

# A Sustainability Checklist for Housing Market Renewal

Elevate East Lancashire  
New life for neighbourhoods



## A Sustainability Checklist for HMR

The following checklist has been produced in order to ensure that the whole Pathfinder is working to a common set of sustainability principles and that these are applied consistently.

It should be applied to all Pathfinder development and initiatives<sup>5</sup>. However it is not expected that all plans and projects will address all the issues. The checklist is a prompt to Pathfinder authorities, developers and builders that enables them to address sustainability issues in a structured way. It will help users to think about how their plan or project relates to sustainable development and help them ensure that they address all relevant issues from the start.

Key Questions	Yes/No	Details
<b>Implementation Issues</b>		
Have local people been involved in decision making processes affecting them?		
Does the development encourage active management/maintenance of neighbourhoods by residents?		
Have minority groups been involved in the process e.g. women, the elderly, young people, the disabled, ethnic minorities?		
Do consultants and contractors have expertise in sustainable design and construction?		
Has a site appraisal been conducted to identify key issues that need to be addressed as part of the development ?		
Has a design statement been produced for redevelopment sites?		
<b>Supporting the Local Economy</b>		
Is the contractor/consultant committed to sustainability e.g. through staff training, environmental management systems etc.		
Does the development involve local enterprise and local products?		
Have local education/training opportunities been provided for local residents?		

<sup>5</sup> The checklist addresses both refurbishment and new build. Although not all the issues are relevant to refurbishment projects the environmental performance of housing can be significantly improved by refurbishment.

Key Questions	Yes/No	Details
Does the housing mix enable residents to remain in their local area by meeting their needs at all stages of their life?		
Does the housing mix recognise the housing needs and aspirations of different groups – particularly those defined as socially excluded?		
Will the development help to breakdown barriers which have discouraged movement between mono-cultural housing areas?		
Do HMR interventions aim to improve the level of mutual support and interaction between residents?		
Does the layout make crime more difficult to commit? How is this achieved?		
Where there is a proven need for community facilities in an area does the development address this? If so, how?		

Key Questions	Yes/No	Details
<b>Waste Management</b>		
Does the development provide space for recycling bins?		
Does the development encourage residents to recycle domestic waste? If so, how?		
<b>Biodiversity and Greenspace</b>		
Does the development provide access to quality open space?		
Has provision been made for the upkeep of open space?		
Does the development contribute to creating a network of green spaces?		
Does the development affect areas of ecological value?		
Is there any planting? Does it involve local species?		

Key Questions	Yes/No	Details
<b>Water Conservation</b>		
Have water recycling measures been included to make efficient use of rain and grey waters and minimise the wastage of drinking water?		
Have measures been introduced to reduce the use of water including reduced flow taps and flush control W.C.'s?		
Is there a risk of flooding on the site or elsewhere as a result of the development?		
Have Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) been considered for surface water disposal?		
<b>I.C.T.</b>		
Does the initiative make use of intelligent technologies to improve residents quality of life? If so how?		

Key Questions	Yes/No	Details
<b>Designing Sustainable Residential Environments</b>		
Does the project broaden the mix of uses in an area?		
Does the development seek to limit car use? How?		
Does the development provide safe and direct routes for walking/cycling that are free of obstacles?		
Is the development within walking distance of an existing or planned public transport stop?		
Is car parking limited to a development average of 1.5 spaces per dwelling? What is the level?		
Does the development include measures to give pedestrians priority and ensure their safety e.g. Home Zones?		
Does the development address community safety issues? How?		
Does the development promote socially mixed communities? If so how?		
Have buildings been designed for long life and low maintenance?		
Does the development achieve the Lifetime Homes standard?		

Key Questions	Yes/No	Details
<b>Landscape Quality and Historic Character</b>		
Does the development protect and enhance landscape value?		
Does the development protect and enhance the distinctiveness of the local neighbourhood?		
Does the development make use of local heritage to promote economic regeneration? How?		
<b>Using Land and Buildings Efficiently</b>		
Does the development comply with policies in the Local Plan/UDP?		
Does the development reuse existing buildings?		
Does the development reverse the trend towards suburbanisation by promoting inner urban locations?		
Is development taking place on previously developed land in existing urban areas?		
Is housing development located close to local services, public transport stops and open space?		
Has the environmental cost of demolition and rebuild been taken into account?		
Are net housing densities 30dph or higher? Is the site contaminated?		
If so is there a remediation strategy in place?		

Key Questions	Yes/No	Details
<b>Sustainable Energy Supply and Use</b>		
Does the building siting and layout take advantage of solar gain?		
Do insulation standards exceed building regulations?		
Are heating and lighting systems inherently low energy use?		
Does the development use energy from renewable sources e.g. photovoltaic cells/ solar panels/wind turbines? If so how?		
Does the development include a CHP plant?		
<b>Sustainable Construction</b>		
Does the contractor have a strategy to minimise waste?		
Where demolition is taking place are materials being reused in the new development?		
Have materials been obtained from a renewable and or local source?		
Are recycled materials included in construction specifications?		
Can the construction materials be recovered and recycled at the end of the life of the building?		
Are the materials used free of harmful effects to human health when released into the environment after use?		
Will construction waste be minimised / Has the recycling of waste materials been explored?		
Will construction techniques seek to retain local heritage features where possible?		