

Copeland Local Plan 2021- 2038

Equality Impact Assessment

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Introduction

The Copeland Local Plan will guide development in the Borough (outside the National Park) up to 2038. The Local Plan sets the level of housing and employment growth, its broad distribution as well as strategic and more detailed development management policies. Site allocations are also identified for housing and employment while important areas of open space and green wedges have been safeguarded.

An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) screening has been undertaken of the Copeland Local Plan to determine whether further assessment is required. In addition, the Local Plan has been subject to full Sustainability Assessment and Health Impact Assessment screening which builds on and complements the EIA screening.

As a result of the screening exercise, it is considered that a full Equality Impact Assessment is not required. The Local Plan would have an overall neutral to positive effect across all protected characteristics. Full details of the EIA screening are set out below.

Equality Impact Assessment Form

Section One – Screening

The Public Sector Equality Duty (2011) covers the following 9 **protected characteristics**:

Age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy & maternity, race, religion and belief, sex, sexual orientation, marriage and civil partnership (only in the respect of the requirement of the general duty to have due regard to the need. to eliminate discrimination)

The Council has also chosen to recognise rurality and socio-economic status as a protected characteristic.

Name of function/policy/procedure/project:

Copeland Local Plan 2021-2038

Name and telephone number of officer completing assessment:

Julie Ward – Strategic Advisor Allerdale Borough Council

1. What is the main aim or purpose of the strategy/policy/project?

The Copeland Local Plan will guide development in the Borough (outside the National Park) for the next 17 years. It sets out when, where and how much development will take place. This, along with policies covering design, affordable housing, the environment, employment and travel will provide the means to deliver the Council's housing, economic and environmental aspirations, and the framework against which planning applications are assessed and determined.

2. List the main activities or objectives of the strategy/policy/project (for strategies list the main policy areas):

The overarching objective of the Copeland Local Plan is to achieve sustainable communities by delivering inclusive housing and employment growth while safeguarding and enhancing the natural and historic environment. The elements of which are:

- Adapt to climate change and promote sustainable forms of construction such as energy efficiency, use of local materials and recycling.
- A balanced housing market that provides the right amount and type of housing to meet all needs of the community and is affordable.
- Deliver a sustainable and diverse local economy through the provision of suitable land and premises, supporting education and skills and ensuring the appropriate infrastructure is in place

- Ensure vibrant town centres and safeguard local facilities
- Ensure that major development is accessible to local services by a variety of transport options, such as cycling and walking
- Protect and enhance the area's built and historic environment
- Protect and enhance the area's natural environment and encourage the delivery of a network of green infrastructure and accessible open spaces
- Ensure all development incorporates good design, creating attractive and sustainable places to live, enhances the public realm, protect amenity and creates quality space.
- Protect and enhance sport and recreation facilities to ensure all section of the community can engage in physical activity for their health and well-being.

3. Who will be the main beneficiaries of the strategy/policy/project and in what way?

Local residents through

The provision of housing suitable for their needs and income,

Supporting and protecting local services

Supporting job creation

Accessibility to services by walking, cycling and public transport

Ensuring the natural environment such as open space are safeguarded to contribute to quality of life and healthy environment

Ensuring appropriate physical, social and environmental infrastructure is in place

Local businesses in terms of supporting business expansion and new businesses to start up.

4. Use the table below to indicate:

- (a) Where you think that the strategy/policy/project could have a negative impact on any of the equality target groups i.e. it could disadvantage them
- (b) Where you think that the strategy/policy/project could have a positive impact on any of the groups or contribute to promoting equality, equal opportunities or improving relations within equality target groups.

Note that you do not have to complete all the boxes. Only those where there is a disproportionate or greater impact either way.

Key:

✓ = Higher impact (positive or negative) resulting from the Local Plan

✗ = No higher impact (positive or negative) resulting from the Local Plan

		Positive impact – it could benefit	Negative impact – it could disadvantage	Reason
Gender	Women	✗	✗	
	Men	✗	✗	
	Trans-gendered people	✗	✗	
Race	Asian or Asian British people	✗	✗	
	Black or black British people	✗	✗	
	People of mixed race	✗	✗	
	Irish people	✗	✗	
	White people	✗	✗	
	Chinese people	✗	✗	
	Gypsies/travellers	✓	✗	The Local Plan identifies how applications for Gypsy and Traveller sites will be considered (Policy H10PU) and will allocate land for use by the Gypsies and Traveller community to meet their housing needs (Policy H9PU). These needs have been assessed across Cumbria and identified at district level.
	Other minority ethnic communities not listed above	✗	✗	
Disability	Physical	✓	✗	The settlement hierarchy ensures that the majority of development is concentrated
	Sensory			
	Learning			

		Positive impact – it could benefit	Negative impact – it could disadvantage	Reason
	Mental health			<p>in the main towns, providing good access to facilities, and community facilities including healthcare.</p> <p>Through the promotion of good design the built environment is made more inclusive. Embedding green infrastructure, cycling and walking networks, accessible public realm and green space all make a positive contribution to health and wellbeing for all sections of the community.</p>
Sexual Orientation	Lesbians, gay and men and bisexuals	x	x	

		Positive impact – it could benefit	Negative impact – it could disadvantage	Reason
Age	Older people (50 +)	✓	✗	<p>In line with the settlement hierarchy, the majority of development is concentrated in the main towns, providing good access to facilities, including healthcare. Promotion of public transport will widen the options for older people to access services, leisure and recreation.</p> <p>Whilst there will be no specific allocations for residential/care home facilities/sheltered accommodation, sites that are identified for residential use would generally be suitable for such uses and Policy H12PU provides a positive framework for such developments.</p> <p>Also, Policy H7PU links housing mix to the Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) which identifies an ageing population in the borough and their future housing needs.</p> <p>Ensuring new development is accessible with opportunities to enjoy open space and exercise will make a positive contribution to older people's health and wellbeing.</p>

		Positive impact – it could benefit	Negative impact – it could disadvantage	Reason
	Younger people (17-25), and children	✓	✗	<p>The allocation of employment land supports the delivery of additional training and employment opportunities.</p> <p>The identification of land for open market housing will in turn provide more affordable housing and help deliver a more balanced housing market.</p> <p>There will be protection for existing and new open space and sports facilities.</p> <p>The majority of development is concentrated in the main towns, providing good access to a variety of facilities. Promoting a more comprehensive public transport network will enable young people to access opportunities without the need to own a car.</p>
Belief	Faith groups	✗	✗	
Marriage and Civil Partnership		✗	✗	
Pregnancy and Maternity		✗	✗	

		Positive impact – it could benefit	Negative impact – it could disadvantage	Reason
Rurality		✓	✗	<p>The Copeland Local Plan strategy recognises the importance of rural communities and supports their long-term sustainability, through the settlement hierarchy, distribution of growth, safeguarding of local services, promotion of public transport, provision of social and community infrastructure and employment and housing opportunities.</p> <p>The new Local Plan expands the settlement hierarchy to include more villages than previous Local Plans and introduces the idea of clusters of settlements which can lead to and support more sustainable development in rural areas to support rural communities.</p>
Socio-economic status	Low-income households	✓	✗	<p>The Copeland Local Plan seeks to create policies that encourage diversification of the economy and increases access to training and employment opportunities. The document will also encourage a mixture of housing types and to maximise the delivery of decent and affordable homes. In addition, ensuring associated digital, transport, social and community infrastructure is delivered alongside development to ensure a more inclusive outcome.</p>
	Benefit recipients	✓	✗	

Notes:

Faith groups cover a wide range of groupings, the most common of which are Muslims, Buddhists, Jews, Christians, Sikhs, Hindus. Consider faith categories individually and collectively when considering positive and negative impacts.

The categories used in the Race section are those used in the 2001 census. Consideration should be given to the needs of specific communities within the broad categories such as Bangladeshi people and to the needs of other communities such as Turkish/Turkish Cypriot, Greek/Greek Cypriot, Italian, Lithuanian and Polish that do not appear as separate categories in the census.

5. If you have indicated there is a negative impact on any group, is that impact:

Legal	N/A <i>(not discriminatory under anti-discriminatory legislation? If uncertain see guidance notes or contact Policy & Communication Team or Legal Services)</i>
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Intended?	N/A
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Level of impact	N/A
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If the negative impact is possibly discriminatory and not intended **and/or** of high impact you must complete section two of this form. If not, complete the rest of section one below and consider if completing section two would be helpful in making a thorough assessment.

6. a) Could you minimise or remove any negative impact that is of low significance and if so, how?

N/A

b) Could you improve the strategy/policy/project's positive impact and if so how?

The policies have been reviewed and revised as evidence reports have been produced and following each consultation stage during the production of the Local Plan.

You may wish to use the action sheet at the end of Section Two.

- 7. If there is no evidence that the strategy, policy or project promotes equality, equal opportunities or improved relations – could it be adapted so that it does? How?**

N/A

- 8. Do you have data available which monitors the impact of the policy on minority groups? If not, please explain how you intend to continue monitoring the impact of this strategy/policy/project:**

Annual Monitoring Report will monitor will delivery of the Local Plan against its objectives.