

Copeland Local Plan 2021-2038

Statement of Common Ground between Copeland Borough Council (CBC) and Barrow Borough Council (BBC)

Introduction

This Statement of Common Ground has been prepared jointly between Copeland Borough Council and Barrow 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, employment, 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 Co-operate Report.

The Local Authorities agree the following:

General:

1. It is acknowledged that many residents living in South Copeland, including Millom and Haverigg, rely on Barrow-in-Furness to access key services and facilities rather than Copeland's Principal Town of Whitehaven.
2. The impacts of Local Government Re-organisation have been discussed between the authorities and it has been agreed that 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 Barrow are contained within the LPA boundaries and that there are no cross-boundary issues in relation to housing delivery.

Economy:

1. It is agreed that economic proposals in the two boroughs can contribute to providing cross- boundary benefits, for example University of Cumbria proposals in Barrow and the Cleator Moor Innovation Quarter in Copeland.
2. Both Barrow and Millom have benefitted from Town Deal Funding for a number of strategic improvements. It is anticipated that both areas will benefit from these funds.

Natural Environment:

1. The CBC HRA considers protected sites within the jurisdiction of Barrow BC and identified no harm to Natura 2000 sites following mitigation. Therefore no strategic cross boundary issues are anticipated with regards to the natural environment.

Connectivity:

1. The emerging CBC Local Plan supports improvements to the A595 and routes to Millom. Pinch points on the A595 between Barrow and Copeland will be addressed through CCC improvement works. The Copeland Local Plan also supports rail improvements which will better connect Barrow to the west coast and Carlisle. It is agreed that this will improve connectivity between the boroughs.
2. The two authorities work closely through the Nuclear Transport Group to support delivery of upgrades to the Cumbrian Coastal railway and the strategic road network.

Signed on behalf of Copeland Borough Council

Name and Position: Chris Hoban, Strategic Planning Manager

Signature: 

Date: 28/07/2022

Signed on behalf of Barrow Borough Council

Name and Position: Helen Houston, Head of Regeneration & Planning Policy

Signature: 

Date: 24th August 2022