

## CLIMATE EMERGENCY REVIEW OF THE LOCAL PLAN FOR LANCASTER DISTRICT

### SUGGESTED POLICIES TO BE CONSIDERED FOR UPDATING

The “Local Plan for Lancaster District”, adopted by Lancaster City Council on 29<sup>th</sup> July 2020, is comprised of two separate Development Plan Documents: 1. The Strategic Policies and Land Allocations Development Plan Document and 2: The Development Management Development Plan Document. The first of these documents sets out the objectives of the Local Plan, establishes how much development is required and then describes how and where that development will be achieved by allocating land for development, or protecting land from development. The second document provides the policies that are used to help determine development proposals, setting for example the Council’s approach on housing standards and flood risk. Following the Council’s declaration of a Climate Change Emergency in January 2019 the Council is exploring the opportunities presented in both documents to re-visit policies to see if the performance of policies in addressing climate change **mitigation** and climate change **adaptation** can be improved.

**Climate change mitigation** is action taken to help **limit** the magnitude or rate of climate change and its related effects. This most often involves actions to reduce the emissions of carbon dioxide from the burning of fossil fuels, particularly coal, natural gas and fuel oil, in home and industrial heating and electricity generation, and the burning of petrol, diesel, liquid petroleum gas and aviation kerosene in personal and industry-related transport.

**Climate change adaptation** is action taken to **adjust** to the negative consequences of climate change. For statutory planning this might involve developing policies that apply increased caution about where development should be located, for example, taking account of modelling that shows where flood plain areas might increase in area as a consequence of higher rainfall and storm events anticipated as a consequence of climate change, or, having policies which increase the ability of buildings and infrastructure to withstand more frequent and more extreme storms.

To inform thought and discussion at the scoping consultation stage the following tables describe where there are potential opportunities to re-consider and review planning policies as part of the Climate Emergency Local Plan Review.

#### 1. Policies of the Strategic Policies and Land Allocations Development Plan Document

POLICY NUMBER	POLICY TITLE	POLICY DESCRIPTION	REASON TO CONSIDER THE POTENTIAL FOR ENHANCING CLIMATE CHANGE PERFORMANCE IN LOCAL PLAN REVIEW
SP4	<b>Priorities for Sustainable Economic Growth</b>	The policy sets out a series of priorities for economic growth in the district that are primarily based on evidence derived from the ‘Prospects for Economic Growth’ Paper prepared in 2017 and the wider evidence base prepared for the Lancaster District Economy.	The Climate Change Review provides the opportunity to explore if there are now more options for economic activity in the district, perhaps in the clean energy sector or in the delivery of zero carbon homes that can be referenced in the policy. This policy could make clearer the Council’s support for such proposals for the growth of these economic sectors in the district.
SP8	<b>Protecting the Natural Environment</b>	This policy states that the district Lancaster district contains important landscapes, species and habitats that are valued features of the natural environment. The policy sets the strategic approach to protecting the natural environment and provides some specific references to the impacts of Climate Change on the natural environment, particularly in relation to flood risk matters.	The Climate Change Review provides the opportunity to explore if this policy could be amended to reflect any revised approaches made elsewhere in the plan as part of the review, perhaps, for example, in relation to water management and changes to flood risk policy.
SP9	<b>Maintaining Strong and Vibrant Communities</b>	The policy states that new development should deliver safe, cohesive, and healthy communities. The policy explores the role of spatial planning in achieving greater social inclusion, health and well-being and the promotion of neighbourhood planning.	The Climate Change Review provides the opportunity to explore how the relationship between Climate Change and the health and well-being of the community. For example, should reference be made to the impacts of extreme weather events. There may also be the opportunity to discuss the role of education about the impacts of climate change, and, the opportunity to describe the need for consistent approaches in order to better address climate change adaptation and mitigation.

POLICY NUMBER	POLICY TITLE	POLICY DESCRIPTION	REASON TO CONSIDER THE POTENTIAL FOR ENHANCING CLIMATE CHANGE PERFORMANCE IN LOCAL PLAN REVIEW
SP10	Improving Transport Connectivity	This policy acknowledges the Highways and Transport Masterplan for Lancaster district prepared by Lancashire County Council in its role of highways and transport authority. The policy acknowledges the involvement of the Council in shaping the masterplan. The policy supports the infrastructure improvements required to address both current issues and future growth aspirations. It also encourages modal shift towards more sustainable modes of transport.	The Climate Change Review provides the opportunity to explore if there are further opportunities to expand the scope of the policy, perhaps to include specific reference to electrical vehicle charging infrastructure which is referred to in other local plan policies.
SG4	Lancaster City Centre	This policy states that Lancaster City Centre has significant opportunities to improve its role as an economic, cultural and visitor centre. However, to achieve this there are several challenges that must be addressed in relation to infrastructure and unlocking wider economic potential. The policy describes the role of Town Centre Strategy and the role of car parking in Lancaster city centre.  The policy sets a strategic approach to regeneration across Lancaster City Centre and states that Development proposals in Lancaster City Centre will be expected to support and contribute to the effective delivery of the Movement Strategy.	The Policy has aims to make Lancaster city centre successful and vibrant. Lancashire County Council is progressing the City Centre Movement Strategy. Proposals emerging from the City Centre Movement Strategy should be consistent with this policy. The Climate Change Review provides the opportunity to explore if this policy can be updated and strengthened to better reflect positive outcomes for climate change mitigation arising from the proposals of the emerging City Centre Movement Strategy.
SG12	Port of Heysham and Future Expansion Opportunities	This policy applies to the Port of Heysham and its operations with port-operating land. The policy supports the Port as a key economic driver within the district. It supports the expansion of port related facilities in the local area and the diversification of uses at the port, for example the use of the port as a base for serving the offshore wind farms in Morecambe Bay.	The Climate Change Review provides the opportunity to explore the scope for future planning proposals at the port to lead to operations with improved sustainability characteristics, it is noted that activities at the port are very dependent on good being oved by HGVs. A review of the policy might also allow discussion about the role of the port in renewable energy generation, both in terms of further on-site generation and facilitation of offshore wind turbines.
SG13	Heysham Gateway, South Heysham	This policy describes the Council's intention to deliver a much-improved employment area on land that includes the site of former petrochemical and fertiliser manufacturing facilities. Development here can take advantage of a location with access to the Bay Gateway, the Port of Heysham, and potential opportunities in the energy sector. The Council intends to prepare a further document to describe a vision for this area in greater detail. The policy states that the Council will support proposals for employment uses where these accord with a set of criteria and aspirations.	The Climate Change Review provides the opportunity to explore how the policy might provide greater support for energy generation.
EN9	Air Quality Management Areas	This policy applies to the designated Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) in Lancaster City Centre, Carnforth Town Centre and Galgate. The policy states that development located within or adjacent to AQMAs will be expected to not contribute to increasing levels of air pollutants within the locality and adequately protect their users from the effects of poor air quality.	Vehicles powered by transport burning conventional fossil fuels add carbon dioxide to the atmosphere, so contributing to climate change. The same vehicles also add other gases to atmosphere, including carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides, unburned hydrocarbons and sulphur dioxides and particulates. These other gases and particulates reduce air quality. Whilst this local plan policy itself is clear in its intentions there is potentially value in exploring the relationship between this policy and policies elsewhere in the plan on promoting the greater use of more sustainable modes of travel as reductions in carbon dioxide will be accompanied be reductions in the gases which impact on air quality.
SC4	Green Space Networks	This policy identified greenspace networks including Morecambe and Heysham Promenades, Lancaster city Centre, the River Lune, and Lancaster Canal. The policy aims to protect these valued ecological and recreational networks from development which would cause damage their integrity. The policy also states that the Council will investigate opportunities to improve and enhance network connectivity.	The Climate Change Review provides the opportunity to further explore how green infrastructure, including green space networks, can contribute to climate change mitigation and adaption. There may be scope to expand the aspirations expressed in this policy.
SC5	Recreation Opportunity Areas	This policy states that through future development proposals the Council will investigate the potential to provide significant new or improved open space in areas where there is a deficiency in open spaces. There is potential in several areas including Willow lane/Coronation Field Lancaster, and Westgate, Morecambe where the Council can work with stakeholders and local communities to investigate opportunities for improvement, expansion, or creation of better recreational facilities.	The Climate Change Review provides the opportunity to further explore an enhanced role in the expansion of recreational areas in climate change mitigation and adaption. There may be scope to expand the aspirations of this policy and link its aspirations to the wider role to be played by green infrastructure.

POLICY NUMBER	POLICY TITLE	POLICY DESCRIPTION	REASON TO CONSIDER THE POTENTIAL FOR ENHANCING CLIMATE CHANGE PERFORMANCE IN LOCAL PLAN REVIEW
T1	Lancaster Park and Ride	This policy identifies two sites that will be protected for the purposes of Park and Ride; land at M6 junction 34 and land at M6 junction 33 that will be safeguarded for future investigation for the role as a Lancaster South Park and Ride - subject to demand for such a facility. The policy is consistent with the County Council's Highways and Transport Masterplan	The Climate Change Review provides the opportunity to further explore options for modal shift - that is moving from carbon-fuelled and privately owned vehicles, to more sustainable ways of travelling, through the promotion of public transport. There are positives for Climate Change and air quality from reducing car usage. The policy could be updated to take account of any progress in improving or delivering the Park and Ride facilities. It is noted that there are ongoing discussions about the how the proposed Eden North project may require Park and Ride facilities.
T2	Cycling and Walking Network	Building on the previous success of Lancaster as a Cycling Demonstration Town this policy identifies and further promotes actions to enhance the district's cycling network. It identifies both existing cycle routes and aspirational cycling routes. The policy also links to the aspirations for greater levels of cycling in the Highways and Transport Masterplan prepared by the County Council.	The Climate Change Review provides the opportunity to further explore greater use of sustainable forms of transport, particularly cycling and walking. Whilst the policy is currently positively worded in promoting cycling the scope of the policy could be widened to address all forms of cycling and walking infrastructure, not just specifically the identified routes. Consideration could also be given to progress being made in any recent projects and proposals that might increase cycling participation.
T4	Public Transport Corridors	This policy identifies several key public transport corridors where more frequent and regular public transport services will be promoted. These are the Caton Road Gateway between M6 junction 34 and Lancaster city centre; the A6 Corridor between Lancaster University and Lancaster city centre, and Lancaster Road/Morecambe Road between Lancaster city centre and Morecambe town centre. The policy promotes enhanced public transport corridors that are consistent with the Lancaster District Highways and Transport Masterplan.	The Climate Change Review provides the opportunity to further explore how more sustainable forms of transport including public transport can be achieved. This policy is positively worded and seeks to promote the main public transport corridors within the district; however, consideration should be given to how the scope of the policy could be potentially expanded. When re-visiting the policy, the City Council can have discussions with the County Council about the opportunities presented by the forthcoming review of the Local Transport Plan.

## 2. Policies of the Development Management Development Plan Document

POLICY NUMBER	POLICY TITLE	POLICY DESCRIPTION	IMPLICATIONS ON CLIMATE CHANGE
DM2	Housing Standards	The policy contained within the adopted Local Plan looks at adaptability and in-door space standards and seeks a proportion of new development to achieve these standards, varying depending on the specific of the development proposed.	The climate change review provides the opportunity to reassess and potentially widen the scope of the standards currently included in the adopted Local Plan on energy efficiency. The Council is awaiting the outcomes of the consultation which ended in February 2020 on the Government's 'Future Homes Standard' document, which looked to gather views on whether energy efficiency standards should be set at the local or national level. The recently published White Paper on the future of the planning system set out that a summary of the consultation and proposed next steps would be available in Autumn 2020.
DM27	Open Space, Sports and Recreational Facilities	The adopted Local Plan policy sets out the presumption towards the protection of public open spaces. The policy also links to the need for new open spaces within new residential development and the enhancement of existing spaces.	The climate change review provides the opportunity to look in detail at how both Blue and Green Infrastructure (including the Public Open Space network) could be enhanced further throughout the district. In addressing this, a Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy is proposed to be produced as part of the evidence base underpinning the review. This will consider several issues including existing assets, the wider environmental and socio-economic picture, and green and blue infrastructure functions and benefits. Production of the evidence base will highlight if there is a possibility to widen the scope of the green Infrastructure policy to achieve greater delivery.

POLICY NUMBER	POLICY TITLE	POLICY DESCRIPTION	IMPLICATIONS ON CLIMATE CHANGE
DM29	Key Design Principles	The policy sets out a series of key design principles which new development proposals (of any scale and in any location) should consider. These are subsequently considered in taking decisions on planning applications.	The key design principles contained with the adopted local plan policy have a wide application across all development in the district, regardless of scale, location or nature and the Climate Change review provides the opportunity to make amendments to design policy that reflect the Climate Change agenda. The scoping stage of the process will assist in defining this further to establish which of the design principles should be reassessed and how they might be further amended.
DM30	Sustainable Design	The policy seeks to support the role of sustainable design and construction methods within new development.	This policy specifically relates to the sustainable design and construction of new development. As with the previous iteration of the Development Management DPD, the policy in the adopted plan is more permissive on this matter due to wider viability matters and the general direction of national policy. However, in light of the Climate Emergency Deceleration being made by the Council, it is considered that this policy should be reassessed, and the climate change review provides the opportunity to do this and potentially tighten up this policy. The impact this may have on viability matters will be considered as part of the evidence base.
DM31	Air Quality Management and Pollution	The adopted policy sets a general approach to air quality matters which seeks to minimise emissions. The Policy also sets an approach to developments located within designated Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs)	Lancaster City Centre, Carnforth Town Centre and Galgate experience poor air quality. As part of the climate change review, evidence-base work on air quality will also be updated, with the opportunity to take account of progress on Air Quality Action Plans and update the Air Quality Position Statement. The climate change review provides the opportunity to strengthen the strongly-associated position on air quality, whilst also factoring in current work being undertaken by Lancashire County Council in their capacity as the highway authority, most particularly the Lancaster City Centre Movement Strategy. Any amendments to the policy could be supported through the work on the 'Air Quality and Low Emission' Supplementary Planning Document.
DM33	Development and Flood Risk	The policy seeks to address the issues associated with flooding and flood risk in new development in accordance with national planning policy.	One of the impacts of climate change is the greater occurrence of extreme rainfall events which increase opportunities for flooding, which in turn can threaten both life and property. This is an issue that has affected many residents and businesses and it is considered that the climate change review would provide the opportunity to revisit this policy to ensure that it is robust and up to date with National Planning Policy and that flood risk is adequately considered.
DM34	Surface Water Run-Off and Sustainable Drainage	The policy seeks to provide a generic approach towards the role of sustainable drainage within new development to minimise water run-off and provide effective water management on-site via SuDS.	The policy contained within the adopted Local Plan sets a supportive approach towards the delivery of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS) however the climate change review provides the opportunity to review this policy to consider whether the role of the SuDS hierarchy and the promotion of the most sustainable forms of drainage can become a policy requirement rather than merely something which is encouraged.
DM35	Water Supply and Wastewater	The policy identifies the importance of ensuring that new development has adequate and appropriate connections to a water supply and wastewater network.	The climate change review provides the opportunity to consider in greater detail the potential future demands for water, which may well increase through changes to the climate. The review work therefore provides the opportunity to work with partners (such as United Utilities) to secure supplies and ensure this is reflected in policy.
DM36	Protecting Water Resources and Infrastructure	This policy highlights the importance of protecting water resources and infrastructure which is critical to maintaining an effective water supply and wastewater network.	As with policy DM36, the demands for water may well increase through changes to the climate and therefore working to protect supplies and deliver infrastructure improvements (in co-ordination with United Utilities) would form be part of the Local Plan climate change review. An infrastructure Delivery Schedule would also be produced as part of the evidence base to underpin the review.
DM43	Green Infrastructure	The policy sets out an approach to the protection of and improvement of Green Infrastructure within the district.	The climate change review provides the opportunity to look in detail at how both Blue and Green Infrastructure and their networks across the district for the wider benefit of local communities and the environment, could be enhanced further throughout the district. In addressing this, a Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy will be produced as part of the evidence base underpinning the review. This will consider several issues including existing assets, the wider environmental and socio-economic picture, and green and blue infrastructure functions and benefits. Production of the evidence base will highlight if there is possibility to widen the scope of the green Infrastructure policy to achieve greater delivery and look in further detail as to what the wider benefits may be on local communities and the environment.

POLICY NUMBER	POLICY TITLE	POLICY DESCRIPTION	IMPLICATIONS ON CLIMATE CHANGE
DM45	<b>Protection of Trees, Hedgerows and Woodland</b>	The policy sets out an approach which supports the protection and retention of valuable trees, hedges, and woodland. It also sets a policy position in relation to the increase of tree coverage.	Since the declaration of the climate emergency, the Council has made clear its ambition to increase tree coverage across the district. Whilst the Million Trees project is an action supported by current planning policy, the climate change review would enable the opportunity to revisit and consider if there are additional ways to deliver this ambition. The prospects for planning policy to facilitate greater tree planting can be explored.
DM53	<b>Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Generation</b>	The policy seeks to identify and support opportunities for renewable sources of energy generation within the district in the context of national planning policy.	The adopted Local Plan provides a strong policy base for this issue; however, the climate change review provides the opportunity to offer wider support for renewable energy at various scales. The context has changed in relation to the Government's position on subsidies being potentially for on-shore wind projects (in March 2020 the Government announced that onshore wind and solar projects will be allowed to compete for government-backed contracts alongside other renewable technologies from 2021), but, the national planning policy position has not been revised. However, the climate change review provides the opportunity to update the evidence base and undertake further research on this issue particularly with regard to the area of search for onshore wind shown on the adopted local plan policies map.
DM57	<b>Health and Well-Being</b>	The policy sets out a generic approach towards health and well-being looking at various aspects of development which can impact on the health and well people of people and communities.	The impacts of Climate Changes can affect an individual's quality of life and health. The climate change review provides the opportunity to consider this in greater detail. As part of the evidence base underpinning the review, a Districtwide Health Impact Assessment would be undertaken and additional work carried out to further understand what the challenges are that people may face as a result of climate change and consider the potential impacts this may have on the lives of those in the district. The adopted policy could then subsequently be updated and amended to reflect these challenges.
DM58	<b>Infrastructure Delivery and Funding</b>	The policy sets out a position on the funding of new infrastructure through planning obligations and the investigation of implementing a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL).	This is a considerable issue and one that could be clarified as part of the Climate Change Review. The impacts of climate change can be mitigated (in part) through the provision of new infrastructure, however the review might allow the policy to clarify the role of infrastructure in mitigating the impacts of Climate Change. Additional clarity could also be sought on whether or not DDISThe City Council should implement a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL).
DM59	<b>Telecommunications and Broadband Improvements</b>	The policy seeks to promote the increased role of the telecommunications and broadband in everyday lives and encourages improvements to the network through new development.	The climate change review provides the opportunity to further explore the issue of digital connectivity and how this can assist in reducing the need to travel and address issues such as rural isolation. Recent events in relation to the global Covid-19 health pandemic have raised the prevalence and importance of this issue in a way that we have not previously considered and therefore the review would provide us with the opportunity to potentially amend the adopted policy to take account of recent events and promote further improvements to wider connectivity within the district.
DM60	<b>Enhancing Accessibility and Transport Linkages</b>	The policy seeks to promote modal shift and sustainable forms of transport rather than prioritising the private car. The policy also looks at land-use patterns to ensure that sustainable locations are chosen for development with high footfall.	The climate change review provides the opportunity to further explore the issue of reducing travel movements which is a key element of the Climate Change agenda. The climate change review would involve a significant amount of evidence base work in relation to reducing travel movements and promoting modal shift and allow recent work by Lancashire County Council in their capacity as the highway authority to be taken into consideration in the policy formulation process. It is considered therefore that in the context of the climate change review that the scope of this policy could be expanded. Consideration may also need to be given to the implication on future travel patterns consequential to the control of Covid-19.
DM61	<b>Walking and Cycling</b>	The policy seeks to promote the role of cycling and walking to make local journeys and contribute to the agenda of modal shift. The policy seeks to encourage expansion of the network and other associated infrastructure that would promote greater role for cycling and walking.	The importance of the role of cycling and walking is already emphasised in the existing adopted policy. However, the climate change review would allow for additional clarity in relation to how new cycling projects could be delivered and incorporate recent work undertaken by the county council. The impact of COVID-19 on walking and cycling has also been significant and the climate change review would provide the opportunity to adequately explore this and adjust the policy accordingly.
DM63	<b>Transport Efficiency and Travel Plans</b>	The current adopted policy seeks to promote a strategic approach to travel movements within large development through the promotion of travel plans.	Whilst existing policy considers the strategic approach to travel movements within large developments by requesting travel plans, the climate change review would allow the opportunity for the policy to be updated to provide greater clarity on the importance of having strategic thinking in relation to transport matters in large developments in the context of Climate Change. This may, for example, see the policy amended to request for additional detail in the travel plans to be provided which specifically addresses the issue of climate change.

POLICY NUMBER	POLICY TITLE	POLICY DESCRIPTION	IMPLICATIONS ON CLIMATE CHANGE
DM64	<b>Lancaster District Highways and Transport Masterplan</b>	The policy sets out the key approaches taken in the Lancaster District Transport and Highways Masterplan (prepared by Lancashire County Council) and ties them to the growth proposed through the adopted Local Plan.	The County Council has responsibility for producing the Highways and Transport Masterplan (through LTP4) and has made a commitment to amend and update the existing plan. Whilst COVID-19 has had some impact on the immediate timeframe for this piece of work, LTP4 will be undertaken in the near future and therefore the climate change review would potentially allow for the policy to be updated to reflect changes arising from this work.

Planning and Housing Strategy Team  
September 2020