

**Copeland Local Plan 2021-2038 Examination**

**Sustainability Appraisal of Proposed Main  
Modifications**

**February 2024**

## **Introduction**

The Copeland Local Plan 2021-2038 Publication Draft and Addendum Document were submitted to the Secretary of State for Public Examination in September 2022. These were accompanied by a Sustainability Appraisal of the Local Plan's proposed policies and allocations.

As part of the Public Examination process the appointed Inspector has identified a number of Main Modifications that are required in order to ensure the Plan is sound (i.e. positively prepared, justified, effective and consistent with national policy).

This report considers the proposed Main Modifications to determine whether they have affected the sustainability of the Local Plan.

Most modifications, while providing greater clarity, enhancing and helping to make the policies more effective do not change their impact on the sustainability objectives and indicators. This can be because the policy already scores highly for that particular sustainability objective. Alternatively the new wording can strengthen the policy and its implementation but not affect the sustainability score.

This report also considered changes to the sustainability of Housing and Opportunity Site allocations following the proposed Main Modifications. As the changes are simply factual updates (regarding delivery, scale etc.) or incorporate elements from the evidence base (such as Heritage Impact Assessment) they have no material impact upon the sustainability of the allocations, even though they support improved implementation and delivery of the Plan.

## **Assessment**

Following a review of all of the proposed Main Modification the only policies that have seen a change in their sustainability appraisal are:

### **MM5: Safeguarding Natural Resources Objective**

The Water Resources SA Objective improves from ~ (neutral) to + (positive) following the addition of 'water' in the Local Plan objective.

### **MM16: Policy DM6**

The Water Resources SA Objective improves from ~ (neutral) to + (positive) as the additional measures regarding rainwater recycling measures, green roofs and water butts help to sustainably manage water resources.

## MM103: New Policy N11

This proposed new policy has been subject to a full SA assessment as shown below:

Biodiversity	+	While the specific value to the improved sustainability of biodiversity will vary, the provision of Parks and Gardens and Natural and Semi-natural Greenspace should improve biodiversity.
Landscape/Heritage	+	While the specifics of this could vary the provision of Parks and Gardens, as well as the improvement of existing Parks and Gardens should help provide a positive framework towards meeting this sustainability objective.
Water Resources	~	It is unlikely to have an effect
Climate Change	+	The provision of local open spaces will help to adapt to climate change (reducing heat island effect etc.)
Flood Risk	+	While having no direct effect, open space provision help to decrease flood risk as part of SuDS schemes etc.
Energy	~	It is unlikely to have an effect
Land Quality	~	The effect on land quality is uncertain
Air Quality	+	The provision of local open space can reduce the need to travel to such spaces, as well providing areas of cleaner air within developments.
Waste and Recycling	~	It is unlikely to have an effect
Accessibility	+	The provision of local open spaces improves accessibility to such spaces
Health/Wellbeing	+	Open space facilitates improvements to both physical and mental health and wellbeing.
Education	+	Open spaces, and especially green spaces, provide opportunities for people to learn about their environment and other associated skills within such spaces, such as through maintaining an allotment.
Sustainable Economy	~	It is unlikely to have an effect
Leisure/Tourism	+	OGS provides opportunities for active leisure. In particular, it allows for the age-specific forms of recreation.
Housing	~	It is unlikely to have an effect
Retail	~	It is unlikely to have an effect
Transport	~	It is unlikely to have an effect

## Appendix 1

The following table considers the impact of all of the proposed Main Modifications in turn.

Main Modification	Policy	Change to SA Assessment?	Comments
MM1	N/A	N/A	N/A
MM2	Vision	No	No material change to the sustainability of the Plan
MM3	Objectives: Copeland's Economy	No	No material change to the sustainability of the Plan
MM4	Objectives: Copeland's Communities	No	The changes enhance the Objective, but do not affect the Sustainability score
MM5	Objectives: Copeland's Places	Yes	5th Objective - Change 'Water Resources' from ~ to +
MM6	Objectives: Copeland's Connectivity	No	No material change to the sustainability of the Plan
MM7	DS1PU (supporting text)	Policy deleted	No material change to the sustainability of the policy
MM8	DS1PU	Policy deleted	N/A
MM9	DS2PU (supporting text)	Policy deleted	No material change to the sustainability of the policy
MM10	DS2PU	Policy deleted	N/A
MM11	DS3PU	No	No material change to the sustainability of the policy
MM12	DS4PU (supporting text)	No	This modification is to supporting text rather than the policy itself
MM13	DS4PU	No	No material change to the sustainability of the policy
MM14	DS5PU (supporting text)	No	N/A
MM15	DS5PU	No	No material change to the sustainability of the policy
MM16	DS6PU	Yes	Change 'Water Resources' from ~ to +. While some of the other changes also enhance the policy they do not affect the Sustainability score as the policy already score highly for those SA objectives.
MM17	DS7PU	No	While the changes enhance the policy they do not affect the Sustainability score
MM18	DS8PU	No	While the changes enhance the policy they do not affect the Sustainability score

<b>Main Modification</b>	<b>Policy</b>	<b>Change to SA Assessment?</b>	<b>Comments</b>
MM19	DS9PU	No	While the changes enhance the policy they do not affect the Sustainability score
MM20	DS10PU (supporting text)	No	N/A
MM21	DS10PU	No	While the changes enhance the policy they do not affect the Sustainability score
MM22	DS11PU	No	No material change to the sustainability of the policy
MM23	E1PU	No	While the changes enhance the policy they do not affect the Sustainability score
MM24	E2PU	No	While the changes enhance the policy they do not affect the Sustainability score
MM25	E3PU	No	No material change to the sustainability of the policy
MM26	E4PU (supporting text)	No	N/A
MM27	E4PU	No	While the changes enhance the policy they do not affect the Sustainability score
MM28	E5PU	No	While the changes enhance the policy they do not affect the Sustainability score
MM29	E7PU	No	While the changes enhance the policy they do not affect the Sustainability score
MM30	RE1PU	No	While the changes enhance the policy they do not affect the Sustainability score
MM31	RE2PU	No	While the changes enhance the policy they do not affect the Sustainability score
MM32	RE3PU	No	While the changes enhance the policy they do not affect the Sustainability score
MM33	CC1PU	No	While the changes enhance the policy they do not affect the Sustainability score

Main Modification	Policy	Change to SA Assessment?	Comments
MM34	CC2PU	No	While the changes enhance the policy they do not affect the Sustainability score
MM35	NU1PU (supporting text)	No	While the changes enhance the policy they do not affect the Sustainability score
MM36	NU1PU	No	While the changes enhance the policy they do not affect the Sustainability score
MM37	NU3PU (supporting text)	No	N/A
MM38	NU3PU (supporting text)	No	N/A
MM39	NU3PU	No	While the changes enhance the policy they do not affect the Sustainability score
MM40	NU4PU (supporting text)	No	N/A
MM41	NU4PU	No	While the changes enhance the policy they do not affect the Sustainability score
MM42	NU4PU (footnote)	Footnote deleted	N/A
MM43	NU5PU (supporting text)	Policy deleted	N/A
MM44	NU5PU	Policy deleted	N/A
MM45	R1PU	No	No material change to the sustainability of the policy
MM46	R2PU	No	No material change to the sustainability of the policy
MM47	R3PU	No	No material change to the sustainability of the policy
MM48	R4PU	No	While the changes enhance the policy they do not affect the Sustainability score
MM49	R5PU	No	While the changes enhance the policy they do not affect the Sustainability score
MM50	R6PU	No	No material change to the sustainability of the policy
MM51	R7PU	No	While the changes enhance the policy they do not affect the Sustainability score

<b>Main Modification</b>	<b>Policy</b>	<b>Change to SA Assessment?</b>	<b>Comments</b>
MM52	R8PU	No	While the changes enhance the policy they do not affect the Sustainability score
MM53	R10PU	No	No material change to the sustainability of the policy
MM54	T1PU	No	While the changes enhance the policy they do not affect the Sustainability score
MM55	T2PU	No	While the changes enhance the policy they do not affect the Sustainability score
MM56	T3PU (supporting text)	No	N/A
MM57	T3PU	No	While the changes enhance the policy they do not affect the Sustainability score
MM58	H1PU	No	No material change to the sustainability of the policy
MM59	H2PU (supporting text)	No	N/A
MM60	H2PU	No	No material change to the sustainability of the policy
MM61	H3PU	No	No material change to the sustainability of the policy
MM62	H4PU	No	No material change to the sustainability of the policy
MM63	H5PU (supporting text)	No	N/A
MM64	H5PU (supporting text)	No	N/A
MM65	H5PU	No	No material change to the sustainability of the policy
MM66	H6PU (supporting text)	No	N/A
MM67	H6PU	No	No material change to the sustainability of the policy
MM68	H7PU	No	While the changes enhance the policy they do not affect the Sustainability score
MM69	H8PU (supporting text)	No	N/A
MM70	H8PU	No	While the changes enhance the policy they do not affect the Sustainability score
MM71	H8PU (supporting text)	No	N/A
MM72	H10PU	No	No material change to the sustainability of the policy

<b>Main Modification</b>	<b>Policy</b>	<b>Change to SA Assessment?</b>	<b>Comments</b>
MM73	H11PU	No	No material change to the sustainability of the policy
MM74	H13PU (supporting text)	No	N/A
MM75	H13PU	No	No material change to the sustainability of the policy
MM76	H15PU	No	While the changes enhance the policy they do not affect the Sustainability score
MM77	H16PU (supporting text)	No	N/A
MM78	H16PU	No	While the changes enhance the policy they do not affect the Sustainability score
MM79	H17PU (supporting text)	No	N/A
MM80	H17PU	No	While the changes enhance the policy they do not affect the Sustainability score
MM81	H18PU	No	While the changes enhance the policy they do not affect the Sustainability score
MM82	H19PU	No	No material change to the sustainability of the policy
MM83	H20PU (supporting text)	No	N/A
MM84	H21PU	No	While the changes enhance the policy they do not affect the Sustainability score
MM85	SC1PU	No	While the changes enhance the policy they do not affect the Sustainability score
MM86	SC2PU (supporting text)	No	N/A
MM87	SC2PU	No	While the changes enhance the policy they do not affect the Sustainability score
MM88	SC3PU (supporting text)	No	N/A
MM89	SC3PU	No	While the changes enhance the policy they do not affect the Sustainability score
MM90	SC4PU	No	

<b>Main Modification</b>	<b>Policy</b>	<b>Change to SA Assessment?</b>	<b>Comments</b>
MM91	SC5PU	No	While the changes enhance the policy they do not affect the Sustainability score
MM92	N1PU	No	While the changes enhance the policy they do not affect the Sustainability score
MM93	N2PU	No	While the changes enhance the policy they do not affect the Sustainability score
MM94	N3PU	No	While the changes enhance the policy they do not affect the Sustainability score
MM95	N4PU	No	The changes provide greater clarity on the objectives of the Marine Plan but do not affect the Sustainability score
MM96	N5PU (supporting text)	No	N/A
MM97	N6PU	No	While the changes enhance the policy they do not affect the Sustainability score
MM98	N7PU (supporting text)	No	N/A
MM99	N7PU	No	While the changes enhance the policy they do not affect the Sustainability score
MM100	N9PU	No	No material change to the sustainability of the policy
MM101	N10PU	No	No material change to the sustainability of the policy
MM102	N11 (supporting text)	No	N/A
MM103	N11 (new policy)	Yes	New assessment
MM104	N11PU (supporting text)	No	N/A
MM105	N11PU (now Policy N12)	No	No material change to the sustainability of the policy
MM106	N13PU (now Policy N14)	No	No material change to the sustainability of the policy
MM107	BE1PU	No	No material change to the sustainability of the policy
MM108	BE2PU	No	While the changes enhance the policy they do not affect the Sustainability score
MM109	BE3PU	No	No material change to the sustainability of the policy

<b>Main Modification</b>	<b>Policy</b>	<b>Change to SA Assessment?</b>	<b>Comments</b>
MM110	BE6PU	No	No material change to the sustainability of the policy
MM111	CO1PU	No	No material change to the sustainability of the policy
MM112	CO2PU	No	While the changes enhance the policy they do not affect the Sustainability score
MM113	CO3PU	No	While the changes enhance the policy they do not affect the Sustainability score
MM114	CO4PU	No	No material change to the sustainability of the policy
MM115	CO5PU	No	No material change to the sustainability of the policy
MM116	CO7PU	No	No material change to the sustainability of the policy
MM117	Monitoring Table	N/A	N/A
MM118	Glossary	N/A	N/A
MM119	Appendix A: Wayfinding document	N/A	N/A
MM120	Appendix A: Superseded Policies	N/A	N/A
MM121	Appendix B - Introduction page	N/A	N/A
MM122	Appendix B - Whitehaven Maps	No	No material change to the sustainability of the Plan
MM123	Appendix B - Cleator Moor Map	No	No material change to the sustainability of the Plan
MM124	Appendix B - Egremont Map	No	No material change to the sustainability of the Plan
MM125	Appendix B - Beckermest Map	No	No material change to the sustainability of the Plan
MM126	Appendix B - New Map - Sellafeld	No	No material change to the sustainability of the Plan
MM127	Appendix C - Site OWH06	No	While the changes would enhance the development of the site they do not affect the Sustainability score
MM128	Appendix C - Site OWH07	No	While the changes would enhance the development of the site they do not affect the Sustainability score
MM129	Appendix C - Site OWH09	No	While the changes would enhance the development of the site they do not affect the Sustainability score
MM130	Appendix C - Site OWH11	No	While the changes would enhance the development of the site they do not affect the Sustainability score

<b>Main Modification</b>	<b>Policy</b>	<b>Change to SA Assessment?</b>	<b>Comments</b>
MM131	Appendix C - Site OWH13	No	While the changes would enhance the development of the site they do not affect the Sustainability score
MM132	Appendix C - New Footnote	N/A	While the changes would enhance the development of the sites they do not affect the Sustainability score
MM133	Appendix E - Housing Trajectory	N/A	N/A
MM134	Appendix F - Para 1.12	N/A	N/A
MM135	Appendix F - Table 8	N/A	N/A
MM136	Appendix F - New row re Minerals and Waste	No	While the changes enhance the policy they do not affect the Sustainability score
MM137	Appendix F - Site HWH1	No	No material change to the sustainability of the Plan
MM138	Appendix F - Site HWH1	No	While the changes would enhance the development of the site they do not affect the Sustainability score
MM139	Appendix F - Site HWH2	No	While the changes would enhance the development of the site they do not affect the Sustainability score
MM140	Appendix F - Site HWH3	No	While the changes would enhance the development of the site they do not affect the Sustainability score
MM141	Appendix F - Site HWH4	No	While the changes would enhance the development of the site they do not affect the Sustainability score
MM142	Appendix F - Site HWH5	No	While the changes would enhance the development of the site they do not affect the Sustainability score
MM143	Appendix F - Site HWH6	Allocation deleted	N/A
MM144	Appendix F - Site HCM1	No	While the changes would enhance the development of the site they do not affect the Sustainability score
MM145	Appendix F - Site HCM2	No	While the changes would enhance the development of the site they do not affect the Sustainability score

<b>Main Modification</b>	<b>Policy</b>	<b>Change to SA Assessment?</b>	<b>Comments</b>
MM146	Appendix F - Site HCM3	No	While the changes would enhance the development of the site they do not affect the Sustainability score
MM147	Appendix F - Site HCM4	No	No material change to the sustainability of the Allocation
MM148	Appendix F - Site HEG1	No	No material change to the sustainability of the Allocation
MM149	Appendix F - Site HEG2	No	While the changes would enhance the development of the site they do not affect the Sustainability score
MM150	Appendix F - Site HEG3	No	While the changes would enhance the development of the site they do not affect the Sustainability score
MM151	Appendix F - Site HMI1	No	While the changes would enhance the development of the site they do not affect the Sustainability score
MM152	Appendix F - Site HMI2	No	While the changes would enhance the development of the site they do not affect the Sustainability score
MM153	Appendix F - Site HAR1	No	While the changes would enhance the development of the site they do not affect the Sustainability score
MM154	Appendix F - Site HDI1	No	While the changes would enhance the development of the site they do not affect the Sustainability score
MM155	Appendix F - Site HDI2	No	No material change to the sustainability of the Allocation
MM156	Appendix F - Site HSB1	No	While the changes enhance the policy they do not affect the Sustainability score
MM157	Appendix F - Site HSB3	No	No material change to the sustainability of the Allocation
MM158	Appendix F - Site HSE2	No	No material change to the sustainability of the Allocation
MM159	Appendix F - Site HSE3	No	While the changes would enhance the development of the site they do not affect the Sustainability score
MM160	Appendix F - Site HTH1	No	While the changes would enhance the development of the site they do not affect the Sustainability score
MM161	Appendix F - Site HBE1	No	While the changes would enhance the development of the site they do not affect the Sustainability score

<b>Main Modification</b>	<b>Policy</b>	<b>Change to SA Assessment?</b>	<b>Comments</b>
MM162	Appendix F - Site HBE2	No	While the changes would enhance the development of the site they do not affect the Sustainability score
MM163	Appendix F - Site HBI1	No	While the changes would enhance the development of the site they do not affect the Sustainability score
MM164	Appendix F - Site HBI2	No	No material change to the sustainability of the Allocation
MM165	Appendix F - Site HDH2	No	While the changes would enhance the development of the site they do not affect the Sustainability score
MM166	Appendix F - Site HDH3	No	While the changes would enhance the development of the site they do not affect the Sustainability score
MM167	Appendix F - Site HMR1	No	No material change to the sustainability of the Allocation
MM168	Appendix F - Site HMR2	No	No material change to the sustainability of the Allocation
MM169	Appendix F - Site HLO1	No	While the changes would enhance the development of the site they do not affect the Sustainability score
MM170	Appendix F - Site HSU1	No	While the changes would enhance the development of the site they do not affect the Sustainability score
MM171	New Appendix H	N/A	N/A