

OLDHAM METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

**SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL REPORT
FOR
DRAFT RENEWABLE ENERGY
SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT**

**Consultation Period:
19 October – 30 November 2007**

OLDHAM METROPOLITAN BOROUGH LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

Supplementary Planning Document

The Government has reformed the system of development planning in England. Development Plans are used to control and guide the development and use of land. As part of the reformed system, Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council must prepare a “Local Development Framework”.

The Local Development Framework will be a folder of different documents, including Development Plan Documents, which set out the Council’s approach to future development in the Borough.

This document is part of a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD). SPDs are documents that expand on policy outlined in a Development Plan Document or provide more detail on it to help in its implementation. They are not formally part of the statutory Development Plan but are material considerations in determining planning applications.

Supplementary Planning Documents have three supporting documents:

- a Sustainability Appraisal,
- a Habitats Regulations Assessment, and
- an Equalities Impact Assessment.

Members of the public may comment on the Supplementary Planning Document and any of the three supporting documents. A document outlining who has been consulted in the preparation of the Supplementary Planning Document, and issues they raised, is also available alongside these documents. This is called a Consultation Statement.

Members of the public may comment on this document during the six-week public consultation period as indicated on the public notice and comments form.

Comments made on the document cannot be treated as confidential.

If you would like further help in interpreting this document please contact the Strategic Planning and Information section on the following telephone numbers: 0161 770 4139 / 4151.

You can also email the team on spi@oldham.gov.uk.

All documents connected with the Local Development Framework are available on the Council’s web site at www.oldham.gov.uk.

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વિનંતી કરવાથી, કાઉન્સિલ દ્વારા આ દસ્તાવેજ વિવિધ રૂપમાં ઉપલબ્ધ કરવામાં આવશે. દા.ત., મોટા છાપેલાં અક્ષરોમાં, સ્ક્રી ડે ઓડિયો ટેઈપ પર અને વિવિધ સમાજની ભાષાઓનો સમાવેશ થાય છે. કૃપા કરી, વધારે માહિતી માટે, 0161 770 4151, 4163 અથવા 4139 નંબર પર ફોન કરો.

કાઉન્સિલ, এই દલિલટિકે અનુરોધ સાપેક્ષે એવં યદિ ઉપયુક્ત હય-અન્યાન્ય ભાવે પાઠયાર વ્યવસ્થા કરવે, યાર અસ્તુરૂક્ત હલ વડુ અક્ષરે, ઈલેક્ટ્રોનિકભાવે એવં કમ્પ્યુટરિઝેશન વિભિન્ન ભાષાય। દયા કરે આરઠુ વિસ્તારિત તથ્યે જન્ય ટેલિફોન કરુન 0161 770 4151, 4163 અથવા 4139 એઈ નમ્બરગુલોતે।

રા માંગ ہوئی اور مناسب ہو تو کونسل اس دستاویز کو موٹی لکھائی، ٹیپ یا سی ڈی وغیرہ اور کیوٹی کی زبانوں میں بھی فراہم کرنے کا انتظام کرے گی۔ مزید معلومات کیلئے 0161 770 4151 یا 0161 770 4163 یا 0161 770 4139 پر فون کریں۔

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

The following is a list of abbreviations used in this document.

DPD – Development Plan Document

LDF – Local Development Framework

LDD – Local Development Document

MBC – Metropolitan Borough Council

ODPM – Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (now called the Department for Communities and Local Government)

RSS – Regional Spatial Strategy

SA – Sustainability Appraisal

SEA – Strategic Environmental Assessment

SPD – Supplementary Planning Document

UDP – Unitary Development Plan

NON TECHNICAL SUMMARY

The purpose of this non-technical summary is to provide details of key findings from a sustainability appraisal that was carried out on the possible effects of the draft Renewable Energy Supplementary Planning Document (SPD).

What is the draft Renewable Energy Supplementary Planning Document?

The purposes of SPDs are to provide further detail to policies contained within the Oldham Metropolitan Borough Unitary Development Plan. The draft Renewable Energy SPD will provide further guidance on the requirements of UDP Policies NR3.1, NR3.2 and NR3.3.

The draft Renewable Energy SPD will provide specific advice on:

- The content of an assessment required by Policies NR3.1 and NR3.2 regarding the environmental effects of a development where they do not fall within the requirements of the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessments) (England and Wales) Regulations 1999; and
- How the Council will implement Policy NR3.3.

The draft SPD is aimed at a variety of audiences, including developers, their associates and individuals that are seeking to develop renewable energy generating infrastructure, either as part of a major development or as a stand alone energy generating installation(s).

What is a Sustainability Appraisal?

As a result of the new planning system that has been introduced by the Government, local authorities must carry out a Sustainability Appraisal alongside any SPD that is produced. The Sustainability Appraisal process also incorporates the requirements of the European Commission Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive.

The aim of this process is to ensure that consideration is given to social, environmental and economic impacts of the SPD.

Stages in Sustainability Appraisal

The following are the stages in the sustainability appraisal process. Consultation on this Sustainability Appraisal Report, alongside the draft Renewable Energy SPD, represents Stage D of the process.

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 draft SPD and the Sustainability Appraisal Report

Stage E: Monitoring the significant effects of implementing the SPD and responding to adverse effects.

STAGE A – BASELINE AND SCOPING

Stage A of the Sustainability Appraisal process is undertaken before production of the SPD. It should be integrated with the evidence gathering for the SPD. This involves the following tasks:

A1: Identification of other relevant policies, plans, programmes and sustainability objectives

The Scoping Report (see Appendix 1) lists the relevant higher plans and programmes identified at this stage from the international level to the local level.

A2: Collection of baseline data

This stage involves the collection of data that provides the basis for predicting and monitoring effects and can help identify sustainability problems and alternative ways of dealing with them. The information collected should give information about the current and likely future state of the planning area. This will allow the SPD's likely effects to be adequately predicted.

Living Within Environmental Limits (*Environmental Issues*)

- Encouraging decoupled and micro energy generation (NR3.3).
- Dependency on fossil fuel use, with current limited capacity availability from renewable sources (and associated impacts of large scale energy generation at traditional power stations, and extraction and transport associated with fuel movements/infrastructure) (NR.3.1, 3.2, 3.2).
- Associated siting and impacts of stand alone wind turbines above a certain size (NR3.1-3.2).

Achieving a Sustainable Economy (*Economic Issues*)

- Improved economy associated with increased levels of disposable income and reduced levels of fuel debt.
- Business will benefit from cost savings associated with savings that can be made by avoiding paying an amount of the Climate Change levy tax (improved business bottom line- therefore competitiveness ability and enhanced potential job security).

- New job opportunities by encouraging the development of Environmental Technology companies and diversification of existing manufacturing base to supply new services to meet the new demand of installing, building, and maintaining the renewable energy infrastructure.

Ensuring a strong, healthy and just society (social factors)

- Sustainable energy initiatives incorporating renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies can make a significant contribution to fuel poverty and help reduce health and social inequalities. The use of renewable energy technologies can help the Boroughs residents reduce energy price fluctuations and thus reduce or help manage overall affordability of energy bills.

A4: Development of the Sustainability Appraisal framework

The following Plan Objectives and Sustainability Objectives were identified:

Plan Objective

1. To encourage the generation of electricity from renewable sources and contribute to United Kingdom and regional targets in relation to renewable energy and climate change.

Sustainability Objectives

- A Increase the percentage of energy generated from renewable energy sources.
- B To improve the health of the Borough's population.
- C To reduce fossil fuel use and dependency.
- D To support the development of environmental technologies services sector.
- E To reduce fuel poverty.

Please note that the above objectives were amended during stage B of the sustainability appraisal process (see section 4.5).

A5: Consultation on the scope of the sustainability appraisal

The Scoping Report (see Appendix 1) was subject to a five-week period of targeted consultation to key stakeholders between 10 July and 14 August 2006.

STAGE B – APPRAISAL OF PLAN OPTIONS

It is essential that the objectives of the Renewable Energy SPD are sustainable. To ensure that this is the case the Plan Objectives were tested against the Sustainability Objectives. It was considered that these objectives are in agreement (See Appendix 3).

The next stage was to test the sustainability of the options identified for the draft SPD. The options identified for this draft SPD were:

Option 1: Rely solely on UDP policies, alongside any relevant policies in Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS).

Option 2: Implement the draft SPD on Renewable Energy.

A Sustainability Appraisal of the options was carried out on 8 September 2006. The outcome of this appraisal was that Option 2 would bring the most positive benefits.

Whilst it was considered that Option 1 could bring positive benefits, Option 2 was considered likely to bring greater benefit and provide this more quickly. This was often thought to be brought about by the provision of more detailed guidance and allowing the Council to set out at the earliest possible stage what it requires of applicants to satisfy the UDP policies.

STAGE E - MONITORING

Monitoring has an increased importance in the new planning system. This is also reflected in a Sustainability Appraisal. Such monitoring can help to identify unforeseen adverse effects and enable appropriate remedial action.

Once the draft Renewable Energy SPD is adopted, the Council will include the indicators identified through this process in the Local Development Framework Annual Monitoring Report. This will ensure that the progress of the SPD can be monitored.

INTRODUCTION

- i In September 2004, the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 came into effect. This legislation reforms the system of development planning in England. Development Plans are used to control and guide the development and use of land in the area they cover. As a consequence of the new legislation, Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council (MBC) must prepare a Local Development Framework (LDF). The LDF will replace the Oldham Metropolitan Borough Unitary Development Plan that was adopted in July 2006 and along with Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) for the North West will form the Development Plan for the Borough.
- ii The LDF is a folder of different documents including the Statement of Community Involvement, Development Plan Documents (DPD) and Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD). The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act requires a Sustainability Appraisal to be undertaken during the preparation of SPDs.
- iii The Sustainability Appraisal process ensures that the social, environmental and economic effects of the SPD are considered during its preparation, so allowing for changes to be made to the document during the preparation process or to identify mitigation for these effects.
- iv This document is the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) Report for the draft Renewable Energy SPD. It should be read in conjunction with the draft SPD. The draft SPD provides guidance for the implementation of UDP Policies NR3.1, NR3.2 and NR3.3 It provides guidance on how the Council will assess applications for renewable energy schemes either as part of a major development or stand-alone installation(s).
- v This document has been prepared to meet the requirements of the European Commission Directive 2001/42/EEC, which requires a Strategic Environmental Assessment of SPDs.
- vi The structure of this SA Report is based on advice contained in Government guidance on sustainability appraisals (*Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents*, ODPM 2005).
- vii The SA Report sets out the appraisal methodology, relevant baseline information, the Sustainability Objectives and key sustainability issues and problems. The SA Report considers any significant social, environmental and economic effects and any mitigation methods. It also sets out the indicators for monitoring the SPD.
- viii This SA Report is available for consultation at the same time as the draft SPD. However, any comments that are submitted with regard to the SA Report must relate to the effects of the draft SPD **and not** the saved UDP policies that the draft SPD will be helping to implement.

1.0 SUMMARY AND OUTCOMES

1.0.1 This section of the SA report provides an overview of the processes and outcomes of the Sustainability Appraisal of the draft SPD.

1.1 Non-Technical Summary

1.1.1 A non-technical summary of the Sustainability Appraisal of the draft SPD is included at the front of this SA Report.

1.2 Likely significant effects of the SPD

1.2.1 The draft SPD is a document that assists with the implementation of the UDP policies on Renewable Energy (Policies NR3.1, NR3.2 and NR3.3). It aims to provide greater clarity and further information for those proposing the development of renewable energy generating schemes, including those required as part of a major development. The draft SPD is likely to lead to better implementation of the UDP policies and hence contribute towards social, environmental and economic objectives.

1.3 Difference the process has made to date

1.3.1 The first part of the Sustainability Appraisal process was the preparation and consultation on a Scoping Report. This is known as Stage A of the process. This was an initial evidence gathering stage to inform the process and identified a series of relevant Plan and Sustainability Objectives. Appendix 1 includes the Scoping Report, and incorporates any amendments resulting from the consultation exercise. Appendix 2 summarises the comments received to the consultation on the Scoping Report, and the Council's Responses.

1.3.2 Stage B of the process involved assessing the compatibility of the Plan and Sustainability Objectives (see Appendix 3). This was followed by an appraisal of the Sustainability Objectives. For this part of the process the Council made use of the "*Implementing Action for Sustainability: An Integrated Appraisal Toolkit for the North West*" (North West Regional Assembly, 2003). The toolkit was made up of 26 questions, against which the objectives were assessed. The questions addressed the social, economic and environmental effects of the SPD. The objectives were assessed against two options: Option 1 to rely solely on the UDP policies and Option 2 to implement the draft SPD. Appendix 5 summarises the findings of this stage. Following this the toolkit was revised in 2006 to better reflect Oldham Metropolitan Borough specifically, containing 14 checklist questions. To take this into account discussions were held between members of Strategic Planning and Information and Strategy & Resources Directorate (Environmental Policy Unit) and Environmental Services Directorate (Environmental Protection) and the appraisal has been amended in light of this (Appendix 4).

1.3.3 The Sustainability Appraisal allowed the draft SPD to be evaluated with regard to economic, environmental and social objectives. The appraisal

process indicated potential positive impacts and negative impacts in relation to both Options 1 and 2, but has highlighted that Option 2 (to implement the SPD) is the preferred option as this should lead to greater benefits in comparison to Option 1, i.e. having an SPD that will assist with the implementation of the UDP policies will result in better outcomes than relying solely on the UDP policies themselves.

1.4 How to comment

1.4.1 Members of the public may comment on the Sustainability Appraisal during the six-week public consultation period as indicated on the public notice and comments form.

2.0 APPRAISAL METHODOLOGY

2.0.1 This section details the approach that was used in undertaking the Sustainability Appraisal of the draft SPD.

2.1 Approach adopted to the Sustainability Appraisal

2.1.1 The Sustainability Appraisal of the draft SPD has been undertaken in accordance with Government guidance on Sustainability Appraisal (*Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents*, ODPM 2005). Table 1 outlines the key stages in the Sustainability Appraisal process, so far, and indicates which section/appendix of this SA Report relates to each stage of the sustainability appraisal process.

Table 1 Key stages in the Sustainability Appraisal Process

Stage	Task	Relevant section in this Sustainability Appraisal Report
A1	Identification of other relevant policies, plans, programmes and sustainability objectives	Section 4.1
A2	Collection of baseline data	Section 4.2
A3	Identification of sustainability issues and problems.	Section 4.3
A4	Development of the SA framework.	Section 4.5
<i>Stages A1-A4 form the Scoping Report</i>		<i>Appendix 1</i>
B1	Testing the SPD objectives against the SA framework.	Appendix 3
B2	Developing the SPD options.	Section 5
B3	Predicting the effects of the draft SPD.	Appendix 5
B4	Evaluating the effects of the draft SPD.	Section 6.1
B5	Considering ways of mitigating adverse effects and maximising beneficial effects.	Section 6.3
B6	Proposing measures to monitor the significant effects of implementing the SPD.	Section 7.2

2.1.2 The requirements of the SEA Directive have been incorporated into the Sustainability Appraisal process. Each SEA Directive requirement has been signposted (like this **I**) throughout this SA Report. For ease of use Appendix 6 brings together all the points in the SA Report, in which this SEA Directive requirement is met.

2.1.3 The appraisal methodology had regard to the Action for Sustainability toolkit, *Implementing Action For Sustainability: An Integrated Appraisal Toolkit for the North West 2003* (revised 2006), published by the North West Regional Assembly. The sustainability appraisal framework incorporated a list of questions adapted from the toolkit, which are relevant to Oldham Metropolitan Borough. The questions cover a range of social, environmental and economic issues relevant to the SPD.

2.1.4 Appendix 4 has details of the full list of 14 questions and Appendix 5 the results of the appraisal against the relevant toolkit checklist questions.

2.2 When was the Sustainability Appraisal carried out?

2.2.1 Stage A (Scoping Report) of the sustainability appraisal was consulted on between 10 July and 14 August 2006.

2.2.2 Stage B of the Sustainability Appraisal was undertaken on 8 September 2006.

2.3 Who carried out the Sustainability Appraisal?

2.3.1 Stage A of the Sustainability Appraisal was prepared by the Council's Strategic Planning and Information section.

2.3.2 The following Oldham MBC officers undertook Stage B of the sustainability appraisal:

- Paul McGrath (Strategic Planning and Information)
- Elizabeth Dryden-Stuart (Strategic Planning and Information)
- Clare Moran (Strategic Planning and Information)
- Adam Hackett (Environmental Policy)
- Robert Hayes (Environmental Policy)
- Matthew Lamb (Development Control)

2.4 Who was consulted when and how?

2.4.1 The following statutory bodies were consulted by letter on the Stage A Scoping Report:

- Countryside Agency
- English Heritage
- English Nature
- Environment Agency

- Government Office for the North West
- North West Regional Assembly
- Oldham Partnership / Environment Partnership

2.4.2 The following stakeholders were also consulted:

- United Utilities
- British Wind Energy Association
- Greater Manchester North Energy Efficiency Advice Centre
- Energy Savings Trust
- Renewables North West
- Sustainability North West

2.5 Difficulties encountered in compiling information or carrying out the assessment

2.5.1 As with all studies it is impossible to provide an exhaustive list of baseline data. However, it should be noted that not all data would be relevant or useable. For example, a dataset may be unavailable at the right scale, out of date, unreliable, partial or biased. To overcome this, information of the most relevance was chosen. At present there are data gaps where information is required in order to effectively monitor the Renewable Energy SPD. This information will need to be collected in the future in order to assess the full impacts of implementing the SPD.

3.0 BACKGROUND

3.0.1 This section provides relevant background information about the Sustainability Appraisal.

3.1 Purpose of the SA and the SA Report



“The environmental report shall include information that may reasonably be required taking into account current knowledge and methods of assessment, the contents and level of detail in the plan or programme, (and) its stage in the decision-making process” (Article 5.2).

Information to be provided in the Environmental Report includes: “the likely significant effects on the environment, including 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 above factors. These effects should include secondary, cumulative, synergistic, short, medium and long term, permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects” (Annex I (f) and footnote).

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

“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” (Annex I (g))

3.1.1 The European Commission Directive 2001/42/EC requires a “Strategic Environmental Assessment” (SEA) to be undertaken of any SPDs.

3.1.2 The Directive requires the preparation of an Environmental Report on the likely significant effects of the draft document; consultation on the draft document and the accompanying Environmental Report; consideration of the Environmental Report and consultation comments and demonstration of how the results of the environmental assessment were taken into account.

3.1.3 This document is the SA Report for the draft Renewable Energy SPD. Sustainability Appraisal is a requirement of the new planning system and Government guidance has been issued on how local authorities should address this matter and on implementing the SEA Directive.

3.1.4 This SA report sets out the Sustainability Appraisal processes. It includes the appraisal methodology, sustainability objectives, baseline and context information, assessment of the draft SPD options and details for the monitoring of the draft SPD.

3.2 Plan Objectives and outline of contents

3.2.1 The Plan Objectives that have been identified for this draft SPD have been formulated through the relevant policies in the Oldham Metropolitan Borough UDP. This is to ensure that the objectives of the SPD are in accordance with the parent policies in the UDP.

- 3.2.2 The Plan Objective for renewables is: *“to encourage the generation of electricity from renewable sources and contribute to United Kingdom and regional targets in relation to renewable energy and climate change”*.

3.3 Compliance with the SEA Directive/Regulations

3.3.1 This SA Report incorporates the requirements of the SEA Directive. Appendix 6 indicates how the requirements of the SEA Directive have been met through the Sustainability Appraisal.

4.0 SUSTAINABILITY OBJECTIVES, BASELINE AND CONTEXT

4.0.1 This section provides details about the links with other plans and the baseline information relating to the sustainability appraisal.

4.1 Links to other policies, plans and programmes and sustainability objectives

4.1.1 The SEA Directive requires that the Sustainability Appraisal takes account of the relationships between the SPD and other relevant policies, plans, programmes and sustainability objectives at the international, European, national and local levels. This enables relationships and synergies

to be identified and exploited and ensures that any inconsistencies can be addressed/mitigated.



The Environmental Report should provide information on [inter alia]:

- the “relationship [of the plan or programme] with other relevant plans or programmes” (Annex I(a))
- “the environmental protection objectives, established at international, [European] 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” (annex I (e))
- “relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme” and “the environmental characteristics of the areas likely to be significantly affected” (Annex I (b), (c))
- “any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme including, in particular, those relating to any areas of particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to Directives 79/409/EEC and 92/43/EEC” (Annex I(d))

“...the authorities ...which, by reason of their specific environmental responsibilities, are likely to be concerned by the environmental effects of implementing plans and programmes...shall be consulted when deciding on the scope and level of detail of the information which must be included in the environmental report” (Article 5.4 and 6.3)

4.1.2 The Scoping Report highlighted the main aims and objectives of other relevant documents, which were considered in the Sustainability Appraisal (see Appendix 1).

4.2 Description of the social, environmental and economic baseline characteristics and the predicted future baseline.

4.2.1 The Scoping Report (see Appendix 1) provides an overview of the social, environmental and economic characteristics of the Borough. It then presents a summary of the statistical baseline information currently available in relation to the SPD. The information is used to help predict and monitor possible effects. It also helps to identify sustainability problems and alternative ways of dealing with them. Baseline information consists mainly of indicators although both quantitative and qualitative information can be used.

4.3 Identifying sustainability issues and problems

4.3.1 The Scoping Report (see Appendix 1) outlines the key sustainability issues in the Borough in relation to the SPD as required by the SEA Directive.

4.4 Limitations of the information and difficulties in collecting information

4.4.1 At present, there are data gaps where information is required to enable the indicators to be monitored. This information will need to be collected in the future for monitoring purposes.

4.5 The SA Framework, including objectives, targets and indicators

4.5.1 The Sustainability Appraisal framework is used as a tool to appraise the SPD. The process of developing the SA framework involves the formation of sustainability objectives. The objectives help identify any problems and issues and potential beneficial impacts of the SPD.

4.5.2 The Sustainability Objectives below have been developed from the baseline data (Table 2) and the objectives drawn from national and regional sources (Table 3) set out in the Scoping Report (see Appendix 1).

4.5.3 The resultant proposed Sustainability Objectives were:

A Increase the percentage of energy generated from renewable energy sources

B To improve the health of the Borough's population

C To reduce fossil fuel use and dependency

D To support the development of environmental technologies services sector

E To reduce fuel poverty

F To have regard to the built and natural environments of the Borough

4.5.4 Sustainability Objectives B and E were deleted, and Sustainability Objective F added, at Stage B of the sustainability appraisal process.

4.5.5 Following the sustainability appraisal (stage B) of the above objectives, the sustainability objectives for the Core Strategy have been emerging and over time are becoming more refined. It was considered that the SPD sustainability objectives should be in line with the forthcoming LDF sustainability objectives. The SA objectives were amended slightly to reflect this, which has resulted in the following sustainability objectives. Objective F has incorporated two of the revised sustainability objectives to take account of both the natural and built environment.

4.5.6 **A** To minimise energy use, promote energy efficiency and to encourage the use of energy from renewable resources (Replaced objective A above).

C To ensure the prudent use and sustainable management of man made and natural resources, including minerals, land, soil, air and water (Replaced objective C above).

D To encourage the development of innovative and knowledge based industries (Replaced objective D above).

F To protect and improve the Borough's green infrastructure, biodiversity and geodiversity and to conserve and enhance the Borough's historical, archaeological and cultural heritage and its settings, and its landscape and townscape character (Replaced objective F above).

5.0 ISSUES AND OPTIONS

5.0.1 This section provides details about the options that were assessed as part of the Sustainability Appraisal.

5.1 Main strategic options considered and how they were identified

5.1.1 Government guidance on Sustainability Appraisal requires that options are developed and considered to ensure that the identified objectives for the document can be met. The Sustainability Appraisal considered two options for the SPD. These were:

- **Option 1 – Rely solely on UDP policies**

This option relies solely on the Oldham Metropolitan Borough UDP policies, alongside any relevant policies in RSS.

- **Option 2 – Implement the draft SPD on Renewable Energy**

This option involves the preparation and adoption of an SPD to provide further assistance on the implementation of the UDP policies.

5.1.2 Given the specific nature of the subject topic of the draft SPD, the options were limited to these two only.

5.1.3 Adopting the SPD would supplement the Oldham Metropolitan Borough UDP and the Regional Spatial Strategy for the North West.

5.2 Comparison of the social, environmental and economic effects of the options.

5.2.1 Both options are considered to have positive social, environmental and economic effects on renewable energy. However, it was considered that Option 2 would offer greater clarity and explanation on the interpretation of the UDP policies and therefore would assist developers on what they are required to do when proposing a renewable energy generating scheme or a major development requiring 10% of its energy generation from renewable sources.

Appendix 5 provides the results of the appraisal of the two options against the sustainability toolkit.

5.2.2 It is considered that providing greater guidance on what is required to support a planning application will improve the quality of information submitted by an applicant, so resulting in an improved development control process and hence will ensure the positive social, environmental and economic effects of renewable energy developments.

5.2.3 The Sustainability Appraisal (Stage B) indicated that Option 2 scored more positively against economic, environmental and social objectives than Option 1.

5.3 How social, environmental and economic issues were considered in choosing the preferred option



“...an environmental report shall be prepared in which the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme, and reasonable alternatives taking into account the objectives and the geographical scope of the plan or programme, are identified, described and evaluated” (Article 5.1). Information to be provided in the Environmental Report includes “an outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with” (Annex I (h))

5.3.2 To ensure that social, environmental and economic issues were considered when choosing the preferred option the appraisal methodology had regard to the Action for Sustainability toolkit, *Implementing Action For Sustainability: An Integrated Appraisal Toolkit for the North West 2003* published by North West Regional Assembly. The toolkit was made up of 26 questions, against which the objectives were assessed. Following this, the toolkit was revised in 2006 to better reflect Oldham Metropolitan Borough specifically, containing 14 checklist questions. To take this into account a meeting was held between members of Strategic Planning and Information and Strategy & Resources Directorate (Environmental Policy Unit) and Environmental Services Directorate (Environmental Protection) and the appraisal has been amended in light of this (see Appendix 4 for toolkit checklist).

Testing the Renewable Energy SPD options

5.3.4 When formulating the SPD it is necessary to develop options to ensure that the identified objectives can be met. The options that were devised for the Renewable Energy SPD reflect its specific nature. The options chosen are:

Option 1: Rely solely on UDP Policy

5.3.5 Under this approach decisions relating to applications on Renewable Energy will rely solely on policies the Oldham Metropolitan Borough UDP, alongside any relevant policies within RSS.

Option 2: Adopt draft SPD on Renewable Energy

5.3.6 Under this approach a draft SPD relating to the assessment of renewable energy developments would be adopted. This would supplement existing development plan policies and provide further, more detailed advice. The Renewable Energy SPD will provide specific advice on:

- The content of an assessment required by Policies NR3.1 and NR3.2 regarding the environmental effects of a development where they do not fall within the requirements of the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessments) (England and Wales) Regulations 1999; and
- How the Council will implement Policy NR3.3.

5.3.7 The draft SPD is aimed at a variety of audiences, including developers, their associates and individuals that are seeking to develop renewable energy generating infrastructure, either as part of a major development or as a stand alone energy generating installation(s).

5.3.8 Option 2 (implementing the draft SPD) overall resulted in a higher contribution to moving towards the Sustainability Objectives. Appendix 5 sets out the Sustainability Appraisal framework outlining the appraisal of both options and the supporting evidence/justification.

5.4 Other options considered and why these were rejected

5.4.1 As explained above, the two options were to either rely solely on the UDP policy alone or to implement the Renewable Energy SPD, as the SPD is a specialist, technical document that seeks to assist with the implementation of the UDP policy rather than making policy in its own right.

5.5 Proposed mitigation measures – plan issues and options

5.5.1 The appraisal indicated that no mitigation was required.

6.0 PLAN POLICIES

6.0.1 A requirement of the Sustainability Appraisal is to identify any possible negative impacts of implementing the preferred option. Where these are identified the report should set out measures to prevent, reduce or offset the adverse effects.

6.1 Significant social, environmental and economic effects of the preferred policies.

6.1.1 The Sustainability Appraisal process did not identify any significant negative impacts of implementing the chosen option i.e. implementing the SPD.

6.2 How social, environmental and economic problems were considered in developing the policies.

6.2.1 Sustainability Appraisal was undertaken at the key stages of the UDP review that was adopted in July 2006. This considered social, economic and environmental issues when preparing the SPD's parent UDP policies (Policies NR3.1, NR3.2 and NR3.3).

6.2.2 The SPD offers further interpretation on UDP Policies NR3.1, NR3.2 and NR3.3 on renewable energy development(s) in order to assist with their implementation.

6.3 Proposed mitigation methods – plan policies

6.3.1 The Sustainability Appraisal (Stage B) indicated that it was not necessary for any changes to be made to the draft SPD. The SPD assists with the interpretation and implementation of the adopted UDP policies on renewable energy, which have been subject to its own Sustainability Appraisal.

6.4 Uncertainties and risks

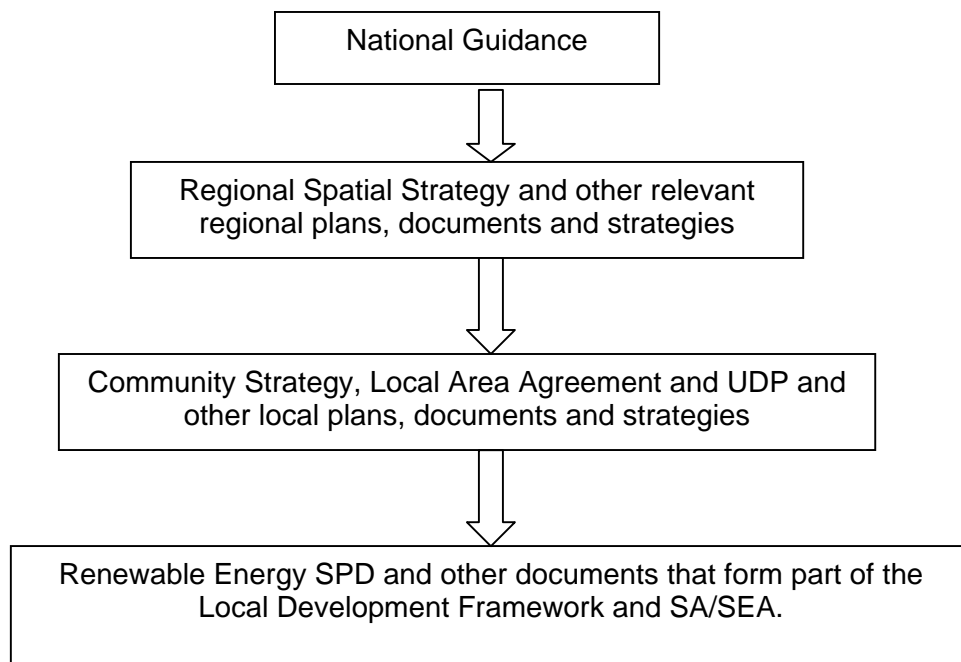
6.4.1 A risk, which could occur, is if the draft Renewable Energy SPD is not adopted. The consequence of this would be less certainty for developers in interpreting UDP Policies NR3.1, NR3.2 and NR3.3 and the risk of developments not delivering the maximum benefits and/or slower delivery of developments.

7.0 IMPLEMENTATION

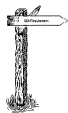
7.0.1 This section provides details relating to how the SPD will be implemented and monitored, including details of the proposed indicators.

7.1 Links to other tiers of plans and programmes and the project level

7.1.1 The Scoping Report (see Appendix 1) identified the range of national, regional and local planning guidance, strategies and plans and other documents that are relevant to employment sites. The diagram below shows the relationship between other plans and programmes and the LDF.



7.2 Monitoring



Member States shall monitor the significant environmental effects of the implementation of the plans and programmes in order, *inter alia*, to identify at an early stage unforeseen adverse effects, and to be able to undertake appropriate remedial action” (Article 10.1)

The Environmental Report shall include “a description of the measures envisaged concerning monitoring”

7.2.1 Monitoring is considered to be an important part of the new planning system and indeed of Sustainability Appraisal. Such monitoring will allow any unforeseen impacts of implementing the chosen option to be identified and quantified at the earliest possible opportunity. This should allow any remedial action that is considered appropriate to be carried out.

7.2.2 The collection of such information will also be a useful source of future baseline data for future documents and projects.

7.2.3 The relevant indicators were identified through the Scoping Report (see Appendix 1). They are reproduced below:

- Percentage of large developments incorporating renewable energy generation (Policy NR3.3 only).
- Number of wind turbine planning applications approved and refused planning permission (Policies NR3.1-NR3.2)

- Renewable energy capacity installed by type (NR3.1, NR3.2 and NR3.3).

7.2.4 Once the Council has formally adopted the draft SPD, the indicators will be included within the Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) for the LDF. The AMR is produced in the December of each year and includes information relating to the previous financial year.

GLOSSARY

Community Strategy – This sets out a vision, strategic objectives and targets for the long-term future of the Borough.

Core Strategy - A Development Plan Document that sets out a long-term spatial vision and strategic objectives for the Borough. It also contains a spatial strategy, core policies and a monitoring and implementation framework.

Development Plan – The Development Plan for the Borough consists of the Regional Spatial Strategy for the North West, saved policies in the Oldham Unitary Development Plan, and/or Development Plan Documents that replace the saved policies.

Development Plan Document - A spatial planning document that is subject to Independent Examination and forms part of the Development Plan. They can include Core Strategy, Site Specific Allocations of Land and Area Action Plans.

Local Area Agreement - A Local Area Agreement is a three year agreement that sets out the priorities for a local area agreed between central government, represented by the Government Office, and a local area, represented by the local authority and Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) and other key partners at a local level.

Local Development Document (LDD) – The generic term given to all constituent documents of the Local Development Framework.

Local Development Framework (LDF) – A folder of Local Development Documents, some of which form part of the Development Plan for the Borough.

Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) – This sets out the region’s policies in relation to the development and use of land and forms part of the Development Plan for the Borough. The North West Regional Assembly prepares the RSS.

Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) – This sets out the standards that the Council will achieve in terms of engaging communities in the preparation of the Local Development Framework and development control decisions. It is subject to Independent Examination.

Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) – A Supplementary Planning Document provides additional information in respect of policies contained in the Development Plan Documents. It is not subject to Independent Examination and does not form part of the Development Plan, although it can be a material consideration when determining planning applications.

Saved policies or plans – Existing adopted plans that are saved for three years until replaced by a more up-to-date replacement plan.

Unitary Development Plan (UDP) – sets out policies and proposals for the development and use of land in the Borough over a fifteen-year period. The Unitary Development Plan identifies sites in the Borough where is proposed to permit housing, employment and shopping developments, amongst others, to take place.

Renewable Energy Supplementary Planning Document

Draft Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report

July 2006

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OLDHAM 
Metropolitan Borough 

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Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report

1 Introduction

- 1.1 This Scoping Report is the first element of the Sustainability Appraisal of the Renewable Energy Supplementary Planning Document. The Renewable Energy Supplementary Planning Document will expand on policies NR3.1 “Renewable Energy Developments”, NR3.2 “Wind Developments” and NR3.3 “Renewable Energy in Major Developments” of the Oldham Metropolitan Borough Replacement Unitary Development that relate to renewable energy.

What is a Sustainability Appraisal?

- 1.2 As a result of the commencement of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 a Sustainability Appraisal is mandatory for Supplementary Planning Documents. The Sustainability Appraisal helps local planning authorities to fulfil the objective of contributing to the achievement of sustainable development in the preparation of their plans.
- 1.3 The purpose of a Sustainability Appraisal is to promote sustainable development through better integration of sustainability considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans. Sustainability Appraisal is the process that identifies and reports on the likely significant effects of the plan and the extent to which implementation of the plan will achieve the social, environmental and economic objectives by which sustainable development can be defined.

The Role of the Scoping Report

- 1.4 This report is intended to compile the background information that is needed and to determine the scope of the Sustainability Appraisal. It is also intended to be a consultation document, the purpose of which is to allow organisations and individuals to comment on the proposed scope. It is intended that consultation at this stage will help to ensure that the Sustainability Appraisal is comprehensive and robust enough to support the Renewable Energy Supplementary Planning Document during the later stages of full public consultation and examination.

- 1.5 This Scoping Report is the result of work carried out on the first stage (Stage A) of the Sustainability Appraisal process for the Supplementary Planning Document. The Report covers:

A1-The key sustainability objectives of other relevant plans and programmes

A2 -The relevant baseline data for the SPD

A3 -The key sustainability issues and problems for the SPD

A4 - The Sustainability Framework (i.e. objectives and indicators)

Requirements of the SEA Directive

- 1.6 Sustainability Appraisal must also meet the requirements of the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive 2001/42/EC. The Council will ensure that the requirements of this directive are met. The requirements of the SEA Directive and at what stages they are met throughout this process will be signposted with the following symbol:



Local Development Framework Sustainability Appraisal

- 1.7 It is envisaged that the Sustainability Framework within this Scoping Report will provide the basis for appraising the Renewable Energy Supplementary Planning Document.
- 1.8 In due course the Council will produce a Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report for the Local Development Framework that will provide the basis for appraising all Development Plan Documents and Supplementary Planning Documents within the Local Development Framework. The Scoping Report for the Supplementary Planning Document will therefore mirror the relevant parts of this document, depending upon the topic.

Consultation Requirements

1.9 The Government has stated that the four consultation bodies (as required by the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive) should be consulted at this stage. These bodies are the Countryside Agency, English Heritage, English Nature and the Environment Agency. Although not statutory consultees the Council will also consult with the following bodies on all Scoping Reports:

- Government Office for the North West
- North West Regional Assembly
- Oldham Partnership

(Other key stakeholders, as identified in para 2.4 of the Sustainability Appraisal Report, were also consulted on the Scoping Report)

1.10 This consultation period will last for five weeks as outlined in the Government guidance “*Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents*” (ODPM, 2005).

Questions to Aid Consultation

1.11 Throughout this Scoping Report the Council has provided specific questions to aid the consultation process. They are located in a text box at the end of each section. The questions have been devised to aid and focus discussion on outputs that will be beneficial to the Sustainability Appraisal.

The Layout of the Scoping Report

1.12 This Scoping Report follows the Government guidance set out in “*Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents*” (ODPM, 2005).

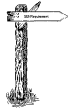
1.13 This report will therefore include the following sections:

- A1 – Identifying other relevant plans, programmes and sustainability objectives
- A2 – collecting baseline information
- A3 - Identifying key sustainability issues
- A4 – Developing the SA framework

Relationship of Supplementary Planning Document to Unitary Development Plan Policy

- 1.14 The Oldham Metropolitan Borough Replacement Unitary Development Plan commits the Council to preparing a Supplementary Planning Document on renewable energy that will expand on how the Plan's three renewable energy policies, NR3.1 "Renewable Energy Developments", NR3.2 "Wind Developments" and NR3.3 "Renewable Energy in Major Developments", will be implemented in order to secure a greater proportion of the energy requirements of major new developments and change of use proposals from renewable energy sources.
- 1.15 Policies NR3.1 and NR3.2 relate to wind developments and both policies are closely linked. Policy NR3.3 seeks to secure a proportion of the energy requirements of all major developments from renewable sources, and specifically identifies that this should be 10% of total predicted energy requirements.
- 1.16 This Scoping Report outlines the key documents and the issues relating to renewable energy in general terms such that they may apply to the subject matter of all three policies. However, where a document that has been reviewed relates specifically to only one of the policies then this is noted in the commentary.
- 1.17 Copies of the policies are included in Appendix A of this Scoping Report.

2. Stage 1 – Other Relevant Policies, Plans and Programmes (A1)



An Outline of the contents, main objectives of the plan or programme, and relationship with other relevant plans and programmes

- 2.1 The first stage in the scoping process is to identify other relevant plans and programmes. The Renewable Energy Supplementary Planning Document will not be produced in a vacuum and, therefore, this initial stage is important to ensure that all relevant Policies, Plans and Programmes are taken into account, documented and key themes carried through into the Supplementary Planning Document.
- 2.2 The Supplementary Planning Document may be influenced in a variety of ways by other plans and programmes. It can also be influenced by external sustainability objectives such as those encompassed in policies or legislation. As part of the review relevant plans, programmes and sustainability objectives have been listed. Where indicators, targets and objectives have been identified at this stage, they will facilitate the creation of the Sustainability Appraisal targets and indicators further on in the process.
- 2.3 The guidance on Sustainability Appraisal produced by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister indicates that scoping reports for documents such as Supplementary Planning Documents should consider the relationship of the document to plans and programmes from international level to the local level. However, for the Supplementary Planning Document it is assumed that most of the higher level plans have already been fed into local plans and strategies. The following is therefore intended only to be an overview of the most relevant higher level policy documents with the more detailed implications and links of policies and programmes beginning at the national level, as there are more likely to be direct links with Planning Policy Guidance notes and Planning Policy Statements. These issues are considered more fully within Table 1.
- 2.4 In essence, by assessing how the Supplementary Planning Document may link with and be influenced by other strategies this will enable potential synergies to be exploited and any inconsistencies and constraints to be identified and addressed.

International

The Earth Summit (1992)

- 2.5 In June 1992 the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development called 'The Earth Summit' was held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. An important achievement of this summit was a set of agreements between governments to mark future international co-operation on environmental and development issues.

Kyoto Protocol (1997)

- 2.6 This agreement was drawn up in Kyoto, Japan. It committed industrialised nations to a reduction in greenhouse gases including carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide and fluorinated gasses.

The World Summit (2002)

- 2.7 Held in 2002 in Johannesburg, South Africa, its role was to identify new global sustainability issues that had arisen since 1992 and develop a plan to improve sustainable development in the coming decade.

European Union

The EU Sustainable Development Strategy (2001)

- 2.8 This strategy was approved in June 2001 at the Gothenburg European Summit. The EU SDS highlights four priority areas and outlines objectives, targets and actions in relation to each:
- combating climate change;
 - ensuring sustainable transport;
 - addressing threats to public health; and
 - managing natural resources more responsibly.

European Landscape Convention (European Commission, 2006)

2.9 The Convention is a new instrument promoting the protection, management and planning of landscapes across Europe through the adoption of national measures and the establishment of European co-operation. It relates to all landscapes, whether rural or urban, built or natural, and encourages the public to take an active part in landscape management and planning.

EU Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (DIAG, 2003 (came into force 2006))

2.10 The overall aim of the Directive is of optimising the reduction in carbon emissions. It aims to improve the energy performance of buildings and to make Energy Performance Certificates a requirement.

United Kingdom

Securing the Future – The UK Government’s Sustainable Development Strategy (2005)

2.11 The strategy highlights the renewed international push for sustainable development from the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg in 2002. It creates shared priorities for UK action. These are:

- sustainable consumption and production – achieving more with less;
- climate change and energy – seeking to secure a profound change in the way we generate and use energy
- natural resource protection and environmental enhancement – protecting and enhancing the environment to ensure a decent environment for everyone
- sustainable communities – creating communities, which embrace the principle of sustainable development at the local level.

2.12 In addition the following aims, principles and priorities are noted

Four main aims, these are:

- *Social progress, which recognises the needs of everyone;
- *Effective protection of the environment;
- *Prudent use of natural resources; and
- *Maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment.

Five guiding principles:

- *Living within environmental limits;
- *Ensuring a strong, healthy and just society;
- *Achieving a sustainable economy;
- *Promoting good governance;
- *Using sound science responsibly.

Four main priorities for UK action:

- * Sustainable consumption and production;
- * Climate change and energy;
- * Natural resource protection and environmental enhancement
- *Sustainable communities.

Energy White Paper: Our Future Power – creating a low carbon economy (DTI, 2003)

- 2.13 In January 2000 the Government announced its aim for renewables to supply 10% of UK electricity in 2010, subject to the costs being acceptable to the consumer. On that basis, the Government's aspiration is by 2020 to double renewables' share of electricity from the 2010 target. The Energy White Paper also accepts that the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution recommendation that the UK should put itself on a path towards a reduction in CO₂ emissions of some 60% from current levels by 2050 (a 1990 baseline is used to calculate the UK's Kyoto Protocol target figures). If the UK is to achieve a 60% reduction in carbon emissions by 2050, we are likely to need renewables by then to be contributing at least 30% to 40%

of our electricity generation and possibly more¹. Therefore the Government need to develop a framework which encourages the development of a wide range of renewable options and to make significant changes to our institutions and systems.

2.14 As a result, the Government's main aims of its new energy policy emanating from the Energy White Paper are:

- Cut CO2 emissions by 60% by 2050
- to maintain the reliability of energy supplies
- to promote competitive markets in the UK and beyond, helping to raise the rate of sustainable economic growth and to
- improve our productivity
- ensure that every home is adequately and affordably heated.

Sustainable Communities Plan – building for the future (ODPM, 2003)

2.15 The Plan sets out a long-term programme of action for delivering sustainable communities in both urban and rural areas. It aims to tackle housing supply issues in the South East, low demand in other parts of the country, bring all social housing up to the Decent Homes standard by 2010, protect the countryside and improve the quality of our public spaces. The Plan includes not just a significant increase in resources and major reforms of housing and planning, but a new approach to how we build and what we build. This £38 billion programme of action aims to focus the attention and co-ordinate the efforts of all levels of Government and stakeholders in bringing about development that meets the economic, social and environmental needs of future generations, as well as succeeding now.

¹ *Options for a low carbon future* (Future Energy Solutions, 2003)
www.dti.gov.uk/energy/whitepaper

The Northern Way, NWDA, One North East, Yorkshire Forward (2004)

2.16 The Northern Way is a multi-million pound package for urban renaissance that aims to create jobs, sustainable communities, growth in the economy across the North, and to reduce disparities between the North and South. The Northern Way is the northern element of the Sustainable Communities Plan, implementing the Sustainable Communities Plan vision across the northern region.

Broad Sustainability Objectives

2.17 The broad sustainability objectives included here and in the baseline data tables are taken from the guiding principles set out in '*Securing the Future, delivering UK sustainable development strategy*', which is the Government's sustainable development strategy that was published in 2005. Including these broad sustainability objectives in the early stages ensures that the evolution of the distinct local sustainability objectives can be followed from stage to stage and indeed that they are compatible with what is trying to be achieved at the national level.

2.18 In the following table of other plans, programmes and policies, the proposed sustainability objectives are included retrospectively for clarity and to show how the sustainability issues formulated at the end of the process relate to this earlier stage.

Table 1: National Planning Guidance, Regional and Local Plans

Key objectives relevant to plan and SA	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Commentary/ Implications for plan/SA	Broad Sustainability Objectives
Planning Policy Statement 1: Delivering Sustainable Development (ODPM, 2005)			
<p>PPS1 sets out the Government’s objectives for planning. Key principles includes: “<i>LPA’s should ensure that development plans contribute towards global sustainability by addressing the causes and potential impacts of climate change – through policies which reduce energy use, reduce emissions ..., promote the development of renewable energy sources, and take climate change impacts into account in the location and design of development.</i>”</p> <p>Policies “<i>should take account of environmental issues such as – mitigation of the effects of, and adaptation to, climate change through the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and the use of renewable</i></p>	<p>No targets</p>	<p>The SPD will support RUDP policy to achieve this.</p>	<p>Living within Environmental Limits</p>

Key objectives relevant to plan and SA	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Commentary/ Implications for plan/SA	Broad Sustainability Objectives
<p>energy..."</p> <p>Also policies "<i>should seek to promote and encourage, rather than restrict, the use of renewable resources (for example, by the development of renewable energy)...".</i></p> <p><i>"local authorities should promote resource and energy efficient buildings; community heating schemes, the use of combined heat and power, small scale renewable and low carbon energy schemes in developments..."</i></p>			
Planning Policy Statement 22: "Renewable Energy" (ODPM, 2004)			
<p>Planning Policy Statement 22 sets out the Government's national policies for renewable energy. It sets out a series of key principles including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Renewable energy developments should be capable of being 	<p>No specific targets.</p>	<p>The SPD will support RUDP policy to achieve the aims and provide specific technical advice on many of these issues.</p>	<p>Living within Environmental Limits</p>

Key objectives relevant to plan and SA	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Commentary/ Implications for plan/SA	Broad Sustainability Objectives
<p>accommodated in locations where technology is viable and environmental, economic and social impacts can be addressed satisfactorily.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plans should promote rather than restrict renewable energy resources. • Plans should set out criteria-based policies for determining planning applications. • The wider environmental and economic benefits of renewable energy proposals are material considerations when determining planning applications. • Plans should not identify generalised locations for development based on mean wind speeds. • The contributions that small-scale renewable 			

Key objectives relevant to plan and SA	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Commentary/ Implications for plan/SA	Broad Sustainability Objectives
<p>energy projects can make in meeting energy needs are recognised.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The role of community involvement is recognised, and local authorities should promote knowledge of and greater acceptance of renewable energy developments. 			

Key objectives relevant to plan and SA	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Commentary/ Implications for plan/SA	Broad Sustainability Objectives
Planning for Renewable Energy: A Companion Guide to PPS22 (ODPM, 2004)			
Key themes included are the wider benefits of renewable energy schemes, the importance of community involvement, the use of criteria-based policies and the need for integration with other plans and strategies.	No specific targets	The SPD will directly achieve such aims and provide detail to criteria based policy in the UDP.	Living within Environmental Limits
Planning Policy Guidance Note 2: “Green Belts” (DoE, 1995)			
Renewables development within the Green Belt will have to demonstrate “very special circumstances” in order to justify the proposal, although the wider environmental benefits associated with increased production of energy from renewable sources may satisfy these very special circumstances.	No specific targets	The SPD will need to provide further guidance on what could constitute special circumstances and how this could support any application.	Living within Environmental Limits
Planning Policy Guidance Note 15: “Planning and the Historic Environment” (DoE, 1994)			
PPG15 sets out guidance relating to developments that may affect listed buildings and conservation areas.	No specific targets.	The SPD will need to provide further guidance on how renewable technologies will take account of such guidance.	Living within Environmental Limits

Key objectives relevant to plan and SA	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Commentary/ Implications for plan/SA	Broad Sustainability Objectives
Planning Policy Guidance Note 16: "Archaeology and Planning" (DoE, 1990)			
PPG16 sets out guidance relating to developments that may affect archaeology.	No specific targets.	The SPD will need to provide further guidance on how renewable technologies will take account of such guidance.	Living within Environmental Limits
Building Regulations, Part L			
<p>The new Part L of the building regulations is intended to provide guidance across four main headings: new dwellings; work to existing dwellings; new non-domestic buildings; and work to existing non-domestic buildings.</p> <p>The sole method of compliance is now based on achieving an overall energy performance standard.</p>	No specific targets.	The SPD will need to be clear how the policy links with the Building regulations i.e. the policy target is above and beyond the building regulation requirements.	Living within Environmental Limits
Micro generation Strategy- Power from the People, (DTI 2006)			
The DTI's Microgeneration Strategy was launched in March 2006. It is aimed at "creating conditions under which microgeneration becomes a realistic alternative or supplementary energy	No specific targets.	Consider how/whether the SPD could support RUDP policy to achieve this.	Living within Environmental Limits

Key objectives relevant to plan and SA	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Commentary/ Implications for plan/SA	Broad Sustainability Objectives
<p>generation source for householders, communities and small businesses” . Microgeneration is defined in section 82 of the Energy Act 2004 as the small-scale production of heat and/or electricity from a low carbon source. The suite of technologies caught by this definition includes solar photovoltaics (PV) to provide electricity and thermal to provide hot water), micro-wind (including the new rooftop mounted turbines), micro-hydro, heat pumps, biomass, micro combined heat and power(micro CHP) and small-scale fuel cells.</p>			
UK Fuel Poverty Strategy (DTI, 2001)			
<p>A national commitment to eradicate fuel poverty in vulnerable groups by 2010.</p>	<p>No specific targets.</p>		<p>Ensuring a strong, healthy and just society</p> <p>Living within Environmental Limits</p>

Key objectives relevant to plan and SA	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Commentary/ Implications for plan/SA	Broad Sustainability Objectives
Climate Change: The UK Programme (DEFRA, 2006)			
The Climate Change Programme sets out policies and priorities for action for reducing carbon dioxide emissions and making real progress by 2020. Objectives: Tackle fuel poverty through Warm Front and Decent Homes programmes. Use Code for Sustainable Homes standards.	Reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 20% below 1990 levels by 2010. Reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 60% by 2050.	An SPD on such a topic will be of direct benefit towards achieving these aims.	Living within Environmental Limits
Climate Change and Sustainable Energy Act (OPSI, 2006)			
The purpose of the Act is to enhance the United Kingdom's contribution to combating climate change.	The SoS will identify targets between November 2008 and end of March 2009.	An SPD on such a topic will be of direct benefit towards achieving these aims.	Living within Environmental Limits
Breem: The Code for Sustainable Homes			
Code for Sustainable Homes replaced Ecohomes for the assessment of new housing in England. The code is an environmental assessment method for new homes, which addresses energy efficiency.	Code level 3 is the standard level that the Government wants all social housing and all housing on public sector land to be meeting from 2008.	The SPD will provide additional information on Policy NR3.3, which requires 10% of energy to be generated from renewable sources in all major developments.	Living within Environmental Limits

Key objectives relevant to plan and SA	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Commentary/ Implications for plan/SA	Broad Sustainability Objectives
Building a Greener Future Policy Statement (DCLG, July 2007)			
The policy statement aims to reduce emissions in new homes and reduce costs of environmental technologies to improve emissions in existing homes too.	To improve energy/ carbon performance in Building Regulations by 25% by 2010, 44% by 2013 and be zero carbon by 2016.	The SPD will help achieve such aims.	Living within Environmental Limits
Building Regulations: Energy efficiency requirements for new dwellings (DCLG, July 2007)			
This paper is intended to update the Building Regulations Part L on energy efficiency standards for new dwellings.	It aims to support the 2016 target to be zero carbon and reduce the relief in 2010 and 2013.	An SPD on such a topic will be of direct benefit towards achieving these aims.	Living within Environmental Limits
Final Regulatory Impact Assessment: Building a Greener Future (DCLG, July 2007)			
The RIA covers measures to drive higher environmental performance in new homes and to support the UK target to reduce carbon emissions.	Supports target for zero carbon new homes by 2016 as a contribution to meeting the UK target to reduce carbon emissions by 60% by 2050.	An SPD on such a topic will be of direct benefit towards achieving these aims.	Living within Environmental Limits

Key objectives relevant to plan and SA	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Commentary/ Implications for plan/SA	Broad Sustainability Objectives
Regional Spatial Strategy for the North West (ODPM, 2003)			
<p>Policy ER13 “Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency” sets out the region’s general approach to renewables.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Output Targets include: “To contribute towards the national target electricity sourced from renewables by 2010”. • Indicator: “8.5% of Region’s electricity production derived from renewable sources by 2010”. • Contextual Indicators: “Increase in the amount of electricity derived from renewable sources”. 	<p>An SPD on such a topic will be of direct benefit towards achieving these aims.</p>	<p>Living within Environmental Limits</p>

Key objectives relevant to plan and SA	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Commentary/ Implications for plan/SA	Broad Sustainability Objectives																										
“The North West Plan” Submitted Draft Regional Spatial Strategy for the North West (NWR, 2006)																													
<p>Policies in the draft RSS on energy:</p> <p>EM15: “A Framework for Sustainable Energy in the North West” sets out that plans and strategies should promote sustainable energy production and consumption in accordance with the principles of the Energy Hierarchy and within the Regional Sustainable Energy Strategy.</p> <p>EM16: “Energy Conservation and Efficiency” sets out that stakeholders, including local authorities, must ensure that their approach to energy is based on minimising consumption and demand, promoting maximum efficiency and minimum waste in all aspects of local planning, development and energy consumption.</p>	<p>At this stage indicative draft Targets for Greater Manchester for 2010 of Target for Total Generating capacity (excluding existing schemes)</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="663 539 1099 1002"> <tbody> <tr><td>On shore wind farms</td><td>5-7 (90)</td></tr> <tr><td>Single large wind turbines</td><td>8 (12)</td></tr> <tr><td>Small stand alone wind turbines</td><td>12 (0.36)</td></tr> <tr><td>Bldg mounted micro wind</td><td>370 (0.37)</td></tr> <tr><td>Biomass fuelled chp elec schemes</td><td>1 (4)</td></tr> <tr><td>Anaerobic digestion of farm biogass</td><td>1 (2)</td></tr> <tr><td>Hydro power</td><td>2 (1)</td></tr> <tr><td>Solar PV</td><td>370 (0.74)</td></tr> <tr><td>Energy from waste</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Landfill gas</td><td>13 (23.7)</td></tr> <tr><td>Sewage gas</td><td>5 (8.5)</td></tr> <tr><td>Thermal treatment of municipal/industrial waste</td><td>1 (10.5)</td></tr> <tr><td>TOTALS</td><td>48-50 (153.2)</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p><i>(Figures above are number of schemes. Installed capacities are shown in brackets)</i></p>	On shore wind farms	5-7 (90)	Single large wind turbines	8 (12)	Small stand alone wind turbines	12 (0.36)	Bldg mounted micro wind	370 (0.37)	Biomass fuelled chp elec schemes	1 (4)	Anaerobic digestion of farm biogass	1 (2)	Hydro power	2 (1)	Solar PV	370 (0.74)	Energy from waste		Landfill gas	13 (23.7)	Sewage gas	5 (8.5)	Thermal treatment of municipal/industrial waste	1 (10.5)	TOTALS	48-50 (153.2)	<p>The SPD will support the policy that will be directly linked to the achievements of these targets.</p>	<p>Living within Environmental Limits</p>
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Key objectives relevant to plan and SA	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Commentary/ Implications for plan/SA	Broad Sustainability Objectives
<p>EM17: “Renewable Energy” sets out targets for electricity to be provided from renewable energy sources. These include 10% by 2010, 15% by 2015 and 20% by 2020.”</p>			

Key objectives relevant to plan and SA	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Commentary/ Implications for plan/SA	Broad Sustainability Objectives
Regional Economic Strategy (NWDA, 2006)			
<p>This is a blueprint for sustainable economic growth in the region. It analyses the strengths and weaknesses in the North West and sets out a series of priority actions to maximise sustainable economic performance. The strategy has a vision for the North West, which is “a dynamic, sustainable international economy, which competes on the basis of knowledge, advanced technology and an excellent quality of life”.</p>	<p>The Regional Economic Strategy sets out 122 actions for achieving the vision which include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop appropriate energy policies and supplies • Develop and implement a Regional Climate Change Action Plan <p>Targets included with the Regional Economic plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CO2 Emissions: Reduce CO2 emissions per unit (£) of Gross Value Added and • To meet Kyoto targets by 2012, to reduce CO2 emissions to 12.5% below 1990 levels <p><i>As the economy grows, it is likely that CO₂ emissions will also grow. The aim has to be to decouple economic growth and environmental degradation, which this target seeks to measure i.e. increases in CO₂ emissions being</i></p>	<p>Such a SPD is contributing directly to these aims – need to ensure targets are compatible with what RUDP is trying to achieve.</p>	<p>Achieving a sustainable economy</p> <p>Living within Environmental Limits</p>

Key objectives relevant to plan and SA	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Commentary/ Implications for plan/SA	Broad Sustainability Objectives
	<p><i>lower than increases in GVA. Once more detailed CO₂ data is available a more stretching target may be considered.</i></p>		
Energy in England's North West - achieving sustainable growth, (NWDA 2003)			
<p>NWDA commissioned a project to map the existing energy supply chain and to examine the economic and environmental implications of the key drivers, which include amongst others:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • step changes in the development of energy technologies • rapidly growing pressures on the energy infrastructure of the region <p>The report focuses on energy use and supply in the surrounding area and compliance with the Energy White Paper - 60% reduction in CO₂ emissions by 2050, the associated emphasis on</p>	<p>Results</p> <p>It is estimated that implementation of the Action Plan will deliver the following benefits over the next 10 years:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> . The creation of 7,600 direct jobs . A growth in sales of regional suppliers of nearly £800 million per annum . Additional investment of over £5 billion . A reduction in CO₂ emission of around 5 million tonnes (1.4 MtC) per annum 	<p>The SPD will be of direct benefit to such aims by supporting RUDP policy.</p>	<p>Achieving a sustainable economy</p>

Key objectives relevant to plan and SA	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Commentary/ Implications for plan/SA	Broad Sustainability Objectives
renewable energy and energy efficiency plays to a number of regional strengths.			
DRAFT- Rising to the Challenge- A Climate Change Action plan for the North West- NWDA,(2006)			
The development and implementation of a Climate Change Action Plan is one of the 'transformational' activities within the Northwest Regional Economic Strategy	Actions: (Relates to Policy NR3.3) Develop the micro generation supply chain increase capacity and competitiveness.	The SPD will support policy NR3.3 and be of direct benefit in working towards such objectives.	Living within Environmental Limits
DRAFT- "North West Sustainable Energy Strategy", North West Regional Assembly (2006)			
The DRAFT Sustainable Energy Strategy sets out clearly the energy challenge that faces the North West. More importantly, it demonstrates how different sectors across the region can act to address this challenge head on, whilst also achieving wider economic, social and environmental objectives. Specific guidance is offered to local authorities, the private sector, and the construction	(Relates to Policy NR3.3) The strategy for the North West aims to prioritise and encourage sustainable energy practices that are most amenable to intervention at regional and local level, these being energy efficiency, renewable energy, combined heat and power, micro-generation and sustainable transport. With this in mind, the region aspires to deploy sufficient renewable electricity	Compare plan objectives with those of the strategy to check compatibility.	Living within Environmental Limits

Key objectives relevant to plan and SA	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Commentary/ Implications for plan/SA	Broad Sustainability Objectives
industry.	<p>generating capacity to provide</p> <p>10% of demand by 2010 15% of demand by 2015 20% of demand by 2020</p> <p>Meeting these targets will be encouraged through the promotion of micro generation, such as the use of smaller scale community and on site renewable energy projects. These will be required in certain new non residential developments and residential developments and be expected to incorporate renewable energy production that provides at least 10% of the predicted energy requirements.</p>		

Key objectives relevant to plan and SA	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Commentary/ Implications for plan/SA	Broad Sustainability Objectives
Oldham Beyond: A Vision for the Borough of Oldham (Oldham Partnership and Northwest Regional Development Agency, 2004)			
Identifies importance of energy and need for improvement in energy efficiency measures and to exploit opportunities for sustainable energy production.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy Efficiency Aim: To reduce energy consumption in Oldham Metropolitan Borough and the consequences of resource depletion and environmental degradation. • Energy Supply Aim: To reduce the demand for non-renewable energy resources 	The SPD is an essential tool at the local level in contributing towards achieving the Oldham Metropolitan Borough Beyond Vision.	Living within Environmental Limits
Affordable Warmth For All- A Strategy for Oldham 2004-2010 (OMBC 2004)			
Builds on the national commitment to eradicate fuel poverty in vulnerable groups by 2010. Also supports the Warm Homes and Energy Conservation Act 2000.	<p>Aim 4- to provide technical and energy efficiency solutions for Affordably Warm Housing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve energy efficiency standards for new and existing housing • Increase use of renewables and high efficiency energy technology. Include 	The SPD is an essential tool at the local level in contributing towards achieving the aims of the affordable warmth strategy (strategy shows direct link to UDP policy).	<p>Ensuring a strong, healthy and just society</p> <p>Living within Environmental Limits</p>

Key objectives relevant to plan and SA	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Commentary/ Implications for plan/SA	Broad Sustainability Objectives
	district heating schemes		
Oldham's Community Strategy – Planning for Sustainable Communities 2005-2020 (Oldham Partnership, 2005)			
<p>Key Theme: An Improved and Valued Environment.</p> <p>Aims include: To conserve natural resources – reducing our consumption of energy and other natural resources while minimising the waste we send to land-fill sites through re-use, recycling and recovery.</p> <p>Actions over next 3-5 years includes developing and adopting Renewable Energy and Climate Change Strategies that identify responsibilities and actions across the Oldham Partnership.</p>	<p>Requires development of robust targets for renewable energy generation and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.</p>	<p>The SPD is an essential tool at the local level in contributing towards achieving the aims of the Community Strategy.</p>	<p>Living within Environmental Limits</p>

Key objectives relevant to plan and SA	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Commentary/ Implications for plan/SA	Broad Sustainability Objectives
Draft- Oldham Renewable Energy Strategy and Action Plan- <i>Oldham's Green Energy Revolution 2006-2015</i> - (Oldham Partnership 2006)			
<p>A plan developed by the Oldham Partnership as part of the Community Strategy and Oldham Beyond priorities</p> <p>Main plan DRAFT aims:</p> <p>Aim 1 – To Ensure the Co-ordination, Development, and implementation of this Renewable Energy Strategy in Oldham Metropolitan Borough.</p> <p>Aim 2- to raise awareness and improve education about Renewable Energy</p> <p>Aim 3- To develop skills of the workforce.</p> <p>Aim 4- To identify grant schemes, EU and National Funding Projects for domestic and commercial developments</p> <p>Aim 5- To further identify and resolve planning issues.</p>	<p>No specific targets.</p>	<p>The SPD would be part of the planning framework that fits into the wider strategy that is working towards such objectives.</p>	<p>Living within Environmental Limits</p> <p>Achieving a sustainable economy</p>

Key objectives relevant to plan and SA	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Commentary/ Implications for plan/SA	Broad Sustainability Objectives
<p>Aim 6- Deploy renewable energy on the ground i.e. new build, refurbishments, domestic, commercial, industrial, social etc.</p> <p>Aim 7- Promote the growth of the renewable energy market to local businesses.</p>			
Oldham Local Area Agreement 2006-2009 (Oldham Partnership, 2006)			
<p>Section 7 refers to environmental sustainability and that an ecological footprint of Oldham Metropolitan Borough will be modelled and monitored.</p>	<p>No specific targets</p>	<p>The SPD will support the UDP in aiming to reduce the ecological footprint of the Borough.</p>	<p>Living within Environmental Limits</p>
Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council Corporate Plan 2006-09			
<p>Council Corporate Plan Theme 4 An improved Environment.</p>	<p>Outcome only- Section 4.2 Reduced Environmental impact and associated risk from Council services activities.</p>	<p>The SPD will contribute towards meeting this outcome.</p>	<p>Living within Environmental Limits</p>

Key objectives relevant to plan and SA	Key targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Commentary/ Implications for plan/SA	Broad Sustainability Objectives
Oldham Metropolitan Borough Unitary Development Plan (to be adopted on 14 July 200)			
Policies NR3.1, NR3.2 and NR3.3 set out the approach towards renewable energy developments.	No specific targets, although policy NR3.3 aims to source 10% of the total predicted energy requirements of major new developments from renewable energy sources.	The SPD will contribute towards implementing the UDP policies.	Living within Environmental Limits
Oldham/Rochdale Housing Market Renewal Initiative			
HMR Eco-Homes Good is specified as a minimum in the draft design guide, although Excellent is being delivered as standard within Oldham Metropolitan Borough as lead by Regeneration on HMR and wider projects.	Awaiting confirmation of targets.	Supporting policy within the UDP.	Living within Environmental Limits

2.19 This process has shown that the importance of renewable energy is increasingly reflected across a raft of policies and guidance at all levels of government.

? Questions to aid consultation?

Do you agree that the plans, policies and programmes identified are relevant?

Are there any other relevant plans, policies and programmes and sustainable development objectives that will affect or influence the SPD?

3. Stage 2 - Baseline Information (A2)



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



The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected

- 3.1 This stage involves the collection of data, which will be of particular relevance to the Renewable Energy Supplementary Planning Document. It is baseline data that provides the basis for predicting and monitoring effects and can help to identify sustainability problems and alternative ways of dealing with them. The information collected at this stage should give information about the current and likely future state of the plan area. This will allow the plan's likely effects to be adequately predicted.

Oldham Metropolitan Borough Characterisation

- 3.2 The Borough of Oldham covers approximately 55 square miles and has around 217,000 inhabitants, as recorded at the 2001 Census.
- 3.3 Oldham Metropolitan Borough has a diverse landscape with the eastern part of the Borough containing significant areas of open countryside with a settlement pattern of densely settled river valleys, typical of the South Pennines, and dispersed farmsteads. The Landscape Character Volume for the North West England includes the Southern Pennines, Dark Peak and Manchester Pennine Fringe, which are relevant to Oldham Metropolitan Borough. However to the west, the Borough has an urban character, reflecting its position close to Manchester City Centre.

Baseline Data

- 3.4 The following information presents an overview of the statistical information currently available in relation to this SPD. As stated earlier base line data is collected in order to help predict and monitor possible effects. It also helps to identify sustainability problems and alternative ways of dealing with them.
- 3.5 As with all studies of data it will be impossible to provide an exhaustive list. However, it should also be noted that not all data will be of relevance or useable. For example, a dataset may be unavailable at the right scale, out of date, unreliable, partial or biased. To ensure that this risk is minimised information will be carefully chosen and must have relevance to this topic. If incorrect information is chosen, this could lead to a document that is not focussed on the correct areas or that monitoring of the document is not as successful as it could be. For this reason it is also important that information collected is kept as up to date as possible, so the source of information also needs to be consistent and reliable.
- 3.6 The Renewable Energy Supplementary Planning Document will be informed by higher policies, plans and programmes, such as those identified at stage 1. As these are reviewed it may be necessary to identify further baseline data. Similarly baseline data that is not currently collected at the local level, but will be important to monitor the success of the Supplementary Planning Document, may also be identified, if it is feasible to collect the information.

Table 2. Baseline Data

Broad Sustainability Objectives	INDICATOR (S)	DATA	COMPARATORS/TARGETS	TREND	ISSUE IDENTIFIED
e.g. Living within Environmental Limits	Percentage of large developments incorporating renewable energy generation (Policy NR3.3 only).	Data can be taken from Acolaid – the Council’s planning application system.	Between April 2005 and March 2006 there were 24 schemes granted which have required 10% of energy to be delivered by on-site renewable sources.	None	Lack of information on these issues/areas.
	Number of wind turbine planning applications approved and refused planning permission. (relates to Policies NR3.1 and NR3.2)	Data can be taken from Acolaid – the Council’s planning application system.	Data Gap		

Broad Sustainability Objectives	INDICATOR (S)	DATA	COMPARATORS/TARGETS	TREND	ISSUE IDENTIFIED
	Renewable energy capacity installed by type ²	Current known capacity from renewable sources is approximately 4.036MW. (source: 2005 AMR)	Limited data available from other Greater Manchester local authorities, but those with known published figures are: Stockport – 0.08MW Manchester – 0.0025MW Bolton – 0.026MW Bury – 8.374MW Rochdale – 0.043MW (sources: 2005 AMRs) -	To be assessed at next AMR	A very low proportion of the Borough's overall energy demands are met from renewable energy sources.

² 'Installed' means completed and available for operation.

- 3.7 Collection of baseline data is ongoing. New information or issues may emerge with relevance to the appraisal. In this instance it is acknowledged that there are significant data gaps in the information. This is due to the fact that the indicators relate to a newly adopted policy and subsequent determination of planning applications. Therefore till the policy has been in effect for a period such data will not be forthcoming.

? Questions to aid consultation?

Do you agree that the baseline data collected is appropriate for the SPD? Are there any inaccuracies in the data provided?

Is there any other data that you think is appropriate for the SPD that is not included? Do you have appropriate sources to gain this information?

4. Stage 3 - Identifying Key Sustainability Issues (A3)



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 and 92/43/EEC

Key Issues and Problems

The study of other policies, plans and programmes and the collection of baseline data have highlighted several key issues in the Borough and problems that could be addressed through the Supplementary Planning Document. The key issues and problems relating to renewable energy are highlighted below. The problems highlighted are areas that the Supplementary Planning Document will need to provide guidance on. Other non-problematic issues are ones that the Supplementary Planning Document should acknowledge and incorporate into its guidance.

Ensuring a strong, healthy and just society (social factors)

- Sustainable energy initiatives incorporating renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies can make a significant contribution to fuel poverty and help reduce health and social inequalities. The use of renewable energy technologies can help the Boroughs residents reduce energy price fluctuations and thus reduce or help manage overall affordability of energy bills.

Living within environmental limits (environmental factors)

- Encouraging decoupled and micro energy generation (NR3.3).
- Dependency on fossil fuel use, with current limited capacity availability from renewable sources (and associated impacts of large scale energy generation at traditional power stations, and extraction and transport associated with fuel movements/infrastructure) (NR.3.1, 3.2, 3.2).
- Associated siting and impacts of stand alone wind turbines above a certain size (NR3.1-3.2).

Achieving a sustainable economy (economic factors)

- Improved economy associated with increased levels of disposable income and reduced levels of fuel debt.
- Business will benefit from cost savings associated with savings that can be made by avoiding paying an amount of the Climate Change levy tax (improved business bottom line- therefore competitiveness ability and enhanced potential job security).
- New job opportunities by encouraging the development of Environmental Technology companies and diversification of existing manufacturing base to supply new services to meet the new demand of installing, building, and maintaining the renewable energy infrastructure.

? Questions to aid consultation?

Are these the key sustainability issues relating to this SPD?

Are there any other sustainability issues that you consider should be raised?

5. Stage 4 - Developing the SA Framework (A4)



The environmental 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

Plan Objective

- 5.1 The Renewable Energy Supplementary Planning Document will supplement policy within the Replacement Unitary Development Plan. The Supplementary Planning Document will therefore be consistent with the aims and objectives of the Replacement Unitary Development Plan. The objectives of the Supplementary Planning Document have consequently been developed using the objectives of the relevant Natural Resources and Environmental Quality policies within the Oldham Metropolitan Borough Replacement Unitary Development Plan.

Plan Objective 1

- 5.2 To encourage the generation of electricity from renewable sources and contribute to United Kingdom and regional targets in relation to renewable energy and climate change.

Development of Sustainability Objectives

- 5.3 The purpose of developing the Sustainability Appraisal framework is to provide a means by which the sustainability of the Supplementary Planning Document can be appraised. The process of developing the Sustainability Appraisal framework involves the development of sustainability objectives. These objectives should take into account the processes that have taken place through tasks A1 to A3 and aim to address the problems and issues raised in the previous section.

- 5.4 The Sustainability Appraisal guidance produced by the Government states that plan objectives are objectives adopted for the plan, usually through a process of expert consideration, public consultation and political approval. The plan objectives below therefore also reflect the objectives and aims of the Replacement Unitary Development Plan.
- 5.5 The Sustainability Appraisal Objectives provide a methodological yardstick against which the social, environmental and economic effects of the plan can be tested. These objectives are distinct from the plan Objectives, though they will often overlap with them. Sustainability Objectives should also focus on outputs (or ends), not how the outcomes will be achieved. In studying the stages A1 to A3 it would appear appropriate to have the sustainability objectives identified in Table 3. Table 3 records the reasons for choosing the Sustainability Objectives.

Table 3. Sustainability objectives

Source of sustainability issue/wording		Other sources indicating importance of issue wording		
Regional SD Framework	SEA Directive	Other Plans and programmes	Sustainability issues and problems identified	Proposed SA Objectives
Ensuring a strong, healthy and just society				
Climate change	Climatic factors	PPS1 & PPS22	Dependency on fossil fuel use	Increase the % of energy generated from renewable energy sources
Healthy communities	Human health	Affordable Warmth and Fuel poverty strategies	Sustainable energy initiatives. Difficulty in actually assessing the number of homes/people of the borough in fuel poverty, however other indicators are collected to report on	To reduce fuel poverty To improve the health of the Borough's population To reduce fossil fuel use and dependency

			the boroughs Affordable Warmth Strategy.	
Living within environmental limits				
Climate change	Climatic factors	PPS 22/ RSS/ energy white paper.	Low baseline and limited records at local level as to number of small scale schemes	Increase the % of energy generated from renewable energy sources To reduce fossil fuel use and dependency
Achieving a sustainable economy				
Enterprise and Innovation	Material Assets	Regional economic strategy/ Securing the Future – The UK Government’s Sustainable Development Strategy (2005).	Need to establish baselines and monitoring procedures. As more technologies and ancillary support services are developed, there should be a reduced in capital costs or renewable energy installations making them more viable.	To support the development of environmental technologies services sector To reduce fossil fuel use and dependency

Resultant Proposed Sustainability Objectives

Objective A

Increase the percentage of energy generated from renewable energy sources

Objective B

To improve the health of the Borough's population

Objective C

To reduce fossil fuel use and dependency

Objective D

To support the development of environmental technologies services sector

Objective E

To reduce fuel poverty

? Questions to aid consultation ?

Do you agree with the sustainability objectives, targets and indicators that have been identified?

Are there any other sustainability objectives, targets and indicators that should be added? Should any of those identified be removed?

APPENDIX 1: Oldham MBC Unitary Development Plan renewable energy policies

These are draft composite policies incorporating the Revised Deposit Plan and Proposed Modifications for the purposes of this Scoping Report. The final version of the new Unitary Development Plan is being prepared and will be issued as soon as possible.

Policy NR3.1 - Renewable Energy Developments

The Council will permit developments, which generate energy from renewable sources, where the development, or any ancillary infrastructure or buildings, would not result in an unacceptable impact on:

- a. residential /workplace amenity or human health;**
- b. the visual amenity of the local area, including landscape character;**
- c. local natural resources, including air and water quality;**
- d. biodiversity, nature conservation or historical/archaeological interests;**
- e. the statutory purposes of the Peak District National Park;**
- f. public access to the countryside; and**
- g. the openness and visual amenity of the Green Belt.**

Developments will be expected to be located at, or as close as possible to, the source of the resource needed for that particular technology, unless, in the case of Combined Heat and Power schemes, it can be demonstrated that the benefits of the scheme outweigh the costs of transportation.

In all cases, redundant plant, buildings and infrastructure shall be removed and the site restored.

The Council will require applications for such developments to be accompanied by an appropriate detailed statement of the environmental effects of the development, and its benefits in terms of the amount of energy it is expected to generate.

Permission will only be granted if any unavoidable damage that would be caused during installation, operation or decommissioning is minimised and mitigated or compensated for. Applications must indicate how this will be achieved.

Policy NR3.2 – Wind Developments

The Council will permit wind developments subject to them meeting criteria a-g of policy NR3.1, and the following criteria:

- a. the proposed development will not have an unacceptable impact on any of the following:**
 - i) the landscape, through the number, scale, size and siting of turbines, impact on the skyline, cumulative impact or the need for new power lines for connection to the electricity supply grid;**
 - ii) highway or aviation safety; or**
 - iii) existing transmitting or receiving systems;**
- b. the proposed development will not lead to significant nuisance to the public, including footpath and bridleway users, arising from noise, shadow flicker, electromagnetic interference or reflected light; and**
- c. redundant turbines, plant, transmission lines and access roads will be removed and the sites restored.**

In all cases, the Council will require applications for wind developments to be accompanied by an appropriate detailed statement of the environmental effects of the development, and its benefits in terms of the amount of energy it is expected to generate.

Permission will only be granted if any unavoidable damage that would be caused during installation, operation or decommissioning is minimised and mitigated or compensated for. Applications must indicate how this will be achieved.

Policy NR3.3 – Renewable Energy in Major New Developments

For all major new developments, including residential developments comprising 10 or more units, and non-residential developments exceeding 1000m² gross floorspace, the Council will require 10% of total predicted energy requirements to be provided, on site, from renewable energy sources. Where it is claimed that such a requirement would be non-viable in relation to a particular proposal, the claim should be supported by a development appraisal substantiating the claim of non-viability with regard to the type of development proposed, its location and design.

APPENDIX 2: COMMENTS RECEIVED ON THE SCOPING REPORT AND THE COUNCIL'S RESPONSES

Respondent	Reference Number	Comment	Council Response
Government Office North West	052/RE/001/SPD	Do not wish to offer any comments.	Noted.
Environment Agency	003/RE/001/SPD	Supports the plans, policies and programmes outlined in the report, and also the key objectives, indicators and targets.	Noted.
English Heritage	004/RE/001/SPD	It is considered that the Scoping Report falls short of addressing impact upon the historic environment. Suggests including reference to the European Landscape Convention and PPS22 Renewable Energy paragraph 11 (other nationally-designated areas).	Noted, the European Landscape Convention has now been added. Reference to PPS22 and its key principles for renewable energy are already identified within the Scoping Report.
English Heritage	004/RE/002/SPD	There is no baseline information relating to the historic environment included in Table 2. It is suggested that an indicator is developed to cover this omission and include objectives to cover the historic environment. The following are suggested: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To preserve, protect and enhance sites, 	An additional sustainability objective has been included: "To have regard to the built and natural environments of the Borough".

		<p>features and areas of archaeological, historical and cultural heritage importance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To protect, enhance and manage the rich diversity of cultural and built environment and archaeological assets. • Protect, enhance and manage the character and appearance of the landscape and townscape, maintaining and strengthening local distinctiveness and sense of place. • Protect, manage and, where necessary, improve local environmental quality. • To achieve high quality and sustainable design for buildings, spaces and the public realm sensitive to the locality. 	
English Heritage	004/RE/003/SPD	The section on Key Issues and Problems also neglects the historic	Noted. The additional sustainability objective (see above) address

		<p>environment. The following list provides examples of the environmental problems, issues and opportunities that we would expect the SA process to take account of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Areas of significantly degraded landscape / townscape or areas where, on current trends, there is likely to be further significant loss of landscape / townscape character or quality. • Areas where development has had or is likely to have significant impact upon the historic environment and/or people's enjoyment of it. • Areas where landscape character or quality is being eroded because of changing farming, other land management practices or development. • Traffic congestion, air quality, noise pollution and 	<p>issues relating to the historic environment.</p>
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		other problems affecting the historic environment.	
Countryside Agency (Now Natural England)	002/RE/001/SPD	General information and indicators relating to environmental interests are included within an appendix.	Noted.
Countryside Agency (Now Natural England)	002/RE/002/SPD	Baseline Information A2 - Oldham Borough Characterisation: The report makes no reference to part of Oldham district lying with the Peak National Park, although recognises that for planning purposes this is the responsibility of the National Park Authority. This should be covered here.	The SA report has to be read in conjunction with the draft SPD, which will include reference to the fact the UDP policy does not apply to that part of the Borough, which lies within the Peak District National Park.
Countryside Agency (Now Natural England)	002/RE/003/SPD	It would be helpful if the Scoping Report could refer to the Landscape Character volume for North West England and include a few sentences from the volume setting out the main features of the three character areas that are relevant to Oldham.	Noted. This has now been included in the document review.
Countryside Agency (Now Natural England)	002/RE/004/SPD	Identifying Key Sustainability Issues (A3): An additional issue to raise would be the "landscape and	Policies NR3.1 and NR3.2 already address these issues.

		visual impact” caused by renewable energy developments.	
Countryside Agency (Now Natural England)	002/RE/005/SPD	Developing the SA Framework: An objective could be added, “conserve and enhance the landscape and townscape character of the Borough and the setting of the National Park”.	An additional objective has been added – “to have regard to the built and natural environments of the Borough” - based on comments received from English Heritage.
Energy Savings Trust	RE/001/SPD	Agrees the plans, policies and programmes identified are relevant.	Noted.
Energy Savings Trust	RE/002/SPD	Recommends considering the following additional plans: 1) Climate Change – the UK programme 2006. 2) Climate Change and Sustainable Energy Act 2006. 3) EU Energy Performance of Buildings Directive. 4) Eco Homes.	1) – 3) Noted & including in scoping report. 4) Included - now Code for Sustainable Homes.
Energy Savings Trust	RE/003/SPD	Agrees the baseline data collected is appropriate for the SPD.	Noted.
Energy Savings Trust	RE/004/SPD	Suggests the following are considered as indicators: 1) Number of installations in the area that received	Noted, but it is not proposed to include any of these suggestions as indicators.

		<p>the DTI's Low Carbon Buildings Programme funding.</p> <p>2) Number of homes in fuel poverty.</p> <p>3) Average SAP rating of properties.</p> <p>4) Percentage of new and retrofit homes meeting EcoHomes Excellent rating.</p> <p>5) Excess winter mortality.</p>	
Energy Savings Trust	RE/005/SPD	<p>Recommends that the following sustainability issues should be considered:</p> <p>1) Renewable energy technologies on listed buildings and/or in conservation areas.</p> <p>2) Renewable energy technology impact on Green Belt.</p> <p>3) Renewable energy technology impact on archaeology.</p> <p>4) Reducing energy need and encouraging efficient use of energy prior to renewable energy.</p>	<p>Bullets 1) to 3) - Noted. Policies NR3.1 and NR3.2 already address these issues. Bullet 4) – The UDP policy relates to “new” developments, not to reducing the energy requirements of existing developments.</p>

APPENDIX 3: TESTING THE PLAN OBJECTIVES AGAINST THE SUSTAINABILITY OBJECTIVES

Plan Objective	Sustainability Objectives				
	Objective A: Increase the percentage of energy generated from renewable energy sources	Objective B: To improve the health of the Borough's population	Objective C: To reduce fossil fuel use and dependency	Objective D: To support the development of environmental technologies services sector	Objective E: To reduce fuel poverty
Objective 1: To encourage the generation of electricity from renewable sources and contribute to United Kingdom and regional targets in relation to renewable energy and climate change.	Positive Contribution	Positive Contribution	Positive Contribution	Positive Contribution	Positive Contribution
Comments and recommendations:					
The plan objectives are in accordance with sustainability principles and work towards the aim of encouraging renewable energy.					

APPENDIX 4: SUSTAINABILITY FRAMEWORK TOOLKIT CHECKLIST

1. Will the initiative protect, enhance and manage biodiversity and local landscape character?
2. Will the initiative protect places of historic, cultural and archaeological value?
3. Will the initiative develop or deliver local, regional and national policies to tackle climate change?
4. Will the initiative contribute to developing and maintaining sustainable communities?
5. Will the initiative develop strong and positive relationships between people from different backgrounds and communities?
6. Will the initiative encourage sustainable economic growth and employment?
7. Will the initiative improve health and/or improve access to health care in the region particularly in deprived areas?
8. Will the initiative improve access to good quality, affordable and resource efficient housing?
9. Will the initiative contribute to the provision of cleaner, safer, greener communities?
10. Will the initiative ensure efficient use of natural resources?
11. Will the initiative bring intermediate or higher levels skills into the current workforce or develop skills required to bring people back into the labour market?
12. Will the initiative reduce the need to travel or the distances needed to travel?
13. Will the initiative ensure the sustainable management of waste?
14. Will the initiative develop and market the region's image?

APPENDIX 5: SUSTAINABILITY FRAMEWORK FINDINGS

Renewable Energy SA Objective A: To minimise energy use, promote energy efficiency and to encourage the use of energy from renewable resources														
Option 1 - Rely solely on UDP policy						Option 2 - Implement the SPD								
Criteria	Impact + / ++ / - / - - / ? / 0			Scale	Supporting Evidence – Any secondary or cumulative effects?	Suggested Changes	Impact + / ++ / - / - - / ? / 0			Scale	Supporting Evidence – Any secondary or cumulative effects?	Suggested Changes		
	S 3	M 10	L 10+				S 3	M 10	L 10+					
Will the initiative develop or deliver local, regional and national policies to tackle climate change?	+	+	N/A	Y	Y	Yes, the UDP will help minimise greenhouse gases and emissions. It will promote energy efficient use as energy bills will be cheaper, so having knock on effects as people without energy efficient houses will desire cheaper bills too. As time goes on people's confidence in renewable energy will grow.		+	++	N/A	Y	Y	The SPD will assist with the implementation of the UDP Policy	

Will the initiative encourage sustainable economic growth and employment?	+	+	N/A	Y	In the short term the costs associated with renewables may act as a discouragement to developers, but as technology advances, the local economy will capitalise on it. The UDP cannot force existing businesses to use renewable energy. Businesses that move in to premises with renewable energy schemes already in place will see benefits in the future. Also the environmental technologies services sector is expanding. There will be spin off benefits for other sectors, servicing & maintenance sectors, in the medium/long term to cope with growing demand.		+	+	N/A	Y	Y	The SPD will assist with the implementation of the UDP Policy	
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Will the initiative improve access to good quality, affordable and resource efficient housing?	+	++	N/A	Y		In relation to Policy NR3.3: If a house is resource efficient it could help to reduce fuel poverty. As technology increases/improves then resource efficient housing will become more commonplace. Selwyn Close in Oldham is an example of resource efficient housing.		+	++	N/A	Y		The SPD will assist with the implementation of the UDP policy. It will also provide technical information that will help to inform individuals about the topic.	
Will the initiative contribute to the provision of cleaner, safer, greener communities?	+	+	N/A	Y		Yes, biomass is air quality viable, but it will be a longer-term effect.		+	++	N/A	Y	Y	The SPD will assist with the implementation of the UDP Policy. (This could also link in with the Air Quality and Development SPD).	

Will the initiative ensure efficient use of natural resources?	+	+	N/A	Y		Yes, it will be a slow start but with small scale immediate impact. Developers will want/need to meet their 10% targets, so will naturally drive down consumption through energy efficient design.		+	N/A	Y	Y		The SPD will assist with the implementation of the UDP Policy	
Will the initiative bring intermediate or higher levels skills into the current workforce or develop skills required to bring people back into the labour market?	?	+	N/A	Y	Y	Environmental technology knowledge will develop more and there is potential to develop the skill base.		?	+	N/A	Y	Y	The SPD will assist with the implementation of the UDP policy. It will also provide technical information that will help to inform individuals about the topic.	
Will the initiative ensure the sustainable management of waste?	0	+	N/A	Y		Yes, with biomass technology promoting reuse of waste - and in the broader sense it would raise the agenda.		0	+	N/A	Y		The SPD will assist with the implementation of UDP Policy. It will also help to promote the use of biomass.	

Will the initiative develop and market the region's image?	0/+	+	N/A	Y		Image is already improving due to the Oldham UDP Policy being one of the first to be developed in the region, and the first in Greater Manchester. In the short term, may be uncertainties about the technology and developments. However, on a large scale they could be seen as very beneficial. Over time technologies will evolve and improve.		+	++	N/A	Y	Y	The SPD will raise the profile of renewables- one of the first policies in the region.	
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- ++ = Significantly moves towards
- + = Positive
- 0 = Neutral
- ? = Unsure
- = Negative
- = = Significantly moves away

Questions, which were omitted:

Will the initiative protect, enhance and manage biodiversity and local landscape character?

Will the initiative protect places of historic, cultural and archaeological value?

Will the initiative develop strong and positive relationships between people from different backgrounds and communities?

Will the initiative improve health and/or improve access to health care in the region particularly in deprived areas?

Will the initiative reduce the need to travel or the distances needed to travel?

Will the initiative contribute to developing and maintaining sustainable communities?

Renewable Energy SA Objective C: To ensure the prudent use and sustainable management of man made and natural resources, including minerals, land soil, air and water

Option 1 - Rely solely on UDP policy						Option 2 - Implement the SPD								
Criteria	Impact + / + + / - / - - / ? / 0			Scale		Supporting Evidence – Any secondary or cumulative effects?	Suggested Changes	Impact + / + + / - / - - / ? / 0			Scale		Supporting Evidence – Any secondary or cumulative effects?	Suggested Changes
	S 3	M 10	L 10+					S 3	M 10	L 10+				
Will the initiative develop or deliver local, regional and national policies to tackle climate change?	+	+	N/A	Y	Y	Dependency on fossil fuel will decrease and developers etc will have to adapt their designs and developments. Energy demands will need to be met from other sources, which renewable energy can make a contribution towards.		+	++	N/A	Y	Y	The SPD will assist with the implementation of UDP policy.	

Will the initiative encourage sustainable economic growth and employment?	0	+	N/A	Y		In the short term the costs associated with renewables may act as a discouragement to developers, but as technology advances the local economy will capitalise on it. The UDP cannot force existing businesses to use renewable energy. Businesses that move in to premises with renewable energy schemes already in place will see benefits in the future. Also the reduction in fossil fuel will mean there is a gap to be filled by new renewable energies - that sector will grow (environmental technology).		0	++	N/A	Y		The SPD will assist with the implementation of UDP policy. It will also flag up opportunities for efficiencies and savings to be made in moving from use of fossil fuels to renewable energy.
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Will the initiative improve access to good quality, affordable and resource efficient housing?	+	++	N/A	Y		More resource efficient housing will reduce dependency on fossil fuel use and fuel poverty.		+	++	N/A	Y		The SPD will assist with the implementation of UDP policy.	
Will the initiative contribute to the provision of cleaner, safer, greener communities?	+	+	N/A	Y	Y	Yes, biomass is air quality viable, but it will be a longer-term effect.		+	++	N/A	Y	Y	The SPD will assist with the implementation of UDP policy. Links with the Air Quality and Development SPD.	
Will the initiative ensure efficient use of natural resources?	+	++	N/A	Y	Y	Yes, this is a key issue. Reducing fossil fuel use will reduce use of natural resources, which in turn will contribute towards the sustainable management of resources.		+	++	N/A	Y	Y	The SPD will assist with the implementation of UDP policy. It will emphasise the importance of joined up thinking.	

Will the initiative bring intermediate or higher levels skills into the current workforce or develop skills required to bring people back into the labour market?	+	++	N/A	Y	Y	As fossil fuel use declines, the environmental technology services sector will expand as new energy uses are explored and developed. Includes sectors such as insulators - wider sectors will be involved.		+	++	N/A	Y	Y	The SPD will assist with the implementation of UDP policy. It will also raise awareness.	
Will the initiative ensure the sustainable management of waste?	+	+	N/A	Y	Y	Yes, a reduction in fossil fuel usage will reduce the amount of waste created from fossil fuel production (e.g. coal).		+	+	N/A	Y	Y	The SPD will assist with the implementation of UDP policy. It will emphasise the importance of joined up thinking.	
Will the initiative develop and market the region's image?		0+	N/A	Y	Y	Yes, if Oldham's approach can be seen to reduce carbon emissions then we will be a more competitive Borough due to energy efficiency, which will increase wealth. The benefits will take time.			0++	N/A	Y	Y	The SPD will assist with the implementation of UDP policy. It will also raise awareness. Links with the Urban Design Guide SPD.	

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Questions, which were omitted

Will the initiative protect, enhance and manage biodiversity and local landscape character?

Will the initiative protect places of historic, cultural and archaeological value?

Will the initiative contribute to developing and maintaining sustainable communities?

Will the initiative develop strong and positive relationships between people from different backgrounds and communities?

Will the initiative improve health and/or improve access to health care in the region particularly in deprived areas?

Will the initiative reduce the need to travel or the distances needed to travel?

Renewable Energy SA Objective D: To encourage the development of innovative and knowledge based industries														
Option 1 - Rely solely on UDP policy						Option 2 - Implement the SPD								
Criteria	Impact + / + + / - / - / ? / 0			Scale		Supporting Evidence – Any secondary or cumulative effects?	Suggested Changes	Impact + / + + / - / - / ? / 0			Scale		Supporting Evidence – Any secondary or cumulative effects?	Suggested Changes
	S 3	M 10	L 10+					S 3	M 10	L 10+				
Will the initiative develop or deliver local, regional and national policies to tackle climate change?	+	+	N/A	Y	Y	Developing the technologies will have a knock on effect by promoting the use of renewable energy. The UDP promotes the use of on-site renewables (i.e. the 10% requirement), but there is not a large number of environmental technology services sector companies yet.		+	++	N/A	Y	Y	The SPD will assist with the implementation of the policy. It could indicate whom to contact for further information on environmental technologies, which will in turn further promote the use of renewables.	

Will the initiative encourage sustainable economic growth and employment?	0	+	N/A	Y	Y	Yes, because the environmental technology services sector businesses creating the new technologies will benefit as well as the companies buying the technologies that will benefit from reduced fuel bills. Policy NR3.3 is supporting the sectors growth by requiring on-site renewables for new developments. Economies of scales in terms of the costs of new technologies will make them more accessible to other firms in the future.		0	+	N/A	Y	Y	The SPD will assist with the implementation of the policy.	
Will the initiative ensure efficient use of natural resources?	+	+	N/A	Y	Y	Developing the technologies will have a knock on effect by promoting the use of renewable energy.		+	++	N/A	Y	Y	The SPD will assist with the implementation of the policy.	

Will the initiative bring intermediate or higher levels skills into the current workforce or develop skills required to bring people back into the labour market?	0	+	N/A	Y	Y	The Borough's approach towards renewables will be a positive attraction to companies to the region. University Centre Oldham could run apprenticeship schemes, which would build on the region's knowledge base. The Local Area Agreement and Regional Spatial Strategy could link into the process. Technologies can evolve.		0	+	N/A	Y	Y	The SPD will assist with the implementation of the policy.	
Will the initiative develop and market the region's image?	0/+	+	N/A	Y	Y	Yes, it is a high skilled base sector and could capitalise on the new 'green energy revolution' by being one of the first Borough's in the region to adopt a positive approach towards renewables.		+	++	N/A	Y	Y	The SPD will assist with the implementation of the UDP policies. It will raise the Borough's profile, as it is one of the first in the region.	

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Questions, which were omitted:

Will the initiative protect, enhance and manage biodiversity and local landscape character?

Will the initiative protect places of historic, cultural and archaeological value?

Will the initiative contribute to developing and maintaining sustainable communities?

Will the initiative develop strong and positive relationships between people from different backgrounds and communities?

Will the initiative improve health and/or improve access to health care in the region particularly in deprived areas?

Will the initiative improve access to good quality, affordable and resource efficient housing?

Will the initiative contribute to the provision of cleaner, safer, greener communities?

Will the initiative reduce the need to travel or the distances needed to travel?

Will the initiative ensure the sustainable management of waste?

Renewable Energy SA Objective F: To protect and improve the Borough's green infrastructure, biodiversity and geodiversity and to conserve and enhance the Borough's historical, archaeological and cultural heritage and its settings, and its landscape and townscape character													
	Option 1 - Rely solely on UDP policy						Option 2 - Implement the SPD						
Criteria	Impact + / ++ / - / - - / ? / 0			Scale	Supporting Evidence – Any secondary or cumulative effects?	Suggested Changes	Impact + / ++ / - / - - / ? / 0			Scale	Supporting Evidence – Any secondary or cumulative effects?	Suggested Changes	
	S 3	M 10	L 10+				S 3	M 10	L 10+				
Will the initiative protect, enhance and manage biodiversity and local landscape character?	+	+	N/A	Y		Yes, UDP policy provides for protection of nature conservation and biodiversity and visual amenity from unacceptable impact of renewable energy developments.		++	++	N/A	Y		The SPD will assist with the implementation of the UDP policies.

Will the initiative protect places of historic, cultural and archaeological value?	+	+	N/A	Y		Yes, UDP policy provides for protection of historic/ archaeological interests and visual amenity from unacceptable impact of renewable energy developments.		++	++	N/A	Y		The SPD will assist with the implementation of the UDP policies.	
Will the initiative improve access to good quality, affordable and resource efficient housing?	+	+	N/A	Y		Yes, UDP Policies can help improve high standards of sustainable design. HMR has incorporated sustainable design and renewable energy developments in Selwyn Close.		+	++	N/A	Y		The SPD will assist with the implementation of the UDP policies.	

Will the initiative develop and market the region's image?	+	+	N/A	Y	Y	Yes, could help create a strong regional identity for Oldham. Some forms of renewable energy can create some tensions but as the technologies become more common the benefits will be displayed.		++	++	N/A	Y	Y	The SPD will assist with the implementation of the UDP policies. It will also serve an educational purpose.	
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Questions, which were omitted:

Will the initiative develop or deliver local, regional and national policies to tackle climate change?

Will the initiative contribute to developing and maintaining sustainable communities?

Will the initiative develop strong and positive relationships between people from different backgrounds and communities?

Will the initiative encourage sustainable economic growth and employment?

Will the initiative improve health and/or improve access to health care in the region particularly in deprived areas?

Will the initiative contribute to the provision of cleaner, safer, greener communities?


Will the initiative ensure efficient use of natural resources?

Will the initiative bring intermediate or higher levels skills into the current workforce or develop skills required to bring people back into the labour market?

Will the initiative reduce the need to travel or the distances needed to travel?

Will the initiative ensure the sustainable management of waste?

APPENDIX 6: COMPLIANCE WITH THE SEA DIRECTIVE / REGULATIONS

Stage of the Sustainability Appraisal	 Signposted area of the SEA Directive
<p>Stage A:</p> <p>Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope.</p>	<p>The Environmental Report should provide information on [inter alia]:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the “relationship [of the plan or programme] with other relevant plans or programmes” (Annex I(a)) • “the environmental protection objectives, established at international, [European] 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” (annex I (e)) • “relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme” and “the environmental characteristics of the areas likely to be significantly affected” (Annex I (b), (c)) • “any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme including, in particular, those relating to any areas of particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to Directives 79/409/EEC and 92/43/EEC” (Annex I(d)) <p>“...the authorities ...which, by reason of their specific environmental responsibilities, are likely to be concerned by the environmental effects of implementing plans and programmes...shall be consulted when deciding on the scope and level of detail of the information which must be included in the environmental report” (Article 5.4 and 6.3)</p>
<p>Stage B:</p> <p>Developing and refining options and assessing effects</p>	<p>“...an environmental report shall be prepared in which the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme, and reasonable alternatives taking into account the objectives and the geographical scope of the plan or programme, are identified, described and evaluated” (Article 5.1). Information to be provided in the Environmental Report includes “an outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with” (Annex I (h))</p>

<p>Stage C: Preparing the Sustainability Report</p>	<p>“The environmental report shall include information that may reasonably be required taking into account current knowledge and methods of assessment, the contents and level of detail in the plan or programme, (and) its stage in the decision-making process” (Article 5.2).</p> <p>Information to be provided in the Environmental Report includes: “the likely significant effects on the environment, including 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 above factors. These effects should include secondary, cumulative, synergistic, short, medium and long term, permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects” (Annex I (f) and footnote).</p> <p>“an outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with” (Annex I (h))</p> <p>“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” (Annex I (g))</p>
<p>Stage D: Consulting on the preferred options of the DPD and SA Report</p>	<p>The authorities [with relevant environmental responsibilities] 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</p> <p>The environmental report...the opinions expressed [in responses to consultation]...and the results of any transboundary consultations...shall be taken into account during the preparation of the plan or programme before its adoption...</p> <p>When a plan or programme is adopted, the [environmental] authorities [and] the public...are informed and the following items [shall be] made available to those so informed: (a) the plan or programme as adopted, (b) a statement summarising how environmental considerations have been integrated into the plan or programme ...[including] the reasons for choosing the plan or programme as adopted, in the light of other reasonable alternatives dealt with, and (c) the measures decided concerning monitoring</p>

<p>Stage E: Monitoring the significant effects of implementing the DPD</p>	<p>Member States shall monitor the significant environmental effects of the implementation of the plans and programmes in order, <i>inter alia</i>, to identify at an early stage unforeseen adverse effects, and to be able to undertake appropriate remedial action” (Article 10.1)</p> <p>The Environmental Report shall include “a description of the measures envisaged concerning monitoring”</p>
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