

# Blackpool Core Strategy Preferred Option

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## Equality Impact Assessment

February 2010



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*Building a better community for all*

**BLACKPOOL CORE STRATEGY DRAFT PREFERRED OPTION :**  
**EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

**Department:** Planning

**Team or Service Area Leading Assessment:** Development Plans and Projects

**Title of Policy/ Service or Function:**

Blackpool Core Strategy Draft Preferred Option/ Proposals to introduce and replace policy

**Date of proposals:** February 2010

**Committee/Team:**

**Lead Officer:** Tim Brown

**The Blackpool Core Strategy** is the spatial expression of the Council's Sustainable Community Strategy. It sets out the Council's draft strategic policies and development proposals to deliver its Vision for Blackpool to 2026.

The draft document is nearing completion, prior to consideration by CLT, Cabinet and the Council's Executive Committee – potentially on March 10<sup>th</sup>. An Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken to ensure the document has fully taken into consideration all relevant and appropriate equality concerns in evolving its proposals and policy content.

**The EIA Approach**

This Equality Impact assessment has been undertaken based on an appropriate and proportionate approach in line with the 9 main steps set out in the Blackpool Council Guidance on carrying out EI Assessments. The Equality Impact assessment has focused on the document as a whole rather than a detailed assessment of all the individual policies and proposals.

An initial simplified impact assessment of all policies has been undertaken as the first stage of the EIA. The EIA has then undertaken a Step 1 assessment of the purpose, aims and content of each of the main strategic spatial policies in the Core Strategy Draft Preferred Option document. Further information has also been provided on a minority of other specific policies where a potential impact or effect on different communities or groups has been identified. Otherwise the focus of the EIA is on the Core Strategy document as a whole. Thus:

- There is an initial Simplified impact assessment checklist of all the policies of the Core Strategy. The vast majority of policies in the Core Strategy were identified at this stage as 'policy neutral' and no further assessment undertaken.
- The Step 1 purpose, aims, and potential impact has been considered for the following key strategic spatial policies, and for the following minority of other policies where potential differential impacts and equalities issues have been identified:

*Main Strategic Spatial policies*

- Policy S1 Strategic Direction and Location of Development
- Policy S2 City on The Beach

- Policy S3     Housing Need
- Policy S4     Phased and Balanced Blackpool Housing Market
- Policy S5     Employment Development and Economic Diversification
- Policy S8     Connectivity

*Other policies where potential impacts identified*

- Policy G6     Gypsy, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople
  - Policy R4     Arrival and Movement
  - Policy G1     Neighbourhood Regeneration
  - Policy R19    Main Holiday Accommodation Areas
  - Policy R13    Rigby Road Key Investment Site
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- The remainder of the EIA focuses on the Core Strategy document as a whole, including Step 2 (information available) and Step 3 (Impact on different groups).
  - No Step 4 adverse impacts have been identified. It is a main priority of the Core Strategy to promote community cohesion, support regeneration, and tackle deprivation and inequalities – and this conclusion is consistent with this focus.
  - While no adverse impacts have been identified, very comprehensive assessment Step 5 consultation will take place in line with the normal planning requirements of preparation of the Core Strategy as part of the Council's Local Development Framework. This Equality Impact Assessment and an independent Sustainability Appraisal of the Core Strategy and will both be made publicly available as part of the public consultation process.
  - In terms of Step 6 (Decision) the results of the consultation will inform the Council's final decision on the policies to be included in the subsequent Publication/ Submission editions of the Core Strategy, which will then be submitted to Government for an independent assessment at an Examination in Public before the Planning Inspectorate.
  - Step 7 (monitoring and review) is an integral part of the planning process, and this will include specific monitoring of its policies on community cohesion, deprivation, and on specific neighbourhoods and groups.
  - Step 8 (Action Plan) of the Core Strategy EIA is focused on drawing up the key indicators to ensure the 'impacts' of the Core Strategy policies, when finalised, can properly be assessed by the development of an effective monitoring system. The success or otherwise of the policies of the Core Strategy will inform subsequent more detailed policy development and/ or review of the Blackpool Core Strategy.

**INITIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT CHECKLIST  
(CONSIDERING ALL POLICIES IN THE CORE STRATEGY DRAFT PREFERRED OPTION)**

Core Strategy Policies	Equality Impact	
	Policy Neutral	Potential Specific Impact *
<b>The Spatial Strategy: Regeneration, Diversification and Growth</b>		
S1: Strategic Direction and Location of Development	✓	
S2: City on The Beach	✓	
S3: Housing Need: Blackpool Strategic Housing Sites 2009-2026	✓	
S4: Phased and Balanced Blackpool Housing Market	✓	
S5: Employment Development and Economic Diversification	✓	
S6: Quality of Place	✓	
S7: Climate Change and Sustainable Development	✓	
S8: Connectivity		✓
<b>Town Centre and Resort Renaissance</b>		
R1: Resort Renaissance	✓	
R2: Conference, Events and Festivals	✓	
R3: Resort Heritage	✓	
R4: Arrival and Movement		✓
R5: Blackpool Town Centre Strategy	✓	
R6: Principle Retail Core	✓	
R7: Winter Gardens Strategic Site	✓	
R8: Talbot Gateway Town Centre Strategic Site	✓	
R9: St John's, Abingdon Street, and the Lanes	✓	
R10: Former Central Station/Promenade Town Centre Strategic Site	✓	
R11: Town Centre Promenade Leisure Frontage	✓	
R12: Resort Neighbourhoods		✓
R13: Rigby Road Strategic Site		✓
R14: Foxhall	✓	
R15: South Beach	✓	
R16: North Beach	✓	
R17: Key Resort Gateways	✓	
R18: The Promenade	✓	
R19: Main Holiday		✓
R20: Mixed Neighbourhoods		✓
<b>M55 Hub Growth Point</b>		
M1: Strategic Allocations of Land for Residential Development on Marton Moss	✓	
M2: Phased Release of housing sites on Marton Moss	✓	
M3: New Neighbourhood Development: Housing Mix	✓	
M4: New Neighbourhood Development: Community Infrastructure	✓	
M5: Neighbourhood Character, Marton Moss	✓	
M6: Extension to South Blackpool Green Belt	✓	
M7: Strategic Allocation for Development of Lands at Whyndyke Farm	✓	
M8: M55 Hub Transport and Connectivity	✓	
<b>Balanced, Healthy and Greener Blackpool</b>		
G1: Neighbourhood Regeneration		✓
G2: Town-wide Shopping and Community Facilities	✓	
G3: Health and Education	✓	
G4: Housing Mix, Density and Standards	✓	
G5: Affordable and Supported Needs Housing	✓	
G6: Gypsy and Travellers, and Travelling Showpeople		✓
G7: Protected Green Space	✓	
G8: Green Infrastructure	✓	
G9: Energy Requirements of New Development	✓	
G10: Sustainable Design, Layout and Construction	✓	
G11: Strategic Site Energy Requirements	✓	

\* Where a policy is identified to have a specific impact on equality issues, an analysis of the purpose and aims of the policy has been undertaken in step 1.

## STEP 1 - IDENTIFYING THE PURPOSE OR AIMS

### Policy S1: Strategic Direction and Location of Development and Policy S2: City on the Beach.

1. What type of policy, service or function is this?

New/ proposed

2. What is the aim and purpose of the policy, service or function?

#### **Policy S1: Strategic Direction and Location of Development**

- *To pursue the revitalisation and regeneration of the town centre and resort core as the main focus for Blackpool's future growth, development and investment.*
- *To pursue the Marton Moss/M55 Hub as a supporting focus for growth and expansion to meet housing and economic development needs as part of a sustainable urban extension on the edge of Blackpool.*

#### **Policy S2: City on the Beach**

*To create a planning policy framework for early and fundamental physical change, restructuring and reinvigorating the town centre, resort core and its inner area holiday and residential offer as a 21<sup>st</sup> Century "City on the Beach".*

3. Please outline any proposals being considered.

To enable the pursual of the revitalisation and regeneration of the town centre and resort core, and pursue the Marton Moss/M55 Hub as a supporting focus for growth to meet housing and economic development.

In addition, through the restructuring and reinvigoration of the town centre, resort, core, and inner area holiday and residential offer as a 21<sup>st</sup> Century 'City on the Beach'.

4. Why are the proposals being made - for what reason?

To achieve sustainable growth and regeneration. As part of the Core Strategy, the policy is proposed to align with the National Planning Policy Statement 12: Local Spatial Planning (PPS12) and also specifically Planning Policy Statement 1: Delivering Sustainable Development (PPS1) and also the Supplement to PPS1.

5. What outcomes do we want to achieve?

New development seeks to reverse decline in the town centre, and aims to promote urban regeneration and resort renaissance in central Blackpool.

Expansion in the M55 Hub aims to meet the identified growth needs of Blackpool, and to diversify and uplift the town's residential/ economic offer.

6. Who is the policy; service or function intended to help/ benefit?

- Residents
- Businesses
- Visitors

7. Who are the main stakeholders/ customers/ communities of interest?

Main Stakeholders:

- Blackpool Council
- ReBlackpool
- North West Development Agency (NWDA)
- Leisure Parcs
- Pleasure Beach
- Other major land owners & developers

Communities of interest:

- Residents
- Businesses
- Visitors

8. Does the policy, service or function have any existing aims in relation to equality, social inclusion or community cohesion?

Through the regeneration of the town centre, resort core and inner neighbourhoods the policy aims to improve and lift the quality of the environment and improve social inclusion.

9. How is the resulting service or function delivered/ administered?

The policy will be implemented by Blackpool Council, and delivered in combination with private landowners and developers.

**Policy S3: Housing Need: Blackpool Strategic Housing Sites 2009-2026 and Policy S4: Phased and Balanced Blackpool Housing Market**

10. What type of policy, service or function is this?

New/ proposed

11. What is the aim and purpose of the policy, service or function?

**Policy S3: Housing Need: Blackpool Strategic Housing Sites 2010-2026**

*To identify sites and opportunities for the development of 6,800 new homes to meet Blackpool's need between 2009 and 2026:*

<i>Central Blackpool inner area strategic development sites: (through regeneration / housing intervention / market uplift)</i>	<i>2,000</i>
<i>Strategic Development Site at M55 Hub/Marton Moss</i>	<i>2,700</i>
<i>Other housing development sites in the SHLAA, including:</i>	<i>1,700</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Talbot Gateway</i></li> <li>• <i>Blackpool Fylde College (Bispham site)</i></li> <li>• <i>Former Devonshire Road Hospital</i></li> <li>• <i>Leys Nursery</i></li> <li>• <i>Ryscar Way</i></li> </ul>	
<i>Windfall allowance for conversions</i>	<i>1,000</i>
<i>Total</i>	<i>7,400</i>

*The above figures accord with the adopted North West Regional Spatial Strategy, with some flexibility for uplift beyond this figure limited by land constraints and Blackpool's tight knit boundary.*

**Policy S4: Phased and Balanced Blackpool Housing Market**

*To phase the future release of housing sites to accord with Blackpool's housing requirement and its dual focus on regeneration and growth to provide a wider choice of quality homes and create stronger neighbourhoods across Blackpool as a whole.*

*New housing growth on the edge of Blackpool will be permitted which is consistent with the Council's housing strategy and directly complements and supports its major strategic focus for development on central Blackpool.*

12. Please outline any proposals being considered.

Policy S3 provides a breakdown of where housing requirements outlined in the North West Regional Spatial Strategy (NWRSS) will be located. Each housing development at the sites outlined will be required to submit a planning application to detail specific proposals.

13. Why are the proposals being made - for what reason?

The future development strategy of providing sufficient housing land to 2026 is focussed on delivering a better balanced and more appropriate mix of housing, and is dependent on a substantial focus on regeneration.

The North West RSS (adopted in 2008) covers the period 2003-2021 and sets out the housing requirement for each district in the North West Region. Blackpool's figure of 8,000 dwellings equates to an average annual requirement of 444 dwellings per year.

Rolling forward the annual NWRSS housing requirement to 2026 (10,200) and allowing for the 3,400 houses already built or committed for development at April 1<sup>st</sup> 2010 leaves a remaining overall requirement for Blackpool for the identification of sufficient land for at least a further 6,800 dwellings between 2010 and 2026.

As part of the Core Strategy, the policy has been proposed to align with the National Planning Policy Statement 3: Housing (PPS3). The policy is also proposed in order to align with *Policy L2: Understanding Housing Markets*, *Policy L3: Existing Housing Stock and Housing Renewal*, *Policy L4: Regional Housing Provision*, and *L5: Affordable Housing* of the NWRSS.

14. What outcomes do we want to achieve

To provide sufficient housing land for a better-balanced and more appropriate mix of housing, maximising regeneration and enhancement of the inner areas of Blackpool along with supporting growth elsewhere.

15. Who is the policy; service or function intended to help/ benefit?

- Current and future residents

16. Who are the main stakeholders/ customers/ communities of interest?

Main stakeholders:

- Blackpool Council
- ReBlackpool
- Private House Builders
- Homes and Communities Agency
- Landowners
- Registered Social Landlords (RSLs)
- Blackpool Coastal Housing

Communities of interest:

- Residents
- Businesses
- Visitors

17. Does the policy, service or function have any existing aims in relation to equality, social inclusion or community cohesion?

The policy focus of the Core Strategy is to provide a mix of different types, sizes, and locations of housing to meet the needs of all existing and future residents. In alignment with the NWRSS this variety of choice of housing therefore aims to meet the requirements of all different groups and types of households, and there is no differential impact or approach in the way the policy is applied to different groups.

The development of housing at the key sites outlined will result in the development of affordable and specialist housing which will contribute towards social inclusion and cohesion by seeking to meet the needs of all different groups.

18. How is the resulting service or function delivered/administered?

The policy will be implemented by Blackpool Council and delivered by developers, housing providers and associated infrastructure providers.

## Policy S5: Employment Development and Economic Diversification

19. What type of policy, service or function is this?

New/ proposed

20. What is the aim and purpose of the policy, service or function?

### ***Policy S5: Employment Development and Economic Diversification***

*To safeguard and promote new employment opportunities to meet the employment development needs of Blackpool and the wider Fylde sub-region 2009-2026, with the focus for new development on:*

- *A strengthened Blackpool Town Centre, including Talbot Gateway.*
- *South Blackpool / Airport strategic employment sites.*
- *Expanded employment opportunities at the M55 Hub.*
- *The safeguarding and enhancing of other existing employment areas for employment use.*
- *Government Department and public sector office relocation.*
- *Business Growth skills, training and support.*

21. Please outline any proposals being considered.

**Talbot Gateway:** The Talbot Gateway site forms a critical component of town centre regeneration, being an important transport gateway, with the relocation and attraction of new office uses offering the opportunity to deliver a high quality mixed-use scheme and help diversify the town's employment offer.

**South Blackpool:** Blackpool Airport is another key driver, with the Blackpool Business Park well located to capitalise on this asset, alongside potential for major redevelopment and enhancement of the adjoining older estates.

**M55 Hub:** The focus for new provision of employment opportunities will be reliant on wider decisions of Fylde Council on lands at the M55 hub to be allocated for expanding employment uses.

22. Why are the proposals being made - for what reason?

To provide land for employment needs, and encourage and promote investment into Blackpool. An increased town centre focus, and investment in skills, training and support will improve accessibility to jobs for all, and specifically assist low income and disadvantaged groups.

As part of the Core Strategy, the policy is proposed to align with a number of national planning policies which are to be replaced by Planning Policy Statement 4: Sustainable Economic Development (PPS4). The policy is also proposed in order to align with *Policy W3: Supply of Employment Land*, and *Policy W4: Release of Allocated Employment Land* of the NWRSS.

23. What outcomes do we want to achieve

Safeguard land for employment development needs, and to encourage further investment into Blackpool. The policy also seeks to generate better economic diversity, and to develop more employment opportunities.

24. Who is the policy; service or function intended to help/ benefit?

- Businesses
- Residents

25. Who are the main stakeholders/ customers/ communities of interest?

Main stakeholders:

- Blackpool Council
- ReBlackpool
- Businesses
- Landowners
- Developers (specifically MUSE Developments)

Communities of interest:

- Residents
- Businesses

26. Does the policy, service or function have any existing aims in relation to equality, social inclusion or community cohesion?

Not explicitly, but by focusing major new development on a strengthened town centre and safeguarding/providing allocated lands for employment use, this will encourage investment resulting in the creation of new enterprises and jobs.

27. How is the resulting service or function delivered/ administered?

The policy will be implemented by Blackpool Council, and delivered in combination with private landowners, developers, investors and businesses.

**Policy S8: Connectivity**

28. What type of policy, service or function is this?

New/ proposed

29. What is the aim and purpose of the policy, service or function?

***Policy S8: Connectivity***

*To promote sustainable development locations, transport and travel and seek key strategic improvements to the sub-regional transport network. In particular Blackpool Council will support and pursue the following schemes:*

- *Major enhancement of the main rail gateway to the town at North Station and at Preston Station.*
- *Electrification of the Blackpool – Preston – Manchester line, along with increased service frequency.*
- *Provision of a new on-street tram-line from the seafront to Blackpool North Station.*
- *Development of a new tram-link to the South Fylde line to St Annes, and potentially to Blackpool Airport.*
- *Improvements to the A585 and new road corridor from the M55 to Norcross to the north and St Annes to the south of Blackpool.*

30. Please outline any proposals being considered.

As outlined above.

31. Why are the proposals being made - for what reason?

To promote and encourage sustainable transport and sustainable development.

32. What outcomes do we want to achieve

As outlined in policy S8 (question 29)

33. Who is the policy; service or function intended to help/ benefit?

- Businesses
- Residents

34. Who are the main stakeholders/ customers/ communities of interest?

Main Stakeholders:

- Blackpool Council

- Transport Operators
- Highways Agency
- Neighbouring Authorities
- Businesses
- Landowners
- Developers

Communities of interest:

- Residents

35. Does the policy, service or function have any existing aims in relation to equality, social inclusion or community cohesion?

The policy seeks to support the enhancement of public transport networks, which will improve access to the town centre and elsewhere. This will be accessible for all sectors of the community and consequently will improve social inclusion.

36. How is the resulting service or function delivered/ administered?

The policy will be implemented by Blackpool Council, and delivered in combination with private landowners, developers, Blackpool Transport Service, British Rail, and Rail Operators.

## Gypsy, travellers and travelling showpeople

37. What type of policy, service or function is this?

New/ proposed

38. What is the aim and purpose of the policy, service or function?

### ***Policy G6: Gypsy and Travellers, and Travelling Showpeople***

*To meet Blackpool's need for appropriate sites and accommodation for Gypsies and Travellers, and Travelling Showpeople by:*

- *The provision of additional transit pitches for Gypsies to 2016*
- *The review of future growth beyond 2016 in line with regional policy*
- *The allocation of a site of 0.5 hectares of land to meet Travelling Showpeople needs*

39. Please outline any proposals being considered.

As outlined in Policy G6:

Current local authority sites are located at Whalley Lane, Jubilee Lane, Fishers Lane and a Council managed site at Chapel Road.

Provision for transit pitches has been allocated in the Chapel Road site, in line with the RSS.

A proposed location of the 0.5 hectare Travelling Showpeople site is referred to in the Core Strategy Preferred Option consultation document.

40. Why are the proposals being made - for what reason?

The policy is proposed in order to align with national planning policy, in particular the Planning for Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Sites Circular (ODPM 01/2006), and the Planning for Traveling Showpeople circular (ODPM 04/2007). The policy is also in line with the *Interim Draft Policy L6: Scale and Distribution of Gypsy and Travellers Pitch Provision*, as part of the Partial Review of the NWRSS, which seeks to ensure decent homes for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople.

In line with the circulars, the policy aims to:

- Reduce the number of unauthorised encampments
- Increase the number of sites and tackle under-provision over the next three to five years.
- Protect the traditional itinerant way of life of Gypsies and Travellers.
- Underline the importance of assessing accommodation need.
- Promote appropriate site provision.

41. What outcomes do we want to achieve

The overarching aim is to ensure that members of the Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople community have access to decent and appropriate accommodation options, akin to every other member of society.

42. Who is the policy; service or function intended to help/ benefit?

Gypsies, travellers and Travelling Showpeople.

43. Who are the main stakeholders/ customers/ communities of interest?

Main stakeholders:

- Blackpool Council
- Landowners

Communities of interest:

- Gypsies
- Travellers
- Travelling Showpeople

44. Does the policy, service or function have any existing aims in relation to equality, social inclusion or community cohesion?

By meeting needs for Gypsies, Travellers and, Travelling Showpeople, the policy aims to ensure all members of the community have access to decent and appropriate accommodation, therefore encouraging social inclusion and community cohesion.

45. How is the resulting service or function delivered/ administered?

The policy will be implemented by Blackpool Council and delivered by landowners, developers, associated infrastructure providers, and Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople.

## Public Transport Issues

46. What type of policy, service or function is this?

New/ proposed

47. What is the aim and purpose of the policy, service or function?

### ***Policy R4: Arrival and Movement***

*To enable convenient and high quality transport and movement within the town centre and resort by:*

- *Promoting strategic improvements to enhance the quality of travel to Blackpool and a quality experience on arrival, whether by car, train, bus, tram, cycle or on foot.*
- *Providing an ease of movement and a clear sense of orientation, direction and onward movement to access key resort and town centre facilities.*
- *Promoting convenient, safe and pleasant pedestrian access to make walking and attractive and enjoyable part of the town centre and resort.*
- *Promoting easy public transport access to, within and through the town centre and resort.*

Public transport issues are also covered in Policy S8: Connectivity.

48. Please outline any proposals being considered.

As outlined in Policy R4 above

49. Why are the proposals being made - for what reason?

To align /fulfil national planning policy, specifically Planning Policy Guidance 13: Transport (PPG13) and *Policy RT1: Integrated Transport Networks, Policy RT2: Managing Travel Demand, RT3: Public Transport Framework and Policy RT4: Management of the Highway Network* in the NWRSS.

50. What outcomes do we want to achieve

As outlined in policy R4. A high quality and convenient transport network, with easier accessibility and high quality public transport focused on the town centre and resort core.

51. Who is the policy; service or function intended to help/ benefit?

It will benefit all residents and visitors, and particularly members of the community who utilise public transport and pedestrians, including groups such as children, elderly, disabled, and people on low-incomes.

52. Who are the main stakeholders/ customers/ communities of interest?

<p>Main stakeholders:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Blackpool Council</li><li>• Blackpool Transport Services</li><li>• Railtrack</li></ul> <p>Communities of interest:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Residents</li><li>• Business</li><li>• Visitors</li></ul>
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53. Does the policy, service or function have any existing aims in relation to equality, social inclusion or community cohesion?

<p>To improve access to the town centre for all, in particular for those who rely on public transport.</p>
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54. How is the resulting service or function delivered/ administered?

<p>The policy will be implemented by Blackpool Council and delivered by Blackpool Transport Services and private companies.</p>
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## Deprived Neighbourhoods

55. What type of policy, service or function is this?

New/ proposed

56. What is the aim and purpose of the policy, service or function?

### ***Policy G1: Neighbourhood Regeneration***

*To secure a better quality of life and deliver sustainable healthy communities in Blackpool's neighbourhoods by promoting and permitting development and investment which:*

- *Contributes to a more balanced pattern and higher quality provision of house types and tenures to meet the needs and aspirations of existing and future residents.*
- *Provides an appropriate scale, form and high quality of schools, shops, health and local community facilities.*
- *Provide easy access to jobs, shops and transport services for all sections of the community and reduces adverse traffic impacts.*
- *Creates a healthy and safe residential environment.*
- *Provides attractive streets and public realm, promoting local pride and a sense of place.*

*The approach to housing neighbourhood regeneration and improvement will be tiered at three levels and implemented through appropriate Area Action Plans:*

- *The housing core interventions for comprehensive redevelopment and remodelling focused on the resort neighbourhood action areas of:*
  - *Foxhall*
  - *North Beach*
  - *South Beach*
- *Other inner area and outer estate priority environmental improvement areas, alongside targeted social, economic, education and health community engagement in:*
  - *Central Drive*
  - *St Heliers*
  - *Queenstown*
  - *Grange Park*
  - *Mereside*
  - *Kincraig*
- *Wider housing, planning and enforcement regimes across all the inner areas to address problems and challenges of poorer quality housing, and reinvest in and improve neighbourhoods.*

*NB. Policies R12: Resort Neighbourhoods and R20 Mixed Neighbourhoods further focus on these issues.*

57. Please outline any proposals being considered.

To improve the key areas of Foxhall, North Beach and South Beach, and also the other priority areas of Central Drive, St Heliers, Queenstown, Grange Park, Mereside and Kinncraig.

58. Why are the proposals being made - for what reason?

To align with national planning policy, specifically Planning Policy Statement 3: Housing and *Policy L2: Understanding Housing Markets*, *Policy L3: Existing Housing Stock and Housing Renewal*, *Policy L4: Regional Housing Provision*, and *L5: Affordable Housing* of the NWRSS.

To improve specific neighbourhoods to address issues of deprivation to encourage socially cohesive and inclusive communities.

59. What outcomes do we want to achieve

The policy seeks to improve social and economic well-being through neighbourhood regeneration, with targeted housing improvements alongside social, economic and community engagement in priority areas.

60. Who is the policy; service or function intended to help/ benefit?

- Residents
- Businesses

61. Who are the main stakeholders/ customers/ communities of interest?

Main stakeholders:

- Blackpool Council
- Registered Social Landlords
- Businesses
- Police

Communities of interest:

- Residents in the specified neighbourhoods

62. Does the policy, service or function have any existing aims in relation to equality, social inclusion or community cohesion?

The policy aims to secure a better quality of life for residents and deliver sustainable, healthy communities.

63. How is the resulting service or function delivered/ administered?

The policy will be implemented by Blackpool Council and delivered by developers, landowners, housing providers, associated infrastructure providers and the Homes and Communities Agency.

## Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Community

64. What type of policy, service or function is this?

New/ proposed

65. What is the aim and purpose of the policy, service or function?

Policy R19: Main Holiday Accommodation Areas, identifies the main focus for the future marketing and development of holiday accommodation off the Promenade and supports the future of 6 main holiday accommodation areas, including Lord Street which is positively recognised and promoted as providing a developing niche of accommodation.

The Core Strategy describes Lord Street as:

*Close to Blackpool North railway station, this area has had a marked decline in the number of holiday premises in adjoining street in recent years, but remains predominantly in holiday accommodation use. Properties are generally quite small, but against the general downward trend, a developing specialist niche of accommodation which many people recognise as a gay village, has grown alongside a range of more traditional accommodation.*

66. Please outline any proposals being considered.

To support Lord Street as a holiday accommodation area.

67. Why are the proposals being made - for what reason?

Identify areas suitable for the safeguarding of guest house accommodation.

68. What outcomes do we want to achieve

To consolidate the guesthouse accommodation available, and improve the quality of the designated areas.

69. Who is the policy; service or function intended to help/ benefit?

- Business (especially guesthouse owners in the Lord Street area, and residents).

70. Who are the main stakeholders/ customers/ communities of interest?

Main stakeholders:

- Blackpool Council

Communities of interest:

- Businesses
- Guest house owners

71. Does the policy, service or function have any existing aims in relation to equality, social inclusion or community cohesion?

By allocating Lord Street as a Holiday Accommodation Area, the policy seeks to improve and consolidate the guest house accommodation available. While the standards of accommodation and properties is not as high as in some areas, the inclusion of Lord Street positively recognises its potential and promotes the different focus and character of this area. By concentrating guesthouses to specific areas the policy aims to improve the overall quality of provision, which will contribute towards uplifting the area and improving social and economic well-being and creating sustainable communities.

72. How is the resulting service or function delivered/ administered?

The policy will be implemented by Blackpool Council and delivered by developers, landowners, holiday accommodation and guesthouse owners, and local businesses.

## Students

73. What type of policy, service or function is this?

New/ proposed

74. What is the aim and purpose of the policy, service or function?

***Policy R13: Rigby Road Key Investment Site***

*To develop the Rigby Road site as a new Higher Education University style campus to uplift educational attainment and support Blackpool town centre and inner area regeneration.*

75. Please outline any proposals being considered.

To develop a new higher education campus on the Rigby Road site.

76. Why are the proposals being made - for what reason?

To provide an opportunity to relocate the main Blackpool Fylde College from Bispham to meet the growing demand for teaching and learning provision and the specific requirements from growth industries in the Fylde Sub-Region.

To align with *Policy CLCR 1: Central Lancashire City Region Priorities* in the NWRSS, which in part encourages the raising of economic performance by enhancing educational opportunities which will improve the skill-base of the resident population.

77. What outcomes do we want to achieve

To create a modern, new campus to accommodate for the growing demand for facilities in a central location.

78. Who is the policy; service or function intended to help/ benefit?

- Students
- Businesses

79. Who are the main stakeholders/ customers/ communities of interest?

**Main stakeholders:**

- Blackpool and the Fylde College
- Blackpool Council
- ReBlackpool
- North West Development Agency
- Learning and Skills Council

**Communities of interest:**

- Students and young people
- Local residents
- Local businesses

80. Does the policy, service or function have any existing aims in relation to equality, social inclusion or community cohesion?

The policy seeks to improve access to higher education, with the aim of improving skills and qualifications, which will provide wider economic benefits for the borough.

81. How is the resulting service or function delivered/ administered?

The policy will be implemented by Blackpool Council and delivered by developers, landowners, the North West Development Agency and the Learning and Skills Council.

**STEP 2      CONSIDERING AVAILABLE INFORMATION, DATA, AND RESEARCH FOR THE CORE STRATEGY AND WHAT THIS TELLS YOU**

**(This and subsequent steps refer to the Core Strategy Document as a whole)**

82. Please summarise the main data/ research and performance management information in the box below.

<b><i>Date/ information</i></b>	
The Blackpool Core Strategy Evidence Base. The Evidence Base is comprised of a range of documents, which provide comprehensive assessments and technical information relating to housing, environment, employment and other aspects such as the character of the Fylde Coast Sub-Region and specific studies on Blackpool.	
<b>Date</b>	<b>Document</b>
2006-2007	Annual Monitoring Review
2006	Local Transport Plan 2006-2011
2007	Employment Land Review
2008	Fylde Coast Retail Study
2008	Nature and Conservation Statement
2008	Strategic Housing Market Assessment
2009	Strategic Flood Risk Assessment
2009	Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment
2010	Open Space, Sport and Recreation 2009 Audit and Position Statement (to be finalised)
2010	Infrastructure Guide (to be finalised)
2010	Climate Change and Sustainable Energy Study (to be finalised)
<b><i>Research or comparative information</i></b>	
As above	
<b><i>Key findings of consultation and feedback</i></b>	
Public consultation is still to take place on the Preferred Option Core Strategy. Public consultation on the <i>Core Strategy Issues and Options</i> document has taken place, providing the basis on which the Preferred Option was decided.	
The results of the consultation on the <i>Issues and Options</i> document, were as follows:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Further urban concentration was not supported which would result in an over-intensification of the already built up existing Blackpool urban area, and the Council's SHLAA effectively already seeks to balance such opportunities whilst maximising inner area regeneration.</li> <li>• Peripheral urban expansion promoting development on the other limited remaining lands on the eastern edge of Blackpool was not supported as a sustainable way forward, constrained by Green Belt and countryside, landscape and drainage issues.</li> <li>• Following a report informed by the feedback from the July-September 2008 consultation on the Issues and Options document, the preferred way forward for Blackpool's broad spatial development and growth was approved by the Council in February 2009. The Core Strategy Preferred Option has a dual focus on "Regeneration and Sustainable Growth".</li> </ul>	

83. What are the impacts or effects for communities?

<b><i>Race or ethnicity</i></b>
No specific impacts or effects
<b><i>Gender and Trans</i></b>
No specific impacts or effects
<b><i>Age</i></b>
No specific impacts or effects, but will improve public transport
<b><i>Disability</i></b>
Improved public transport
<b><i>Religion or belief/ faith communities</i></b>
No specific impacts or effects
<b><i>Lesbian, gay, bisexual people</i></b>
No specific impacts or effects
<b><i>Other socially excluded communities or groups</i></b>
Gypsies, travellers and travelling showpeople policies consider their specific housing needs.
<b><i>Relationships between or within communities</i></b>
No specific impacts or effects

84. What do you know about how the proposals will impact on different communities?

The policies seek to improve neighbourhoods through urban regeneration and to improve resident's quality of life.

**STEP 3 ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPACT OF THE CORE STRATEGY ON DIFFERENT COMMUNITIES AND GROUPS**

**(This step refers to the Core Strategy Document as a whole)**

85. Is there any evidence of higher or lower take-up by any group or community, and if so, how is this explained?

The spatial policies of the Core Strategy determine the future focus of physical development and change in Blackpool for the next 15-20 years and in these terms impact and affect all the population. The broad strategic nature of many of the policies means that whilst their aims may be generally focused on promoting a better balanced and healthier Blackpool, it does not readily lend itself to the identification of specific improvements and consequences of policies on individual groups.

A key tenet of the Core Strategy is that it is only through the fundamental physical change and restructuring of Blackpool's town centre, resort core and inner areas that the economic, social, health and wider consequences of Blackpool's past decline will be addressed. It is therefore the strategy as a whole, rather than its specific policies which will impact and address problems of disadvantage.

86. Does the geography or demography of service users reveal anything?

A key focus of the Core Strategy Preferred Option is the consultation process. Generally responses from different communities, groups and individuals are most likely to be made by those who are most affected by the policies and proposals contained in the Core Strategy. If there is a proposal for major new development in a particular locality, then more responses will be received. This usually is also influenced by geographical areas and location, rather than groups of people, and it is evident that those who have an ownership stake in an area, whether through business or place of residence, are more likely to respond than those without.

Specific interest groups are also consulted and are generally pro-active in engaging with the planning process if there are considered to be relevant issues which impact on them and are also generally more likely to comment on strategic issues across the town as a whole.

87. Do any rules or requirements prevent any groups or communities from using or accessing the service?

No

88. Does the way a service is delivered/ or the policy create any additional barriers for any groups of disabled people? (DDA duties arising out of DDA 1995)

No

89. Does the way a service is delivered/ or the policy create any additional barriers for any other groups or communities, for example, due to limited income or because of the time during the week or day when the service is available? E.g. women, cultural reasons.

In terms of delivery, the Core Strategy Preferred Option document will be available at a number of accessible deposit points (e.g. Town Hall, Local Libraries) and

available online. Direct consultation letters also sent to a wide range of groups and organisations, including minority and differential interests.

90. Do any of these limitations amount to unlawful discrimination?

No

If yes, please explain (referring to relevant legislation) in the box below

91. If No, do they amount to a differential impact, which should be addressed?

No

If yes, please give details in the boxes below.

92. If the impact or effects are adverse for any community or group, can they be defended in order to provide equality for another community under legislation or policy?

Yes  No

Please give details below.

93. Do you have enough information to make a judgement?

Yes

If no, what information do you require, about which communities?

94. Is it possible to get the information quickly and easily or is it recommended that the collection of such data be included as an action for the action plan that will be developed? Please detail below.

95.

Information for the Preferred Option Core Strategy document has been collated and forms the Evidence Base. The process of producing an Evidence Base is lengthy, and as such, the collection of any further data should be included as an action for the action plan.

#### STEP 4 - DEALING WITH ADVERSE OR UNLAWFUL IMPACT

This section again generally refers to all the range of policies in the document as a whole.

96. What can be done to improve the policy, service, function or any proposals in order to reduce or remove any adverse impact or effects identified?

The policy document will go out to public consultation, where stakeholders and interested parties or individuals, including from minority groups and organisations, will be able to put forwards comments, concerns or suggestions. Once received, the consultation comments will be taken into consideration and the document may be amended accordingly.

97. What would be needed to be able to do this? Are the resources likely to be available?

Consultation events will take place as a normal part of the planning process. Resources are available within existing Planning budgets for this wide ranging consultation.

98. What other support or changes would be necessary to carry out these actions?

Comments made will be reported and considered by the Council, including any proposed amendments to the document. The Core Strategy will then be published with a further statutory minimum 6 week consultation period at which anyone can challenge the soundness of the document, including whether its policies have been properly informed and formulated based on adequate research and information, and the adequacy of consultation and engagement with the public, businesses, and all the different community interest groups.

## STEP 5 - CONSULTING THOSE AFFECTED FOR THEIR VIEWS

99. Please outline the steps taken to test out your findings and possible courses of action below.

As part of the consultation:

1. The Core Strategy Preferred Option document will be available online for comments.
2. Workshops and meetings will be held with residents, local businesses, interest groups, developers, land owners and stakeholders.
3. Events/Exhibitions will take place that can be attended by the general public.

All comments will be considered and where necessary changes will be made to the document.

100. What feedback or responses have you received to the findings and possible courses of action? Please give details below.

The Preferred Option document has received informal feedback from a number of representatives, including Government Office for the North West and 4NW. The document will also go out to public consultation, which will allow any one to provide feedback, from within or outside the Borough.

101. If you have not been able to carry out any consultation, please indicate below how you intend to test out your findings and recommended actions.

102. If you are impact assessing some proposals, what steps have been taken to ensure that stakeholders have been able to voice their opinions on the proposals or the need for change?

Key stakeholders have been involved from the beginning of the Core Strategy process, this includes providing feedback and comments regarding the Evidence Base documents.

A large and wide-ranging list of stakeholders and the wider public will be consulted as part of the Preferred Option Core Strategy public consultations. There are also a number of statutory consultees which are required to be consulted when preparing Development Plan Documents.

## STEP 6 - ACTION PLANNING

Please outline your proposed action plan below: No significant adverse impacts currently identified.

Issues/ adverse impact identified	Proposed action/ objectives to deal with adverse impact	Targets/Measure	Timeframe	Responsibility	Indicate whether agreed
<p>Identified need for ongoing consultation from EIA, Consultation on document may raise comment, issues, impacts.</p> <p>Continuing engagement with community groups e.g. Faith Forum, LGBT, Race Equality Forum</p>	<p>All comments considered on draft document, and changes made as appropriate.</p>	<p>Targets/ measures will be an integral part of the CS and are identified within the document for all its policies.</p>	<p>CS preparation seek adoption by 2011, setting out Council's strategic spatial policy framework to 2026.</p>	<p>Planning Division of Council is primarily responsible to ensure relevance &amp; quality of content, and accountability</p>	<p>Council decision required prior to public consultation Aim to secure an adopted CS to meet the town and community needs</p>

Issues/ adverse impact identified	Proposed action/ objectives to deal with adverse impact	Targets/Measure	Timeframe	Responsibility	Indicate whether agreed

**STEP 7 - ARRANGEMENTS FOR MONITORING AND REVIEW**

Please outline your arrangements for future monitoring and review below.

Agreed action	Monitoring arrangements	Timeframe	Responsibility	Added to Service Plan etc.
To undertake an Annual Monitoring Review.	Undertake an Annual Monitoring Review.	Annual		

Date completed:

Signed:

Name:

Position: