

Copeland Local Plan 2021-2038

Statement of Common Ground between Copeland Borough Council and National Highways

Introduction

This Statement of Common Ground has been prepared jointly between Copeland Borough Council (CBC) and National Highways (NH). NH are a government owned company which plans, designs, builds, operates and maintains England's Strategic Road Network, consisting of all motorways and major A roads.

The purpose of a Statement of Common Ground is to set out the confirmed agreements and disagreements with regard to strategic cross- boundary issues surrounding the Copeland Local Plan. This is the result of early, meaningful and continuous engagement between the Local Planning Authority and statutory consultees and key stakeholders in the Local Plan process.

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 Borough Council has engaged with key stakeholders throughout the Local Plan preparation process, please see the Duty to Co-operate statement.

Copeland Borough Council and National Highways agree on the following matters:

1. Consultation and engagement has been undertaken in accordance with the Statement of Community Involvement and has provided adequate opportunity for National Highways to get involved with the development of the Plan at each key stage.
2. A Whitehaven relief road is a priority for road improvements in Copeland for Copeland Borough Council, which is recognised by National Highways. This will help to improve resilience of the strategic road network, support development projects and provide a new growth corridor for Whitehaven. Both CBC and NH will continue to support any future progression towards delivering a relief road.
3. A potential route for the relief road is shown within the Local Plan. Proposed modifications, should they be accepted by the Inspector, will clarify that this is an indicative route at this stage, and that the work will only take place if the scheme should enter the road programme and NH were asked by the Secretary of State and Department of Transport to progress as a priority. It is however important to show this indicative route in the plan to highlight how it links to the existing road network, employment allocations and potential broad locations for housing to help build the business case and enable further development work by National Highways.
4. Joint working has taken place on evidence base documents to support the Copeland Local Plan, namely the IDP, Copeland Transport Improvements Study and Site Access Assessments. Findings of these have been endorsed by National Highways where they relate to the Strategic Road Network.

5. Where development is likely to impact on the safe and efficient running of the Strategic Road Network, mitigation measures will be required, for example through developer contributions to improve highways or site access. CBC will continue to engage with NH through the Development Management process.
6. Development will be supported by CBC where it provides improvements to the Strategic Road Network, including surrounding those improvements highlighted in the NH Mirehouse to Egremont study or future NH projects. This is set out in policies CO2 and CO3.

Signed on behalf of Copeland Borough Council

Name and Position: Chris Hoban, Strategic Planning Manager

Signature: 

Date: 28/07/2022

Signed on behalf of National Highways

Name and Position: John Hope, NW Spatial Planning Manager

Signature: 

Date: 08/08/2022