

COPELAND LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

**EXAMINATION OF CORE STRATEGY AND DEVELOPMENT
MANAGEMENT POLICIES**

**BOROUGH COUNCIL
STATEMENTS:
MATTER 3**

SPATIAL PORTRAIT, ISSUES, VISION AND OBJECTIVES

March 2013



3.1. Does the Spatial Portrait provide a reasonable snapshot of the Borough and the issues facing it?

- 3.1.1 The original version of the Spatial Portrait in the Issues and Options report was informed by comments at the stakeholder workshops. This won broad acceptance from respondents.
- 3.1.2 As production has progressed the presentation (and distribution within the plan) of the spatial portrait has evolved. The content remains broadly the same but it is in two separate sections.
- 3.1.3 It now appears at the start of the plan (Section 2), with a portrait of each locality in Section 8. This change has been introduced to improve the logic and clarity of the plan by moving reasonably early into the strategy, rather than burying the 'business' component of the plan deeper into the document behind a large section of descriptive text. Thus the main Spatial Portrait at Section 2 is focused on the main strategic issues on which are built the structure of the plan. Each of these issues is the trigger for a subset of the objectives, which then leads into a relevant strategy section - Sections 4 to 7. (The Development Management Policies section is organised in the same way.)
- 3.1.4 The Localities Section was introduced for two reasons. Firstly, there is the interest of the Council, supported by local community representatives, in working based on localities (which were defined under the auspices of the previous Sustainable Community Strategy). Secondly, it provides an opportunity to present clearly how the Core Strategy would apply to each locality. This is particularly worthwhile in Copeland, given that the borough is spread over a long and disparate tract of Cumbria, and each locality does have a distinct identity. It also gives the plan, viewed as a whole, greater local distinctiveness in a way which matters to local communities.
- 3.1.5 Each of the locality sub-sections (8.2 to 8.7) thus has its own portrait, followed by a description of the implications of strategic policies for the locality, referenced to the main points of each respective Locality Plan.
- 3.1.6 The snapshot given is thus appropriate to its task both at strategic and local levels, and drives the narrative of the Core Strategy.

3.2. Is the Council's Vision and its Strategic Objectives for the Borough broadly consistent with the aspirations of local organisations and the population and do they reasonably reflect appropriate goals for the Council to pursue?

- 3.2.1 The production of the plan began with 'stakeholder launch events' designed to generate a perspective on what local groups felt were the issues facing the Borough. As far as possible, and to a large extent successfully and comprehensively, the Strategic Objectives and Core Strategy policies have taken this perspective on board. The outcome of that consultation is in the 'Issues and Options' consultation report, reproduced in the Statement of Consultation (Doc 1.3, pages 216-220).
- 3.2.2 The main Issues and Options consultation document (Doc 2.2) had a strongly issue-based focus, which was considered to be a more likely way of generating responses, and did not stress strategic issues (although they were included).
- 3.2.3 Thus, although the process began in a strongly 'front loaded' way, the Preferred Options document (Doc 2.3) was the first expression of the Vision and Objectives in something like their final form. Responses to that section of the plan (Doc. 1.3, pages 145-148) were generally supportive, with a number of suggestions that have almost all been accepted and incorporated into the submitted plan.
- 3.2.4 There have been ten representations on that section of the published plan (Doc 1.3 pp. 32-44), they are all on points of detail. Four do, however, relate to a broader issue, the approach to renewable energy, which is discussed elsewhere (Issue 5.2).
- 3.2.5 The Borough Council considers that the Strategic Objectives are appropriate, and that this is demonstrated by the Monitoring Framework (Figure 9.1) which is based around the objectives, which are in turn related to the Sustainability Appraisal Framework objectives. This is intended to strengthen the overall narrative of the Core Strategy, and to ensure that the identified indicators and targets are rooted in the objectives of the plan, rather than being there for their own sake or being part of a mechanical process that loses sight of its purpose.
- 3.2.6 The intended result of this will be that, as we monitor progress towards realising the strategy, and when the time comes consider how it should be reviewed, our understanding will be based on the 'why' as well as the 'what' of its content.