



EXAMINATION INTO

COPELAND LOCAL PLAN (CORE STRATEGY

AND DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT POLICIES)

BOROUGH COUNCIL STATEMENT ON THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE REVOCATION OF THE NORTH WEST REGIONAL SPATIAL STRATEGY

Production of the Core Strategy and Development Management Policies began at a time when the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) was still in force.

Its revocation was announced at a fairly late stage of production, that is, after the Preferred Options report had been published. Revocation has been a slow process, due to the Government having had to carry out a Strategic Environmental Assessment twice, and the submission of and examination into the plan has been carried out under the knowledge that revocation will be announced imminently, but at an unknown date.

The Secretary of State has announced the Government's decision to revoke the Regional Strategy for the North West and an Order is expected to be laid shortly. See Government announcement as follows:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-step-for-localism-as-every-regional-plan-has-gone>

The Core Strategy and Development Management Policies were certified by the North West Regional Assembly (4NW) as being in conformity with the RSS. The Borough Council has examined the content of the plan to determine whether there are any implications arising from RSS revocation that impact on the plan and its policies.

The Council concludes as follows.

1. The plan (having been examined by an Inspector appointed by the Secretary of State, and as amended by Main Modifications now submitted for comment, and additional minor modifications previously advertised at submission) is fit to be adopted as a sound (that is, lawful, justified and effective) planning document which is based on and reflects national planning policy including the presumption in favour of sustainable development.

2. The plan is based on an evidence base which is largely the same as that which underpinned the RSS as it applied to West Cumbria, but this has been re-evaluated and updated where appropriate, under supervision of properly qualified consultants where necessary. In particular, targets for house building, that were in the RSS and led initial production of the plan, have been evaluated in the light of evolving evidence and found (with adjustment) to remain broadly valid. Published evidence base documents cover this, with particular reference to housing, employment land and retail.

3. Specific projects identified in the RSS, such as transport improvements or the North West Coastal Trail, remain capable of being promoted or carried out by the agencies that would be charged to do them, regardless of the revocation of the strategy.

4. The environmental policies of the plan are robust and underpinned by national and European regulations, plans, programmes and strategies, regardless of the revocation of the strategy.

5. Insofar as the sub-regional provisions in RSS remain valid, they are carried forward by the Cumbria Sub-regional Spatial Strategy, which remains, albeit at a non-statutory level, with the support of the relevant local authorities, and provides a basis for continuing co-operation. In West Cumbria the Economic Blueprint additionally fulfils this function.

No representation has been received questioning the effectiveness of any aspect of the plan post-revocation.

The Borough Council therefore concludes that the revocation of the Regional Spatial Strategy has no implications requiring further modification of the Core Strategy and Development Management Policies.

If you wish to make a representation on a matter your consider will be affected by the revocation, as far as the matter relates to the Copeland Core Strategy and Development Management Policies Plan examination, please respond to the

**Planning Policy Unit, Copeland Borough Council, The Copeland Centre, Catherine Street,
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or by e-mail to ldf@copeland.gov.uk

by 4.00 pm on Friday June 7 2013.

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