



Local Development Framework

Central Lancashire Core Strategy

Rural Proofing Assessment

December 2010



This page is deliberately blank

WHAT IS RURAL PROOFING?

Rural proofing is a commitment by Government to ensure that policies take account of rural circumstances and needs. The initiative has been promoted by The Commission for Rural Communities with recommendations that as policies are developed, policy makers should:

- Consider whether their policy is likely to have a different impact in rural areas, because of particular circumstances or needs;
- Make proper assessments of those impacts, if they're likely to be significant;
- Adjust the policy where appropriate, with solutions to meet rural needs and circumstances.

Rural proofing applies to all policies, programmes and initiatives as well as to both the design and delivery stages. The Government is committed to making rural proofing a reality at national and local levels. In May 2009, it published a revised Rural Proofing Toolkit to help ensure that policies take account of rural circumstances and needs. The toolkit is designed to be used in conjunction with policy development processes like the Local Development Framework, and alongside other appraisal systems, including Sustainable Development Action Plans and formal Impact Assessment processes.

THE POLICY DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

The Rural Proofing toolkit has been applied to the drafting of the Publication version of the Central Lancashire Core Strategy. For each policy, a 'thinking rural' assessment has been made, considering:

- What are the objectives of the proposed policy?
- What are its intended impacts or outcomes?
- Which areas, groups or organisations are supposed to benefit?
- What is the current situation and why is it not delivering the outcomes required?

The toolkit format invites policy makers to explore how to adjust policy options to produce the desired outcomes in rural areas or avoid/mitigate any undesirable impacts, especially where the impact in rural areas will be significantly different. This exercise may also highlight opportunities to maximise positive impacts in rural areas. It also establishes a baseline for monitoring change so that it is possible to evaluate the impact the policy is having, using appropriate data collection, and assess what is, or isn't being achieved.

RURAL PROOFING POLICY DEVELOPMENT

The Rural Proofing toolkit recommends the use of a series of 14 questions which have been used to prompt assessment of the emerging Core Strategy policies. For each question, the toolkit gives examples of the types of evidence required, and of possible rural solutions.

The questions are as follows:

1. Will the policy affect the availability of public and private services?
2. Will the policy rely on existing service outlets, such as schools, libraries and GP services?
3. Will the policy rely on the private sector or a public private partnership?
4. Will the cost of delivery be higher in rural areas where clients are more widely dispersed and economies of scale can be harder to achieve?
5. Will the policy rely on local institutions for delivery?
6. Will the policy affect travel needs or the ease/cost of travel?
7. Does the policy rely on infrastructure (e.g. broadband ICT, main roads, utilities) for delivery?
8. Will delivery of the policy be challenging at the 'edges' of administrative areas?
9. Is the policy dependent on new buildings or development sites?
10. Does the policy rely on communicating information to clients?
11. Will the policy impact on rural businesses, including the self-employed?
12. Will the policy affect land-based industries and, perhaps, rural economies and environments?
13. Will the policy affect people on low wages or in part-time or seasonal employment?
14. Will the policy target disadvantaged people or places?

These questions were considered against each of the 31 policies contained in the Publication version of the Central Lancashire Core Strategy (2010). Each answer is recorded in the detailed section below. The summaries for each policy are recorded on a scale where --- is the most negative impact, +/- is neutral and +++ is the most positive or beneficial impact of the policy in rural areas.

CONCLUSION

The Rural Proofing exercise has been applied in a thorough and systematic way to the policy proposals for the Central Lancashire Core Strategy. It has confirmed and clarified a number of important matters:

- That many policies have a general applicability and do not have any bias towards or against rural areas in Central Lancashire (*eg policy 16: Heritage Assets*);
- That some of the questions asked in the Rural Proofing toolkit cannot easily be addressed by planning policies (*eg Q4, Will the cost of delivery be higher in rural areas where clients are more dispersed and economies of scale can be harder to achieve? In many cases the answer is yes, but the solution is often to be found beyond the Core Strategy. The role of the Core Strategy is to establish/confirm the settlement hierarchy to help consolidate and improve local service provision in rural areas.*);
- That there has been scope to modify some policies to more fully account for rural issues (*eg policy 13 amended to promote flexible service uses (co-location) of buildings in district and local centres*).

Policy 1: Locating Growth

Rural Proofing Question	Central Lancashire considerations
1. Will the policy affect the availability of public and private services?	Careful consideration made in Core Strategy process to determine the scale, type and location of development. Hierarchy of key service centres, strategic sites, urban local service centres, rural local service centres, and other places, is designed to focus and group service provision and channel key infrastructure provision. Tie-up with Local Strategic Partnerships. Designed to have a positive impact on rural service availability.
2. Will the policy rely on existing service outlets, such as schools, libraries and GP surgeries?	Yes. Through engagement with other organisations (eg through the LSPs) this policy should set out the agreed locations for a range of service outlets. In principle, the policy is not designed to restrict service provision in rural areas.
3. Will the policy rely on the private sector or a public/private partnership?	Yes, it relies on understanding and buy-in to the hierarchy and the principles behind the policy.
4. Will the cost of delivery be higher in rural areas where clients are more dispersed and economies of scale can be harder to achieve?	Yes, but not as a result of this policy.
5. Will the policies rely on local institutions for delivery?	No.
6. Will the policy affect travel needs or the ease/cost of travel?	Yes, the policy attempts to ensure that travel needs are related to a hierarchy of settlements and service centres.
7. Does the policy rely on infrastructure (e.g. broadband, ICT, main roads, utilities) for delivery?	Yes, it will require collaboration amongst infrastructure providers, especially on the strategic sites and locations.
8. Will delivery of the policy be challenging at the edge of administrative areas?	Possibly, especially where there are key sites or service centres just outside Central Lancashire (eg Horwich, Longridge), but the impacts should be neutral if these centres are also planning to maintain service provision.
9. Is the policy dependent on new buildings or development sites?	Yes
10. Does the policy rely on communicating information to clients?	Not essential, but useful to ensure that residents understand the spatial picture for Central Lancashire, and the limitations of each settlement type (management of expectations).
11. Will the policy impact on rural businesses, including the self-employed?	Yes should be beneficial in committing to a clear hierarchy, and also to the appropriate investment in infrastructure, including broadband.
12. Will the policy affect land-based industries and, perhaps, rural economies	Yes, should be beneficial through focus on hierarchy of settlements, and through strategic sites and locations.

and environments?	
13. Will the policy affect people on low wages or in part-time or seasonal employment?	Policy is designed to benefit all residents, by creating clarity for future growth and investment.
14. Will the policy target disadvantaged people or places?	Not directly, but should not discriminate against any particular group.
Summary	This policy is quite relevant to rural issues and aims to achieve a balance between locating growth where it is most sustainable (generally, in and around urban areas) whilst at the same time recognising the need for some development in rural areas. Overall score: +

Policy 2: Infrastructure

Rural Proofing Question	Central Lancashire considerations
1. Will the policy affect the availability of public and private services?	Yes, it will help improve their prioritisation, funding and delivery. Infrastructure tariffs and CIL (if adopted) will further clarify infrastructure provision.
2. Will the policy rely on existing service outlets, such as schools, libraries and GP surgeries?	Yes, but it should also help supplement existing outlets.
3. Will the policy rely on the private sector or a public/private partnership?	Yes, especially through developer contributions.
4. Will the cost of delivery be higher in rural areas where clients are more dispersed and economies of scale can be harder to achieve?	Not necessarily, but depends in some instances on scope of existing infrastructure provision and the ease (or otherwise) of upgrading it.
5. Will the policies rely on local institutions for delivery?	No
6. Will the policy affect travel needs or the ease/cost of travel?	Possibly: should benefit travellers if new development/infrastructure is provided which encourages or protects viable public transport provision.
7. Does the policy rely on infrastructure (e.g. broadband, ICT, main roads, utilities) for delivery?	Yes
8. Will delivery of the policy be challenging at the edge of administrative areas?	Possibly, especially if different policies are applied in neighbouring districts.
9. Is the policy dependent on new buildings	Yes

or development sites?	
10. Does the policy rely on communicating information to clients?	Yes, important that potential developers are aware of infrastructure requirements.
11. Will the policy impact on rural businesses, including the self-employed?	Yes, there will be a positive impact if infrastructure upgrading is rolled out to rural areas.
12. Will the policy affect land-based industries and, perhaps, rural economies and environments?	Yes, where development requires infrastructure.
13. Will the policy affect people on low wages or in part-time or seasonal employment?	Possibly, where new infrastructure helps to open up new employment opportunities (eg by improving transport connections in rural areas).
14. Will the policy target disadvantaged people or places?	Yes, if the contributions obtained from developers can be channelled into schemes that help improve the circumstances of opportunities for disadvantaged people (eg improved broadband accessibility).
Summary	This policy is closely related to the location and funding of development, which in most cases will be in or around existing urban areas. It allows some scope for appropriate development in rural areas where capacity exceeds demand, and flags up the need for investment where provision is lacking. Overall score: +

Policy 3: Travel

Rural Proofing Question	Central Lancashire considerations
1. Will the policy affect the availability of public and private services?	Yes, in many ways through all modes of transport. Focus is on encouraging travel by means other than the car, and of evening out anomalies and inequalities. <i>Policy re-framed to give greater prominence to non-car borne travel opportunities.</i>
2. Will the policy rely on existing service outlets, such as schools, libraries and GP surgeries?	Yes, but focus for this provision will remain tied to the main settlement hierarchy, as set out in Policy 1.
3. Will the policy rely on the private sector or a public/private partnership?	Yes, several opportunities for developer contributions. Also engagement with transport operators and providers.
4. Will the cost of delivery be higher in rural areas where clients are more dispersed and economies of scale can be harder to achieve?	Yes, despite these policies. Cost of access to services will remain higher for rural residents. <i>There are opportunities to initiate or maintain support for measures such as subsidy of rural bus services to local service centres.</i>

5. Will the policies rely on local institutions for delivery?	No
6. Will the policy affect travel needs or the ease/cost of travel?	Yes, they should help. Policy attempts to ensure that travel needs are related to the hierarchy of service centres and settlements.
7. Does the policy rely on infrastructure (e.g. broadband, ICT, main roads, utilities) for delivery?	Yes
8. Will delivery of the policy be challenging at the edge of administrative areas?	Yes, potentially where development straddles a border or is just on one side or the other (eg Samlesbury, Horwich).
9. Is the policy dependent on new buildings or development sites?	Not necessarily
10. Does the policy rely on communicating information to clients?	Yes, especially to users of public transport, concerning improvements to public transport provision.
11. Will the policy impact on rural businesses, including the self-employed?	Yes, especially if transport connections in rural areas are improved.
12. Will the policy affect land-based industries and, perhaps, rural economies and environments?	Yes, especially where developments have a strong link with the transport network.
13. Will the policy affect people on low wages or in part-time or seasonal employment?	Yes, especially if transport connections in rural areas are improved, opening up employment opportunities.
14. Will the policy target disadvantaged people or places?	Yes, especially if transport connections in rural areas are improved.
Summary	This policy is designed to address travel inequalities and promote travel opportunities by means other than the private car. Costs of accessing services are still likely to be higher for rural residents, and the planning system alone is unlikely to redress the balance. Overall score: +

Policy 4: Housing Delivery

Rural Proofing Question	Central Lancashire considerations
1. Will the policy affect the availability of public and private services?	Yes, especially where mixed use developments provide scope for the location of new services. New housing in appropriate rural locations/settlements will also help to sustain services.
2. Will the policy rely on existing service outlets, such as schools, libraries and GP	No, but their availability would affect the demand for new housing.

surgeries?	
3. Will the policy rely on the private sector or a public/private partnership?	Yes, development partners, especially housebuilders.
4. Will the cost of delivery be higher in rural areas where clients are more dispersed and economies of scale can be harder to achieve?	Possibly, especially as there are likely to be fewer/smaller sites available for new housing in rural areas, and this will affect economies of scale.
5. Will the policies rely on local institutions for delivery?	No
6. Will the policy affect travel needs or the ease/cost of travel?	Yes, especially where development sites are located close to existing routes and services.
7. Does the policy rely on infrastructure (e.g. broadband, ICT, main roads, utilities) for delivery?	Yes
8. Will delivery of the policy be challenging at the edge of administrative areas?	Possibly, especially where there are key sites or service centres just outside Central Lancashire (eg Horwich, Longridge), but the impacts should be neutral if these centres are also planning to maintain service provision.
9. Is the policy dependent on new buildings or development sites?	Yes.
10. Does the policy rely on communicating information to clients?	No
11. Will the policy impact on rural businesses, including the self-employed?	Not directly, but local building firms may get involved in the construction of new housing in rural areas, and new residents may be a potential source of labour.
12. Will the policy affect land-based industries and, perhaps, rural economies and environments?	Yes, in that it promotes housing development delivery as part of sustaining rural areas.
13. Will the policy affect people on low wages or in part-time or seasonal employment?	No
14. Will the policy target disadvantaged people or places?	Not directly.
Summary	This policy is closely related to the location and funding of development, which in most cases will be in or around existing urban areas. Limited housing development in carefully selected rural areas will help develop and sustain rural services. Overall score: +

Policy 5: Housing Density

Rural Proofing Question	Central Lancashire considerations
1. Will the policy affect the availability of public and private services?	No
2. Will the policy rely on existing service outlets, such as schools, libraries and GP surgeries?	No
3. Will the policy rely on the private sector or a public/private partnership?	Yes, development partners, especially housebuilders.
4. Will the cost of delivery be higher in rural areas where clients are more dispersed and economies of scale can be harder to achieve?	No, but character and amenity considerations of some rural sites may influence densities achieved.
5. Will the policies rely on local institutions for delivery?	No
6. Will the policy affect travel needs or the ease/cost of travel?	No
7. Does the policy rely on infrastructure (e.g. broadband, ICT, main roads, utilities) for delivery?	No
8. Will delivery of the policy be challenging at the edge of administrative areas?	Possibly, if neighbouring authorities are applying different density policies.
9. Is the policy dependent on new buildings or development sites?	Yes
10. Does the policy rely on communicating information to clients?	No
11. Will the policy impact on rural businesses, including the self-employed?	No
12. Will the policy affect land-based industries and, perhaps, rural economies and environments?	No
13. Will the policy affect people on low wages or in part-time or seasonal employment?	Higher densities may contribute to the provision of more affordable housing.

14. Will the policy target disadvantaged people or places?	Higher densities may contribute to the provision of more affordable housing.
Summary	This policy is fairly relevant to rural issues but not detrimental as it is largely based around maintaining the character of local areas. Overall score: +/-

Policy 6: Housing Quality

Rural Proofing Question	Central Lancashire considerations
1. Will the policy affect the availability of public and private services?	Yes should have beneficial impact, if housing improvements are delivered in co-ordination with other service provision in rural Central Lancashire.
2. Will the policy rely on existing service outlets, such as schools, libraries and GP surgeries?	No
3. Will the policy rely on the private sector or a public/private partnership?	Yes, especially where grants or government sponsored initiatives are proposed.
4. Will the cost of delivery be higher in rural areas where clients are more dispersed and economies of scale can be harder to achieve?	Possibly, if housing types are less uniform (more difficult to achieve economies of scale in undertaking improvements), or if housing units are more spread out. However clause (a) is focused on urban areas where there is a greater concentration of housing need: difficult to see how policy could be re-worded to avoid these difficulties.
5. Will the policies rely on local institutions for delivery?	No
6. Will the policy affect travel needs or the ease/cost of travel?	No
7. Does the policy rely on infrastructure (e.g. broadband, ICT, main roads, utilities) for delivery?	No, except that housing renewal may require new or upgraded infrastructure (eg replacement of lead water supply pipes).
8. Will delivery of the policy be challenging at the edge of administrative areas?	No
9. Is the policy dependent on new buildings or development sites?	Yes
10. Does the policy rely on communicating information to clients?	Yes, important to ensure that owners/tenants are involved in the process of improving their homes.
11. Will the policy impact on rural businesses, including the self-employed?	Not directly, but local building firms may get the business of undertaking housing improvements.

12. Will the policy affect land-based industries and, perhaps, rural economies and environments?	Yes, in that it promotes housing improvements.
13. Will the policy affect people on low wages or in part-time or seasonal employment?	Yes, where such people benefit from housing improvements.
14. Will the policy target disadvantaged people or places?	Yes, poor housing is a key element of disadvantage. Policy will help disadvantaged people gain access to improved housing.
Summary	A key emphasis of this policy is on improving the housing stock, and most of the deficient properties are in urban areas. This policy is relevant in rural areas too, especially where there is an identified need to improve housing quality. Overall score: +/-

Policy 7: Affordable Housing

Rural Proofing Question	Central Lancashire considerations
1. Will the policy affect the availability of public and private services?	Yes, insofar as affordable housing is a service to those unable to pay market rates, and the policy seeks to secure higher proportions (than urban areas) of affordable housing in rural areas where this is economically viable.
2. Will the policy rely on existing service outlets, such as schools, libraries and GP surgeries?	No
3. Will the policy rely on the private sector or a public/private partnership?	Yes, development partnerships with agents, housebuilders, housing associations, land-owners and funding organisations.
4. Will the cost of delivery be higher in rural areas where clients are more dispersed and economies of scale can be harder to achieve?	Yes
5. Will the policies rely on local institutions for delivery?	No, but local housing trusts could be created to help enable delivery.
6. Will the policy affect travel needs or the ease/cost of travel?	Yes, especially where development sites are located close to existing routes and services.
7. Does the policy rely on infrastructure (e.g. broadband, ICT, main roads, utilities) for delivery?	Yes

8. Will delivery of the policy be challenging at the edge of administrative areas?	Possibly, if neighbouring authorities are applying different affordable housing policies.
9. Is the policy dependent on new buildings or development sites?	Yes
10. Does the policy rely on communicating information to clients?	No, but local needs surveys may be carried out.
11. Will the policy impact on rural businesses, including the self-employed?	Not directly, but local building firms may get involved in the construction of new housing in rural areas and new residents may be a source of local labour.
12. Will the policy affect land-based industries and, perhaps, rural economies and environments?	Yes, in that it promotes affordable housing development delivery as part of sustaining rural areas.
13. Will the policy affect people on low wages or in part-time or seasonal employment?	Yes, insofar as such people will benefit from better access to affordable housing in rural areas.
14. Will the policy target disadvantaged people or places?	Yes, insofar as such people will benefit from better access to affordable housing in rural areas.
Summary	There can be great hardship in rural areas caused by the lack of affordable housing. This policy will make a positive difference in all areas where development is permitted. Overall score: ++

Policy 8: Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Accommodation

Rural Proofing Question	Central Lancashire considerations
1. Will the policy affect the availability of public and private services?	Yes, it ensures that the needs of Gypsies and Travellers are properly accommodated.
2. Will the policy rely on existing service outlets, such as schools, libraries and GP surgeries?	Yes
3. Will the policy rely on the private sector or a public/private partnership?	Yes
4. Will the cost of delivery be higher in rural areas where clients are more dispersed and economies of scale can be harder to achieve?	No
5. Will the policies rely on local institutions	No

for delivery?	
6. Will the policy affect travel needs or the ease/cost of travel?	Yes, especially where pitches are located close to existing routes and services.
7. Does the policy rely on infrastructure (e.g. broadband, ICT, main roads, utilities) for delivery?	Yes, site construction service links.
8. Will delivery of the policy be challenging at the edge of administrative areas?	No
9. Is the policy dependent on new buildings or development sites?	Yes
10. Does the policy rely on communicating information to clients?	Yes, engagement with Gypsy and Traveller communities.
11. Will the policy impact on rural businesses, including the self-employed?	No
12. Will the policy affect land-based industries and, perhaps, rural economies and environments?	Yes
13. Will the policy affect people on low wages or in part-time or seasonal employment?	Yes, if particular Gypsies and Travellers fall into these categories.
14. Will the policy target disadvantaged people or places?	Yes, insofar as Gypsies and Travellers have particular needs.
Summary	The needs of the Gypsy and Traveller communities are not confined to rural areas, but where needs arise in the countryside, this policy will not discriminate against them. Overall score: +/-

Policy 9: Economic Growth and Employment

Rural Proofing Question	Central Lancashire considerations
1. Will the policy affect the availability of public and private services?	Yes, re-enforces some aspects of Policy 1, concerning the hierarchy of settlements, and development opportunities. New development proposed by this policy should not harm existing patterns of service provision.
2. Will the policy rely on existing service outlets, such as schools, libraries and GP surgeries?	No

3. Will the policy rely on the private sector or a public/private partnership?	Yes, development partnerships with agents, developers, housing associations, land-owners and funding organisations.
4. Will the cost of delivery be higher in rural areas where clients are more dispersed and economies of scale can be harder to achieve?	No, although development opportunities are likely to be fewer in rural areas.
5. Will the policies rely on local institutions for delivery?	No
6. Will the policy affect travel needs or the ease/cost of travel?	Yes, especially where development sites are located close to existing routes and services.
7. Does the policy rely on infrastructure (e.g. broadband, ICT, main roads, utilities) for delivery?	Yes, especially new sites.
8. Will delivery of the policy be challenging at the edge of administrative areas?	No, although some employment sites are on the boundaries of administrative areas (eg. Samlesbury, Buckshaw).
9. Is the policy dependent on new buildings or development sites?	Yes
10. Does the policy rely on communicating information to clients?	No
11. Will the policy impact on rural businesses, including the self-employed?	Yes, by improving the ability to sustain and encourage growth of businesses.
12. Will the policy affect land-based industries and, perhaps, rural economies and environments?	Yes, in that it promotes employment development delivery as part of sustaining rural areas.
13. Will the policy affect people on low wages or in part-time or seasonal employment?	Yes, where new job opportunities arise that are suitable to meet the needs of such people.
14. Will the policy target disadvantaged people or places?	No, as most economic growth will be in or close to the town and city centres, which will potentially help disadvantaged <i>urban</i> people. Rural people will benefit if they are able to travel to work in such locations.
Summary	This policy is quite relevant to rural issues and aims to achieve a balance between locating growth where it is most sustainable (generally, in and around urban areas) whilst at the same time recognising the need for some development in rural areas. Overall score: +

Policy 10: Employment Premises and Sites

Rural Proofing Question	Central Lancashire considerations
1. Will the policy affect the availability of public and private services?	Yes, provides framework for re-use of previously developed employment land.
2. Will the policy rely on existing service outlets, such as schools, libraries and GP surgeries?	No
3. Will the policy rely on the private sector or a public/private partnership?	Yes
4. Will the cost of delivery be higher in rural areas where clients are more dispersed and economies of scale can be harder to achieve?	No
5. Will the policies rely on local institutions for delivery?	No
6. Will the policy affect travel needs or the ease/cost of travel?	Yes, especially where development takes place close to existing routes and services.
7. Does the policy rely on infrastructure (e.g. broadband, ICT, main roads, utilities) for delivery?	Yes, and potential reclamation and/or decontamination costs.
8. Will delivery of the policy be challenging at the edge of administrative areas?	No, except where different employment land criteria are applied.
9. Is the policy dependent on new buildings or development sites?	Partly, but it is also about the continued use or re-use of existing premises..
10. Does the policy rely on communicating information to clients?	No
11. Will the policy impact on rural businesses, including the self-employed?	Yes, but it should help to retain premises in rural areas (as well as in urban areas) for business use.
12. Will the policy affect land-based industries and, perhaps, rural economies and environments?	Yes
13. Will the policy affect people on low wages or in part-time or seasonal employment?	No

14. Will the policy target disadvantaged people or places?	No
Summary	This policy will have an important role in the rural community in protecting employment sites and jobs. Overall score: ++

Policy 11: Retail and Town Centre Uses and Business based Tourism

Rural Proofing Question	Central Lancashire considerations
1. Will the policy affect the availability of public and private services?	Yes, they will generally be more readily available/accessible the larger the centre, according to the hierarchy of settlements.
2. Will the policy rely on existing service outlets, such as schools, libraries and GP surgeries?	No, but does re-enforce hierarchy of settlements, implying that these will accommodate most service outlets.
3. Will the policy rely on the private sector or a public/private partnership?	Yes
4. Will the cost of delivery be higher in rural areas where clients are more dispersed and economies of scale can be harder to achieve?	Not necessarily: rural areas can be suitable places for tourism provision, as well as some retail opportunities (see policy 13).
5. Will the policies rely on local institutions for delivery?	No
6. Will the policy affect travel needs or the ease/cost of travel?	Yes, the policy attempts to ensure that travel needs are related to a hierarchy of settlements and service centres.
7. Does the policy rely on infrastructure (e.g. broadband, ICT, main roads, utilities) for delivery?	Yes
8. Will delivery of the policy be challenging at the edge of administrative areas?	No
9. Is the policy dependent on new buildings or development sites?	Yes
10. Does the policy rely on communicating information to clients?	No
11. Will the policy impact on rural businesses, including the self-employed?	No.

12. Will the policy affect land-based industries and, perhaps, rural economies and environments?	No.
13. Will the policy affect people on low wages or in part-time or seasonal employment?	Yes should be beneficial, but could have a negative dimension if there is a growth in seasonal low paid retail and/or tourist jobs.
14. Will the policy target disadvantaged people or places?	No, but could be beneficial where retail and tourist jobs require people with basic skills.
Summary	This policy has very little relevance to rural areas. It is framed in association with the settlement hierarchy, and focuses retail and business based tourism on the larger settlements. Overall score: +/-

Policy 12: Culture and Entertainment Facilities

Rural Proofing Question	Central Lancashire considerations
1. Will the policy affect the availability of public and private services?	Yes in city and town centres.
2. Will the policy rely on existing service outlets, such as schools, libraries and GP surgeries?	Yes, but the policy is designed to encourage more culture and entertainment facilities.
3. Will the policy rely on the private sector or a public/private partnership?	Yes, most culture and entertainment is provided by the private sector.
4. Will the cost of delivery be higher in rural areas where clients are more dispersed and economies of scale can be harder to achieve?	Not necessarily, but the market for culture and entertainment is likely to be smaller or more specialised in rural areas.
5. Will the policies rely on local institutions for delivery?	No
6. Will the policy affect travel needs or the ease/cost of travel?	Difficult to assess, but unlikely if majority of cultural/entertainment is focused on Preston.
7. Does the policy rely on infrastructure (e.g. broadband, ICT, main roads, utilities) for delivery?	No
8. Will delivery of the policy be challenging	No

at the edge of administrative areas?	
9. Is the policy dependent on new buildings or development sites?	Yes
10. Does the policy rely on communicating information to clients?	No
11. Will the policy impact on rural businesses, including the self-employed?	No
12. Will the policy affect land-based industries and, perhaps, rural economies and environments?	No
13. Will the policy affect people on low wages or in part-time or seasonal employment?	No
14. Will the policy target disadvantaged people or places?	No
Summary	This policy has very little relevance to most of the rural areas. It is framed in association with the settlement hierarchy, and focuses most culture and entertainment activity on Preston and the town centres. Overall score: +/-

Policy 13: Rural Economy

Rural Proofing Question	Central Lancashire considerations
1. Will the policy affect the availability of public and private services?	Yes, by accommodating development in appropriate rural locations. <i>Policy amended to promote flexible service uses (co-location) of buildings in district and local centres.</i>
2. Will the policy rely on existing service outlets, such as schools, libraries and GP surgeries?	Yes, and should help sustain them by positive actions, and complementarity with other policies.
3. Will the policy rely on the private sector or a public/private partnership?	Yes, in implementing development proposals in the rural areas.
4. Will the cost of delivery be higher in rural areas where clients are more dispersed and economies of scale can be harder to achieve?	Yes, in many cases, especially where landscape, biodiversity or other restraint policies conflict with growth aspirations.
5. Will the policies rely on local institutions	Not necessarily.

for delivery?	
6. Will the policy affect travel needs or the ease/cost of travel?	Yes, the policy attempts to ensure that travel needs are related to a hierarchy of settlements and service centres.
7. Does the policy rely on infrastructure (e.g. broadband, ICT, main roads, utilities) for delivery?	Yes, it will require collaboration amongst infrastructure providers.
8. Will delivery of the policy be challenging at the edge of administrative areas?	Potentially, if neighbouring policies are incompatible.
9. Is the policy dependent on new buildings or development sites?	Yes
10. Does the policy rely on communicating information to clients?	No, but would be beneficial to engage with rural people/businesses to improve their awareness of the policy, and its potential benefits to them.
11. Will the policy impact on rural businesses, including the self-employed?	Yes, by improving the clarity of policies to sustain and encourage growth of rural businesses.
12. Will the policy affect land-based industries and, perhaps, rural economies and environments?	Yes
13. Will the policy affect people on low wages or in part-time or seasonal employment?	Yes, by increasing opportunities for work in the rural areas.
14. Will the policy target disadvantaged people or places?	Yes, by increasing opportunities for work in the rural areas.
Summary	This policy takes a positive approach to planning for rural areas, and is designed to encourage rural sustainability. Overall score: +++

Policy 14: Education

Rural Proofing Question	Central Lancashire considerations
1. Will the policy affect the availability of public and private services?	Yes, it is designed to help facilitate/enable growth and renewal of education facilities.
2. Will the policy rely on existing service outlets, such as schools, libraries and GP surgeries?	Yes, but not just on existing outlets.
3. Will the policy rely on the private sector	Yes, through developer contributions, especially where development will result in a lack of

or a public/private partnership?	capacity at an existing facility.
4. Will the cost of delivery be higher in rural areas where clients are more dispersed and economies of scale can be harder to achieve?	Yes, but greater issue is cost of access for rural residents.
5. Will the policies rely on local institutions for delivery?	No
6. Will the policy affect travel needs or the ease/cost of travel?	No
7. Does the policy rely on infrastructure (e.g. broadband, ICT, main roads, utilities) for delivery?	Yes
8. Will delivery of the policy be challenging at the edge of administrative areas?	Yes where catchments overlap administrative boundaries.
9. Is the policy dependent on new buildings or development sites?	Yes
10. Does the policy rely on communicating information to clients?	No
11. Will the policy impact on rural businesses, including the self-employed?	No
12. Will the policy affect land-based industries and, perhaps, rural economies and environments?	Yes, where new education facilities proposed.
13. Will the policy affect people on low wages or in part-time or seasonal employment?	No
14. Will the policy target disadvantaged people or places?	No
Summary	This policy has only moderate relevance to most rural areas, but it does ensure that extra educational provision is provided to respond to the demand for new or renewed facilities, or co-located services. Overall score: +

Policy 15: Skills and Economic Inclusion

Rural Proofing Question	Central Lancashire considerations
1. Will the policy affect the availability of public and private services?	Yes, improve availability.
2. Will the policy rely on existing service outlets, such as schools, libraries and GP surgeries?	Yes, especially schools, colleges and other learning facilities. Focus of (b) is on local community provision/access.
3. Will the policy rely on the private sector or a public/private partnership?	Yes, developer contributions towards employment skills training.
4. Will the cost of delivery be higher in rural areas where clients are more dispersed and economies of scale can be harder to achieve?	Possibly, where facilities are more dispersed or where accessing facilities is more difficult.
5. Will the policies rely on local institutions for delivery?	Partly, where local community institutions (such as village halls) are used.
6. Will the policy affect travel needs or the ease/cost of travel?	Yes, local community provision should ease travel.
7. Does the policy rely on infrastructure (e.g. broadband, ICT, main roads, utilities) for delivery?	No, except where local facilities need better broadband services.
8. Will delivery of the policy be challenging at the edge of administrative areas?	No
9. Is the policy dependent on new buildings or development sites?	No
10. Does the policy rely on communicating information to clients?	Yes, engagement with potential learners, especially those who would benefit from skills training.
11. Will the policy impact on rural businesses, including the self-employed?	Yes, improved workforce skills.
12. Will the policy affect land-based industries and, perhaps, rural economies and environments?	No
13. Will the policy affect people on low wages or in part-time or seasonal employment?	Yes, by increasing opportunities for gaining new skills.

14. Will the policy target disadvantaged people or places?	Yes, especially those who would benefit from skills training.
Summary	This policy is designed to help improve skill levels and economic inclusion throughout the borough, including in rural areas. Overall score: +

Policy 16: Heritage Assets

Rural Proofing Question	Central Lancashire considerations
1. Will the policy affect the availability of public and private services?	No
2. Will the policy rely on existing service outlets, such as schools, libraries and GP surgeries?	No
3. Will the policy rely on the private sector or a public/private partnership?	Yes, requires developers to be sensitive to assets and accommodate their special significances.
4. Will the cost of delivery be higher in rural areas where clients are more dispersed and economies of scale can be harder to achieve?	No
5. Will the policies rely on local institutions for delivery?	No
6. Will the policy affect travel needs or the ease/cost of travel?	No
7. Does the policy rely on infrastructure (e.g. broadband, ICT, main roads, utilities) for delivery?	No
8. Will delivery of the policy be challenging at the edge of administrative areas?	No
9. Is the policy dependent on new buildings or development sites?	No
10. Does the policy rely on communicating information to clients?	No
11. Will the policy impact on rural businesses, including the self-employed?	No

12. Will the policy affect land-based industries and, perhaps, rural economies and environments?	Yes, it is designed to respect local character and context.
13. Will the policy affect people on low wages or in part-time or seasonal employment?	No
14. Will the policy target disadvantaged people or places?	No
Summary	This policy has very little relevance to the specific or different needs of rural areas. Overall score +/-

Policy 17: Design of New Buildings

Rural Proofing Question	Central Lancashire considerations
1. Will the policy affect the availability of public and private services?	No
2. Will the policy rely on existing service outlets, such as schools, libraries and GP surgeries?	No
3. Will the policy rely on the private sector or a public/private partnership?	No
4. Will the cost of delivery be higher in rural areas where clients are more dispersed and economies of scale can be harder to achieve?	No
5. Will the policies rely on local institutions for delivery?	No
6. Will the policy affect travel needs or the ease/cost of travel?	Yes, in that the policy considers accessibility by all modes of transport.
7. Does the policy rely on infrastructure (e.g. broadband, ICT, main roads, utilities) for delivery?	No
8. Will delivery of the policy be challenging at the edge of administrative areas?	No

9. Is the policy dependent on new buildings or development sites?	Yes
10. Does the policy rely on communicating information to clients?	Yes through the Design Guide SPD.
11. Will the policy impact on rural businesses, including the self-employed?	Yes, by clarifying the important design aspects of new buildings and developments.
12. Will the policy affect land-based industries and, perhaps, rural economies and environments?	Yes, by clarifying the important design aspects of new buildings and developments.
13. Will the policy affect people on low wages or in part-time or seasonal employment?	No
14. Will the policy target disadvantaged people or places?	No
Summary	This policy has very little relevance to the specific or different needs of rural areas. Overall score +/-

Policy 18: Green Infrastructure

Rural Proofing Question	Central Lancashire considerations
1. Will the policy affect the availability of public and private services?	Yes, it will protect and improve the natural environment, which can contribute to economic, social and environmental well-being.
2. Will the policy rely on existing service outlets, such as schools, libraries and GP surgeries?	Yes, insofar as parks and open spaces are service outlets.
3. Will the policy rely on the private sector or a public/private partnership?	Yes, especially in respect of new provision as part of developments.
4. Will the cost of delivery be higher in rural areas where clients are more dispersed and economies of scale can be harder to achieve?	No
5. Will the policies rely on local institutions for delivery?	Yes in particular cases, such as the Cuerden Valley Park Trust.
6. Will the policy affect travel needs or the	No

ease/cost of travel?	
7. Does the policy rely on infrastructure (e.g. broadband, ICT, main roads, utilities) for delivery?	Yes, in the case of new investment it will require integration into existing infrastructure.
8. Will delivery of the policy be challenging at the edge of administrative areas?	No
9. Is the policy dependent on new buildings or development sites?	No
10. Does the policy rely on communicating information to clients?	No
11. Will the policy impact on rural businesses, including the self-employed?	No
12. Will the policy affect land-based industries and, perhaps, rural economies and environments?	Yes, it will have a beneficial impact on the environment.
13. Will the policy affect people on low wages or in part-time or seasonal employment?	No
14. Will the policy target disadvantaged people or places?	No
Summary	This policy will protect and improve natural environmental assets, which are often located in rural areas. Overall score: +

Policy 19: Areas of Separation and Major Open Space

Rural Proofing Question	Central Lancashire considerations
1. Will the policy affect the availability of public and private services?	No
2. Will the policy rely on existing service outlets, such as schools, libraries and GP surgeries?	No
3. Will the policy rely on the private sector or a public/private partnership?	No
4. Will the cost of delivery be higher in rural	No

areas where clients are more dispersed and economies of scale can be harder to achieve?	
5. Will the policies rely on local institutions for delivery?	No
6. Will the policy affect travel needs or the ease/cost of travel?	No
7. Does the policy rely on infrastructure (e.g. broadband, ICT, main roads, utilities) for delivery?	No
8. Will delivery of the policy be challenging at the edge of administrative areas?	Yes if all the restraint is in one area, and all the development potential is in another.
9. Is the policy dependent on new buildings or development sites?	No
10. Does the policy rely on communicating information to clients?	No
11. Will the policy impact on rural businesses, including the self-employed?	No
12. Will the policy affect land-based industries and, perhaps, rural economies and environments?	Yes, it should protect and enhance the environments of the areas concerned.
13. Will the policy affect people on low wages or in part-time or seasonal employment?	No
14. Will the policy target disadvantaged people or places?	No
Summary	This policy will protect specific areas from development, which are either within the urban area or on the urban/rural fringes. It should enhance the environment in those areas. Overall score: +

Policy 20: Countryside Management and Access

Rural Proofing Question	Central Lancashire considerations
1. Will the policy affect the availability of public and private services?	Yes, it will protect and improve the natural environment, which can contribute to economic, social and environmental well-being.

2. Will the policy rely on existing service outlets, such as schools, libraries and GP surgeries?	No
3. Will the policy rely on the private sector or a public/private partnership?	No
4. Will the cost of delivery be higher in rural areas where clients are more dispersed and economies of scale can be harder to achieve?	No
5. Will the policies rely on local institutions for delivery?	No
6. Will the policy affect travel needs or the ease/cost of travel?	No
7. Does the policy rely on infrastructure (e.g. broadband, ICT, main roads, utilities) for delivery?	Yes, to set up and manage access to the countryside.
8. Will delivery of the policy be challenging at the edge of administrative areas?	No, as similar policies are likely to apply in neighbouring districts.
9. Is the policy dependent on new buildings or development sites?	No
10. Does the policy rely on communicating information to clients?	No
11. Will the policy impact on rural businesses, including the self-employed?	Yes, insofar that the policy attracts day visitors and tourism.
12. Will the policy affect land-based industries and, perhaps, rural economies and environments?	Yes, benefits to the environment and amenity of the areas in and around the countryside management areas, although increased public access may adversely affect farming.
13. Will the policy affect people on low wages or in part-time or seasonal employment?	No
14. Will the policy target disadvantaged people or places?	No
Summary	This policy will protect and improve specific countryside access assets. Overall score: +

Policy 21: Landscape Character Areas

Rural Proofing Question	Central Lancashire considerations
1. Will the policy affect the availability of public and private services?	No
2. Will the policy rely on existing service outlets, such as schools, libraries and GP surgeries?	No
3. Will the policy rely on the private sector or a public/private partnership?	No
4. Will the cost of delivery be higher in rural areas where clients are more dispersed and economies of scale can be harder to achieve?	No
5. Will the policies rely on local institutions for delivery?	No
6. Will the policy affect travel needs or the ease/cost of travel?	No
7. Does the policy rely on infrastructure (e.g. broadband, ICT, main roads, utilities) for delivery?	No
8. Will delivery of the policy be challenging at the edge of administrative areas?	No
9. Is the policy dependent on new buildings or development sites?	No
10. Does the policy rely on communicating information to clients?	No
11. Will the policy impact on rural businesses, including the self-employed?	May help to attract visitor related trade.
12. Will the policy affect land-based industries and, perhaps, rural economies and environments?	Yes, should be able to benefit economic and environmental factors, but will also restrict the location and design of land-based industries and buildings.
13. Will the policy affect people on low wages or in part-time or seasonal employment?	No

14. Will the policy target disadvantaged people or places?	No
Summary	This policy will help to protect the natural character of the countryside, but may also restrict certain economic development proposals. Overall score: +/-

Policy 22: Biodiversity and Geodiversity

Rural Proofing Question	Central Lancashire considerations
1. Will the policy affect the availability of public and private services?	No
2. Will the policy rely on existing service outlets, such as schools, libraries and GP surgeries?	No
3. Will the policy rely on the private sector or a public/private partnership?	Yes, to the extent that biodiversity is not just a public sector concern and responsibility.
4. Will the cost of delivery be higher in rural areas where clients are more dispersed and economies of scale can be harder to achieve?	No
5. Will the policies rely on local institutions for delivery?	No, although local volunteers could help with habitat management.
6. Will the policy affect travel needs or the ease/cost of travel?	No
7. Does the policy rely on infrastructure (e.g. broadband, ICT, main roads, utilities) for delivery?	No
8. Will delivery of the policy be challenging at the edge of administrative areas?	No
9. Is the policy dependent on new buildings or development sites?	No
10. Does the policy rely on communicating information to clients?	No
11. Will the policy impact on rural businesses, including the self-employed?	No

12. Will the policy affect land-based industries and, perhaps, rural economies and environments?	Yes, it will benefit the protected environments, but may restrict some farming practices.
13. Will the policy affect people on low wages or in part-time or seasonal employment?	No
14. Will the policy target disadvantaged people or places?	No
Summary	This policy will help to protect the natural character of the countryside, but may also restrict certain economic development proposals. Overall score: +/-

Policy 23: Health

Rural Proofing Question	Central Lancashire considerations
1. Will the policy affect the availability of public and private services?	Yes it will improve the availability of local services
2. Will the policy rely on existing service outlets, such as schools, libraries and GP surgeries?	Yes, with scope to increase these as need arise and resources allow.
3. Will the policy rely on the private sector or a public/private partnership?	Yes, developers contributions sought through infrastructure policy.
4. Will the cost of delivery be higher in rural areas where clients are more dispersed and economies of scale can be harder to achieve?	Possibly, even where local service centres have some provision. Concern about rationalisation of such facilities by health care commissioners.
5. Will the policies rely on local institutions for delivery?	Not in general, but some specialist care services (eg hospices) do.
6. Will the policy affect travel needs or the ease/cost of travel?	No, unless facilities and services are rationalised by health care commissioners.
7. Does the policy rely on infrastructure (e.g. broadband, ICT, main roads, utilities) for delivery?	Yes
8. Will delivery of the policy be challenging at the edge of administrative areas?	No

9. Is the policy dependent on new buildings or development sites?	Yes, where new service(s) provided.
10. Does the policy rely on communicating information to clients?	No
11. Will the policy impact on rural businesses, including the self-employed?	No
12. Will the policy affect land-based industries and, perhaps, rural economies and environments?	Yes, some impact where new services developed.
13. Will the policy affect people on low wages or in part-time or seasonal employment?	No
14. Will the policy target disadvantaged people or places?	Yes, potential to have important benefit to disadvantaged people in rural areas, provided that services are maintained/developed and targeted.
Summary	This policy is designed to help improve the health of all residents in Central Lancashire, including in rural areas. Overall score: +

Policy 24: Sport and Recreation

Rural Proofing Question	Central Lancashire considerations
1. Will the policy affect the availability of public and private services?	Yes, it is designed to protect sport and recreation facilities according to agreed standards, and provide new facilities in areas of need/shortfall.
2. Will the policy rely on existing service outlets, such as schools, libraries and GP surgeries?	Yes, but policy will also apply standards to help meet evidence of need.
3. Will the policy rely on the private sector or a public/private partnership?	Yes, developers' contributions, especially as part of the development of major new facilities.
4. Will the cost of delivery be higher in rural areas where clients are more dispersed and economies of scale can be harder to achieve?	No
5. Will the policies rely on local institutions for delivery?	Yes, depends on sustaining existing sport and recreation facilities.
6. Will the policy affect travel needs or the	No

ease/cost of travel?	
7. Does the policy rely on infrastructure (e.g. broadband, ICT, main roads, utilities) for delivery?	No, except in the provision of new facilities as part of a larger development scheme.
8. Will delivery of the policy be challenging at the edge of administrative areas?	No
9. Is the policy dependent on new buildings or development sites?	Yes, but new facilities will usually be incidental to other development.
10. Does the policy rely on communicating information to clients?	No
11. Will the policy impact on rural businesses, including the self-employed?	No
12. Will the policy affect land-based industries and, perhaps, rural economies and environments?	Yes, where new sport and recreation facilities proposed.
13. Will the policy affect people on low wages or in part-time or seasonal employment?	Yes, potentially, if provision is accessible and affordable.
14. Will the policy target disadvantaged people or places?	Yes, potentially, if provision is accessible and affordable.
Summary	This policy is designed to help improve the sport and recreation opportunities for all residents in Central Lancashire, including in rural areas. Overall score: +

Policy 25: Community Facilities

Rural Proofing Question	Central Lancashire considerations
1. Will the policy affect the availability of public and private services?	Yes, it is designed to protect and enhance services, especially at key local centres.
2. Will the policy rely on existing service outlets, such as schools, libraries and GP surgeries?	Yes, and it also caters for new facilities where need or service gaps are shown.
3. Will the policy rely on the private sector or a public/private partnership?	Yes, for development, but also for the provision and co-ordination of the services themselves.
4. Will the cost of delivery be higher in rural	Yes, especially costs of access for rural residents, even though provision in some areas might be

areas where clients are more dispersed and economies of scale can be harder to achieve?	improved as a result of developer provision or service provider initiatives.
5. Will the policies rely on local institutions for delivery?	Yes, in part, especially community halls and other local service outlets.
6. Will the policy affect travel needs or the ease/cost of travel?	Yes, designed to fill service gaps.
7. Does the policy rely on infrastructure (e.g. broadband, ICT, main roads, utilities) for delivery?	Yes
8. Will delivery of the policy be challenging at the edge of administrative areas?	No
9. Is the policy dependent on new buildings or development sites?	Yes
10. Does the policy rely on communicating information to clients?	Yes, especially where changes are proposed.
11. Will the policy impact on rural businesses, including the self-employed?	No
12. Will the policy affect land-based industries and, perhaps, rural economies and environments?	Yes, where new community facilities proposed.
13. Will the policy affect people on low wages or in part-time or seasonal employment?	Yes, if provision is improved in areas of greatest hardship/need.
14. Will the policy target disadvantaged people or places?	Yes, if provision is improved in areas of greatest hardship/need.
Summary	This policy is designed to help improve the community facilities for all residents in Central Lancashire, including in rural areas. Overall score: +

Policy 26: Crime and Community Safety

Rural Proofing Question	Central Lancashire considerations
1. Will the policy affect the availability of public and private services?	Yes, it aims to improve community facilities or activities in order to help improve safety..

2. Will the policy rely on existing service outlets, such as schools, libraries and GP surgeries?	Yes, but also attempts to build in safe design to new developments.
3. Will the policy rely on the private sector or a public/private partnership?	Yes, through new developments.
4. Will the cost of delivery be higher in rural areas where clients are more dispersed and economies of scale can be harder to achieve?	Yes, probably, but in general rural areas have lower crime and community safety issues.
5. Will the policies rely on local institutions for delivery?	Yes, for community activities.
6. Will the policy affect travel needs or the ease/cost of travel?	No
7. Does the policy rely on infrastructure (e.g. broadband, ICT, main roads, utilities) for delivery?	No
8. Will delivery of the policy be challenging at the edge of administrative areas?	No
9. Is the policy dependent on new buildings or development sites?	No
10. Does the policy rely on communicating information to clients?	No
11. Will the policy impact on rural businesses, including the self-employed?	No
12. Will the policy affect land-based industries and, perhaps, rural economies and environments?	No
13. Will the policy affect people on low wages or in part-time or seasonal employment?	No
14. Will the policy target disadvantaged people or places?	Yes, where they are rural dwellers and in areas of high crime (likely to be a small number).
Summary	This policy has only moderate relevance to most rural areas, where there are generally fewer crime and community safety issues, but it does ensure that these matters are integrated into spatial planning for rural areas. Overall score: +

Policy 27: Sustainable Resources and New Developments

Rural Proofing Question	Central Lancashire considerations
1. Will the policy affect the availability of public and private services?	No direct impact.
2. Will the policy rely on existing service outlets, such as schools, libraries and GP surgeries?	No direct impact.
3. Will the policy rely on the private sector or a public/private partnership?	Yes: developers and partnerships providing services or development in rural areas.
4. Will the cost of delivery be higher in rural areas where clients are more dispersed and economies of scale can be harder to achieve?	No
5. Will the policies rely on local institutions for delivery?	No
6. Will the policy affect travel needs or the ease/cost of travel?	No direct impact.
7. Does the policy rely on infrastructure (e.g. broadband, ICT, main roads, utilities) for delivery?	Yes, it will require collaboration amongst infrastructure providers, especially on the strategic sites.
8. Will delivery of the policy be challenging at the edge of administrative areas?	No
9. Is the policy dependent on new buildings or development sites?	Yes
10. Does the policy rely on communicating information to clients?	No
11. Will the policy impact on rural businesses, including the self-employed?	Yes, should ensure reduced costs of operating new business premises, and reduced carbon footprint.
12. Will the policy affect land-based industries and, perhaps, rural economies and environments?	Yes, through application of national standards to all new development, which will result in improved use of natural resources.
13. Will the policy affect people on low wages or in part-time or seasonal employment?	Yes, where operating costs are reduced as part of a low energy use development.

14. Will the policy target disadvantaged people or places?	Not directly, but should not discriminate against any particular group.
Summary	This policy ensures that sustainable building principles are applied to all development in rural areas. Overall score: +

Policy 28: Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Schemes

Rural Proofing Question	Central Lancashire considerations
1. Will the policy affect the availability of public and private services?	No direct benefit. Potential to reduce costs and carbon emissions.
2. Will the policy rely on existing service outlets, such as schools, libraries and GP surgeries?	No direct connection.
3. Will the policy rely on the private sector or a public/private partnership?	Yes, most developers will be private sector led, but some public sector partnerships will bring in grants and subsidies. Where applicable, these will be beneficial.
4. Will the cost of delivery be higher in rural areas where clients are more dispersed and economies of scale can be harder to achieve?	No. More likely to be easier to implement in more sparsely developed areas.
5. Will the policies rely on local institutions for delivery?	No, although local communities could promote schemes.
6. Will the policy affect travel needs or the ease/cost of travel?	No
7. Does the policy rely on infrastructure (e.g. broadband, ICT, main roads, utilities) for delivery?	Yes, low carbon infrastructure will need to be integrated into existing provision.
8. Will delivery of the policy be challenging at the edge of administrative areas?	No, unless schemes cross boundaries. But neighbouring authorities most unlikely to have radically different policy interpretations, because of national steer on these matters.
9. Is the policy dependent on new buildings or development sites?	Yes, some, but challenge will be to incorporate new development sensitively.
10. Does the policy rely on communicating information to clients?	Not essential, but useful to help improve wider understanding of energy issues.
11. Will the policy impact on rural businesses, including the self-employed?	Yes, should help ensure reduced costs of operating rural business premises, and reduced carbon footprint.

12. Will the policy affect land-based industries and, perhaps, rural economies and environments?	Yes, where land required for low carbon energy schemes. Should benefit rural economies and environments, by reducing operating costs and carbon emissions.
13. Will the policy affect people on low wages or in part-time or seasonal employment?	Not directly.
14. Will the policy target disadvantaged people or places?	Not directly, but should not discriminate against any particular group.
Summary	This policy ensures that renewable and low carbon energy principles are applied to all development in rural areas. Overall score: +

Policy 29: Water Management

Rural Proofing Question	Central Lancashire considerations
1. Will the policy affect the availability of public and private services?	Yes, by improving infrastructure and reducing risks to water quality and of supply failure.
2. Will the policy rely on existing service outlets, such as schools, libraries and GP surgeries?	No direct connection.
3. Will the policy rely on the private sector or a public/private partnership?	Yes, especially with water companies, key end-users and developers.
4. Will the cost of delivery be higher in rural areas where clients are more dispersed and economies of scale can be harder to achieve?	Yes
5. Will the policies rely on local institutions for delivery?	No
6. Will the policy affect travel needs or the ease/cost of travel?	No
7. Does the policy rely on infrastructure (e.g. broadband, ICT, main roads, utilities) for delivery?	Yes, water management schemes are themselves infrastructure.
8. Will delivery of the policy be challenging at the edge of administrative areas?	No, although most schemes will have a catchment management approach.

9. Is the policy dependent on new buildings or development sites?	Yes, will apply to new developments, to ensure that their water quality and water management needs do not compromise existing standards. Will also apply to several areas of existing development.
10. Does the policy rely on communicating information to clients?	No
11. Will the policy impact on rural businesses, including the self-employed?	No direct connection.
12. Will the policy affect land-based industries and, perhaps, rural economies and environments?	Yes, where land required for water quality of water management schemes.
13. Will the policy affect people on low wages or in part-time or seasonal employment?	No direct connection.
14. Will the policy target disadvantaged people or places?	No direct connection.
Summary	This policy is designed to help improve water management for all residents in Central Lancashire, including in rural areas. Overall score: +

Policy 30: Air Quality

Rural Proofing Question	Central Lancashire considerations
1. Will the policy affect the availability of public and private services?	No
2. Will the policy rely on existing service outlets, such as schools, libraries and GP surgeries?	No
3. Will the policy rely on the private sector or a public/private partnership?	No, except in the delivery of green infrastructure schemes which reduce carbon use and emissions.
4. Will the cost of delivery be higher in rural areas where clients are more dispersed and economies of scale can be harder to achieve?	No
5. Will the policies rely on local institutions for delivery?	No

6. Will the policy affect travel needs or the ease/cost of travel?	No
7. Does the policy rely on infrastructure (e.g. broadband, ICT, main roads, utilities) for delivery?	No, except in the delivery of green infrastructure schemes which reduce carbon use and emissions.
8. Will delivery of the policy be challenging at the edge of administrative areas?	No
9. Is the policy dependent on new buildings or development sites?	No
10. Does the policy rely on communicating information to clients?	No
11. Will the policy impact on rural businesses, including the self-employed?	No
12. Will the policy affect land-based industries and, perhaps, rural economies and environments?	No
13. Will the policy affect people on low wages or in part-time or seasonal employment?	No
14. Will the policy target disadvantaged people or places?	No
Summary	This policy has very little relevance to the specific or different needs of rural areas. Overall score +/-

Policy 31: Agricultural Land

Rural Proofing Question	Central Lancashire considerations
1. Will the policy affect the availability of public and private services?	No
2. Will the policy rely on existing service outlets, such as schools, libraries and GP surgeries?	No
3. Will the policy rely on the private sector or a public/private partnership?	No, except in insofar as land owners and managers are good stewards of their agricultural land.

4. Will the cost of delivery be higher in rural areas where clients are more dispersed and economies of scale can be harder to achieve?	No
5. Will the policies rely on local institutions for delivery?	No
6. Will the policy affect travel needs or the ease/cost of travel?	No
7. Does the policy rely on infrastructure (e.g. broadband, ICT, main roads, utilities) for delivery?	No
8. Will delivery of the policy be challenging at the edge of administrative areas?	No
9. Is the policy dependent on new buildings or development sites?	No
10. Does the policy rely on communicating information to clients?	No
11. Will the policy impact on rural businesses, including the self-employed?	No, except to guide land owners and managers on the value of their land for continued food production.
12. Will the policy affect land-based industries and, perhaps, rural economies and environments?	Yes, should benefit agricultural economy and environment, by recognising the value placed on maintaining the soil quality of the highest grade agricultural land. <i>Policy amended to protect rather than take account of the best agricultural land.</i>
13. Will the policy affect people on low wages or in part-time or seasonal employment?	No (although agriculture is often associated with low wages and seasonal working patterns).
14. Will the policy target disadvantaged people or places?	No
Summary	This policy is designed to protect the best and most versatile agricultural land, and as such will have an impact on some parts of the countryside, where development pressures and agricultural land quality need to be considered. Overall score: +

