



**Copeland Local Plan  
2021-2038  
Duty to Co-operate  
Statement**

September 2022

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## Abbreviations

ABC	Allerdale Borough Council
BBC	Barrow Borough Council
CBC	Copeland Borough Council
CCC	Cumbria County Council
DPOG	Development Plan Officers Group
DTC	Duty to Co-operate
IDP	Infrastructure Delivery Plan
LDNPA	Lake District National Park Authority
LPA	Local Planning Authority
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
SCI	Statement of Community Involvement
SHLAA	Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment
SLDC	South Lakeland District Council

## 1. Introduction

The Duty to Co-operate is a legal requirement of the Local Plan preparation process. The duty was introduced by the Localism Act, which came into effect in November 2011. The Duty to Co-operate requires Local Planning Authorities and other bodies to co-operate with each other to address strategic issues relevant to their areas. In this context, strategic refers to larger scale (cross boundary) issues which cannot be addressed by a single planning authority.

The NPPF (para 24-27) sets out the requirements on LPA's for maintaining cooperation. It sets out that effective and on-going joint working between strategic policy-making authorities and relevant bodies is key to the production of a positively prepared and justified strategy.

In particular, joint working should help to determine where additional infrastructure is necessary, and whether development needs that cannot be met wholly within a particular plan area could be met elsewhere. It also specifies that in order to demonstrate effective and on-going joint working, strategic policymaking authorities should prepare and maintain one or more statements of common ground, documenting the cross-boundary matters being addressed and progress in cooperating to address these.

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (para 20) outlines the key strategic issues where co-operation may be appropriate. These include, but are not limited to:

- a) Housing (including affordable housing), employment, retail, leisure and other commercial development;
- b) infrastructure for transport, telecommunications, security, waste management, water supply, wastewater, flood risk and coastal change management, and the provision of minerals and energy (including heat);
- c) Community facilities (such as health, education and cultural infrastructure); and
- d) Conservation and enhancement of the natural, built and historic environment, including landscapes and green infrastructure, and planning measures to address climate change mitigation and adaptation.

The purpose of this statement is to set out the Councils approach to meeting the requirements of the Duty to Co-operate throughout the Local Plan process. This outlines actions taken to cooperate with neighbouring Local Authorities and other key organisations to address the cross boundary issues within the emerging Copeland Local Plan.

The duty requires ongoing constructive and active engagement on the preparation of development plan documents and other activities relating to the sustainable development and use of land, in particular in connection with strategic infrastructure. The statement is a record of progress made to the stage of submitting the Copeland Local Plan (September 2022). It should however be noted that this paper is a summary at a point in time, and that co-operation will continue in the lead up to and beyond the examination of the Local Plan.

The report has been supplemented by a number of Statements of Common Ground between the Council and other key organisations

## 2.0 Cumbria County Council and Neighbouring Local Planning Authorities

Local Government in Cumbria is administered by Cumbria County Council (CCC) and six district authorities. CCC provides services such as education, highways and social services. The Local Authorities (including CBC) provide planning, housing, environmental health, waste collection and other services. Copeland shares a boundary with the districts of Allerdale, South Lakeland and Barrow-in-Furness, as shown below in figure 1.

*Figure 1: Local Authorities in Cumbria*



There are several key issues in Copeland that extend beyond the Borough boundary. These issues need to be considered in the Local Plan and agreed with their neighbouring authorities. The Local Plan will take account of strategic issues that overlap the Borough's boundaries and will proactively work with neighbouring districts and other key agencies to ensure that the Local Plan effectively addresses such issues and does not conflict with other relevant plans and strategies that apply to these areas.

The Council has and will continue to work closely with CCC, other Neighbouring Authorities and other bodies throughout the production of the Local Plan. This will include both formal and informal consultation in various formats, including by letter, email and face to face or

virtual meetings. A full explanation of consultation methods used by the Council has been set out in the Statement of Community Involvement and Consultation Statements.

Cumbrian Authorities, including CCC and the Lake District National Park Authority, have established a network of officers groups and support mechanisms for sharing information and facilitating joint working. The Council will continue to use established groups, such as the Cumbria wide Development Plan Officer Group (DPOG) to share information and best practice.

The Council has undertaken extensive consultation and communication with Neighbouring Authorities, and as a result of this no major duty to co-operate issues have arisen, as demonstrated in the Statements of Common Ground. Further meetings will be held with adjoining authorities as deemed necessary as the Local Plan progresses towards adoption and throughout its implementation.

The following paragraphs provide a brief overview of co-operation between CBC and other neighbouring authorities. For a more thorough explanation of any strategic cross boundary issues and how these have been dealt with, please see the accompanying Statements of Common Ground.

## 2.2 Cumbria County Council

Copeland Borough Council and Cumbria County Council (CCC) have worked closely during the development of the Local Plan at all stages of its production, both through formal consultation and regular meetings with a number of officers. This has ensured that the policies and land allocations in the Local Plan reflect and complement the County Council's interests as a Planning Authority for Minerals and Waste, Highways Authority, Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) and service and infrastructure provider on behalf of Copeland's communities. Joint working has included the following:

- Formal consultation responses from CCC at every stage of Local Plan preparation. These are provided by officers working in Infrastructure Planning, Flood and Development Management, Highways and Minerals and Waste Planning Policy departments.
- Informal meetings between CBC and CCC officers to discuss progress updates and joint projects. These take place approximately once a month.
- Collaboration on a number of evidence base and technical documents to support the Local Plan, including the Infrastructure Delivery Plan, Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment, Copeland Transport Improvement Study (which has been produced jointly between the two authorities), the Site Access Assessments and the Level 1 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment.
- Joint working on the CCC Minerals and Waste Local Plan and other projects, for example the Whitehaven Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP).
- Joint working on an Education Topic paper which identifies the need for delivering sufficient school places across the Copeland Borough associated with Local Plan development, and explores the options for delivering a new primary school in South Whitehaven.

- Attendance at various groups as set out in section 3.

### 2.3 Allerdale Borough Council

Copeland Borough Council (CBC) and Allerdale Borough Council (ABC) share a boundary to the north and eastern edges of the borough. Co-operation between the two authorities is regular and has mainly taken the form of joint evidence base documents covering both districts, joint meetings and formal consultation. Allerdale Borough Council have also provided resourcing support to Copeland throughout the production of the Local Plan, for example by helping with the commissioning and managing of evidence base documents.

The latest formal meeting prior to finalising the Publication Draft was held with ABC on the 16<sup>th</sup> July 2021 to discuss cross- boundary issues relating to the two authorities planning policy documents. Both Councils have an ongoing commitment to engage in each other's Local Plan processes.

### 2.4 Barrow Borough Council

Copeland Borough Council and Barrow Borough Council (BBC) share a boundary to the south of the borough. As with ABC, co-operation has mainly taken the form of joint meetings and formal consultations. It is anticipated that development in Copeland will have a limited impact on Barrow, with the primary relationship being connectivity on the A595 and Cumbrian Coast Rail Line, and the linkages between Copeland's settlements in the south (Millom and Haverigg) with Barrow.

A formal meeting with BBC was held on the 30<sup>th</sup> November 2021 to discuss cross- boundary issues. Both Councils will continue to engage in each other's Local Plan processes where necessary.

### 2.5 South Lakeland District Council

Copeland borough Council and South Lakeland District Council (SLDC) share a boundary to the eastern edge of the borough. Co-operation has taken the form of joint meetings and formal consultations, with the main duty to co-operate issues surrounding the setting and landscape of the Lake District National Park as well as cross-boundary employment and connectivity opportunities.

A formal meeting was held between CBC and SLDC on the 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2021 to discuss cross- boundary issues. Both Council's will continue to engage in each other's Local Plan processes where necessary.

### 2.6 Lake District National Park Authority

Approximately two thirds of Copeland is within the Lake District National Park Authority (LDNPA), who act as the planning authority for the National Park. It is important that co-operation is maintained with the LDNPA throughout the Local Plan process. The area of Copeland covered by the Lake District National Park can be seen in figure 2 below.



A formal meeting was held between CBC and LDNPA on the 4<sup>th</sup> May 2021 to discuss cross boundary issues. LDNPA have also been involved in the production of the Copeland Strategic Housing Market Assessment, Copeland playing Pitch Strategy and Landscape Character Assessments. Both Council’s will continue to work together and engage in each other’s Local Plan processes where necessary.

## 2.7 Parish and Town Councils

There are a number of Parish and Town Councils in Copeland, including the following:

Arlecdon and Frizington parish Council	Haile and Wilton Parish Council	Ponsonby Parish Council
Beckermert with Thornhill	Irton with Santon PC	Seascale Parish Council
Bootle Parish Council	Lamplugh Parish Council	St Bees Parish Council
Cleator Moor Town Council	Lowca Parish Council	Ulpha
Distington Parish Council	Lowside Quarter Parish Council	Waberthwaite Parish Council
Drigg and Carleton Parish Council	Millom Town Council	Wasdale Parish Meeting
Egremont Town Council	Millom Without Parish Council	Weddicar Parish Council
Ennerdale and Kinniside Parish Council	Moresby Parish Council	Whicham Parish Council



Eskdale Parish Council	Muncaster Parish Council	Whitehaven Town Council
Gosforth Parish Council	Parton Parish Council	

Please note that some of these Parishes are located within the Lake District National Park and therefore do not come under Copeland's planning remit. Each one of these Councils have been consulted at every stage of the Local Plan process. Due to the Covid-19 restrictions at the time of the Preferred Options consultation of the Local Plan, it was not possible to hold public meetings. Therefore we offered a virtual meeting with each Parish/ Town Council in line with the SCI. A total of 12 council's took part in these.

## 3.0 Joint Evidence with Neighbouring Local Planning Authorities

### 3.1 Cumbria Development Plans Officer Group

The Cumbria Development Plans Officer Group (DPOG) is a quarterly meeting between representatives from all Local Planning Authorities in Cumbria, including the Lake District National Park Authority and CCC. The terms of reference for the group outlines that the aim of DPOG is to *“provide Local Planning Authorities in Cumbria with a forum that can discuss and advise on implications of planning policy and guidance, help to raise awareness and share best practice on local planning issues.”*

The purpose of the group is to discuss cross- boundary issues and establish a common approach or understanding on matters which affect the County as a whole. A regular item on the agenda is a Local Plan update, where each authority informs the group where they currently are with the development of local planning policy.

### 3.2 Cumbria Housing Supply Group

The Cumbria Housing Supply Group consists of a range of stakeholders involved with housing delivery, including Local Authority planning and Housing Officers, Developers and housing association representatives. The group use this forum to share information surrounding housing supply in Cumbria and to come to a common agreement on housing issues which affect the whole County. There is the opportunity for members to share presentations and best practice guidance, and a regular item that allows the Local Planning Authorities to share a progress update.

### 3.3 Cumbria Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment

The Cumbria Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA) is a joint assessment commissioned alongside all other Local Authorities in Cumbria, which was completed in January 2022. The purpose of the assessment was to understand the current and future needs of the Gypsy and Traveller community within Cumbria between 2021 and 2040, to help inform planning policy and ensure that future need is met. No cross boundary issues are envisaged as a result of this, and the need can be adequately met in each Local Authority area.

### 3.4 West Cumbria Retail, Town Centres and Leisure Study

Copeland Borough Council commissioned a joint Retail, Town Centre and Leisure Study with Allerdale Borough Council in 2019. The purpose of this was to identify provision of these types across west Cumbria. The study identified town centre usage and vacancy rates, and identified where there was shortfalls in the provision of particular services. The joint approach to this work was useful as it helped to identify where people were making use of cross boundary services, and where additional provision was needed.

### 3.5 Playing Pitch Strategy

Copeland Borough Council commissioned a Playing Pitch Strategy needs assessment which contained data surrounding playing pitch provision and demand in Copeland as of November 2020. Subsequently, the Copeland Playing Pitch Strategy and Action Plan 2021 was commissioned which was informed by the needs assessment and sets out a strategy for

the prioritisation, provision and development of sports pitches in Copeland. The strategy covers all of Copeland, including those areas within the Lake District National Park and therefore the LDNPA had an active involvement in the production of the work.

### 3.6 Nuclear Transport Group

Copeland is an attendee of the Nuclear Transport group, which is Chaired and hosted by CCC and meets on a quarterly basis. The group is used to enable the joint consideration, proposal and assessment of infrastructure improvements and the investment required to accommodate developments, ensuring proposals have regard to the Cumbria Local Transport Infrastructure Plan policies, Cumbria's Strategic Economic Plan, Local Plans, Transport for the North (TfN), Northern Rail Ltd and other relevant plans. Stakeholders invited to the group are the Cumbrian Local Planning Authorities including the Lake District National Park, major local developers and employers, as well as public transport providers and National Highways.

## 4.0 Co-operation with other prescribed bodies

For the purposes of the duty, Part 2 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 clarifies that the prescribed bodies are:

- Environment Agency
- English Heritage (now Historic England)
- Natural England
- Civil Aviation Authority
- Homes England
- Clinical Commissioning Group
- Office of Rail and Road (now Office of the Rail Regulator)
- Highways Agency (now National Highways)
- Mayor of London
- Transport for London
- Integrated Transport Authorities (Cumbria County Council)
- Highway Authorities
- Marine Management Organisation
- Local Enterprise Partnership
- National Grid

### 4.1 Environment Agency

The Environment Agency has been involved throughout the production of the Local Plan, and have been given the opportunity to comment on policies and allocations through each consultation. The Local Plan does not allocate any land for development which is located within flood risk areas and all development must comply with Strategic Policy DS8PU: Reducing Flood Risk. The Environment Agency have confirmed that they consider the Local Plan to be legally compliant and sound and have no further comments to make.

## 4.2 Historic England

Historic England is the Government's statutory advisor on the Historic Environment. Ongoing engagement has been held between Copeland Borough Council and Historic England throughout the production of the Local Plan. This has been through their role as a statutory consultee as well as meetings with members of the Historic England Planning Team on the 16<sup>th</sup> October 2020 and 11<sup>th</sup> April 2022. During the second meeting, the principal issues raised by Historic England as part of the response to the publication Draft of the Local plan were discussed. As a result of this, several amendments to the plan were agreed, which is outlined through the Statement of Common Ground.

The Council has also taken on board Historic England's advice in relation to the Heritage Impact Assessments, and amendments have been made accordingly.

## 4.3 Natural England

Natural England is the Government's advisor for the natural environment in England, helping to protect key environment assets and landscapes.

Ongoing engagement has been held between Copeland Borough Council and Natural England throughout the production of the Local Plan. This has been through their role as a statutory consultee, as well as various meetings throughout the plan process, including a meeting to discuss the potential extension to the Whitehaven and St Bees Heritage Coast on the 4<sup>th</sup> July 2022.

Natural England have also provided advice on the Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Regulation Assessment which are produced alongside the Local Plan. They have also provided advice surrounding the protection and extension of the Whitehaven and St Bees Heritage Coast, and both organisations are working together to include the extended area towards Whitehaven within the Heritage Coast's definition. More details of their involvement and advice is outlined through the Statement of Common Ground.

## 4.4 Civil Aviation Authority

The Civil Aviation Authority is the UK's specialist aviation regulator. The CAA have been consulted as a statutory consultee throughout the development of the Local Plan, but have provided no comments to date.

## 4.5 Homes England

Homes England (formerly Homes and Communities Agency) are an executive non-departmental public body that help to develop communities by making more businesses and homes available to the people who need them. They also regulate social housing providers.

Homes England primarily invest in building new homes, but also create employment floorspace and other community facilities, this includes funding both affordable and market homes for rent and sale. The Council maintains a good working relationship with Homes England and engages through their role as a statutory consultee as well as the Cumbria Housing Supply Group. This includes working with Homes England to explore the potential for joint working on a number of Local Plan sites.

#### 4.6 Clinical Commissioning Group

The Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) is a GP led commissioning system which focusses on delivering high quality healthcare. NHS Cumbria Clinical Commissioning Group is the main commissioner of local NHS services in the County.

Copeland Borough Council engage with the CCG through their role as a statutory consultee. They have had conversations with health partners to determine what may be required in terms of health infrastructure, including doctor's surgeries and health centres, in order to support the levels of development proposed through the Local Plan and in the Infrastructure delivery plan (IDP).

The Council has prepared an Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) that shows what major infrastructure will be required to support the development proposed in the Local Plan. As part of this, the Council will consider what implications there will be for health provision, looking at the following:

- What currently exists;
- What is needed to support the development proposed;
- Likely costs of providing new health infrastructure, and potential sources of funding to meet these costs;
- Any potential gaps in funding and how these will be addressed.

#### 4.7 Office of Rail and Road

The Office of Rail and Road (Formerly the Office of Rail Regulation) is the independent safety and economic regulator for Britain's railways. They are responsible for ensuring that railway operators are compliant with health and safety laws.

Copeland Borough Council maintain engagement with the Office of Rail and Road through their role as a statutory consultee. More information on rail infrastructure is detailed in the Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP).

#### 4.8 National Highways

National Highways (formerly Highways England) are a Government organisation responsible for operating England's motorways and strategic road network. In Copeland, their role primarily relates to maintaining the A595 and A590, which are vital for maintaining connectivity and supporting economic growth.

Officers have a good working relationship with National Highways through their role as a statutory consultee. Officers met to discuss the Local Plan on the 6<sup>th</sup> May 2021, and consultation responses have been received from National Highways at every stage of the Local Plan process. A Statement of Common ground will be produced between the two organisations.

Further engagement has been maintained with National Highways through their involvement in the Copeland IDP, the Transport Improvements Study (TIS) and Site Access Assessments (SAA). Both organisations worked together during the early development

stages of the Whitehaven Relief Road Study, and Copeland has also been a partner in National Highways Study A595 Whitehaven to Egremont junction improvements study.

#### 4.9 Marine Management Organisation

The Marine Management Organisation (MMO) license, regulate and plan marine activities in the seas surrounding England and Wales to ensure they are carried out in a sustainable way.

Copeland Borough Council maintain engagement with the MMO through their role as a statutory consultee. They have provided suggestions at every consultation stage of the Local plan, which CBC have taken into consideration. An informative workshop session was also held by the MMO on the 6<sup>th</sup> March 2020 to inform Copeland of the role of the organisation and to make suggestions for inclusion in the Local Plan.

#### 4.10 National Grid

National Grid are an international electricity and gas organisation, who play an important role in energy provision nationally. As part of their strategy, National Grid promise to engage and work with stakeholders to promote the development and implementation of sustainable energy solutions. Copeland Borough Council have engaged with National Grid throughout the Local Plan process through their role as a statutory consultee. National Grid have provided a consultation response at every stage of the Plan process, which CBC have taken into consideration.

Copeland Borough Council also attended a meeting with National Grid on the 19<sup>th</sup> April 2022 to discuss their role in gas and electricity provision, and to ensure that National Grid would continue to be consulted when any proposals may affect gas pipelines.

#### 4.11 National Trust

The National Trust is dedicated to preserving the cultural heritage of an area. Their main role is to ensure the preservation of historically significant items and conserve areas of natural beauty. The National Trust has been involved as a consultee throughout the preparation of the Local Plan, and have provided a consultation response at every stage.

Their consultation response at Publication draft stage provides strong support for policy N7PU: St Bees and Whitehaven Heritage Coast and does not outline any other areas for improvement within the Plan.

#### 4.12 Cumbria Local Enterprise Partnership

The Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) is the strategic economic development organisation for Cumbria. The purpose of the LEP is to provide a strategic lead for all activities which contribute towards the county's economic growth. They work closely with key stakeholders and partners to help overcome barriers to sustainable growth, promoting job creation and supporting prosperous communities.

Copeland Borough Council maintain co-operation with the LEP through the consultation process, through which no strategic cross boundary issues have been raised to date. The LEP was also consulted as a key stakeholder through the production of the Economic Development Needs Assessment (EDNA). The Council has also supported a number of LEP

countywide studies and projects and infrastructure bids including for the upgrade to the Cumbrian Coast Rail Line.

### 5.13 Local Nature Partnership

The Cumbria Local Nature Partnership (CLNP) acts as a forum for key stakeholders in Cumbria's natural environment. They have several objectives, including acting as an advocate for the natural environment in Cumbria and helping to support and add value to the natural environment. They also provide input, where necessary, on Local Planning Policy for the natural environment and provide key support and training to their stakeholders.

The CLNP have been involved as a statutory consultee throughout the preparation of the Local Plan. In 2019, members of the CLNP visited Copeland Borough Council to give a presentation on biodiversity net gain and Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS). CBC also sat on the steering group alongside CLNP when developing the pilot LNRS for Cumbria.

### 5.14 Friends of the Lake District (FLD)

Whilst not a prescribed body, CBC have maintained co-operation with FLD throughout the preparation of the Local Plan. FLD are a charity and member organisation who are dedicated to ensuring that Cumbria's landscapes are protected and enhanced for future generations. It is important to maintain co-operation in this context to ensure that Local Plan policies will not have a negative impact on the LDNP or other landscapes within Cumbria. FLD have been consulted at every stage of the Local Plan process and have been engaged in both formal and informal conversations surrounding draft policies and allocations. A meeting was held on 14<sup>th</sup> February 2022 to discuss FLD's response to the Publication Draft. A statement of common ground has been produced to show ongoing co-operation.

## 5.0 Co-operation with Utilities providers

The NPPF also sets of a requirement for Local Planning Authorities to work collaboratively with private sector bodies, utility and infrastructure providers. Whilst not prescribed bodies, CBC has also carried out engagement with the following:

- United Utilities
- Northern Gas
- Cadent Gas
- Electricity North West

### 5.1 United Utilities

United Utilities are the Utilities provider for the North West of England and are responsible for water and wastewater services. Copeland Borough Council engages with United Utilities by consulting with them at every stage of the Local Plan process. They have also been consulted as part of the IDP process. Several meetings have been held with United Utilities to discuss Local Plan allocations and their consultation responses, including one on the 13<sup>th</sup> May 2021 and another on the 1<sup>st</sup> June 2022.

Consultation responses have been received from United Utilities at every stage of the plan process, which have been taken into consideration by CBC.

### 5.2 Northern Gas Networks

Northern Gas Networks are the gas provider for many parts of the North of England, including most of Copeland. Northern Gas Networks have been consulted at every stage of the Local Plan process, including for the IDP. CBC also held a meeting with Northern Gas Networks on the 17<sup>th</sup> June 2021 to discuss network capacity in Copeland. Concerns were only raised with the capacity of one site, which has subsequently been removed from the Plan. CBC will continue to engage with Northern Gas Networks going forward.

### 5.3 Cadent Gas

Cadent Gas is the gas provider for the southern part of Copeland (including Millom and Haverigg). Cadent Gas were invited to comment on gas networks and capacity in the Local plan allocations in this area. They confirmed that they did not have any concerns with the sites proposed, but asked for ongoing engagement going forward.

### 5.4 Electricity North West

Copeland Borough Council has engaged with Electricity North West (ENW) throughout the Local Plan process, and consults them at every stage. A meeting was carried out on the 10<sup>th</sup> May 2021 to discuss electricity capacity, at which ENW stated that electricity provision did not seem to be an issue in Copeland at present. Whilst ENW responded to the Publication Draft consultation, they did not go into detail about the capacity of any sites. Copeland will continue to engage with ENW through the planning process going forward to determine any impacts on the electricity network. More information can be found through the IDP.



## 6.0 Local Stakeholders

### 6.1 Sellafield Ltd

Sellafield Ltd is a nuclear site located at Seascale in Copeland, responsible for nuclear fuel reprocessing, nuclear waste storage and nuclear decommissioning. Sellafield plays a vital role in Copeland's economy, with approximately 10,000 employees, 7,000 of which work on the nuclear site, and thousands more working in the supply chain.

Co-operation with Sellafield Ltd has primarily taken the form of joint meetings and formal consultation at every stage of the Local Plan process. Meetings have taken place on the 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2020, the 21<sup>st</sup> September 2021 and the 28<sup>th</sup> February 2022 to discuss Local Plan policies. CBC Officers also attended an engagement session with Sellafield on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2021 designed to give key stakeholders and Local Authorities an overview of nuclear processes and timescales and give them an understanding of the work currently taking place on site. A Statement of Common Ground has been produced with Sellafield Ltd to demonstrate engagement.

### 6.2 Nuclear Decommissioning Authority

The Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) are an executive non-departmental public body responsible for cleaning up the UK's nuclear sites in a safe, secure and cost-effective way with care for people and the environment. They work closely with Sellafield Ltd in the clean-up and decommissioning of their nuclear facilities and therefore it is important to maintain effective co-operation. The NDA have been formally consulted at every stage of the Local Plan process, and have provided comments to help develop the nuclear policies.

## 7.0 Internal Collaboration

Although not covered by the Duty to Co-operate requirement, it is important that ongoing engagement is carried out within the Local Authority to ensure that the Local Plan reflects the priorities of the Council. This section of the statement reflects how the Strategic Planning team have collaborated with other departments within Copeland Borough Council during the production of the Copeland Local Plan.

### 7.1 Development Management

The Strategic Planning team has a close working relationship with the Development Management team, who have provided comments and feedback on the Local Plan at every stage. The Strategic Planning team have produced a 'traffic light' document at the Preferred Options and Publication Draft stages, which helps the DM team to understand the relative weight of emerging Local Plan policies in determining planning applications.

### 7.2 Property and Estates

Copeland Borough Council have agreed to provide a site for allocation of land for Gypsy and Traveller accommodation. The Strategic Planning Team has also worked alongside the property team on a number of projects, for example, to bring employment land forward.

### 7.3 Housing

Ongoing engagement has been carried out with the Council's Housing Team, who have contributed towards the development of the Local Plan Housing Policies and the Housing Technical Paper which will sit alongside the Local Plan. The Strategic Planning Team have also worked alongside the Housing Team in the production of the Copeland Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) and Housing Need Assessment.

### 7.4 Regeneration

The Strategic Planning team have engaged with the Regeneration Team on a number of Local Plan policies, including those relating to health and wellbeing, retail, tourism and connectivity. A number of officers within the team have contributed to the development of the policies. The Strategic Planning team have also been engaged through ongoing regeneration work, for example through the development of funding bids for the Town Deal funds.

### 7.5 Conservation and Design

Copeland's Conservation and Design Officer has been engaged in the development of the Built environment policies, and has reviewed all of the proposed Local plan allocations for heritage impacts. They have also developed the Heritage Impact Assessments to accompany the Local Plan allocations and have been involved in ongoing engagement with Historic England to ensure that Heritage is being correctly accounted for and protected through the Local Plan.

### 7.6 Nuclear, Energy and Sustainability

Officers in the Nuclear, Energy and Sustainability team have been involved in the development of a number of Local Plan policies, particularly those relating to clean energy and climate change.

## 7.7 Environmental Health

The Flood and Coastal Defence Engineer has reviewed all proposed allocations at various stages of the Local Plan process. The Council's air quality Officer has also been consulted throughout the process.

## 8. Summary

This Duty to Co-operate Statement seeks to provide an overview as to how the requirements of the Duty to Co-operate have been fulfilled and complied with during the preparation of Copeland Borough Council's Local plan. It seeks to identify which key bodies and organisations have been consulted and the key issues that have been addressed.

The Duty to Co-operate should be read in conjunction with the Council's Consultation Statement and Infrastructure Delivery Plan, which provide much of the justification for the policy approach and allocations which have been taken forward, demonstrating how the Local Plan has been informed and influenced through co-operation, consultation and evidence. It should also be read in conjunction with the Statements of Common Ground to see where key issues have been raised, and how these have been addressed.

This statement demonstrates that Copeland Borough Council have maintained a high level of co-operation with other Local Authorities and Public Bodies in the preparation of the Local Plan. In particular, it has participated in joint projects with other authorities and have worked closely with infrastructure providers to ensure that the Local Plan will deliver key infrastructure as required. This approach has resulted in a robust and sound evidence base to support the Local Plan, which has been reflected through the support received from the statutory bodies listed in this document.

It is important that co-operation is maintained when implementing and monitoring the effectiveness of the policies within the Copeland Local Plan. The extent to which the Council are maintaining co-operation will be reported annually through the Annual Monitoring Report and updates to the Infrastructure Delivery Plan.