

# Oldham Local Plan

**Publication Plan Integrated Assessment  
Appendix 9: IA of Addressing the  
Biodiversity Emergency Policies**

January 2026



**Oldham**  
Council

## Policy N1 –Protecting Nature

IA Objective	Score	Score	Score	Effects are Temporary or Permanent	Scale	Justification	Mitigation / enhancement	Changes made as a result of the IA
	ST (<5 years)	MT (5-10 years)	LT (10+ years)	T or P	Local or Cross-boundary			
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.	++	++	++	Permanent	Cross-boundary	<p>The policy will directly help to protect and conserve Green Infrastructure, biodiversity, and geodiversity.</p> <p>The HRA has screened the policy out. No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this policy.</p>	<p>No mitigation required. Local Plan policies N2 to N4 on nature address Green Infrastructure. In addition, PfE Greener Places chapter also addresses this objective.</p>	None
2. To promote quality and accessible open spaces	+	+	+	Permanent	Local	<p>Through protecting sites designated for nature this will help preserve open spaces. However, the policy does not relate to quality and accessibility of open spaces.</p>	<p>No mitigation required.</p> <p>Policies CO1 and CO2 of the Local Plan address open space. In addition, PfE Policies JP-G2 and JP-P7 address this objective.</p>	None

IA Objective	Score	Score	Score	Effects are Temporary or Permanent	Scale	Justification	Mitigation / enhancement	Changes made as a result of the IA
3. To protect and enhance the character and appearance of landscapes and townscapes, maintaining and strengthening local distinctiveness and sense of place	+	+	+	Permanent	Cross-boundary	Protecting sites designated for nature will preserve these landscapes retaining Oldham's sense of place.	No mitigation required. PfE Policy JP-G1 and JP-P1 address this objective.	None
4. To protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment, heritage assets and their setting	+	+	+	Permanent	Local	The policy will indirectly protect and conserve the historic environment as a consequence of protecting sites designated for nature where they overlap with heritage assets and designations. The policy will not enhance the settings of heritage assets.	No mitigation required. 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	--	--	--	N/A	N/A	The policy will protect nature designations which retains an attractive environment, but it will not promote high quality design in developments.	No mitigation required. Policies D1 to D4 of the Local Plan and PfE Policy JP-P1 address design.	None
6. To ensure land and buildings are	+	+	+	Permanent	Local	Protecting sites designated for nature will	No mitigation required. Policies	None

IA Objective	Score	Score	Score	Effects are Temporary or Permanent	Scale	Justification	Mitigation / enhancement	Changes made as a result of the IA
used in an effective and efficient manner, maximising the use of brownfield land						mean that development is focussed towards less sensitive areas in general which will indirectly influence the availability of land and the use of this in a more efficient and effective manner.	H1 and H2 of the Local Plan and PfE policies JP-S1 and Policy JP- H4 address the efficient use of land.	
7. To ensure appropriate provision of supporting infrastructure to meet development needs	--	--	--	N/A	N/A	Although biodiversity is critical to life the policy is not really ensuring the provision of supporting infrastructure to meet development needs.	No mitigation required. There are several policies within PfE and the Local Plan that address infrastructure. Moreover, Local Plan policy IN2 requires that planning conditions or obligations are used to mitigate the impact of development on provision.	None
8. To improve health and well-being and reduce health inequalities	--	--	--	N/A	N/A	Although biodiversity is critical to life and being around nature can aid good well-being the policy is not really	No mitigation required. PfE Policy JP-P6 and Local Plan policies CO6 and	None

IA Objective	Score	Score	Score	Effects are Temporary or Permanent	Scale	Justification	Mitigation / enhancement	Changes made as a result of the IA
						seeking to improve health and wellbeing.	CO7 and policies on green infrastructure address health and well-being.	
9. To minimise and mitigate against flood risk and adapt to the effects of flood risk	+	+	+	Permanent	Cross-boundary	The policy will indirectly help mitigate flood risk through slowing the flow of water on designated and non-designated nature sites.	No mitigation required. 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 availability of water resources	++	++	++	Permanent	Cross-boundary	The policy will help achieve this as the Rochdale Canal is a Special Area of Conservation and many nature designations overlap with Source Protection Zones and watercourses.	No mitigation required. PfE Policy JP-S4 and Local Plan policies CC2 to CC5 address water quality.	None
11. To protect and improve soil quality, best and most versatile agricultural land, and remediate contaminated land	++	++	++	Permanent	Cross-boundary	Protecting nature designations and non-designated nature will protect the soil that supports these habitats and ecosystems. Nature designations also overlap with agricultural land.	No mitigation required. PfE Policy JP-G8 and Policy LE2 of the Local Plan address soil and contaminated land.	None

IA Objective	Score	Score	Score	Effects are Temporary or Permanent	Scale	Justification	Mitigation / enhancement	Changes made as a result of the IA
12. To minimise energy use, promote energy efficiency and the use of renewable and low carbon energy	--	--	--	N/A	N/A	The policy will have a limited impact on this objective.	No mitigation required. 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	+	+	+	Permanent	Cross-boundary	Protecting biodiversity will indirectly provide cooling reducing the effects of rising temperatures.	No mitigation required. PfE policies JP-P1, JP-G2 and JP-S4 address this objective. Within the Local Plan policies that address this objective include Policies CC2, CC3 and N3.	None
14. To protect and improve air quality	+	+	+	Permanent	Cross-boundary	Protecting biodiversity will indirectly help to capture carbon which will help improve air quality.	No mitigation required. PfE Policy JP-S5 and Local Plan Policy LE3 address air quality.	None
15. To protect and improve local environmental quality	++	++	++	Permanent	Local	Protecting biodiversity can help provide an attractive environment and provides other benefits such as	No mitigation required. PfE Policy JP-P1 and policies LE1-LE3 of the Local Plan	None

IA Objective	Score	Score	Score	Effects are Temporary or Permanent	Scale	Justification	Mitigation / enhancement	Changes made as a result of the IA
						tranquillity, cleaner air etc which contributes towards environmental quality.	address environmental quality.	
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	--	--	--	N/A	N/A	The policy will have a limited impact on this objective as it is seeking to protect nature value rather than improve transport objectives.	No mitigation required. 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	--	--	--	N/A	N/A	The policy will have limited impact on this objective.	No mitigation required. 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	--	--	--	N/A	N/A	The policy will have a limited impact on this objective.	No mitigation required. The Local Plan	None

IA Objective	Score	Score	Score	Effects are Temporary or Permanent	Scale	Justification	Mitigation / enhancement	Changes made as a result of the IA
deprivation and disparity							promotes regeneration in several ways. Reducing deprivation and disparity is a key aim of the Local Plan.	
19. To promote sustainable economic growth and job creation	--	--	--	N/A	N/A	The policy will have a limited impact on this objective.	No mitigation required. PfE policy JP-J1 and JP-J2 and policies within the Economy and Employment section of the Local Plan address economic growth.	None
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	--	--	--	N/A	N/A	The policy will have a limited impact on this objective.	No mitigation. PfE policies JP-P4, JP-H4, JP-P3 and JP-P2 and Local Plan Policies C1 to C4 as well as policies for Oldham Town centre and	None

IA Objective	Score	Score	Score	Effects are Temporary or Permanent	Scale	Justification	Mitigation / enhancement	Changes made as a result of the IA
							housing supports this objective.	
21. To promote sustainable tourism and leisure	--	--	--	N/A	N/A	Although the landscape within which Oldham's biodiversity sits within may attract tourism and leisure the policy is not seeking to promote tourism and leisure.	No mitigation required. PfE Policies JP-P3 and JP-P4 and Local Plan Policy C2 as well as other policies addresses tourism and leisure.	None
22. To improve education attainment and skill levels	--	--	--	N/A	N/A	The policy will have limited impact on this objective although it is noted that biodiversity and geodiversity sites offer an educational resource.	No mitigation required. PfE Policy JP-P5 and Local Plan policies CO4 and CO5 address 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	--	--	--	N/A	N/A	The policy will not help in contributing towards the sustainable housing land supply. In some ways the policy is a constraint but nevertheless it is part of the process of identifying suitable sites.	No mitigation required. Policies within PfE and the Local Plan on housing address this objective.	None
24. To ensure the prudent use and sustainable	+	+	+	Permanent	Local	Many of the nature designations and non-designated assets overlap with mineral	No mitigation required. The GM Minerals	None

IA Objective	Score	Score	Score	Effects are Temporary or Permanent	Scale	Justification	Mitigation / enhancement	Changes made as a result of the IA
management of minerals						safeguarding areas within Oldham therefore the policy will indirectly help achieve this objective.	Plan cover minerals.	
25. To manage waste sustainably in line with the waste hierarchy	--	--	--	N/A	N/A	The policy makes a limited contribution to this objective.	No mitigation required. The GM Waste Plan covers waste.	None
26. To promote mixed, balanced and inclusive sustainable communities	--	--	--	N/A	N/A	The policy makes a limited contribution to this objective.	No mitigation required. The aim of the Local Plan is to ensure mixed, balanced, and inclusive communities through for example policies on housing and design.	None

The policy scored a mix of neutral, positives and significantly positive scores. No mitigation or enhancements to the policy were made as a result of the IA.

Between Draft Plan stage and Publication Plan stage some amendments have been made to policy wording to re-word policy and to make reference to restorable peat. However, this has not resulted in any scoring amendments.

In terms of the HRA the policy has been screened out. No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy.

## Policy N2 –Restoring Nature

IA Objective	Score	Score	Score	Effects are Temporary or Permanent	Scale	Justification	Mitigation / enhancement	Changes made as a result of the IA
	ST (<5 years)	MT (5-10 years)	LT (10+ years)	T or P	Local or Cross-boundary			
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.	++	++	++	Permanent	Cross-boundary	<p>The policy seeks a net gain in biodiversity through having regard to the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) and implementation of Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG).</p> <p>The HRA has screened the policy out. No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this policy.</p>	No mitigation required. Local Plan policies N1, N3 and 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	++	++	++	Permanent	Local	Net gain may be incorporated with landscaping and open space. The LNRS also seeks to achieve better parks and open spaces. Therefore, this policy should help achieve this objective.	No mitigation required. Policies CO1 and CO2 of the Local Plan address open space. In addition, PfE Policies JP-G2 and JP-P7 address this objective.	None

IA Objective	Score	Score	Score	Effects are Temporary or Permanent	Scale	Justification	Mitigation / enhancement	Changes made as a result of the IA
3. To protect and enhance the character and appearance of landscapes and townscapes, maintaining and strengthening local distinctiveness and sense of place	+	+	++	Permanent	Local	Net gain may be incorporated with landscaping. The LNRS also seeks to improve nature on a landscape scale which takes account of existing landscapes and the urban area. Therefore, this policy should help achieve this objective directly and indirectly the impacts of which should be felt more over time.	No mitigation required. PfE Policy JP-G1 and JP-P1 address this objective.	None
4. To protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment, heritage assets and their setting	--	--	--	N/A	N/A	The policy will have a limited impact on this objective although it is noted that the LNRS refers to historic parks and wetlands.	No mitigation required. 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	++	++	++	Permanent	Local	Providing biodiversity net gain and implementing the LNRS where opportunities arise will help contribute towards high quality design.	No mitigation required. 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	+	+	+	Permanent	Local	The policy will ensure that land is used effectively by aiming to foster nature recovery and deliver nature	No mitigation required. Policies H1 and H2 of the Local Plan and PfE	None

IA Objective	Score	Score	Score	Effects are Temporary or Permanent	Scale	Justification	Mitigation / enhancement	Changes made as a result of the IA
efficient manner, maximising the use of brownfield land						priorities and actions and therefore focussing development elsewhere making use of brownfield land whilst taking into account priorities and actions for urban green spaces and buildings.	policies JP-S1 and Policy JP- H4 address the efficient use of land.	
7. To ensure appropriate provision of supporting infrastructure to meet development needs	++	++	++	Permanent	Local	The policy will help deliver an enhanced nature network.	No mitigation required. There are several policies within PfE and the Local Plan that address infrastructure. Moreover, Local Plan policy IN2 requires that planning conditions or obligations are used to mitigate the impact of development on provision.	None
8. To improve health and well-being and reduce health inequalities	+	+	+	Permanent	Local	The policy will directly bring people into more contact with nature and landscaped environments which will have a positive impact on health and well-being. The LNRS notes that	No mitigation required. PfE Policy JP-P6 and Local Plan policies CO6 and CO7 and policies on green infrastructure	None

IA Objective	Score	Score	Score	Effects are Temporary or Permanent	Scale	Justification	Mitigation / enhancement	Changes made as a result of the IA
						communities experiencing racial inequalities are nearly twice as likely to live in areas with the least green space. Therefore, creating or enhancing green space should help reduce those inequalities.	address health and well-being.	
9. To minimise and mitigate against flood risk and adapt to the effects of flood risk	++	++	++	Permanent	Cross-boundary	Reducing flood risk is recognised as one of the wider benefits of implementing the LNRS. Therefore, the policy should help achieve this indirectly.	No mitigation required. 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 availability of water resources	++	++	++	Permanent	Cross-boundary	The policy aims to help implement the LNRS which has identified opportunity areas (nature network) for rivers, canals and waterbodies with actions to improve water quality.	No mitigation required. PfE Policy JP-S4 and Local Plan policies CC2 to CC5 address water quality.	None
11. To protect and improve soil quality, best and most versatile agricultural land, and remediate contaminated land	++	++	++	Permanent	Cross-boundary	The LNRS aims to achieve healthier, better-quality soils and reduce soil erosion and encourage soil recovery. The policy should therefore help achieve this.	No mitigation required. PfE Policy JP-G8 and Policy LE2 of the Local Plan address soil and contaminated land.	None
12. To minimise energy use, promote energy	--	--	--	N/A	N/A	The policy will have a limited impact on this objective although it is noted	No mitigation required. PfE policies JP-S2, JP-	None

IA Objective	Score	Score	Score	Effects are Temporary or Permanent	Scale	Justification	Mitigation / enhancement	Changes made as a result of the IA
efficiency and the use of renewable and low carbon energy						in the LNRS that green walls and green roofs provide natural cooling and reduce energy use.	S3 and JP-P1 address energy in addition to Local Plan policy CC1.	
13. To ensure communities, infrastructure and biodiversity are resilient to the effects of climate change	++	++	++	Permanent	Local	The LNRS aims to work towards a resilient network for nature which will benefit communities. The policy will therefore help achieve this.	No mitigation required. PfE policies JP-P1, JP-G2 and JP-S4 address this objective. Within the Local Plan policies that address this objective include Policies CC2, CC3 and N3.	None
14. To protect and improve air quality	+	+	+	Permanent	Cross-boundary	The LNRS notes improved air quality is a benefit an enhanced nature network. Therefore, implementation of the LNRS and BNG will help achieve this indirectly.	No mitigation required. PfE Policy JP-S5 and Local Plan Policy LE3 address air quality.	None
15. To protect and improve local environmental quality	++	++	++	Permanent	Local	Enhancing biodiversity can help provide an attractive environment and provides other benefits such as tranquillity, cleaner air etc which all indirectly contributes towards environmental quality.	No mitigation required. PfE Policy JP-P1 and policies LE1-LE3 of the Local Plan address environmental quality.	None
16. To promote an integrated and	--	--	--	N/A	N/A	The policy will have a limited impact on this	No mitigation required. PfE	None

IA Objective	Score	Score	Score	Effects are Temporary or Permanent	Scale	Justification	Mitigation / enhancement	Changes made as a result of the IA
improved transport system that provides sustainable transport choices and improves connectivity, including the walking and cycling network and the protection of the PROW Network						objective as it is seeking to restore nature value rather than improve transport objectives.	'Connected Places' chapter includes policies alongside Policies T1-5 and design policies in the Local Plan that address promoting sustainable transport choices.	
17. To promote accessibility to key services and reduce the need to travel	--	--	--	N/A	N/A	The policy will have a limited impact on this objective.	No mitigation required. 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	+	+	+	Permanent	Local	The LNRS notes areas of low access to green space and high levels of deprivation and that this should be considered when considering urban actions. Therefore, if implemented well the policy should achieve this.	No mitigation required. The Local Plan promotes regeneration in several ways. Reducing deprivation and disparity is a key aim of the Local Plan.	None

IA Objective	Score	Score	Score	Effects are Temporary or Permanent	Scale	Justification	Mitigation / enhancement	Changes made as a result of the IA
19. To promote sustainable economic growth and job creation	+	+	+	Permanent	Cross-boundary	The LNRS notes a benefit of an enhanced nature network is opportunities for more green jobs and careers. Therefore, indirectly the policy could help encourage this.	No mitigation required. PfE policy JP-J1 and JP-J2 and policies within the Economy and Employment section of the Local Plan address economic growth.	None
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	+	+	+	Permanent	Local	Opportunities to enhance urban green spaces and buildings should help contribute to creating vibrant centres. Examples of good case studies are included within the LNRS. The linear park is one such example within Oldham Town Centre and is a key part of the town centre regeneration.	No mitigation. PfE policies JP-P4, JP-H4, JP-P3 and JP-P2 and Local Plan Policies C1 to C4 as well as policies for Oldham Town centre and housing supports this objective.	None
21. To promote sustainable tourism and leisure	+	+	+	Permanent	Cross-boundary	The LNRS notes that a benefit of an enhanced nature network is more visitors and sustainable tourism opportunities. Green spaces are also used for leisure. Therefore, implementation of the LNRS where opportunities arise should help achieve this indirectly.	No mitigation required. PfE Policies JP-P3 and JP-P4 and Local Plan Policy C2 as well as other policies addresses tourism and leisure.	None

IA Objective	Score	Score	Score	Effects are Temporary or Permanent	Scale	Justification	Mitigation / enhancement	Changes made as a result of the IA
22. To improve education attainment and skill levels	--	--	--	N/A	N/A	The LNRS aims to improve education in relation to species and notes that spaces can be used for education. However, in relation to education in a wider sense the policy will have a limited impact on this objective.	No mitigation required. PfE Policy JP-P5 and Local Plan policies CO4 and CO5 address 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	--	--	--	N/A	N/A	The policy will have limited impact on this objective. The LNRS should be integrated alongside addressing other land use needs.	No mitigation required. Policies within PfE and the Local Plan on housing address this objective.	None
24. To ensure the prudent use and sustainable management of minerals	?	?	?	Temporary / Permanent	Cross-boundary	There may be an overlap with BNG and mineral safeguarding areas and although BNG would temporarily then preclude the working of minerals for at least 30 years it would not sterilise the minerals from being extracted in the long term so would not have permanent impacts.	No mitigation required. The Minerals DPD addresses this.	None
25. To manage waste sustainably	--	--	--	N/A	N/A	The policy makes limited contribution to this objective.	No mitigation required. The GM	None

IA Objective	Score	Score	Score	Effects are Temporary or Permanent	Scale	Justification	Mitigation / enhancement	Changes made as a result of the IA
in line with the waste hierarchy							Waste Plan covers waste.	
26. To promote mixed, balanced and inclusive sustainable communities	+	+	+	Permanent	Local	Through aiming, through the LNRS, to enhance green spaces particularly in the urban area where there may be less access to green space in areas of higher deprivation the policy will indirectly help to create inclusive communities.	No mitigation required. The aim of the Local Plan is to ensure mixed, balanced, and inclusive communities through for example policies on housing and design.	None

The policy has neutral, positive and significantly positive scores. There was one uncertain score given against minerals as securing a site for off-site BNG would prevent any mineral working on that site over a thirty-year period. It would not however sterilise the minerals permanently. It was not considered that mitigation is needed as on balance enhancing biodiversity is not leading to the sterilisation of minerals unlike development.

Between Draft Plan stage and Publication Plan stage the policy has been revised significantly from focussing on BNG to focussing on the LNRS and how developments can consider the LNRS. Therefore, in response to this many of the IA objectives have been revised in terms of commentary and the following IA objectives have had amendments to the scores:

- IA3 has been amended to double positive in the long term as the natural landscapes should be enhanced over time, as the LNRS is implemented;
- IA10 has been amended to double positive as the policy aims to help implement the LNRS which has identified opportunity areas (nature network) for rivers, canals and waterbodies with actions to improve water quality.
- IA18 has been amended from neutral to positive as the LNRS notes areas of low access to green space and high levels of deprivation which should be considered when considering urban actions;
- IA19 has been amended from neutral to positive as the LNRS notes a benefit of an enhanced nature network is opportunities for more green jobs and careers. Therefore, indirectly the policy could help encourage this.

- IA20 has been amended from neutral to positive as opportunities to enhance urban green spaces and buildings should help contribute to creating vibrant centres. Examples of good case studies are included within the LNRS. The linear park is one such example within Oldham Town Centre and is a key part of the town centre regeneration.
- IA21 has been amended from neutral to positive as LNRS notes that a benefit of an enhanced nature network is more visitors and sustainable tourism opportunities. Green spaces are also used for leisure. Therefore, implementation of the LNRS where opportunities arise should help achieve this indirectly.
- IA26 neutral to positive as through taking opportunities to implement the LNRS, to enhance green spaces particularly in the urban area where there may be less access to green space in areas of higher deprivation the policy will indirectly help to create inclusive communities.

In terms of the HRA the policy has been screened out. No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy.

## Policy N3 –Enhancing Green Infrastructure through development

IA Objective	Score	Score	Score	Effects are Temporary or Permanent	Scale	Justification	Mitigation / enhancement	Changes made as a result of the IA
	ST (<5 years)	MT (5-10 years)	LT (10+ years)	T or P	Local or Cross-boundary			
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.	++	++	++	Permanent	Cross-boundary	<p>The policy requires new development to provide new and / or enhanced green infrastructure, including the ecological network, and in larger development linking to the wider landscape.</p> <p>The policy includes Urban Green Factor targets.</p> <p>Householder developments and change of use should aim to incorporate practical measures to support biodiversity.</p> <p>The HRA has screened the policy out. No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this policy.</p>	No mitigation required. Local Plan policies N1, N2 and 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	++	++	++	Permanent	Local	The policy requires developments to provide new Green Infrastructure and/or introduce multifunctional use of	No mitigation required. Policies CO1 and CO2 of the Local Plan address open space. In	None

IA Objective	Score	Score	Score	Effects are Temporary or Permanent	Scale	Justification	Mitigation / enhancement	Changes made as a result of the IA
						existing green spaces in response to a site-specific assessment of need which may include the need for improved open space. The policy also encourages opportunities for riparian development sites to create high quality river corridor and GI asset which can include opportunities for an enlarged and continuous open space adjacent to rivers.	addition, PfE Policies JP-G2 and JP-P7 address this objective.	
3. To protect and enhance the character and appearance of landscapes and townscapes, maintaining and strengthening local distinctiveness and sense of place	++	++	++	Permanent	Local	The policy requires developments to enhance the landscape setting of the site by improving the character, appearance and condition of access corridors, gateways, settlement edges and landscape features, including historic environment assets where appropriate.	No mitigation required. PfE Policy JP-G1 and JP-P1 address this objective.	None
4. To protect, conserve and enhance the historic	++	++	++	Permanent	Local	The policy requires developments to enhance the landscape setting of the site and landscape features,	No mitigation required. Policies HE1 to HE5 of the Local Plan and PfE Policies JP-P1 and JP-	None

IA Objective	Score	Score	Score	Effects are Temporary or Permanent	Scale	Justification	Mitigation / enhancement	Changes made as a result of the IA
environment, heritage assets and their setting						including historic environment assets where appropriate.	P2 address the historic environment.	
5. To promote high quality design that meets local design expectations	++	++	++	Permanent	Local	The policy will aid high quality functional design such through inclusion of food production and better linkages but also design through the provision of new and/or enhanced green infrastructure.	No mitigation required. 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	+	+	+	Permanent	Local	The policy will help ensure that land is used effectively through seeking to maximise functionality of green spaces within development proposals.	No mitigation required. 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	+	+	+	Permanent	Local	The policy will help ensure the delivery of a net gain in green infrastructure.	No mitigation required. There are several policies within PfE and the Local Plan that address infrastructure. Moreover, Local Plan policy IN2 requires that planning conditions or obligations are used to	None

IA Objective	Score	Score	Score	Effects are Temporary or Permanent	Scale	Justification	Mitigation / enhancement	Changes made as a result of the IA
							mitigate the impact of development on provision.	
8. To improve health and well-being and reduce health inequalities	++	++	++	Permanent	Local	The policy will help with the health agenda through requiring developments where possible to provide for food production, active travel, cooling and open space which will all help create healthier communities. One of the priority themes within the Green Infrastructure Strategy is healthy and active communities.	No mitigation required. 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	++	++	++	Permanent	Cross-boundary	The policy links to slowing the flow priority themes from the GI Strategy and the policy requires incorporation of open spaces adjacent to rivers where possible to allow for flood storage and multifunctional use of green spaces which would encourage sustainable drainage.	No mitigation required. 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 availability of	++	++	++	Permanent	Cross-boundary	The policy encourages opportunities for riparian development sites to create a high-quality river corridor and Green Infrastructure asset.  One of the priorities themes within the Green Infrastructure	No mitigation required. PfE Policy JP-S4 and Local Plan policies CC2 to CC5 address water quality.	None

IA Objective	Score	Score	Score	Effects are Temporary or Permanent	Scale	Justification	Mitigation / enhancement	Changes made as a result of the IA
water resources						Strategy is slowing the flow and a quality water environment.		
11. To protect and improve soil quality, best and most versatile agricultural land, and remediate contaminated land	++	++	++	Permanent	Local	Providing new and enhanced green infrastructure will help improve soil and land quality.	No mitigation required. 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	--	--	--	N/A	N/A	The policy will have a limited impact on this objective.	No mitigation required. 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	++	++	++	Permanent	Cross-boundary	The policy will help provide cooling and manage surface water flood risk and provide space for water storage and provide opportunities for local food production increasing green infrastructure over the years. It seeks to enhance the ecological network and provide	No mitigation required. PfE policies JP-P1, JP-G2 and JP-S4 address this objective. Within the Local Plan policies that address this objective include Policies CC2, and CC3.	None

IA Objective	Score	Score	Score	Effects are Temporary or Permanent	Scale	Justification	Mitigation / enhancement	Changes made as a result of the IA
						practical measures to support biodiversity. The priority themes within the Green Infrastructure Strategy include thriving wildlife, slowing the flow and a quality water environment, healthy and active communities and carbon neutral Oldham. These will all contribute to this objective.		
14. To protect and improve air quality	+	+	+	Permanent	Cross-boundary	The policy will help capture carbon which will help improve air quality. One of the priorities themes within the Green Infrastructure Strategy is carbon neutral Oldham.	No mitigation required. PfE Policy JP-S5 and Local Plan Policy LE3 address air quality.	None
15. To protect and improve local environmental quality	++	++	++	Permanent	Local	Enhancing green infrastructure through developments will mean that developments are of a high quality.	No mitigation required. PfE Policy JP-P1 and policies LE1-LE3 of the Local Plan address environmental quality.	None
16. To promote an integrated and improved transport system that provides sustainable transport choices and improves	+	+	+	Permanent	Cross-boundary	The policy requires larger developments to enhance pedestrian and cycle connectivity between residential areas, town centres, schools and workplaces, outdoor sports, tourism and recreational facilities, public transport services and the countryside around the site.	No mitigation required. PfE 'Connected Places' chapter includes policies alongside Policies T1-5 and design policies in the Local Plan that address promoting sustainable transport choices.	None

IA Objective	Score	Score	Score	Effects are Temporary or Permanent	Scale	Justification	Mitigation / enhancement	Changes made as a result of the IA
connectivity, including the walking and cycling network and the protection of the PROW Network								
17. To promote accessibility to key services and reduce the need to travel	++	++	++	Permanent	Local	The policy requires larger developments to enhance pedestrian and cycle connectivity between residential areas, town centres, schools and workplaces, outdoor sports, tourism and recreational facilities, public transport services and the countryside around the site.	No mitigation required. 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	+	+	+	Permanent	Local	The policy will help promote regeneration and reduce deprivation by making sure that developments look at the needs of an area such as health deprivation and link provision of green infrastructure to that need and include where provision for food production so residents can access healthy foods. One of the priority themes within the Green Infrastructure Strategy is healthy and active communities.	No mitigation required. The Local Plan promotes regeneration in several ways. Reducing deprivation and disparity is a key aim of the Local Plan.	None

IA Objective	Score	Score	Score	Effects are Temporary or Permanent	Scale	Justification	Mitigation / enhancement	Changes made as a result of the IA
19. To promote sustainable economic growth and job creation	+	+	+	Permanent	Local	One of the Green Infrastructure priority themes that the policy links to, which developments would need to consider is sustainable growth and green jobs.	No mitigation required. PfE policy JP-J1 and JP-J2 and policies within the Economy and Employment section of the Local Plan address economic growth	None
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	+	+	+	Permanent	Local	The policy will help create attractive centres which are functional offering cooling and other benefits.	No mitigation required. PfE policies JP-P4, JP-H4, JP-P3 and JP-P2 and Local Plan Policies C1 to C4 as well as policies for Oldham Town centre and housing supports this objective.	None
21. To promote sustainable tourism and leisure	+	+	+	Permanent	Cross-boundary	The policy links to the GI Strategy which includes opportunities for tourism enhancements.	No mitigation required. PfE Policies JP-P3 and JP-P4 and Local Plan Policy C2 as well as other policies addresses tourism and leisure.	None
22. To improve education attainment and skill levels	--	--	--	N/A	N/A	The policy will have a limited impact on this objective.	No mitigation required. PfE Policy JP-P5 and Local Plan policies CO4 and CO5 address this objective.	None

IA Objective	Score	Score	Score	Effects are Temporary or Permanent	Scale	Justification	Mitigation / enhancement	Changes made as a result of the IA
23. To provide a sustainable housing land supply and an appropriate mix of sizes, types and tenures to meet local housing needs	--	--	--	N/A	N/A	The policy will have a limited impact on this objective.	No mitigation required. Policies within PfE and the Local Plan on housing address this objective.	None
24. To ensure the prudent use and sustainable management of minerals	--	--	--	N/A	N/A	The policy will have a limited impact on this objective.	No mitigation required. The GM Minerals Plan cover minerals.	None
25. To manage waste sustainably in line with the waste hierarchy	--	--	--	N/A	N/A	The policy will have a limited contribution to this objective.	No mitigation required. The GM Waste Plan covers waste.	None
26. To promote mixed, balanced and inclusive sustainable communities	+	+	+	Permanent	Local	The policy encourages green access for all which will ensure that communities have access to green space within close proximity and provide spaces to integrate.	No mitigation required. The aim of the Local Plan is to ensure mixed, balanced, and inclusive communities through for example policies on housing and design.	None

The policy scored a mixture of neutral, positive, and significantly positive scores. No mitigation or enhancements to the policy were required because of the IA.

Between Draft Plan stage and Publication Plan stage the IA for this policy has been amended. IA 13 has increased from positive to significantly positive for the short and medium term to reflect reconsideration of the role that Green Infrastructure plays in being resilient to climate change and to reflect that IA13 has been amended to include biodiversity and the contribution that the policy makes towards that.

In terms of the HRA the policy has been screened out. No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy.

## Policy N4 –Trees

IA Objective	Score	Score	Score	Effects are Temporary or Permanent	Scale	Justification	Mitigation / enhancement	Changes made as a result of the IA
	ST (<5 years)	MT (5-10 years)	LT (10+ years)	T or P	Local or Cross-boundary			
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.	++	++	++	Permanent	Local	<p>The policy will steer applicants into aiming to retain as many trees as possible, particularly mature trees protecting green infrastructure and will require the provision of a number of replacement trees therefore contributing towards enhanced green infrastructure.</p> <p>The policy also encourages developments to contribute towards increasing tree canopy cover generally.</p> <p>The HRA has screened the policy out. No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this policy.</p>	No mitigation required. Local Plan policies N1 to N3 on nature address Green Infrastructure. In addition, PfE Greener Places chapter also addresses this objective.	None
2. To promote quality and accessible open spaces	--	--	--	N/A	N/A	The policy links to increasing tree cover and compensating tree loss rather than open spaces although this may overlap with open spaces.	No mitigation required. Policies CO1 and CO2 of the Local Plan address open space. In	None

IA Objective	Score	Score	Score	Effects are Temporary or Permanent	Scale	Justification	Mitigation / enhancement	Changes made as a result of the IA
							addition, PfE Policies JP-G2 and JP-P7 address this objective	
3. To protect and enhance the character and appearance of landscapes and townscapes, maintaining and strengthening local distinctiveness and sense of place	++	++	++	Permanent	Local	Trees are part of the landscape particularly ancient trees therefore protecting them will maintain a sense of place. The policy also encourages developments to contribute towards increasing tree canopy cover generally which will enhance sense of place.	No mitigation required. PfE Policy JP-G1 and JP-P1 address this objective.	None
4. To protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment, heritage assets and their setting	+	+	+	Permanent	Local	The policy sets out the approach for addressing loss of historic trees.	No mitigation required. 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	++	++	++	Permanent	Local	The policy encourages developments to contribute towards increasing tree canopy cover	No mitigation required. Policies D1 to	None

IA Objective	Score	Score	Score	Effects are Temporary or Permanent	Scale	Justification	Mitigation / enhancement	Changes made as a result of the IA
meets local design expectations						generally which will enhance design quality.  The policy will also indirectly achieve this objective as it will help applicants consider whether tree removal is unavoidable in the siting and design of developments.	D4 of the Local Plan and PfE Policy JP-P1 address design.	
6. To ensure land and buildings are used in an effective and efficient manner, maximising the use of brownfield land	--	--	--	N/A	N/A	The policy will have limited impact on this objective.	No mitigation required. 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	+	+	+	Permanent	Local	The policy encourages developments to contribute towards increasing tree canopy cover generally which will help provide green infrastructure.  The policy sets out the requirements for compensating tree loss and therefore this element of green infrastructure.	No mitigation required. There are several policies within PfE and the Local Plan that address infrastructure. Moreover, Local Plan policy IN2 requires that	None

IA Objective	Score	Score	Score	Effects are Temporary or Permanent	Scale	Justification	Mitigation / enhancement	Changes made as a result of the IA
							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	--	+	++	Permanent	Local	<p>Trees provide health benefits. The policy has been amended to ensure developments demonstrate how existing trees and hedgerows and their health have been retained, wherever possible and sets out criteria for allowing loss of or damage to trees.</p> <p>Therefore, this should help maintain health and wellbeing in the early years of the plan and in later years as tree saplings grow into more mature trees the benefits will be felt from tree planting and tree replacement. Tree planting efforts will likely be co-ordinated in areas of need including in areas of deprivation and inequality.</p>	No mitigation required. 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	--	+	++	Permanent	Local	The policy requires tree planting and replacement trees. Initially this could have limited impacts on flood risk mitigation, but these benefits	No mitigation required. PfE Policy JP-S4 and Policy CC2 and CC3 of the	None

IA Objective	Score	Score	Score	Effects are Temporary or Permanent	Scale	Justification	Mitigation / enhancement	Changes made as a result of the IA
to the effects of flood risk						should improve over the years once trees mature.	Local Plan address flood risk.	
10. To protect and improve the quality of water bodies and river corridors and availability of water resources	--	--	--	N/A	N/A	The policy will have a limited impact on this objective.	No mitigation required. PfE Policy JP-S4 and Local Plan policies CC2 to CC5 address water quality.	None
11. To protect and improve soil quality, best and most versatile agricultural land, and remediate contaminated land	--	+	+	Permanent	Local	The policy requires tree planting and replacement trees. Initially this could have limited impacts on soil quality however these benefits should improve over the years once trees mature.	No mitigation required. 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	--	--	--	N/A	N/A	The policy will have a limited impact on this objective.	No mitigation required. PfE policies JP-S2, JP-S3 and JP-P1 address energy in addition to Local Plan policy CC1.	None
13. To ensure communities, infrastructure	--	++	++	Permanent	Local	The policy requires tree planting and replacement trees. Initially this could have limited impacts on	No mitigation required. PfE policies JP-P1,	None

IA Objective	Score	Score	Score	Effects are Temporary or Permanent	Scale	Justification	Mitigation / enhancement	Changes made as a result of the IA
and biodiversity are resilient to the effects of climate change						resilience to climate change however these benefits should improve over the years once trees mature.	JP-G2 and JP-S4 address this objective. Within the Local Plan policies that address this objective include Policies CC2, CC3 and N3.	
14. To protect and improve air quality	+	++	++	Permanent	Cross-boundary	The policy requires tree planting and replacement trees. This will have positive impacts on air quality which will accelerate over the years once trees mature.	No mitigation required. PfE Policy JP-S5 and Local Plan Policy LE3 address air quality.	None
15. To protect and improve local environmental quality	++	++	++	Permanent	Local	Trees are considered to be part of a quality local environmental offering benefits which further adds to environmental quality therefore a policy approach which steers avoiding loss of trees and compensating where required and increasing tree canopy cover generally will help to protect and improve environmental quality.	No mitigation required. PfE Policy JP-P1 and policies LE1-LE3 of the Local Plan address environmental quality.	None
16. To promote an integrated and improved transport	--	--	--	N/A	N/A	The policy will have limited impact on this objective although tree lined streets can encourage active travel.	No mitigation required. PfE 'Connected Places' chapter	None

IA Objective	Score	Score	Score	Effects are Temporary or Permanent	Scale	Justification	Mitigation / enhancement	Changes made as a result of the IA
system that provides sustainable transport choices and improves connectivity, including the walking and cycling network and the protection of the PROW Network							includes policies alongside Policies T1-5 and design policies in the Local Plan that address promoting sustainable transport choices.	
17. To promote accessibility to key services and reduce the need to travel	--	--	--	N/A	N/A	The policy will have a limited impact on this objective.	No mitigation required. 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	--	--	--	N/A	N/A	The policy will have a limited impact on this objective although trees will be planted in areas of need.	No mitigation required. The Local Plan promotes regeneration in several ways. Reducing deprivation and disparity is a	None

IA Objective	Score	Score	Score	Effects are Temporary or Permanent	Scale	Justification	Mitigation / enhancement	Changes made as a result of the IA
							key aim of the Local Plan.	
19. To promote sustainable economic growth and job creation	--	--	--	N/A	N/A	The policy will have a limited impact on this objective, although tree planting will help create attractive employment areas.	No mitigation required. PfE policy JP-J1 and JP-J2 and policies within the Economy and Employment section of the Local Plan address economic growth.	
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	+	+	++	N/A	N/A	The policy encourages developments to increase tree canopy cover. This will include within our centres which would create more vibrant and welcoming places to enjoy as can be seen by recent tree planting in Oldham Town Centre. This should increase over time as trees mature and opportunities arise.	No mitigation required. PfE policies JP-P4, JP-H4, JP-P3 and JP-P2 and Local Plan Policies C1 to C4 as well as policies for Oldham Town centre and housing supports this objective.	None
21. To promote sustainable	--	--	--	N/A	N/A	The policy will have a limited impact on this objective although tree	No mitigation required. PfE	None

IA Objective	Score	Score	Score	Effects are Temporary or Permanent	Scale	Justification	Mitigation / enhancement	Changes made as a result of the IA
tourism and leisure						planting will help create an attractive borough for visitors.	Policies JP-P3 and JP-P4 and Local Plan Policy C2 as well as other policies addresses tourism and leisure.	
22. To improve education attainment and skill levels	--	--	--	N/A	N/A	The policy will have a limited impact on this objective.	No mitigation required. PfE Policy JP-P5 and Local Plan policies CO4 and CO5 address 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	--	--	--	N/A	N/A	The policy will have a limited impact on this objective.	No mitigation required. Policies within PfE and the Local Plan on housing address this objective.	None
24. To ensure the prudent use and sustainable management of minerals	--	--	--	N/A	N/A	The policy will have a limited impact on this objective.	No mitigation required. The GM Minerals Plan cover minerals.	None

IA Objective	Score	Score	Score	Effects are Temporary or Permanent	Scale	Justification	Mitigation / enhancement	Changes made as a result of the IA
25. To manage waste sustainably in line with the waste hierarchy	--	--	--	N/A	N/A	The policy will have a limited impact on this objective.	No mitigation required. The GM Waste Plan covers waste.	None
26. To promote mixed, balanced and inclusive sustainable communities	--	--	--	N/A	N/A	The policy will have a limited impact on this objective.	No mitigation required. 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 policy scored a mixture of neutral, positives and significantly positives. It was noted where the impacts would change over the short to long term once trees that were replaced matured. No mitigation or enhancements were made to the policy as a result of the IA.

Between Draft Plan and Publication Plan stage there have been several changes to IA scores to reflect that the policy has broadened to include tree planting generally:

IA3 and IA5 positive to significantly positive as the policy has been amended to embed policy text on contributing towards increasing tree canopy cover generally and showing how existing trees and hedgerows have been retained therefore contributing to sense of place and design.

IA8 and IA9 have been amended from positive to significantly positive in the long term to recognise that tree planting, focussing on multi-functional benefits, will help enhance health and well-being, mitigate flood risk and increase resilience to climate change more over the long term.

IA13 has been amended from positive to significantly positive in the medium to long term recognise that tree planting, focussing on multi-functional benefits, will help increase communities and biodiversity's resilience to climate change more over time.

IA14 has been amended to reflect that the policy requires tree planting and the air quality impacts from even young tree should help with air quality in the short term. Therefore, the score has been amended from neutral to positive in the short term. In the medium to long term the score has been amended from positive to significantly positive now that the policy encourages tree planting generally which is linked to need. Therefore, this should have a significantly positive impact on air quality.

IA20 has been amended from neutral to positive in the short and medium term and significantly positive in the long term. The policy encourages developments to increase tree canopy cover. This will include within our centres which would create more vibrant and welcoming places to enjoy as can be seen by recent planting in Oldham Town Centre. This should increase over time as trees mature and more opportunities arise.

In terms of the HRA the policy has been screened out. No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy.