

Copeland Local Plan 2021-2038

Statement of Common Ground between Copeland Borough Council (CBC) and the Lake District National Park Authority (LDNPA)

Introduction

This Statement of Common Ground has been prepared jointly between Copeland Borough Council and the Lake District National Park Authority.

The purpose of a Statement of Common Ground is to set out the confirmed agreements with regard to strategic 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 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. National Parks have the highest status of protection in relation to landscape and scenic beauty and significant weight should be given to conserving and enhancing this.
2. The Council are supportive of the National Park's World Heritage Site status and welcome the development opportunities and community initiatives this may facilitate
3. 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.
4. In the case of any decision making within the setting of the National Park, this should be sensitively located and designed to avoid or minimise adverse impacts on the designated areas.

Housing and Development Strategy

1. The delivery of open market housing is not normally appropriate in the National Park.

2. All new housing delivered in parts of the National Park within Copeland contributes towards the Council's housing strategy and housing targets for the borough
3. There are cross boundary relationships between Copelands settlements within and outside of the National Park boundary, for example between Gosforth (in LDNP) and Seascale (in Copeland). The settlement Hierarchy has been designed to acknowledge the relationships between these settlements whilst making it clear that development in areas of the LDNP is not under Copeland's jurisdiction.
4. There are cross boundary issues relating to the areas of the National Park within Copeland, namely at parts of Ennerdale Bridge and Calderbridge. To address this issue, the settlement boundaries at the two settlements have been drawn in line with existing development to prevent inappropriate development in the future. Ongoing engagement through any planning applications will be vital in ensuring that development is not contrary to the LDNPA's goals.
5. Second homes are an issue across certain communities in Copeland, but particularly those within the National Park.
6. The housing need identified through the Copeland SHMA in the LDNP part of the borough are in line with the need identified through the LDNPA Local Plan.
7. The Council will seek to allocate appropriate land to meet a housing requirement for the Gypsy and Traveller community in Copeland, acknowledging that there is no demand within the National Park

Employment and the economy

1. It is not anticipated that there will be any significant cross boundary issues with regards to employment across the two authorities

Natural Environment

1. It is important that the Council give appropriate consideration to the LDNP boundary and landscape constraints through the development process.
2. It may be necessary to deliver biodiversity net gain within the LDNPA area if suitable sites are not available within the Copeland boundary outside of the National Park
3. The issue of Nutrient Neutrality may require a cross- boundary approach between the two authorities. Ongoing engagement will be carried out to ensure a cohesive approach to addressing the issue.

Connectivity

1. The emerging Local Plan supports development where it will improve the safety and journey times of the strategic road network, including the A595 and A66. This can have a positive impact on improving connectivity into the National Park.

Signed on behalf of Copeland Borough Council

Name and Position: Chris Hoban, Strategic Planning Manager

Signature: 

Date: 28/07/2022

Signed on behalf of The Lake District National Park Authority

Name and Position: Rob Allison, Team Leader – Strategy, Partnerships and Policy

Signature:



Date: 08/08/2022