



Shaping our future



SOUTH LAKELAND LOCAL PLAN 2040

Climate Change and Flooding:

Local Plan Review Topic Sheet

Introduction

This is one of a number of short topic sheets that have been prepared as part of our early conversations with communities on the Local Plan Review. It is designed to provide some key facts and highlight issues around climate change and flooding that we will need to consider in reviewing our Local Plan. It is hoped that it will prompt discussions and enable people to join in the conversation.

Some key facts and issues:

- The government has **committed to making the UK zero carbon by 2050** through the Climate Change Act.
- The world is **not on track to keep global temperature rise well below 2°C**, as set in the Paris Agreement.
- **UK annual temperatures are predicted to rise by between 0.5°C and 2.7°C** above the 1981-2000 baseline, depending on global emissions.
- **Summer heatwaves like that in 2018** are now twice as likely as they were a few decades ago.
- **Carbon dioxide emissions are 7 tonnes per person** per year in South Lakeland. This compares with 4.3 tonnes per person nationally and 6.5 tonnes across Cumbria.
- About a **quarter of carbon dioxide emissions in South Lakeland come from housing**, a **third from transport** and almost **40% from industry**.
- South Lakeland District Council has declared a **climate emergency** and will shortly be publishing its **Climate Change Action Plan**.
- There is **54MW of renewable energy generating capacity** installed in South Lakeland, with almost 70% of this being onshore wind and almost a quarter being solar.
- **More than 2,000 homes and 350 businesses were flooded in 2015** in South Lakeland during Storm Desmond.
- **More than 7,200 homes and about 2,300 businesses are at risk of flooding** from rivers or the sea (Environment Agency Flood Zones 2 or 3). That's almost 18% of residential properties in the Local Plan area.



What does our existing Local Plan say about climate change and flooding?

- It recognises that climate change is a threat to South Lakeland and states that opportunities must be taken to mitigate against and adapt to climate change through new development.
- It directs development away from areas at risk flooding to protect people from the impacts of climate change, and requires climate change to be considered when assessing the flood risk in new development proposals.
- It promotes sustainable construction and design in new development to reduce emissions and the environmental impact of new development.
- It supports renewable energy generation in appropriate locations to reduce reliance on fossil fuels.
- It directs most development to the most sustainable locations where people have more options to travel by walking, cycling or public transport, to try and reduce carbon emissions from transport.
- It recognises the role of green infrastructure and the natural environment to help mitigate and adapt to climate change.
- It requires sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) in new developments.

What does this mean for the Local Plan Review?

- National planning policy requires us to secure **radical reductions** in greenhouse gas emissions. We should set a carbon dioxide reductions target and set out how we will measure progress.
- We need to review our existing policies to see if they go far enough in ensuring greenhouse gas emissions are reduced.
- We need to update our local flood risk information and understand how climate change will impact on flood risk in future.
- We need to consider if and how we can raise the energy efficiency of new buildings, which will depend on the outcome of the government's 'Future Homes Standard' consultation.
- We need to consider whether we are doing enough in our Local Plan to promote renewable energy generation and whether we should identify 'suitable areas' for renewable energy in our area.