

Oldham Local Plan

**Publication Plan Integrated
Assessment Appendix 1: IA of Vision**

January 2026



Oldham
Council

IA Draft Plan Appraisal: Vision

In relation to timescales, it is assumed that as this is a vision over the lifetime of the plan, all objectives will be met in the longer term.

IA Objective	Vision	Justification	Mitigation / enhancements	Changes made to the Publication Plan as a result of the IA
1. To protect, conserve and enhance a high quality multifunctional green infrastructure network, including biodiversity, priority species, habitats and geodiversity to become more ecologically connected	++	Vision states that Oldham will have responded to both the Biodiversity and Climate Change emergencies through the protection, restoration and enhancement of the natural environment and that Oldham will be a carbon neutral exemplar with a resilient and multifunctional Green Infrastructure network. It also states that our residents will have active and healthier lifestyles gained from access to active travel and green infrastructure.	No mitigation needed. Local Plan policies N1 to N4 on nature address Green Infrastructure. In addition, PfE Greener Places chapter also addresses this objective.	None
2. To promote quality and accessible open spaces	+	Vision states that our residents will have access to active travel and green infrastructure which will include our open spaces.	No mitigation needed. Policies CO1 and CO2 of the Local Plan address open space. In addition, PfE Policies JP-G2 and JP-P7 address this objective.	None
3. To protect and enhance the character and appearance of landscapes and townscapes, maintaining and strengthening local distinctiveness and sense of place	++	Vision states that the key characteristics of Oldham's townscape and landscape types will be conserved and enhanced.	No mitigation needed. PfE Policy JP-G1 and JP-P1 address this objective.	None

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4. To protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment, heritage assets and their setting	++	Vision states that the key characteristics of Oldham's historic environment and rich heritage will be conserved and enhanced.	No mitigation needed. Policies HE1 to HE5 of the Local Plan and PfE Policies JP-P1 and JP-P2 address the historic environment.	None
5. To promote high quality design that meets local design expectations	++	Vision states that new development will be brought forward in line with co-design expectations and design codes developed with Oldham's communities. It also states that the key characteristics of Oldham's townscape and landscape types and Oldham's historic environment and rich heritage will be conserved and enhanced.	No mitigation needed. Policies D1 to D4 of the Local Plan and PfE Policy JP-P1 address design.	None
6. To ensure land and buildings are used in an effective and efficient manner, maximising the use of brownfield land	+	The vision states that new homes will be delivered in sustainable and accessible locations; that our centres will continue to provide a vital role in meeting the needs of our communities; and that the natural environment will be protected. All these statements contribute indirectly towards ensuring land and buildings are used in an effective and efficient manner.	No mitigation needed. Policies H1 and H2 of the Local Plan and PfE policies JP-S1 and Policy JP- H4 address the efficient use of land.	None
7. To ensure appropriate provision of supporting infrastructure to meet development needs	++	Our residents will have access to local community facilities and health and well-being provision and will have active and healthier lifestyles gained from access to active travel and green infrastructure. The vision also states that there will be improved connectivity across the borough, the city-region and beyond - for all. We will have a transport system	No mitigation needed. There are several policies within PfE and the Local Plan that address infrastructure. Moreover, Local Plan	None

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		that enables the local economy to prosper and our residents to fully contribute to and benefit from job opportunities, and a comprehensive network of on and off-road walking and cycling routes that encourage active travel.	policy IN2 requires that planning conditions or obligations are used to mitigate the impact of development on provision.	
8. To improve health and well-being and reduce health inequalities	++	The vision states that Oldham residents will be healthy, safe and well-supported and will obtain health benefits from access to active travel, green Infrastructure and opportunities for sport and recreation. The vision also states residents will gain significant progress in living standards, which will in turn improve their health and well-being.	No mitigation needed. PfE Policy JP-P6 and Local Plan policies CO6 and CO7 and policies on green infrastructure address health and well-being.	None
9. To minimise and mitigate against flood risk and adapt to the effects of flood risk	+	The vision refers to how Oldham will have responded to both the Biodiversity and Climate Change emergencies through the protection, restoration and enhancement of the natural environment and having a substantially reduced carbon footprint and that our Green Infrastructure network will bring multiple benefits to the natural and built environment as well as to the health of its residents and visitors. One of the benefits will be mitigating against flood risk.	No mitigation needed. PfE Policy JP-S4 and Policy CC2 and CC3 of the Local Plan address flood risk.	None
10. To protect and improve the quality of water bodies and river corridors and	+	The vision refers to how Oldham will have responded to both the Biodiversity and Climate Change emergencies through the protection,	No mitigation needed. PfE Policy JP-S4 and Local Plan policies	None

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availability of water resources		restoration and enhancement of the natural environment and having a substantially reduced carbon footprint and how our Green Infrastructure network will bring multiple benefits to the natural and built environment as well as to the health of its residents and visitors, one of the benefits will be the protection and improvement in the quality of water bodies and river corridors.	CC2 to CC5 address water quality.	
11. To protect and improve soil quality, best and most versatile agricultural land, and remediate contaminated land	+	The vision will achieve this as it seeks to respond to the Climate Change emergency and enhance the natural environment and refers to a resilient and multi-functional Green Infrastructure network. The Local Plan provides more detail on this such as through restoring peat.	No mitigation needed. PfE Policy JP-G8 and Policy LE2 of the Local Plan address soil and contaminated land.	None
12. To minimise energy use, promote energy efficiency and the use of renewable and low carbon energy	++	The vision will achieve this as it seeks to respond to the Climate Change emergency through the protection, restoration and enhancement of the natural environment and having a substantially reduced carbon footprint from meeting the council's ambition to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030. The vision states that Oldham will have a strong reputation for clean growth and green innovation. It also states new development will be net zero and in line with co-design expectations and design codes.	No mitigation needed. PfE policies JP-S2, JP-S3 and JP-P1 address energy in addition to Local Plan policy CC1.	None
13. To ensure communities, infrastructure and biodiversity are resilient to the effects of climate change	++	The vision states that we will have responded to both the Biodiversity and Climate Change emergencies through the protection, restoration and enhancement of the natural environment and having a substantially reduced carbon footprint	No mitigation needed. PfE policies JP-P1, JP-G2 and JP-S4 address this objective. Within the	None

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		from meeting the council's ambition to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030.	Local Plan policies that address this objective include Policies CC2, CC3 and N3	
14. To protect and improve air quality	++	In meeting the Biodiversity and Climate Change emergencies through the protection, restoration and enhancement of the natural environment and having a substantially reduced carbon footprint from meeting the council's ambition to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030 this will improve air quality. In addition, the resilient and multi-functional Green Infrastructure will contribute towards this objective as will having sustainable transport choices. The vision also adds that Oldham will be a key contributor to Greater Manchester's economy, with a strong reputation for clean growth and green innovation. This will have a positive cross boundary impact.	No mitigation needed. PfE Policy JP-S5 and Local Plan Policy LE3 address air quality.	None
15. To protect and improve local environmental quality	+	The vision states Oldham residents will be healthy and safe, which links to local environmental quality. However, it was noted that reference to 'clean' has been removed and the vision would continue to benefit with it added in. This addition and all the positive contributing objectives should lead to a borough that has improved local environmental quality.	The vision could be enhanced through mention of clean and green. In addition, PfE Policy JP-P1 and policies LE1 to LE3 of the Local Plan address environmental quality.	The vision has been amended to refer to a "clean, green and healthy environment".

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16. To promote an integrated and improved transport system that provides sustainable transport choices and improves connectivity, including the walking and cycling network and the protection of the PROW Network	++	The vision states that Oldham will have accessible and sustainable transport choices, providing improved connectivity across the borough, the city-region and beyond - for all. It adds we will have a comprehensive network of on and off-road walking and cycling routes that encourage active travel, making it easier and safer for people to get to key local destinations. This will have a positive cross boundary impact.	No mitigation needed. PfE 'Connected Places' chapter includes policies alongside Policies T1-5 and design policies in the Local Plan that address promoting sustainable transport choices.	None
17. To promote accessibility to key services and reduce the need to travel	++	The vision states that Oldham will have accessible and sustainable transport choices, providing improved connectivity across the borough. It also states that our residents will have access to local community facilities and access to active travel and green infrastructure.	No mitigation needed. PfE Policies JP-C1 and JP-S5 and Local Plan policies C4, H1, H2 and T2 can help achieve this objective.	None
18. To promote regeneration and reduce levels of deprivation and disparity	++	<p>The whole vision is aiming to aid regeneration through a thriving Oldham town centre, homes of different sizes and types delivered, providing economic growth, making progress in living standards, skills and wages, improved connectivity; and a green environment.</p> <p>This should help to tackle levels of deprivation and disparity.</p>	No mitigation needed. The Local Plan promotes regeneration in several ways. Reducing deprivation and disparity is a key aim of the Local Plan.	None
19. To promote sustainable economic growth and job creation	++	The vision states that Oldham will be a key contributor to Greater Manchester's economy, with a strong reputation for clean growth and green innovation. It will be a place of dynamic businesses with better job opportunities, where those	No mitigation needed. PfE policy JP-J1 'Supporting Long-Term Economic Growth' and JP-J2	None

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		<p>businesses local to Oldham are supported to thrive and grow, and those new to Oldham are attracted to invest. Every resident will be enabled to contribute to, and benefit from, economic growth of the city region.</p> <p>Oldham Town Centre will be a place that thrives by combining a retail core with quality homes, opportunities to learn, develop new skills and gain employment.</p>	<p>'Employment Sites and Premises' and policies within the Economy and Employment section of the Local Plan also addresses economic growth.</p>	
20. To protect and enhance the vitality and viability of Oldham Town Centre and the centres of Chadderton, Failsworth, Hill Stores, Lees, Royton, Shaw and Uppermill	++	<p>The vision states that Oldham Town Centre will be a place that thrives by combining a retail core with quality homes, opportunities to learn, develop new skills and gain employment, and a diverse culture, leisure and night-time offer that supports its local communities and attracts visitors. Our Town Centre will be supported by the borough's other centres – Chadderton, Failsworth, Hill Stores, Lees, Shaw, Royton and Uppermill which will continue to provide a vital role in meeting the needs of the borough's communities, connecting our residents to local services and facilities in a way that fosters a sense of community and local identity.</p>	<p>No mitigation needed. PfE Policy JP-P4 'New Retail and Leisure Uses in Town Centres', JP-H4 'Density of New Housing', JP-P3 'Cultural Facilities' and JP-P2 'Heritage' and Local Plan Policies C1-C4 on centres as well as policies for Oldham Town centre and housing supports this objective.</p>	None
21. To promote sustainable tourism and leisure	+	<p>The vision states that Oldham Town Centre will be a place that thrives by a diverse culture, leisure and night-time offer that supports its local communities and attracts visitors. In addition, our multi-functional</p>	<p>No mitigation needed. PfE Policy JP-P3 'Cultural Facilities' and JP-P4 'New</p>	None

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		Green Infrastructure network will also promote sustainable tourism and leisure.	Retail and Leisure Uses in Town Centres' and Local Plan Policies 3 'Retail and Leisure Impact Assessments and Sequential Tests' and TM1 'Tourism' as well as other policies also addresses tourism and leisure.	
22. To improve education attainment and skill levels	++	The vision states that there will be opportunities for excellent education, training and life-long learning will be available to all Oldham residents, raising aspirations and reducing inequalities. Providing residents with a great start and skills for life so that they can make the most of opportunities available to them.	No mitigation needed. PfE Policy JP-P5 'Education, Skills and Knowledge' and Local Plan policies CO4 and CO5 one education and Skills also addresses this objective.	None
23. To provide a sustainable housing land supply and an appropriate mix of sizes, types and tenures to meet local housing needs	++	The vision states that the plan will deliver new homes of different sizes and types, including affordable housing.	No mitigation needed. Policies within PfE and the Local Plan on housing address this objective.	None
24. To ensure the prudent use and sustainable management of minerals	--	It is considered that the vision will have a limited impact on this objective, however by focussing development in sustainable and accessible	No mitigation needed. The Minerals DPD addresses this.	None

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		locations means that our Minerals Safeguarding Areas are protected.		
25. To manage waste sustainably in line with the waste hierarchy	--	It is considered that the vision will have a limited impact on this objective.	No mitigation needed. The Waste DPD addresses this.	None
26. To promote mixed, balanced and inclusive sustainable communities	++	The vision states that new homes will be delivered in sustainable and accessible locations, will contribute to inclusive communities where everyone can live. In addition, the vision states that new development will be new zero and in line with co-design expectations and design codes developed with Oldham's communities, whilst the key characteristics of Oldham's townscape and landscape types and Oldham's historic environment and rich heritage will be conserved and enhanced. This will contribute towards mixed, balanced and inclusive sustainable communities.	No mitigation needed. Policies within PfE and the Local Plan such as those on housing mix and tenure, communities and design aim to address this objective.	None

The vision scored a mixture of positives and significantly positive scores with a few neutrals.

Between Draft Plan stage and Publication Plan stage only minor amendments were made to the vision therefore scores did not differ. However, it was considered that wording should be added back to the vision to link to local environmental quality (IA15) to support the score given. The vision has been amended to refer to a “clean, green and healthy environment”.