



Shaping our future



SOUTH LAKELAND LOCAL PLAN 2040

# Shaping the Future:

## South Lakeland Local Plan 2040

**South Lakeland is a special place to live and to work. It is an area that regularly features among the best in the UK for its quality of life.**

Keeping it special doesn't happen by accident though. The planning system and the Local Plan have a big role to play.

Think of planning and you might think of complicated rules and red tape, but planning is about the future and future generations, it's about people and communities and it's about all of us working together to make sure that:

***“The right building and development, of the right design and quality, happens in the right place, and the impact of any new development is well managed.”***

We do this by preparing a **Local Plan**, which carefully considers the housing and the economic growth that our area needs to continue to thrive, while also protecting our local and historic character and special landscapes and environment. It's also a key tool in helping us to identify and address the challenges for people and wildlife arising from climate change.

The Local Plan allocates sites for housing and other developments, such as new employment sites. It also contains the policies that we use to decide whether to grant planning permissions for new development.

The Local Plan doesn't just set out rules – it seeks to make our area better, for example by **reducing the environmental impact of new development**, building **affordable housing**, **helping our wildlife**, **reducing flood risk**, and **improving our infrastructure** such as roads and cycleways.

## Help us to plan for the future

Our Local Plan has been in place for a number of years, but it needs to be reviewed regularly to make sure it continues to meet the challenges facing our area. In particular we need to ensure that it helps deliver the Council's strong commitment to action on climate change and biodiversity.

That is why we are launching a **review of our Local Plan**, and why we hope that anyone who cares about the future of our area will want to be involved. It's important that we speak to as many people as possible to understand their point of view. See the end of this leaflet to find out how to get involved.

We want the Local Plan to be **everyone's plan** for the future of South Lakeland – not just the Council's plan.

We want you to think about not just the here and now, but what is best for the future of the area – the things that your children or grandchildren will want from future development. The Local Plan will look ahead to 2040 so it's a long term plan for the development of the area.

*What do you think is special about South Lakeland and your local area?*



## What are the issues we need to plan for in South Lakeland?

To start the discussion we've set out some of the key environmental, social and economic issues in our area that we think the Local Plan needs to address. Some pose difficult challenges for new development whilst others might provide opportunities. As we review our Local Plan we will need to balance priorities for people, the economy and the environment to help ensure the most sustainable future for our area.

### Environmental

- We are facing a **climate crisis** and are feeling the impacts locally.
- We rely heavily on **private cars** and **air quality** isn't good enough in some places.
- We are home to many **important wildlife** habitats and species.
- We have **special landscapes** that are sensitive to new development.
- We are relying more on **greenfield sites** rather than previously developed land for new development.
- Our area is rich in **historic buildings** and **landscapes** and our towns and villages have strong identities.

### Social

- We need more **affordable housing**.
- Our population would be in decline without people moving into the area.
- Our population is healthy but as we get older our **health challenges** will increase.
- Our population is **ageing significantly** and our **workforce is shrinking**.
- Our **rural areas face challenges** around access to services, transport, affordable housing and sustaining local communities

### Economic

- We're a **wealthy area** overall, but there are **big inequalities** between the richest and the poorest.
- Our **high streets are changing** and need to adapt to changing retail trends more widely.
- We have very **low unemployment** but **lower average wages** for people that work here compared with the North West.
- Our roads, rail and digital **infrastructure needs improving** in places to support economic growth

*What do you think are the main challenges we face in planning for our area to 2040?*

### The right development in the right place

We will be reviewing our overall approach to how we should plan for growth and where it should take place. This will mean thinking about how development should be shared out across our towns, villages and rural areas. We also need to work out how best to balance allowing development that supports rural communities, whilst protecting the countryside from unnecessary development.



Our current Local Plan directs most new development to Kendal, Ulverston, the smaller towns of Grange-over-Sands, Kirkby Lonsdale and the market village of Milnthorpe as these have the best range of services and transport links.

We will also be reviewing our Local Plan policies that set out standards and requirements for new development. We want to ensure that the right type of development is taking place and that it is high quality and benefits the local area.

*What sort of development do you think will help make South Lakeland a better place to live in 20 years' time? What development might make it not as good a place to live?*

*Has recent development in South Lakeland been high quality and helped make our area better? Can you think of some examples?*

## Protecting the environment and tackling the climate crisis

The council has recently declared a climate emergency, and reducing carbon emissions and the environmental impacts of new development will be a crucial part of the Local Plan Review. We will also be seeking to make sure new development provides benefits for the environment, for example by requiring developers to provide and improve green spaces for leisure and nature.

## Meeting housing needs

We will be setting new housing targets in the Local Plan Review, which will be informed by the most up-to-date study of housing need (the Strategic Housing Market Assessment). This study suggests that up to 290 new homes per year need to be built in South Lakeland to meet current demand. We will also be reviewing our policies on the types, sizes and mix of housing in new developments and the amount and types of affordable housing that should be included.

We will also be reviewing our existing allocated housing sites and considering the need for any more.

## Growing the economy and supporting town centres

We will be reviewing the need for employment land in the area to support jobs growth, and will be looking at our currently allocated sites. We will also consider how development should be managed in existing employment areas and how we can help our town centres diversify and adapt to the changing nature of retail.

## Supporting health and wellbeing

We will be considering how the Local Plan and new development can help improve and enhance health and wellbeing. We know how much our health can be affected by our surroundings and it's important that new development is planned in a way that supports healthy lifestyles and wellbeing.

## Planning for infrastructure

We will look at the current state and capacity of our roads, public transport, schools, health facilities, sewerage, green spaces etc.

This will help us to understand what improvements will be needed to support any new development. We will also set out how new development will be expected to contribute towards infrastructure improvements.

*How important are the above issues to you?*





## How to get involved

We are at the early stages of reviewing the Local Plan so it's a great time to get involved.

Everything is up for discussion and no decisions have been made. We would like to hear your views and for you to share local knowledge with us as we progress the Local Plan Review. You can get involved in the following ways:

- **Sign up to our mailing list** at [www.southlakeland.gov.uk/LocalPlanConsultations](http://www.southlakeland.gov.uk/LocalPlanConsultations) so that you'll be notified of any upcoming consultations and receive newsletter updates.
- **Read about our Local Plan Review** at [www.southlakeland.gov.uk/LocalPlanReview](http://www.southlakeland.gov.uk/LocalPlanReview) where you can view our early engagement discussion paper, a draft policy review paper and a range of short 'topic sheets' on different subject areas. You can also view the documents in a paper format at South Lakeland House (Kendal), Ulverston Coronation Hall and the libraries in Kendal, Ulverston, Kirkby Lonsdale, Milnthorpe, Grange-over-Sands and Arnside.
- **Come along to our 'drop in' events** to talk to us about the Local Plan review:
  - Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2020 – [Kirkby Lonsdale, Lunesdale Hall](#) – 3pm to 7.30pm
  - Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2020 – [Grange-over-Sands, Victoria Hall](#) – 3pm to 7.30pm
  - Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2020 – [Ulverston, Coronation Hall](#) – 3pm to 7.30pm
  - Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2020 – [Kendal, The MintWorks](#) – 3pm to 7.30pm
  - Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2020 – [Milnthorpe, M:Hub](#) – 3pm to 7.30pm (joint event with Cumbria County Council)
- **Answer our surveys** – We've got a short survey with 6 questions based on this leaflet, and a longer survey with 30 questions based on our more detailed discussion paper. You can answer these online through our Local Plan Review website. Paper forms for the short survey will also be available at South Lakeland House (Kendal), Ulverston Coronation Hall, the libraries listed above and at our drop in events. Our online survey will close on **Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2020**.

## The timeline for the Local Plan Review

Stage	Date
Early conversations	Early 2020
'Issues and Options' Consultation	Autumn 2020
Draft Plan Consultation	Autumn 2021
Formal Representations	Autumn 2022
Public Examination	Spring 2023
Adopting the Local Plan	End of 2023

## Contact Us

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