

1. ABOUT THE PLAN

1.1 INTRODUCTION

1.1.1 This is the ~~First~~ Second Deposit Version of a new Local Plan prepared by Copeland Borough Council. It relates to all of the Borough outside the Lake District National Park and covers the period 2001 – 2016.

1.1.2 When adopted it will replace the “Copeland Local Plan 2001”.

1.1.3 Preparation of the new plan began with consultation on an Issues Report during December 2001 – February 2002. Responses to this consultation came from many individuals and organisations and as far as possible their views have been incorporated into the process (A separate report on this consultation is available).

1.1.4 ~~The First Deposit Version on the Plan was published on 12th February 2004 and the deposit period ran to 26th March 2004. During this time the Council received over 1100 objections and expressions of support. All of these representations were considered during the production of the Second Deposit Version of the Plan. Publication of the First Deposit Version is the first formal stage in the adoption process when objections or expressions of support can be submitted. Subsequently a Public Inquiry may be held to examine issues raised and the Inquiry Inspector’s findings will be binding on the Council.~~

1.1.4 ~~It is hoped to have an Inquiry arranged for September 2004 and to have the new Local Plan adopted in early 2005.~~

1.1.5 Objections or expressions of support on the Second Deposit Version of the Plan may be made in the specified period, but will be limited to those policies and proposals which the have changed between the First and Second Deposit Versions. These new or altered polices and proposals are shown in red underlined type. Proposed deletions are shown by a strikethrough.

1.1.6 Once the revised plan is placed on deposit, objectors to the First Deposit Version of the Plan whose objections have been successfully resolved will be invited to withdraw them.

1.2 PURPOSE OF THE PLAN

1.2.1 The Local Plan sets out the Council's policies and proposals for the future development and use of land, improvements of the physical environment and management of traffic.

1.2.2 In accordance with the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (Schedule 8 – Transitional Provisions), the plan has been prepared will proceed to adoption under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, the Planning and Compensation Act 1991 and the Town and Country Planning (Development Plan) (England) Regulations 1999. ~~The Council has also taken into account the requirements of the Planning Bill (December 2002) and the replacement plan is being prepared under the “transitional arrangements” outlined in letters to English Local Authorities dated 5 December 2002 and 13 June 2003.~~ Once adopted, the Plan will be saved in the Local Development Framework for up to three years. For further information see Copeland Borough Council's Local Development Scheme.

1.2.3 The legislation requires decisions on all development and land use changes to accord with an up to date development plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise. In Copeland outside the National Park the development plan is currently made up of:

- Regional Spatial Strategy for the North West (RSS13)
- The Cumbria and Lake District Joint Structure Plan
- The Cumbria Minerals and Waste Local Plan
- The Copeland Local Plan

1.2.4 The Local Plan provides the detailed framework for local decision making, mainly through the determination of planning applications. Overall its main functions are to:

- Ensure all development in the planning area is sustainable
- Interpret and develop National, Regional and Structure Plan policies and to relate them to specific areas of land
- Provide a detailed basis for assessing planning applications
- Provide a framework for co-ordinating the provision of infrastructure and public and private sector investment
- Bring planning issues before local people with opportunities for participation

- Assist implementation of both the Council's Corporate Strategy (2020 Vision) and the West Cumbria Partnership's Community Strategy on the ground.

1.3 USING THE PLAN

1.3.1 ~~The plan~~ The First Deposit Version of the Plan consists of a Written Statement and a series of maps which ~~make~~ made up the Proposals Map. In this Second Deposit Version of the Plan, only maps which relate to the proposed changes to the First Deposit Version (see section 1.5.1) have been published. There are also a series of Appendices referred to in the text. Supplementary Planning Guidance is available separately which ~~includes a development brief for a housing site at Whitehaven.~~

1.3.2 The Written Statement begins with the ~~Development Strategy which includes the Council's aims and objectives for the plan, a review of how it sees these being applied over the plan area and a series of "core" development policies.~~ Aims and Objectives of the Plan. This is followed by the Development Strategy which sets out the overall strategic vision for the plan in terms of delivering the Plan Aims and Objectives. It also contains a set of core policies which assist in implementation of the Development Strategy. This is followed by ~~t~~ Topic-based chapters covering specific development issues are then provided. Policies and proposals are printed in bold type to distinguish them from the rest of the text. They are numbered and where they relate to specific sites or areas they are shown on the Proposals Map. There is also a chapter on how the Council intends to ~~implement the plan and monitor its~~ effectiveness of the Plan.

1.3.3 It is important to recognise that the Plan must be read as a whole and therefore it is likely that more than one policy, often from more than one Chapter can and will be applied when considering development proposals.

1.3.3 In the printed format of the First Deposit Version the Proposals Map is made up of 3 fold-out sheets (~~stored inside the back cover~~). These incorporate a key 1:50,000 scale map of the plan area as a whole and a series of inset maps for all the important towns and villages with a separate inset map for Whitehaven Town Centre. In this Second Deposit Version of the plan only maps showing the proposed changes have been produced (stored inside the back cover).

1.3.4 ~~There is also an interactive version of the plan~~ Both First and Second Deposit Versions of the Plan are available on the Council's web site www.copelandbc.gov.uk.

1.4 TIMETABLE TO ADOPTION

1.4.1 The Council is hoping to move through the process of plan adoption with the minimum of delay. The timetable envisaged is as follows:

1st Deposit Version	Late January 2004 <u>February 2004</u>
Formal consultation period 6 weeks Consideration of representation/negotiations with objectors	
2nd Deposit Version	May 2004 <u>April 2005</u>
Formal consultation period 6 weeks. Consideration of outstanding issues/negotiations with objectors	
Preparation of proofs/statements	August 2004 <u>June 2005</u>
Public Inquiry	September 2004 <u>September 2005</u>
Inspector's Report published	January 2005 <u>February 2006</u>
<u>Modifications</u>	<u>March 2006</u>
Plan Adoption	March 2005 <u>June 2006</u>

1.4.2 ~~The transitional arrangements referred to in para 1.2.2 above do not allow for a Modifications stage after the Inspector's Report. The Inspector's findings will be binding on the Council and incorporated in the Adopted Version of the Plan.~~

1.5 HOW TO MAKE YOUR VIEWS KNOWN

1.5.1 If you have any concerns on any matter changes proposed in the Second Deposit Version of the Local Plan you should consider the following steps:

- a) Contacting the Council's Economic Development and Local Plans Section to discuss the issues involved
- b) Making a formal representation to the Council. This can be either as an objection or a statement of support

Representations must be made using the special form for the purpose which is inside the back cover and on the web site. Please fill in a separate form for each representation. Representations can only be made on those policies and/or proposals which have been changed between the First and Second Deposit Versions.

1.5.2 ~~When an objection is received the Council will consider whether it can alter or amend the Plan to take account of the issues raised. If it cannot accept the grounds of objection it will say so and the matter can go forward to the Public Inquiry for resolution by an independent government Inspector.~~ Representations on the Second Deposit Version, along with unresolved objections to the First Deposit Version will go forward to the Public Inquiry for resolution by an independent government Inspector. Objectors need to indicate on the objection form whether they would wish to have their case dealt with in person before the Inquiry Inspector or merely to submit a formal written representation for the Inspector to adjudicate on.

1.5.3 Further advice on making formal representations and the Inquiry process are available from the Council's Economic Development and Local Plans Section, the ODPM site www.odpm.gov.uk and www.planningportal.gov.uk.