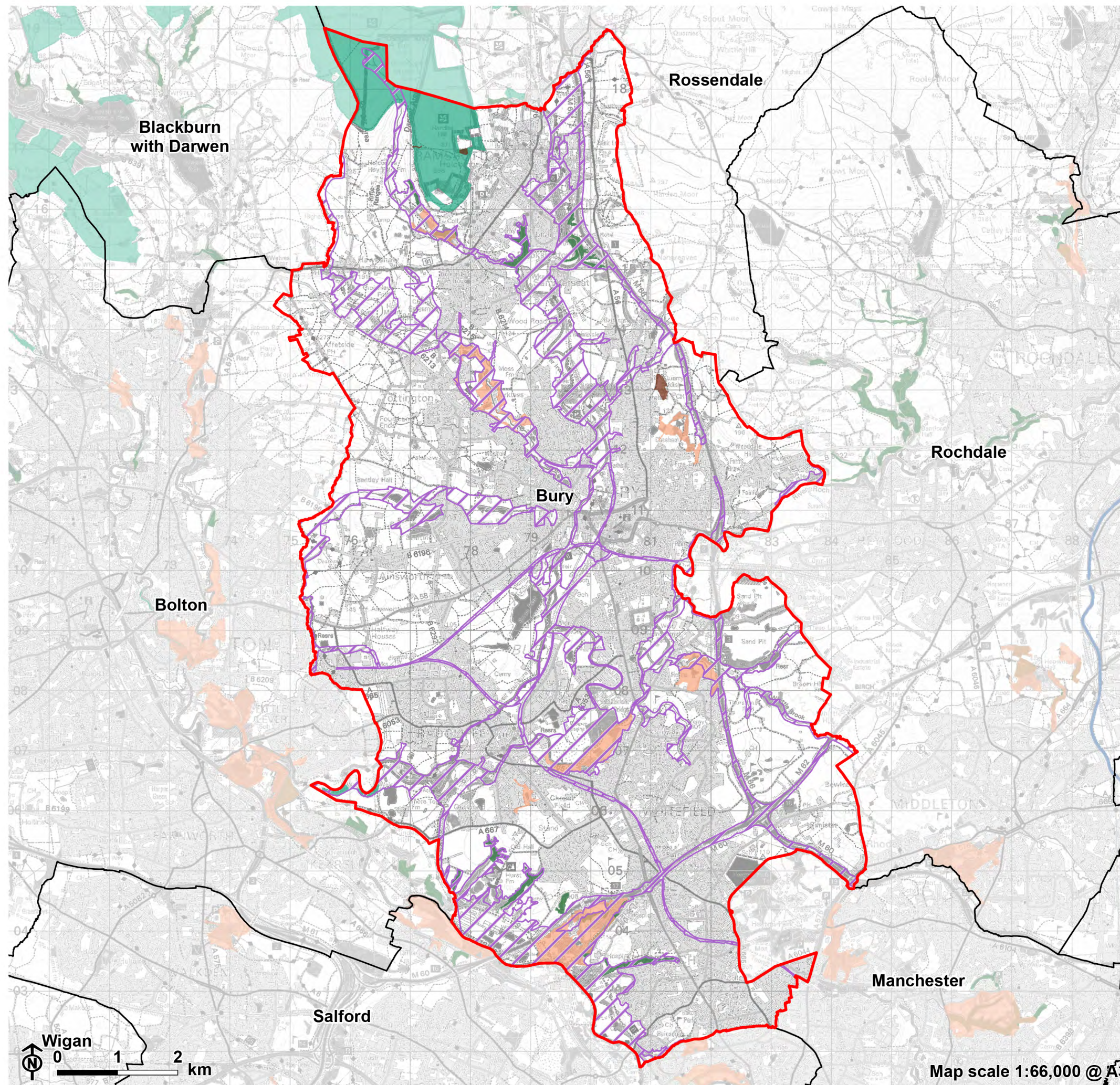


- Local authority boundary
- Neighbouring local authority
- Flood zone 2
- Flood zone 3

Figure C.10: Agricultural Land Classification

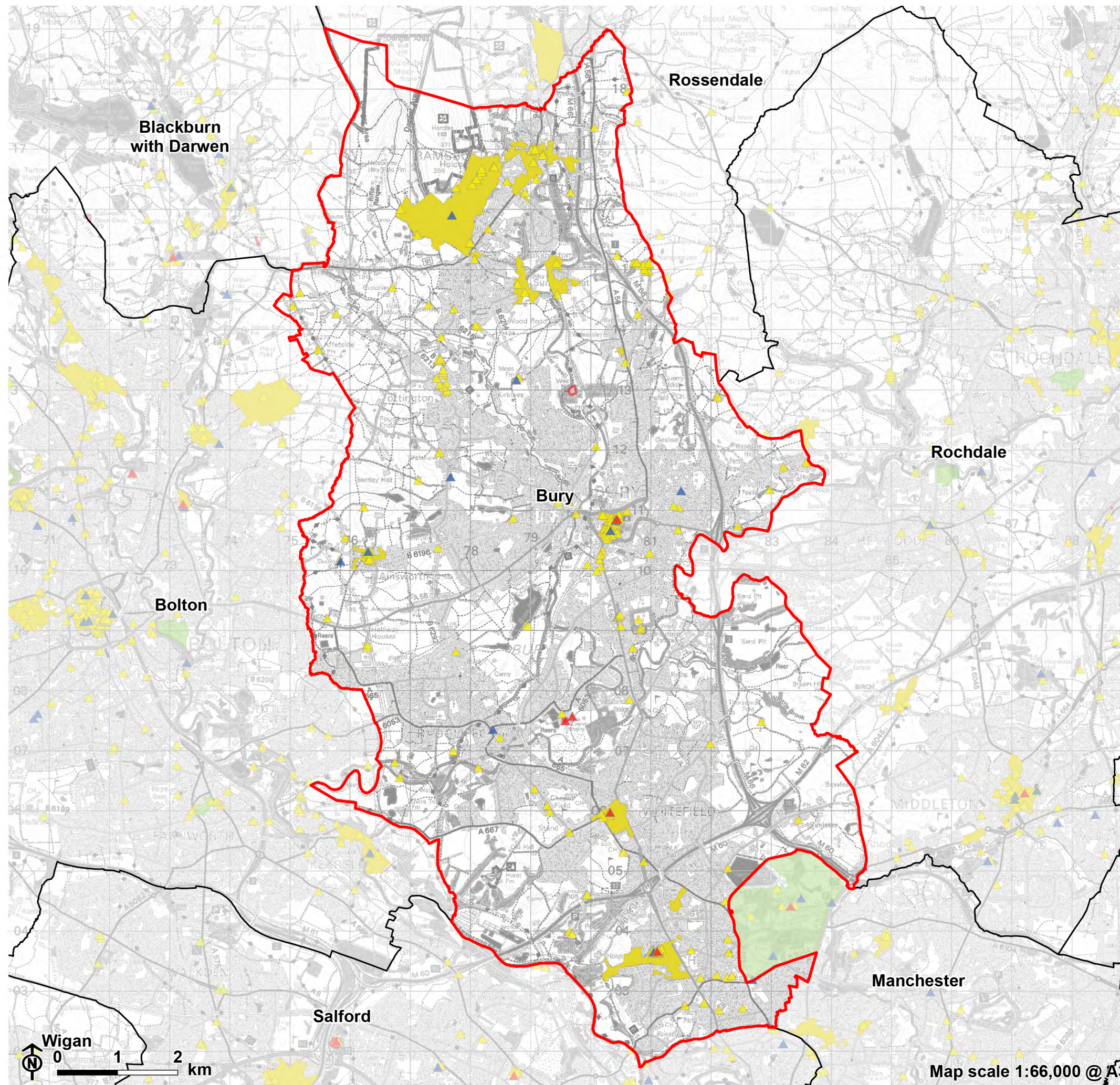


**Figure C.11: Designated Biodiversity Assets and Geological Sites**



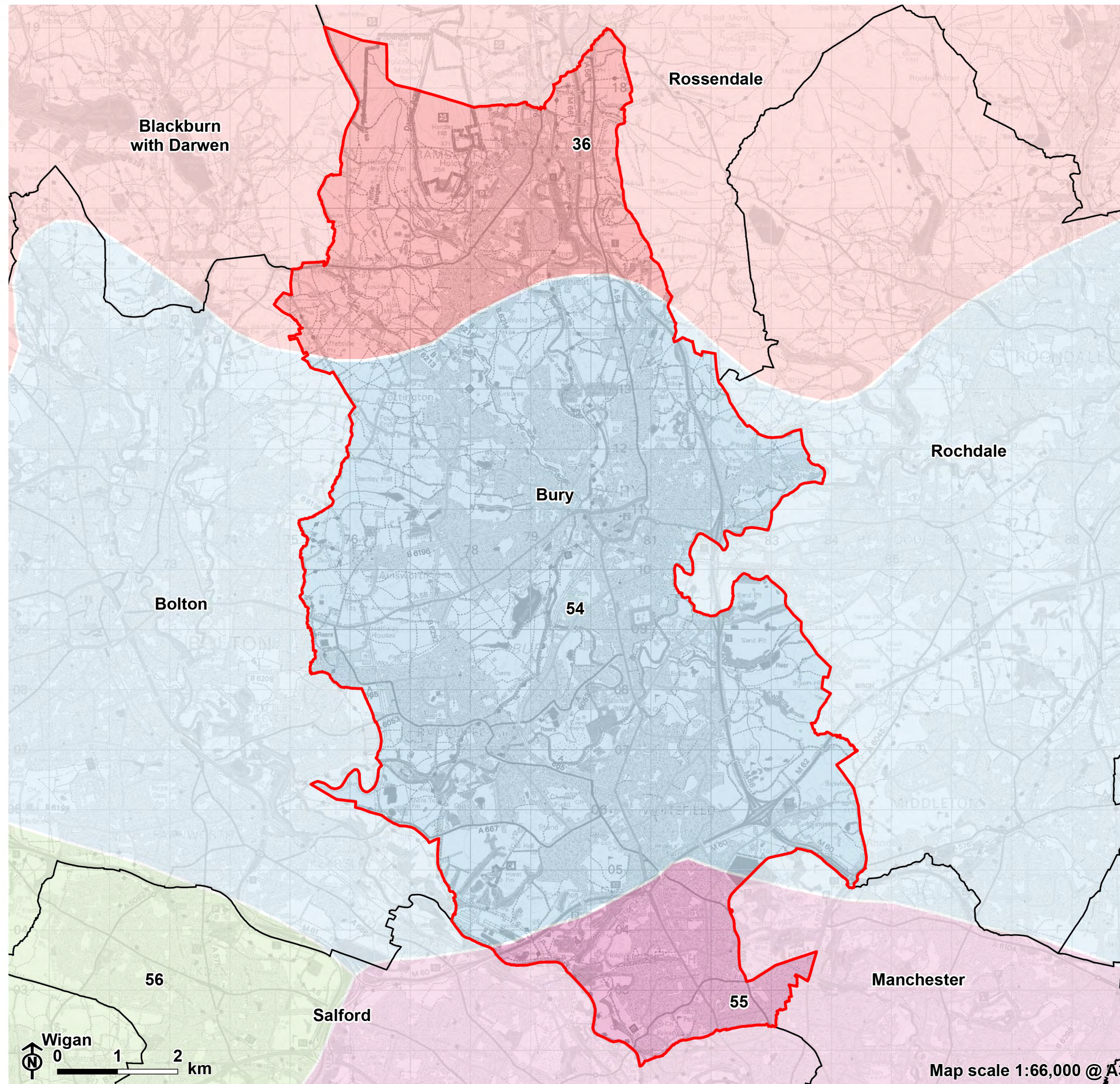
- Local authority boundary
- Neighbouring local authority
- Unitary Development Plan Wildlife Link
- Special Area of Conservation
- Site of Special Scientific Interest
- Local Nature Reserve
- Ancient woodland
- Regionally Important Geological Site

Figure C.12: Heritage Assets



- Local authority boundary
- Neighbouring local authority
- Conservation area
- Scheduled monument
- Registered Parks and Gardens
- Listed building**
  - ▲ Grade I
  - ▲ Grade II\*
  - ▲ Grade II

Figure C.13: National Character Areas



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- 2 Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (2015, updated 2020) Strategic environmental assessment and sustainability appraisal - <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/strategic-environmental-assessment-and-sustainability-appraisal>
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- 8 The updated PPG clarifies that this requirement of the NPPF is to be applied “where most of the development arising from larger scale developments proposed in the plan will be delivered well beyond the plan period, and where delivery of those developments extends 30 years or longer from the start of the plan period”. Furthermore, where this

## References

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- requirement applies “the authority will need to ensure that their vision reflects the long-term nature of their strategy for the plan or those larger scale developments. It is not anticipated that such visions would require evidence in addition to that already produced to support the plan”.
- 9 <https://www.greetermanchester-ca.gov.uk/what-we-do/planning-and-housing/places-for-everyone>
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  - 17 Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (2022) Subnational Total Final Energy Consumption 2005 – 2022 [online] Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/total-final-energy-consumption-at-regional-and-local-authority-level-2005-to-2022>
  - 18 Gov.uk (2022) Regional Renewable Statistics [online] Available at:

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- 23 ONS
- 24 <https://www.bury.gov.uk/housing/bury-housing-strategy?page=92231040-a226-4930-876c-b13b9129a45b#:~:text=The%20borough%27s%20population%20is%20projected,increase%20of%205.6%20percent%20residents.>
- 25 [https://theburydirectory.co.uk/sex#:~:text=Bury%20has%20a%20slightly%20higher,\)%20\(Census%2C%202021\).](https://theburydirectory.co.uk/sex#:~:text=Bury%20has%20a%20slightly%20higher,)%20(Census%2C%202021).)
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- 42 This figure is derived from the Bury Greenspace Strategy (February 2015) and differs from the figure for ‘ornamental, parkland and recreational’ land in the Bury Urban Historic Landscape Characterisation Interim Report (2008), as the methodologies for defining recreation land differ between

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the two studies – the Greenspace Strategy being based on open space typologies outlined in PPG17.

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45 This comprises: 4828 units identified in the SHLAA 2023 for the period 2023-2039 and 4820 units within the PfE Sites for the period 2023-2039. In addition, there are a further 1,400 units planned for Elton Reservoir, post 2039.

46 <https://www.bury.gov.uk/tourist-information/tourism-and-travel/getting-to-and-around-bury>

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- 61** <https://www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/what-we-do/environment/natural-environment/our-plan-for-nature-recovery/>

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