

Copeland Local Plan 2021-2038

Statement of Common Ground between Copeland Borough Council (CBC) and Allerdale Borough Council (ABC)

Introduction

This Statement of Common Ground has been prepared jointly between Copeland Borough Council and Allerdale Borough Council.

The purpose of a Statement of Common Ground is to set out the confirmed agreements with regard to strategic and cross-boundary issues between the two Local Authorities. This is the result of early, meaningful and continuous engagement between the Local Planning Authorities.

The statement is intended to assist the Inspectors during the examination of the Copeland Local Plan to show where effective co-operation and agreement on key issues has taken place. For more information on how Copeland has engaged with key stakeholders throughout the Local Plan preparation process, please see the Duty to Co-operate statement.

The two organisations have been working together throughout the preparation of the Local Plan in respect of seeking agreement on strategic cross-boundary planning issues, in particular housing, the local economy, the natural environment and connectivity. All details of cross-boundary issues and how ongoing engagement has been achieved has been captured through the Duty to Cooperate Report.

The Local Authorities agree the following:

General

1. The impacts of Local Government Re-organisation have been discussed between the authorities and it has been agreed that maintaining a positive working relationship and continued cross-boundary co-operation is vital.

Housing

1. Both Local Planning Authorities have agreed to and are delivering their housing need within their own plan area and do not require either authority to accommodate any unmet need. There is an agreement that the housing market areas for Copeland and Allerdale are self-contained within the LPA boundaries and that there are no cross-boundary issues in relation to housing delivery.

Employment and the economy

1. It is agreed that economic proposals in the two boroughs can contribute to providing cross-boundary benefits.
2. The Lillyhall Industrial Estate in Allerdale is in close proximity to the Copeland boundary, and has the potential to impact on businesses within Copeland. However, the Copeland EDNA describes Copeland as a self-contained Functional Economic

Market Area (FEMA), which suggests that Lillyhall has limited impact on business activity in Copeland, and therefore cross boundary impacts are minimal.

3. Both Copeland and Allerdale have benefitted from Town Deal funding for a number of strategic improvements, in the towns of Millom and Cleator Moor (Copeland) and Workington (Allerdale). Maryport in Allerdale has also been successful in achieving funding through the Future High Streets Fund. It is anticipated that both Local Authority areas will benefit from these funds.
4. Both authorities have worked closely on the joint West Cumbria Retail, Town Centres and Leisure Study (2020), and it is acknowledged that residents of Copeland and Allerdale are likely to cross into the neighbouring authority for leisure and retail purposes.

The Natural Environment

1. It may be necessary to deliver biodiversity net gain in cross- boundary areas if suitable sites are not available within the Copeland boundary
2. Both authorities have been affected by the new Government guidance surrounding nutrient neutrality, in the Bassenthwaite and Derwent SAC catchment area. Copeland and Allerdale will work together, alongside the Lake District National Park Authority to identify measures to mitigate the impact, which may need to be delivered across strategic boundaries.

Connectivity

1. Both authorities work closely through the Nuclear Transport Group to support the delivery of upgrades to the Cumbrian Coastal railway, Whitehaven Relief Road, and the strategic road network, particularly the A66, A595 and A596 to improve access to and within west Cumbria. No strategic cross boundary issues are anticipated with regards to connectivity between the two boroughs.

Signed on behalf of Copeland Borough Council

Name and Position: Chris Hoban, Strategic Planning Manager

Signature: 

Date: 28/07/2022

Signed on behalf of Allerdale Borough Council

Name and Position: Planning Policy Manager

Signature: 

Date: 29/07/2022