



**Wyre Council**  
**Wyre Local Plan Evidence Base**

**Wyre Settlement Study August 2016**  
**(Addendum January 2018)**

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**Date: January 2018**

## 1. Purpose

The Publication Draft Local Plan was published on 23 September 2017. Policy SP1 – Development Strategy defines the Local Plan settlement hierarchy. This addendum explains how the settlement hierarchy was established.

## 2. Background

In August 2016 as part of the local plan evidence base the council published the Wyre Settlement Study. The Study details research undertaken by the Wyre council planning policy team into the role and function of the borough's settlements, describing why this work has been undertaken, the methodology used and the results. The Study explains that understanding the nature of different settlements and the relative roles they can play is critical to developing and delivering the local plan strategy and individual policies. It set out the aim of the Study which was:

First, to establish a baseline position in terms of understanding the level of economic and social infrastructure present in each settlement and how this might influence the appropriate nature and scale of development. It will provide evidence for discussions with stakeholders and developers about the nature of supporting infrastructure needed to ensure that future development is sustainable.

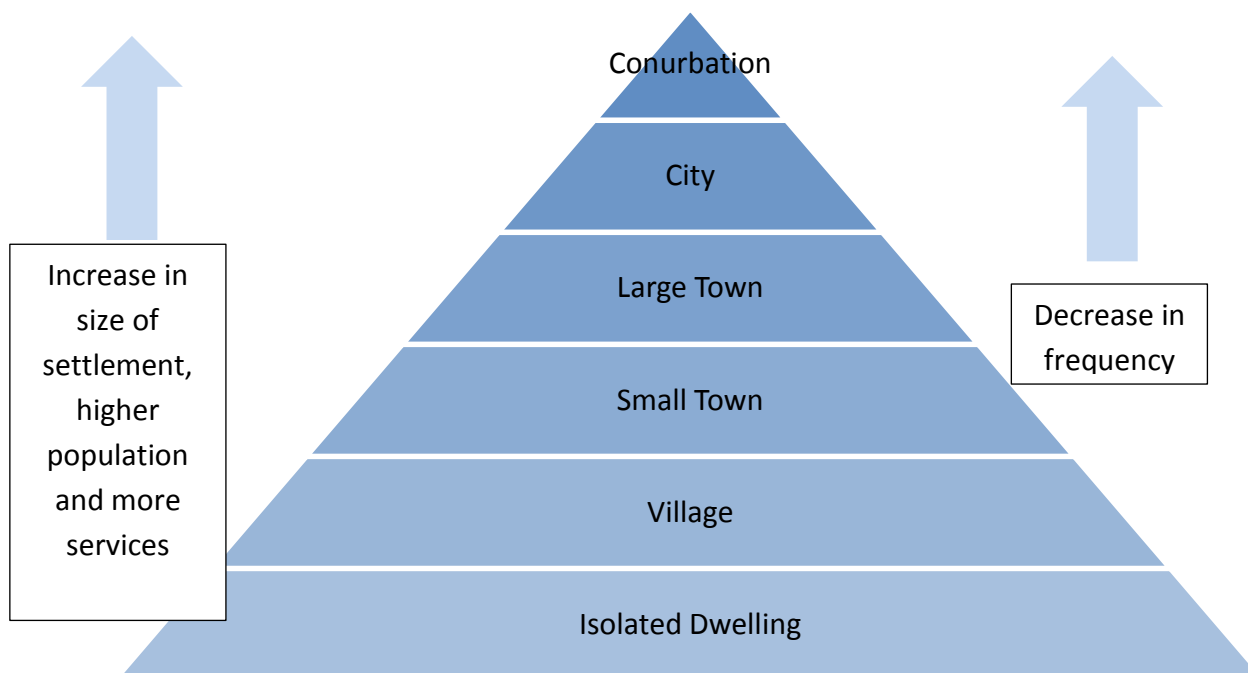
Second, to identify, analyse and rank the borough's settlements according to a range of indicators, and by doing so to inform the definition of the local plan settlement hierarchy.

The Study explains that a settlement hierarchy is a grouping of settlements according to their economic and social role using a range of indicators such as population and the level of services and facilities provided. It explains that within any defined area there tends to be a greater number of smaller settlements (lower population, fewer services) than larger ones (higher population, more services). Grouping similar settlements results in a hierarchy that tends to be pyramidal in shape (Figure 1).

As a caveat, for the sake of clarity, the Study went on to explain that it is important to make it clear at the outset that although the pyramidal settlement hierarchy approach automatically leads to the use of terminology such as "top" and "bottom", this does not imply a form of "beauty contest" between settlements – it is simply a recognition of the fact that different settlements have different sizes and roles.

It is noted that it was not the intention of the Study to identify the settlement hierarchy - its role is to provide the information for the designation of the settlement hierarchy through the Local Plan.

**Figure 1: Typical Settlement Hierarchy Pyramid - Relationship between Population and Services**



### Publication Draft Wyre Local Plan Settlement Hierarchy

The differentiation between the different hierarchy categories is fairly straight forward and focuses on settlements that have more or less of various attributes but have broadly similar characteristics (Table 1).

**Table 1 – Hierarchy Structure**

Hierarchy	Broad Characteristics
Urban Town	Generally, the most populous settlements with the largest range of services and facilities, greatest degree of access to employment (within and outside of the Borough) with very good public transport accessibility. Locations within the urban peninsula.
Key Service Centre	The preeminent rural settlement – the most populous with the largest range of services and facilities within the rural area. Access to employment (within and outside of the Borough) with good public transport accessibility.
Main Rural Settlements	Larger rural settlements (in population terms) with access to services and facilities, limited access to employment in the immediate area and moderate public transport access.

Hierarchy	Broad Characteristics
Small Rural Settlements	Smaller rural settlements with limited or very limited access to services and facilities and variable access to public transport (ranging from good to nil access).
Other Undefined Rural Settlements	Very smaller rural settlements without settlement boundaries and no or very limited services and facilities and variable access to public transport (ranging from good to nil access).

There is not objective methodology to define a hierarchy but by using the evidence from the Settlement Study and applying planning judgement a hierarchy structure can be defined for Wyre (Table 2).

**Table 2 – Wyre Settlement Hierarchy (Policy SP1)**

Hierarchy	Settlement (s)
Urban Town	Fleetwood, Poulton-le-Fylde, Cleveleys, Thornton, Normoss
Key Service Centre	Garstang
Rural Service Centres	Knott End/Preesall, Great Eccleston, Hambleton, Catterall
Main Rural Settlements	Bilsborrow, Pilling, Barton, St Michaels, Bowgreave, Inskip, Stalmine, Forton, Preesall Hill, Scorton
Small Rural Settlements	Cabus, Churchtown/Kirkland, Hollins Lane, Calder Vale, Dolphinholme (Lower)
Other Undefined Rural Settlements	

This hierarchy is largely reflective of the final ranking produced by the Settlement Study and expected growth over the plan period due to local plan allocations, particularly residential. By mapping the final draft hierarchy and the settlement ranking against each other it is possible to see the relationship between the two (Table 3).

**Table 3 – Settlement Hierarchy/Settlement Rank**

Local Plan Settlement Hierarchy		Settlement Study Rank
Urban	Fleetwood	1
	Poulton-le-Fylde	2
	Cleveleys	3
	Thornton	5
	Normoss	13
Key Service Centre	Garstang	4
Rural Service Centres	Knott End/Preesall	6
	Great Eccleston	6
	Catterall	7
	Hambleton	8

<b>Local Plan Settlement Hierarchy</b>		<b>Settlement Study Rank</b>
Main Rural Settlements	Bilsborrow	9
	Pilling	10
	Barton	10
	St Michaels	11
	Bowgreave	12
	Forton	13
	Preesall Hill	14
	Inskip	15
	Stalmine	16
	Scorton	17
Small Rural Settlements	Cabus	18
	Hollins Lane	19
	Churchtown/Kirkland	21
	Calder Vale	22
	Dolphinholme (Lower)	23

The hierarchy also includes a category of “Other undefined Rural Settlements”. From the Settlement Study, this would include Out Rawcliffe (20), Little Eccleston (23), Winmarleigh (24), Nateby (25) and Eagland Hill (26). For clarity, Other Undefined Rural Settlements includes a number of small hamlets typical of the character of the borough.

As can be seen, the hierarchy largely follows the ranking order, the exceptions being:

- Thornton although ranked lower than Garstang by one place is within the “Urban” category of the hierarchy as a reflection of its urban nature and close proximity to the other urban towns of the peninsula.
- Normoss, ranked 13 but is physically part of the wider Blackpool urban area and therefore is defined as an urban town in the hierarchy.
- Out Rawcliffe, ranked 20 but is a dispersed settlement for which a settlement boundary could not be defined and hence is undefined for the purposes of the hierarchy.
- Little Eccleston, ranked 23 as is Dolphinholme (Lower) but is not given a settlement boundary as most of the village lies in Fylde and is undefined for the purposes of the hierarchy in the Fylde Local Plan.

Ends.