

**Council's response to Land off Wham Lane, New Longton Sustainability Appraisal submitted by Mr Robert Dawson.**

The Council acknowledges the submission of a sustainability appraisal proforma for the 'Land off Wham Lane' in New Longton. The site in question is within the Green Belt and as a result sites suggested within the Green Belt, which were also not in conformity with the Central Lancashire Core Strategy Policy 1, were not screened against the sustainability appraisal procedure. The filtering out process that was undertaken at the Issues and Options stage of the Plan meant that sites that were filtered out were not carried forward in the DPD process and as such no further assessments were undertaken.

In terms of the sustainability appraisal proforma submitted for this site, the Council accepts that whilst on a number of criteria the site scores well, the Council cannot overcome the fact of the site's position within the Green Belt and adjacent to a settlement where large scale development would not be in conformity with Central Lancashire Core Strategy Policy 1.

The sustainability appraisal is an iterative process that informs the development of a plan and can make recommendations to make a plan more sustainable, however it is one tool used to inform the DPD process and its results cannot be used in isolation of the wider process.

Further, national, regional and local policy, guidance and evidence suggests there is no need for a Green Belt roll back at this time and through this plan period and as such irrespective of the results of the sustainability appraisal the Council cannot accept that it would be appropriate to allocate this site for development, given its wider policy implications.