



# **Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council**

## **Local Development Scheme (2023-25)**

**September 2023**

## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 Part 2 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) establishes the current system of local development planning in England<sup>1</sup>. As part of this system, the local planning authority must prepare and maintain a **Local Development Scheme (LDS)**, which sets out a list of the planning documents it intends to prepare in the forthcoming years and the timetable for the preparation of those documents.
- 1.2 Planning documents within this LDS are classified as either development plan documents (referred to as the Local Plan), or their supporting guidance documents (referred to as Supplementary Planning Documents, or SPDs).
- 1.3 Local plans are prepared by a local planning authority individually or in cooperation with one or more other local planning authorities and contain policy positions and statements regarding one or more of the following:
  - Set out the amount of development and use of land which the local planning authority wish to encourage during any specific period;
  - Allocate sites for a particular type of development or use;
  - Include development management and site allocation policies, which are intended to guide the determination of applications for planning permission.
- 1.4 A local planning authority can also prepare other documents that complement the local plan including for example, Area Action Plans or Masterplans (to cover a specific geographical part of the local authority area, or specific allocations), or Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) to expand and provide further guidance on policy matters covered in the Local Plan.
- 1.5 Local Planning Regulations require local authorities to review local plans and their Statements of Community Involvement at least every five years from the date of their adoption. Local Authorities will need to carry out an assessment of whether a Local Plan or Statement of Community Involvement remains relevant and effectively addresses the needs of the local community, or whether policies need updating. Having carried out this assessment authorities must then decide:
  - that one or more policies do need updating, and update their Local Development Scheme to set out the timetable for updating their plan, and then update their plan; or
  - that their policies do not need updating, and publish their reasons for this decision.
- 1.6 For this reason, the LDS should be kept up to date. It was last reviewed in July 2021 and this September 2023 review confirms the expected adoption of the new Local Plan in early 2024. It also contains information on the proposed list of supporting documents (SPDs and Masterplan) that the Council currently intends to produce to support the new Local Plan.

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<sup>1</sup> The Planning Act 2008 then the Localism Act 2011 made a number of amendments to part 2 of the 2004 Act. The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 set out the current system of plan making.

## Local Plans and Other Documents

- 1.7 The Local Plan for Blackburn with Darwen Council currently consists of the Core Strategy (Local Plan Part 1) and the Site Allocations and Development Management Policies Plan (Local Plan Part 2).

<p><b>The Core Strategy (Local Plan Part 1)</b></p>	<p>The Core Strategy was adopted in January 2011. The Core Strategy sets the overall spatial strategy for the Borough. This is presented through written policies and a key diagram which illustrates the overall spatial strategy and priorities for development.</p>
<p><b>The Site Allocations and Development Management Policies (Local Plan Part 2)</b></p>	<p>The Site Allocations and Development Management Policies (Local Plan Part 2) was adopted in December 2015. The plan provides additional policy detail on a range of topics covered at a strategic level in the Core Strategy. It also includes land allocations and development management policies. The Adopted Policies Map has been prepared alongside the Site Allocations and Development Management Policies plan and illustrates the site allocations and land designations proposed.</p>

## Local Plan Review (Local Plan 2021-2037)

- 1.8 In 2018 the Council concluded that, following a review of its adopted plan in the context of new regulations and proposals set out in the Housing White Paper (2017), that a full plan review was necessary. Since then, a single new Local Plan for the Borough has been prepared and submitted for examination, and the Council is now entering the final stages of this process. The new Local Plan (2021-2037), once adopted, will replace both the Core Strategy (Local Plan Part 1) and Local Plan Part 2: Site Allocations and Development Management Policies. Section 3 below sets out the programme for this process, and its associated SPDs.

## Joint Minerals and Waste Local Plan

- 1.9 Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council is also jointly responsible with Lancashire County Council and Blackpool Council for the Joint Minerals and Waste Local Plan (JMWLP). The current JMWLP consists of the Core Strategy (adopted February 2009) and Site Allocations and Development Management Policies (adopted September 2013). It provides policies specifically for use in determining planning applications for waste or mineral developments. A revised Joint Lancashire Minerals and Waste Local Plan (JMWLP) is being prepared by the three Waste and Minerals Planning Authorities in Lancashire. A separate LDS will be published containing details on the timetable of these Minerals and Waste documents.

## **Neighbourhood Plans**

- 1.10 At the present time there are no known plans from Parish / Town Councils to prepare a Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) within the Borough. To date there has not been any formal applications for the establishment of a Neighbourhood Forum and there has not been any significant interest by a community group to prepare a NDP. However, if such plans do come forward, these will be reflected in future updates to the LDS. NDPs could have a knock on impact upon any work programme relating to a review of the Local Plan / SPD production. This is because the preparation of an NDP, whilst a community led document, does require input from the local planning authority in a variety of ways throughout the process.

## **Other Planning Documents**

- 1.11 The Local Plan is supported by other documents, which are available on the Council's website including a number of Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs); Masterplans and Development Briefs; Advisory Notes and procedural documents such as the Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) and the Authority Monitoring Report (AMR) (which is produced annually).
- 1.12 Further details on proposed new documents, their scope, and what they are intended to replace (where applicable) are set out below.

## **Supplementary Planning Documents**

### **Climate Impacts Framework SPD**

- 1.13 The Climate Impacts Framework SPD will provide further guidance on completion of the Council's new Climate Impacts Framework (CIF) assessment tool. The new Local Plan will required the CIF to be submitted as part of the validation process of relevant planning applications, in line with Policy CP5: Climate Change of the new Local Plan (2021-2037).
- 1.14 Further details on the anticipated scope of the Climate Impacts Framework SPD are set out in Appendix 3.

### **Developer Contributions & Affordable Housing SPD**

- 1.15 The Developer Contributions & Affordable Housing SPD is intended to provide further guidance on a variety of aspects relating to Section 106 contributions and infrastructure delivery set out in the new Local Plan (2021-2037). In particular it will clarify how policy requirements set out in Policies CP4: Housing Development and CP12: Infrastructure and Delivery will be implemented through planning decisions.
- 1.16 The SPD will provide further detail on the process for calculating contributions relevant to planning applications ranging from: education/school place provision, transport infrastructure, biodiversity net gain, and open space/ public realm and leisure. Further details on the anticipated scope are set out in

Appendix 3.

### **Natural Environment SPD**

- 1.17 The Natural Environment SPD will provide further guidance around the application of Policy CP6: The Natural Environment, and DM17: Trees and Woodland. Due to the commencement of biodiversity net gain as a legal requirement prior to adoption of this SPD, the Council will seek to prepare an interim guidance note on BNG (in the form of a Planning Advice Note) for November 2023.
- 1.18 An indicative scope of the content of the Natural Environment SPD is set out in Appendix 3.

### **Borough Wide Design Guide SPD (update of 2006 doc)**

- 1.19 The Design Guide SPD will provide guidance to help promote better design of development within the borough, including detailing the planning authority's principles for high quality urban design. It will serve to update (and replace) the existing Design Guide (adopted 2006). The SPD will provide additional details on design to support Policy CP8: Securing High Quality and Inclusive Design, and DM27: Design in New Developments, and act as a Design Code for the area in line with any expectations set out in the NPPF.
- 1.20 An indicative scope of the content of the Borough Wide Design Guide SPD (update) is set out in Appendix 3.

### **Residential Design Guide SPD (update of 2012 doc)**

- 1.21 The Residential Design Guide SPD will provide an update to the 2012 SPD, providing guidance and advice to enhance the quality of new homes and residential developments across the Borough and promote the highest standards in design. As with the Borough Wide Design Guide SPD, it will serve to support Policy CP8: Securing High Quality and Inclusive Design, and DM27: Design in New Developments, and act as a Design Code for the area in line with any expectations set out in the NPPF.
- 1.22 An indicative scope of the content of the Residential Design Guide SPD (update) is set out in Appendix 3

### **Sustainable Transport & Movement SPD**

- 1.23 The Sustainable Transport and Movement SPD will provide additional guidance on implementing and monitoring Policy CP9: Transport and Accessibility and Policy DM29: Transport and Accessibility. Reference to the Council's Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) will form part of the SPD, to ensure that the outputs of the study are integrated into local planning and transport policies and delivery plans.
- 1.24 An indicative scope of the content of the Sustainable Transport & Movement SPD is set out in Appendix 3.

## **Renewable and Low Carbon Energy SPD**

- 1.25 Policy CP5: Climate Change and Policy DM12: Clean and Green Energy guide how new development should seek to reduce energy use, improve energy efficiency and increase the generation of energy from low carbon and renewable energy sources, which is essential if we are to achieve carbon neutrality targets. The Renewable and Low Carbon Energy SPD will provide further guidance on renewable and low carbon energy related projects – whether delivered as part of new development or as stand-alone energy generation projects.
- 1.26 An indicative scope of the content of the Renewable and Low Carbon Energy SPD is set out in Appendix 3

## **Planning for Health SPD (update of 2016 SPD)**

- 1.27 The Planning for Health SPD will update the existing 2016 SPD, to provide supporting information and guidance on how places can impact on health and the considerations that should be made in designing new developments. The SPD will help ensure that opportunities to improve the health and wellbeing of the borough's residents are maximised. It will provide additional guidance to support Policy DM1: Health as well as the wider objectives of the Local Plan relating to improving health and wellbeing.
- 1.28 An indicative scope of the content of the Planning for Health SPD (update) is set out in Appendix 3.

## **Masterplan: North East Blackburn Strategic Housing Site**

- 1.29 A Masterplan for the North East Blackburn Strategic Housing Site is proposed through Policy CP4: Housing Development and Growth Site Allocation Policy H195. The Masterplan will describe how the site will be developed, by providing greater detailed guidance on matters of design, character, built form, infrastructure and integration with the surrounding area.

## **Design Code for Queen's Park (H068) self-build plots**

- 1.30 Policy CP4: Housing Development states that developments proposing multiple self-custom build units will require a design code to ensure that there is a consistent and cohesive approach to design. Site H068: Queen's Park proposes up to 8 self-build units and is a Council owned site. To meet the requirement of Policy CP4, the Council will therefore prepare a design code for the self-build units on the site, however this will be subject to an enabling budget being identified.

## Monitoring and Review (Authority Monitoring Reports)

- 1.31 The Council annually publishes an authority monitoring report (AMR) that provides information on the performance of policies within the Local Plan. It also provides an update on how the Local Plan timetable is progressing against the published LDS. The AMR therefore provides important information to assess where future policy changes which may be required, and also helps to highlight whether a review of the local plan preparation timetable is necessary.

## Statement of Community Involvement

- 1.32 The Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) is a requirement of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended). The SCI sets out how and when the Council will involve the local community in preparing local plans and processing planning applications and controlling development. The Council is legally obliged to comply with its Statement of Community Involvement and must keep it up to date through a review at least every five years.
- 1.33 The Council's current SCI was prepared in July 2020 to inform the review of the Local Plan, and will therefore be reviewed no later than July 2025.

## Statements of Common Ground

- 1.34 In accordance with Section 33A of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) local authorities must engage constructively, actively and on an ongoing basis in any process by means of which development plan documents are prepared.
- 1.35 The NPPF sets out the requirement in paragraph 24 for local authorities to cooperate with each other, and with other prescribed bodies, on strategic matters that cross administrative boundaries. The accompanying Planning Practice Guidance outlines what a Statement of Common Ground should contain and explains that it should be "*maintained on an on-going basis throughout the plan making process*".
- 1.36 A number of Statements of Common Ground have been prepared alongside the new Local Plan (2021-2037) and will be subject to ongoing review.

## 2. Timetable for document preparation

### Development Plan Documents

2.1 The stages required in preparing a local plan are set out in The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012.

In summary the key stages for Development Plan Documents are:

- Reg 18 – preparation of a local plan
- Reg 19 – publication of a local plan
- Reg 20 – representations relating to a local plan
- Reg 22 – submission of documents and information to the Secretary of State
- Reg 23- consideration of representations by appointed person (Planning Inspector(s))
- Reg 24 – independent examination by the Planning Inspector(s)
- Reg 25 – publication of the recommendations of the appointed person
- Reg 26 – adoption of a local plan

<b>Document Details: Blackburn with Darwen Local Plan</b>	
Content	The Local Plan will contain the overall spatial strategy for the Borough and set out the quantum of development for housing and economic development requirements. It will provide details on allocations across a range of land uses with a key focus on housing and employment land and any necessary supporting infrastructure. It will also provide topic-based development management policies.
Status	The Local Plan will be a Development Plan Document and provide a single information point for the Council’s key land use policies.
Geographical Coverage	Borough wide
Chain of conformity	The Local Plan will conform to national policies and guidance.
<b>Local Plan Production Arrangements</b>	
Lead Team	Growth Team
Management Arrangements	The draft Local Plan will be subject to review and approvals by the Executive Board. There will be a requirement for formal approval of certain stages by Council.
Resources	Resource implications will be met from within existing Growth Team budgets.
Consultation Arrangements	Consultation will be undertaken in line with the SCI and the relevant planning regulations.



<b>Timetable</b>		
Preparation (Regulation 18)	Scoping the issues and options for the Local Plan and commission initial key evidence base	January – December 2018
	Consult on Issues and Options	February – April 2019
	Consider responses to Issues and Options	May - July 2019
	Commissioning and delivery of additional evidence base to inform emerging draft plan, site selection process & policy development	January 2019 – December 2020
	Consult on draft Local Plan under Regulation 18	January - February 2021
	Production of supporting technical papers for Publication Draft Local Plan	March - December 2021
Publication (Regulations 19/20)	Consult on Publication Draft Local Plan	January – February 2022
	Consider responses to Publication Draft and finalise Submission Draft	March - July 2022
Submission (Regulation 22)	Submit Local Plan for examination	August 2022
Examination (Regulations 23/24/25)	Process run by a Planning Inspector from the Planning Inspectorate (includes consultation on any Main Modifications to the Plan prior to receipt of the final report from the Planning Inspector).	August 2022 onwards (Planning Inspectorate estimate a period of 12 months for the examination stage.) <sup>2</sup>
Adoption (Regulation 26)	Formal Adoption by the Council	January 2024

2.2 Following submission of the Local Plan to the Planning Inspectorate in August 2022, the Local Plan is currently being publically examined. Hearings were conducted January-March 2023, and the Council will undertake consultation on the proposed main modifications to the Plan in summer 2023. Timetabling then remains subject to the schedule of the Planning Inspectors, but the Council anticipate receipt of their report late 2023 to enable formal adoption of the Plan in early 2024.

<sup>2</sup> See **Procedural Practice in the Examination of Local Plans**, Planning Inspectorate February 2021 (7<sup>th</sup> Edition)

## Supplementary Planning documents

2.3 The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 also set out the stages involved in preparing Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs). The preparation of an SPD involves fewer stages than a development plan document and the statutory process requires the Council to prepare a draft SPD, undertake public consultation on the SPD, and consider all submitted representations before progressing to finalise and adopt the SPD. The key stages therefore are:

- Preparation of the SPD
- Reg 12 – public participation (consultation) on SPD
- Reg 13 – consider representations relating to SPD
- Reg 14 – adoption of SPD

2.4 The SPDs the Council have committed to produce are set out below.

<b>SPD: Climate Impact Framework SPD</b>		
Content	The SPD will provide guidance on the completion of the Council's new Climate Impact Framework (CIF) assessment tool – including how to complete the online assessment tool, how it will be assessed and used in determining planning applications, and general guidance for designing to mitigate carbon emissions and adapting design to respond to a rapidly changing climate.	
Status	The SPD will provide additional guidance to support the policies of the Local Plan (particularly CP5: Climate Change) and guide the use of the assessment tool.	
Geographical Coverage	Borough wide	
Chain of conformity	Will conform with the Local Plan, NPPF and national guidance, including that relating to design tools.	
<b>SPD Production Arrangements</b>		
Lead Team	Growth Team	
Management Arrangements	The Executive Member for Growth and Development will be required to review the draft SPD and approve it for public consultation. The Council's Executive Board will give formal approval to adopt the SPD following public consultation.	
Resources	Expected to be met from within existing Growth Team budgets.	
Consultation Arrangements	Will be undertaken in line with the SCI and the relevant planning regulations.	
<b>Timetable</b>		
Preparation	Prepare draft SPD	July-September 2023

Public consultation (Reg 12 and 13)	Prepare Consultation Statement (Reg 12(a)) and publish alongside draft SPD to invite comments	October- November 2023
	Public consultation (Reg 13)	
Review and Finalisation	Consideration of any representations received	December 2023 – January 2024
	Finalise SPD	
Adoption (Reg 14)	Adopt SPD	February 2024

### SPD: Developer Contributions and Affordable Housing SPD

Content	The SPD will provide guidance on a variety of aspects relating to developer contributions, affordable housing and infrastructure delivery, including the process for calculating contributions for education, transport, biodiversity net gain and open space/public realm/leisure.
Status	The SPD will provide additional guidance to support the policies of the Local Plan (particularly CP4: Housing Development and CP12: Infrastructure and Delivery).
Geographical Coverage	Borough wide
Chain of conformity	Will conform with the Local Plan, NPPF and national guidance

### SPD Production Arrangements

Lead Team	Growth Team
Management Arrangements	The Executive Member for Growth and Development will be required to review the draft SPD and approve it for public consultation. The Council's Executive Board will give formal approval to adopt the SPD following public consultation.
Resources	Currently expected to be met from within existing Growth Team budgets.
Consultation Arrangements	Will be undertaken in line with the SCI and the relevant planning regulations.

### Timetable

Preparation	Prepare draft SPD	July - November 2023
Public consultation (Reg 12 and 13)	Prepare Consultation Statement (Reg 12(a)) and publish alongside draft SPD to invite comments	December 2023 – January 2024
	Public consultation (Reg 13)	
Review and Finalisation	Consideration of any representations received	February – March 2024
	Finalise SPD	
Adoption (Reg 14)	Adopt SPD	April 2024

**SPD: Natural Environment SPD**

Content	<p>The SPD will provide guidance on the natural environment policies of the Local Plan, including biodiversity net gain (BNG), the local nature recovery strategy, green and blue infrastructure, ecology networks and trees, woodlands and hedgerows.</p> <p>In the interim preparation period, a Planning Advisory Note (PAN) will be prepared to ensure that appropriate advice is available for developers regarding BNG in time for its national, mandatory implementation in November 2023.</p>
Status	The SPD will provide additional guidance to support the policies of the Local Plan (particularly CP6: Natural Environment, CP5: Climate Change, DM17: Trees and Woodland and DM16: Green Infrastructure).
Geographical Coverage	Borough wide
Chain of conformity	Will conform with the Local Plan, NPPF and national guidance

**SPD Production Arrangements**

Lead Team	Growth Team
Management Arrangements	The Executive Member for Growth and Development will be required to review the draft SPD and approve it for public consultation. The Council’s Executive Board will give formal approval to adopt the SPD following public consultation.
Resources	Currently expected to be met from within existing Growth Team budgets.
Consultation Arrangements	Will be undertaken in line with the SCI and the relevant planning regulations.

**Timetable**

Preparation	Prepare draft SPD	July 2023 – May 2024
Public consultation (Reg 12 and 13)	Prepare Consultation Statement (Reg 12(a)) and publish alongside draft SPD to invite comments	June – July 2024
	Public consultation (Reg 13)	
Review and Finalisation	Consideration of any representations received	August – November 2024
	Finalise SPD	
Adoption (Reg 14)	Adopt SPD	November 2024

**SPD: Borough Wide Design Guide SPD**

Content	The SPD will provide guidance to promote high quality design within the borough.
Status	The SPD will update the 2006 Design Guide to provide guidance to support the policies of the Local Plan (particularly CP8: Securing High Quality and Inclusive Design, and DM27: Design in New Developments).
Geographical Coverage	Borough wide
Chain of conformity	Will conform with the Local Plan, NPPF and national guidance, including any requirements around Design Codes

### SPD Production Arrangements

Lead Team	Growth Team
Management Arrangements	The Executive Member for Growth and Development will be required to review the draft SPD and approve it for public consultation. The Council's Executive Board will give formal approval to adopt the SPD following public consultation.
Resources	Additional Growth Team budget expected to be required to provide the necessary expertise.
Consultation Arrangements	Will be undertaken in line with the SCI and the relevant planning regulations.

### Timetable

Preparation	Prepare draft SPD	December 2023 – May 2024
Public consultation (Reg 12 and 13)	Prepare Consultation Statement (Reg 12(a)) and publish alongside draft SPD to invite comments	June – July 2024
	Public consultation (Reg 13)	
Review and Finalisation	Consideration of any representations received	August – November 2024
	Finalise SPD	
Adoption (Reg 14)	Adopt SPD	November 2024

### SPD: Residential Design Guide SPD

Content	The SPD will provide guidance to promote high quality residential design with in the borough.
Status	The SPD will update the 2012 Residential Design Guide to provide guidance to support the policies of the Local Plan (particularly CP8: Securing High Quality and Inclusive Design, and DM27: Design in New Developments).
Geographical Coverage	Borough wide

Chain of conformity	Will conform with the Local Plan, NPPF and national guidance, including any requirements around Design Codes	
<b>SPD Production Arrangements</b>		
Lead Team	Growth Team	
Management Arrangements	The Executive Member for Growth and Development will be required to review the draft SPD and approve it for public consultation. The Council's Executive Board will give formal approval to adopt the SPD following public consultation.	
Resources	Additional Growth Team budget expected to be required to provide the necessary expertise.	
Consultation Arrangements	Will be undertaken in line with the SCI and the relevant planning regulations.	
<b>Timetable</b>		
Preparation	Prepare draft SPD	December 2023 – May 2024
Public consultation (Reg 12 and 13)	Prepare Consultation Statement (Reg 12(a)) and publish alongside draft SPD to invite comments	June – July 2024
	Public consultation (Reg 13)	
Review and Finalisation	Consideration of any representations received	August – November 2024
	Finalise SPD	
Adoption (Reg 14)	Adopt SPD	November 2024

<b>SPD: Sustainable Transport and Movement SPD</b>		
Content	The SPD will provide guidance on supporting sustainable transport and movement within the borough. Reference to the Council's LCWIP will form part of the SPD.	
Status	The SPD will provide guidance to support the policies of the Local Plan (particularly CP9: Transport and Accessibility and DM29: Transport and Accessibility).	
Geographical Coverage	Borough wide	
Chain of conformity	Will conform with the Local Plan, NPPF and national guidance	
<b>SPD Production Arrangements</b>		
Lead Team	Growth Team	
Management Arrangements	The Executive Member for Growth and Development will be required to review the draft SPD and approve it for public consultation. The Council's Executive Board will give formal approval to adopt the SPD following public consultation.	

Resources	Currently expected to be met from within existing Growth Team budgets.	
Consultation Arrangements	Will be undertaken in line with the SCI and the relevant planning regulations.	
<b>Timetable</b>		
Preparation	Prepare draft SPD	August 2024 – January 2025
Public consultation (Reg 12 and 13)	Prepare Consultation Statement (Reg 12(a)) and publish alongside draft SPD to invite comments	February – March 2025
	Public consultation (Reg 13)	
Review and Finalisation	Consideration of any representations received	April – May 2025
	Finalise SPD	
Adoption (Reg 14)	Adopt SPD	June 2025

### **SPD: Renewable and Low Carbon Energy SPD**

Content	The SPD will provide guidance on renewable and low carbon energy within the borough, and outline ways to improve energy efficiency in new developments.	
Status	The SPD will provide guidance to support the policies of the Local Plan (particularly CP5: Climate Change and DM12: Clean and Green Energy).	
Geographical Coverage	Borough wide	
Chain of conformity	Will conform with the Local Plan, NPPF and national guidance	
<b>SPD Production Arrangements</b>		
Lead Team	Growth Team	
Management Arrangements	The Executive Member for Growth and Development will be required to review the draft SPD and approve it for public consultation. The Council's Executive Board will give formal approval to adopt the SPD following public consultation.	
Resources	Currently expected to be met from within existing Growth Team budgets.	
Consultation Arrangements	Will be undertaken in line with the SCI and the relevant planning regulations.	
<b>Timetable</b>		
Preparation	Prepare draft SPD	August 2024 – January 2025
Public consultation	Prepare Consultation Statement (Reg 12(a)) and publish alongside draft SPD to	February – March 2025

(Reg 12 and 13)	invite comments	
	Public consultation (Reg 13)	
Review and Finalisation	Consideration of any representations received	April – May 2025
	Finalise SPD	
Adoption (Reg 14)	Adopt SPD	June 2025

<b>SPD: Planning for Health SPD</b>		
Content	The SPD will provide guidance on how places and new developments should be designed for improved health and wellbeing (and update the existing 2016 adopted SPD).	
Status	The SPD will provide guidance to support the policies of the Local Plan (particularly DM1: Health).	
Geographical Coverage	Borough wide	
Chain of conformity	Will conform with the Local Plan, NPPF and national guidance	
<b>SPD Production Arrangements</b>		
Lead Team	Growth Team	
Management Arrangements	The Executive Member for Growth and Development will be required to review the draft SPD and approve it for public consultation. The Council's Executive Board will give formal approval to adopt the SPD following public consultation.	
Resources	Currently expected to be met from within existing Growth Team budgets.	
Consultation Arrangements	Will be undertaken in line with the SCI and the relevant planning regulations.	
<b>Timetable</b>		
Preparation	Prepare draft SPD	August 2024 – January 2025
Public consultation (Reg 12 and 13)	Prepare Consultation Statement (Reg 12(a)) and publish alongside draft SPD to invite comments	February – March 2025
	Public consultation (Reg 13)	
Review and Finalisation	Consideration of any representations received	April – May 2025
	Finalise SPD	
Adoption (Reg 14)	Adopt SPD	June 2025



## Other Documents

The proposed North East Blackburn Strategic Housing Site Masterplan is not proposed to have the same status as the SPDs listed above, and is therefore not obliged to follow the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012. However, it will be subject to public consultation, and is of strategic significance, therefore details are provided below in relation to its scope, production arrangements, and timetable. The Council will be tendering for masterplanning consultants to undertake this work and the timetable set out below will therefore be subject to revisions in line with that process.

<b>Masterplan for the North East Blackburn Strategic Housing Site</b>		
Content	The Masterplan will provide the detailed guidance for the development of the strategic housing allocation (Site H195).	
Status	Will provide guidance to support the policies of the Local Plan (particularly CP4: Housing Development and Growth Site Allocation Policy H195: North East Blackburn).	
Geographical Cov.	North-East Blackburn Strategic Housing Site	
Chain of conformity	Will conform with the Local Plan, NPPF and national guidance	
<b>Production Arrangements</b>		
Lead Team	Council's Strategic Planning team and landowners (including Council as landowner)	
Management Arrangements	The Executive Member for Growth and Development will be required to review the draft and approve it for public consultation. The Council's Executive Board will give formal approval to adopt the masterplan following public consultation.	
Resources	To be agreed between the Council and landowners via a new Collaboration Agreement. Masterplan Consultants will be procured to co-ordinate and prepare the masterplan and any relevant supporting studies.	
Consultation Arrangements	Will be undertaken in accordance with relevant aspects of the SCI, planning regulations, and in line with any further advice received from masterplanning consultants following appointment.	
<b>Indicative Timetable – to be confirmed following appointment of masterplan consultants</b>		
Preparation	Prepare Masterplan	October 2023 – August 2024
Public consultation	Public consultation	September – October 2024
Review and Finalisation	Consideration of any representations received	November 2024 – February 2025
	Finalise Masterplan	
Adoption	Adopt Masterplan	March 2025

### 3. Resources and Risk Management

- 3.3 A separate risk assessment (attached at Appendix A) has been undertaken of the risks which may affect the Council's ability to meet the planned timetable set out in this LDS. The main internal risks relate to staff turnover, recruitment, absence, competing work priorities, and potential future budget priorities.
- 3.4 The increased use of outside consultants or temporary staff may be required to keep Local Plan document preparation on schedule. Alternatively, if the budget does not allow this, the timetable may have to be revised.
- 3.5 Further changes to the national planning system are another potential risk that could introduce some uncertainty and delay. The Council will monitor closely emerging proposals set out in planning reforms, the forthcoming Levelling up and Regeneration Bill, and other relevant secondary legislation (for example currently emerging around Biodiversity Net Gain).
- 3.6 Mechanisms for cooperation with other authorities and organisations on strategic issues are already in place but mean that the timing of other authorities' Local Plan preparation may have an impact on the delivery of Blackburn with Darwen's Local Plan and SPDs.

## APPENDIX 1: Risk Assessment

Nature of the Risk	Consequences of the Risk Occurring	Likelihood before mitigation (1:5) (A)	Severity / impact before mitigation (1:5) (B)	Inherent risk score (A * B)	Mitigation	Likelihood after mitigation (1:5) (C)	Severity / impact after mitigation (1:5) (D)	Post mitigation risk score (C * D)
Staff Resources to produce new Local Plan - loss of key staff due to sickness or moving to another job	Delay in timetable for delivery of the Local Plan	3	4	12	Regular review of staff work programmes. Bring in external support where appropriate.	2	3	6
Changes to legislative framework or regulations	Additional requirements placed on the form and content of the Local Plan	4	4	16	Maintain close monitoring of any future Government announcements and take on board any necessary changes.	2	3	6
Reduction in Financial Resources required for Local Plan production (either in house council budgets or other external funding)	Delays in the production of the Local Plan	5	4	20	Budget planning to ensure cost effective delivery of the Local Plan.	5	2	10
Joint working with neighbouring authorities and other organisations	Potential delays if key evidence base documents requiring joint working are not signed off by all relevant parties	3	5	15	Ensure robust approach to agreeing the briefs for any jointly commissioned evidence base/ studies.	2	5	10
Potential third party challenges to the emerging new Local	Delays in the next stage of Local Plan development where	2	5	10	Ensure robust evidence base underpins policies	1	5	5

<b>Nature of the Risk</b>	<b>Consequences of the Risk Occurring</b>	<b>Likelihood before mitigation (1:5) (A)</b>	<b>Severity / impact before mitigation (1:5) (B)</b>	<b>Inherent risk score (A * B)</b>	<b>Mitigation</b>	<b>Likelihood after mitigation (1:5) (C)</b>	<b>Severity / impact after mitigation (1:5) (D)</b>	<b>Post mitigation risk score (C * D)</b>
Plan (including any legal challenge when the plan is found sound)	consultation comments require further consideration of next steps. Delays resulting from a legal challenge whilst legal arguments are considered by the Planning Courts.				and spatial approach of the Local Plan. Engage in any necessary robust defence if a legal challenge is made.			
Planning Inspectorate capacity to complete examination of the Local Plan and publish the Inspectors' Report	Delay to the examination of the Local Plan	2	4	8	Close liaison with the Planning Inspectorate around remaining requirements to complete examination.	1	4	4

## APPENDIX 2: Timetable

### Blackburn with Darwen Local Development Scheme timetable (2023-25)

Key:  Preparation time  Anticipated consultation period  
 Hearings  Anticipated adoption

Year	2023					2024					2025																
Month	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	
<b>Development Plan Document (DPDs)</b>																											
Local Plan (2021-2037)		MM																									
<b>Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs)</b>																											
Climate Impacts Framework SPD				D																							
Developer Contributions & Affordable Housing SPD						D																					
Natural Environment SPD				*																							
Borough Wide Design Guide SPD (Update of 2006 doc)																											
Residential Design Guide SPD (Update of 2012 doc)																											
Sustainable Transport & Movement SPD																											
Renewable & Low Carbon Energy SPD																											
Planning for Health SPD (Update of 2016 doc)																											
<b>Other Documents</b>																											
North East Blackburn Strategic Housing Site (H195) Masterplan																											
Queen's Park (H068) Design Code																											
Local Plan Authority Monitoring Reports (AMRs)	#																										#
Statement of Community Involvement (SCI)																											

MM Public consultation on 'main modifications' arising through the Local Plan EIP process

D Public consultation on a 'draft' document

\* Interim guidance on Biodiversity Net Gain in form of a Planning Advice Note (PAN) prior to SPD development

# AMR's do not require formal 'adoption' and will just be published on the Council's website once complete

## APPENDIX 3: Scope of SPDs

The indicative scope of SPDs at the time of writing are set out below:

### Climate Impacts Framework SPD

- Introduction – purpose of SPD and status, what is the CIF
- Policy context – national and local (Local Plan links)
- Declaration of Climate Emergency
- Basic Principles – mitigation and adaptation/resilience
- Evidence base – relevant local reports
- Climate Impact Framework – detailed guidance
  - Purpose of the CIF tool and applications
  - Advice for applicants how to complete
  - Advice on how the Council will assess completed CIFs
  - Detailed guidance on the various criteria
    - Sustainable Transport criteria
    - Natural Environment criteria
    - Flooding/SUDS criteria
    - Energy criteria
- Examples of well-designed developments

### Developer Contributions & Affordable Housing SPD

- Introduction – purpose of SPD and status, key definitions
- Policy context – national and local (Local Plan links)
- Infrastructure Requirements – identification, and the IDP
- Basic Principles – types of contributions explained
- Evidence base - How will contributions be determined? Viability study etc.
- Contribution types – detailed guidance
  - Affordable housing – negotiations, off-site and commuted sums, management, design and quality considerations, procedures for working with developers etc. Include worked examples in appendix?
  - Education provision
  - Transport and travel
  - Highways infrastructure
  - Open Space, Public Realm and Leisure
  - Off-site BNG costs
  - Other requirements (link to CP12 and CP6)
- Spending, monitoring and review

## Natural Environment SPD

*(A BNG PAN to be provided in interim preparation period, available for November 2023)*

- Introduction – purpose of SPD and status, definitions
- Policy context – national and local (Local Plan links)
- Evidence base – CC&NC, CIF, DWS study, LNRS
- Guidance - applying the SPD
  - BNG (DM15)
  - LNRS's / ecology networks
  - Green/Blue Infrastructure (DM16, DM28)
  - EOAs (DM14)
  - Trees/Woodland (DM17)
  - Peat land
  - Landscapes (DM22)

## Borough Wide Design Guide SPD

- An update to the 2006 Design Guide to include:
  - Design Code and new Local Plan Design Policy alignment

## Residential Design Guide SPD

- An update to the 2012 Design Guide to include:
  - Design Code and new Local Plan Design Policy alignment
  - Integration of the proposed 'Open Space in New Residential Developments' SPD
    - Evidence base – OSA/PPS – identified requirements, deficits
    - On-site requirements – applying standards, what types can be required, maintenance, design principles etc.
    - Off-site requirements – when will contributions be sought? Link to Dev. Con. SPD
    - Worked examples?
  - Any necessary guidance around residential amenity guidance proposed under DM2 (MA-022).

## **Sustainable Transport & Movement SPD**

- Introduction – purpose of SPD and status,
- Policy context – national and local (Local Plan links)
- Evidence Base overview
- Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP)
- Travel Plan
- Car Parking
- Electric Vehicle Charging Points
- Any other relevant clarifications on transport policy in the plan (e.g. safe access for emergency vehicles)

## **Renewable and Low Carbon Energy SPD**

- Introduction – purpose of SPD and status, what is renewable/low carbon energy
- Policy context – national and local (Local Plan links, incl. links to CIF SPD, CEAP, People’s Jury etc.)
- Basic Principles – sustainable construction practice / building regs
- Evidence base – relevant local studies (incl. CC&NCS etc.) and action
- Implementing renewable and low carbon energy
  - Current buildings – PD rights and technical/pre-app advice
    - Commercial & domestic buildings
    - Building Regulations & Futures Homes/Buildings Standards
    - Reducing energy use
    - Improving energy efficiency
    - Low carbon and renewable energies
    - Accreditation (BREEAM etc.)
  - Planning guidance, technology specific
    - Heat networks
    - Wind turbines
    - Solar PV
    - Biomass
    - Solar hydro
    - Micro CHP
    - Ground/air source heat pumps

## **Planning for Health SPD**

- Update of existing SPD to take account of any new Local Plan health policy implications (e.g. Hot food take-aways)