

Duty to Cooperate Statement



Barrow Borough Local Plan Submission Draft

December 2017

Barrow Borough Local Plan

Working together to support sustainable development within the Borough of Barrow-in-Furness



Contents

1. Introduction	4
2. Cumbria County Council and Neighbouring Local Planning Authorities within Cumbria	5
2.1 Cumbria County Council	5
2.2 Neighbouring Local Planning Authorities.....	6
2.3 South Lakeland District Council	6
2.4 Copeland Borough Council.....	7
2.5 Lancaster City Council	7
3. Joint Evidence with Neighbouring Local Planning Authorities	8
3.1 Housing Development Forum	8
3.2 Cumbria Planning Group.....	8
3.3 Cumbria Housing Group.....	8
3.4 Cumbria Renewable Energy Capacity Study	8
3.5 Cumbria Wind Energy Supplementary Planning Document.....	8
3.6 Cumulative Impact of Vertical Infrastructure	8
3.7 The Cumbria Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (November 2013)	9
3.8 Cumbria Biodiversity Data Centre.....	9
4. Parish Councils	10
4.1 Askam and Ireleth Parish Plan	10
4.2 Dalton with Newton Town Parish Plan	10
5. Co-operation with Other Prescribed Bodies	11
5.1 United Utilities	11
5.2 Environment Agency.....	11
5.3 Historic England	12
5.4 Natural England.....	12
5.5 Civil Aviation Authority	12
5.6 Homes England (formally Homes and Communities Agency)	13
5.7 Clinical Commissioning Group	13
5.7 Office of Rail Regulation.....	13
5.8 Highways England	13
5.9 Marine Management Organisation	14
5.10 National Trust	14
5.11 National Grid.....	14

6. Cumbria Local Enterprise Partnership and Local Nature Partnerships.....	15
6.1 Local Enterprise Partnership.....	15
6.2 Local Nature Partnership	15
7. Local Stakeholders	17
7.1 BAE Systems.....	17
7.2 Associated British Ports	17
7.3 Business Improvement District (BID).....	17
7.4 Furness Economic Development Forum (FEDF).....	18
8. Internal Collaboration	19
8.1 Development Services.....	19
8.2 Estates.....	19
8.3 Housing	19
8.4 Community Services and Tourism.....	19
8.5 Environmental Health	19
9. Summary	20
Appendix A – BID Steering Group	22
Appendix B – FEDF Board Membership	23

1. Introduction

The Duty to Co-operate is a legal requirement of the Local Plan preparation process. This 'duty' was introduced by the Localism Act, which came into effect in November 2011. The Duty to Co-operate requires local planning authorities and other bodies to co-operate with each other to address strategic issues relevant to their areas. Within the context of the 'duty', strategic issues are interpreted as those which are larger than local (cross boundary) and which cannot therefore be addressed by a single local planning authority working alone. The priority given to any strategic issues will evidently depend on the local circumstances and in some instances there may be a few or in some cases, no such issues.

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) emphasises that the duty relates in particular to the following strategic priorities:

- Homes and jobs needed in the area;
- The provision of infrastructure for transport, telecommunications, waste management, water supply, wastewater, flood risk and coastal change management and the provision of minerals and energy (including heat);
- The provision of health, security, community and cultural infrastructure and other local facilities; and
- Climate change mitigation and adaptation, conservation and enhancement of the natural and historic environment, including landscape.

The duty requires ongoing constructive and active engagement on the preparation of development plan documents and other activities relating to the sustainable development and use of land, in particular in connection with strategic infrastructure.

This statement is intended to demonstrate how Barrow Borough Council, in its capacity as the Local Planning Authority, has complied with the 'duty to co-operate' and co-operated with neighbouring planning authorities and other prescribed bodies, during the preparation of the Barrow Borough Local Plan.

2. Cumbria County Council and Neighbouring Local Planning Authorities within Cumbria

2.1 Cumbria County Council

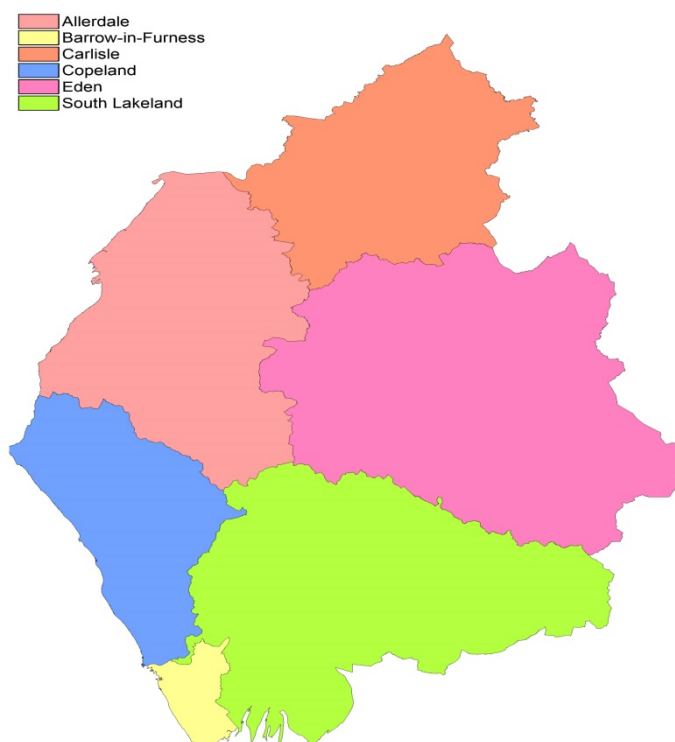
Local Government in Cumbria is administered by Cumbria County Council and six district planning authorities. Cumbria County Council provides services such as education, highways and social services. Barrow Borough Council provides planning, housing, environmental health, waste collection and other services. The Borough is bordered by the districts of South Lakeland and Copeland, and also by the Duddon Estuary, Morecambe Bay and the Irish Sea.

There are several key issues in Barrow that extend beyond the Borough boundary. These issues need to be considered in the Local Plan and agreed with their neighbouring authorities. The Local Plan will take account of strategic issues that overlap the Borough's boundaries and will proactively work with neighbouring districts and other key agencies to ensure that the Local Plan effectively addresses such issues and does not conflict with other relevant plans and strategies that apply to these areas.

Cumbria County Council and Barrow Borough Council have worked closely during the development of the Local Plan at all stages of its production. This has ensured that the policies in the Local Plan have complemented the County Council's interests as a planning authority, highways authority and service provider on behalf of the communities it serves in Barrow Borough.

A Statement of Intent has been agreed and signed by both the Leader and Chief Executive of both Barrow Borough Council and Cumbria County Council. The purpose of the Statement of Intent is to set out how both Councils will continue to work together to identify, prioritise and fund the infrastructure necessary to support development proposed in the Barrow Local Plan.

The Council has and will continue to work closely with Cumbria County Council, other neighbouring authorities and other public bodies throughout the production of the Local Plan. This will include both formal and informal consultation in various formats including by letter, email and face to face meetings. Cumbria authorities, including the County Council and Lake District National Park Authority, have an established network of officer groups and support mechanisms for circulating information and joint working. A number of stakeholder groups have been set up to assist in this process and the Council also intends to use established groups, such as the Cumbria wide Development Plans Officer Group to disseminate information and share best practice.

Figure 1: Local Authorities in Cumbria

2.2 Neighbouring Local Planning Authorities

The Council have undertaken extensive consultation to date, which has included proactively engaging with the two adjoining local authorities and other public organisations to ensure that there is a high level of cooperation with the Local Plan as it has emerged. This commitment not only stems from the 'Duty to Cooperate', but is also well established in the Council's Statement of Community Involvement.

To date no major issues amongst the neighbouring authorities have arisen and to the contrary, they have expressed broad support. Further meetings with adjoining authorities will continue to be held as deemed necessary as the Local Plan progresses towards adoption and throughout the course of its implementation.

At an officer level we maintain regular contact with colleagues at our neighbouring authorities and other organisations through email/ telephone discussion or meetings, as appropriate.

2.3 South Lakeland District Council

South Lakeland District Council (SLDC) and Barrow Borough Council (BBC) share a boundary to the north eastern edge of the Borough. Cooperation has mainly taken the form of joint meetings and formal consultation. Each authority is pursuing its own planning and land allocation strategies, with SLDC's Local Plan expected to be adopted in 2021.

A meeting with SLDC was held on 11th August 2015 to discuss cross-boundary issues and information relating to each authority's planning policy documents. Both Council's have ongoing commitment to engage in each others Local Plan process and any other planning policy documents as they may arise in the future.

2.4 Copeland Borough Council

Copeland Borough Council (CDC) and Barrow Borough Council (BBC) share a boundary to the north western edge of the district. As with SLDC, cooperation has mainly taken the form of joint meetings and formal consultations. Copeland's Core Strategy and Development Management Policies were adopted in December 2013 and these form the main part of the Development Plan for the Borough.

As far as Copeland's relationship with Barrow-in-Furness is concerned, the expected distribution of development is such that impacts on the Borough will be limited. CDC expects to consult BBC as the Habitats Regulation Assessment proceeds, with regards to any possible impacts on the Duddon Estuary protected areas.

It was also acknowledged that commuting between the two boroughs occurred, primarily between Barrow Borough and BNFL Sellafield, and also from Millom to Barrow.

It has been concluded so far, that there are no cross boundary issues envisaged, however both Council's have ongoing commitment to engage in each others Local Plan process and any other planning policy documents as they may arise in the future.

2.5 Lancaster City Council

Barrow Borough Council and Lancaster City Council have a good working relationship, which has included a Duty to Cooperate meeting, held on 12th January 2017. Although not sharing a boundary, and falling under the jurisdiction of Lancashire County Council, the authorities are connected by Morecambe Bay and the proximity between the districts results in inward and outward commuting.

Barrow Borough Council, South Lakeland District Council and Lancaster City Council are collaborating on projects affecting Morecambe Bay and exploring potential for further work on the economy of the Bay area.

3. Joint Evidence with Neighbouring Local Planning Authorities

3.1 Housing Development Forum

The Housing Development Forum is chaired by Barrow Borough Council and includes representatives of private and public sector housing, local developers, landlords, partners and agents. Members of the Housing Development Forum meet to discuss the housing requirements in the Borough and any issues affecting housing delivery, such as construction, remediation, house prices, local economy and planning.

3.2 Cumbria Planning Group

Cumbria Planning Group holds quarterly meetings of members and officers with representatives from all the local planning authorities in Cumbria, including Cumbria County Council and the Lake District National Park Authority. Local Plans and the Cumbria LEP are standing items on the agenda. The group provides an effective forum to discuss cross boundary issues and establish a common approach or consensus on matters that affect the County as a whole.

The stated purpose of the Cumbria Planning Group under their terms of reference is to coordinate planning activities in Cumbria including joint initiatives and lobbying activities and develop good practice. Membership involves all the local authority partners and the group consists of one councillor from each local authority and an accompanying officer.

3.3 Cumbria Housing Group

Through the forum of the Cumbria Housing Group, joint work originally took place in 2006 on the identification of 20 Strategic Housing Market areas across the County. Updating of this original SHMA work has since been taken by individual local planning authorities, maintaining a common approach to the source and analysis of data using the POPGROUP modelling produced by the Cumbria Observatory and managed by Cumbria County Council.

3.4 Cumbria Renewable Energy Capacity Study

The Cumbria Renewable Energy Capacity and Deployment Study provides information on the potential renewable energy resources that could be harnessed across the County. It will be used to help develop policy and make future planning decisions produced by District Councils. The study sets out the opportunities and constraints to delivering renewable energy in Cumbria.

3.5 Cumbria Wind Energy Supplementary Planning Document

Cumbria County Council and the local planning authorities in Allerdale, Carlisle, Copeland, Eden, South Lakeland and the Lake District National Park have produced and adopted guidance to help decide where wind farms might be built. The guidance helps developers, councils and communities understand the environmental and socio-economic issues that need to be addressed for wind energy schemes. It also provides detailed advice on landscape issues.

3.6 Cumulative Impact of Vertical Infrastructure

Cumbria and Lancashire is an area of diverse and frequently high quality landscape, which is valued for its environmental qualities, and for the economic and amenity benefits it brings. This landscape is subject to increasing pressure to accommodate energy and communications related vertical infrastructure. The National Planning Policy Framework is generally supportive of sustainable

development. It also recognises the need to consider the landscape, visual and cumulative impact of development.

The Cumulative Impact of Vertical Infrastructure work seeks to:

- Assess how existing and proposed developments involving the introduction of vertical elements into the landscape are resulting in cumulative effects on landscape character and visual amenity;
- Identify the degree to which cumulative effects of vertical infrastructure developments upon landscape character may be considered a constraint on further such developments;
- Provide evidence base to support local policy.

3.7 The Cumbria Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (November 2013)

The Cumbria Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment was produced by Arc 4 on behalf of all Cumbrian Authorities in November 2013. The overall objective of the research was to provide a robust evidence base to inform future reviews of Local Plans and housing strategies. The research provides information about the current and future accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers, as well as providing information about additional support needs. No cross boundary issues are envisaged and the need can be adequately met within each authority area.

3.8 Cumbria Biodiversity Data Centre

The Cumbria Biodiversity Data Centre is a record centre for Cumbria's biological records, biodiversity and geological information. CBDC collates and analyses Cumbria's biodiversity data and the information produced supports the work of wildlife enthusiasts, consultants, planners, researchers and members of the public who are interested in Cumbria's biodiversity. Such information is essential to managing the natural environment and to assist planners in retaining and enhancing local biodiversity. In 2008 the Network produced a biodiversity evidence base for Cumbria's planners, which details many of the available resources relating to the County's biodiversity. CBDC are currently looking at reviewing this resource.

4. Parish Councils

Askam and Ireleth Parish Council, Lindal and Marton Parish Council and Dalton with Newton Town Council have been consulted at each stage of the production of the Local Plan and on other planning policy documents. Consultation events have also been held in each parish.

A Parish Plan is a document produced by the local community that sets out a vision for the future of the Parish and outlines what can be achieved in an action plan. Community Planning is becoming increasingly important to determine what the priorities are for residents and their neighbourhood.

Successful parish plans have the potential to influence a wide range of organisations and processes which affect the lives of the community. Parish plans can identify actions for the local community to undertake – as well as for others to do. They can influence the policies and decisions of other bodies (such as planning policies, housing strategies, transport plans, social services and education arrangements) and they can help obtain funding for projects in the parish.

4.1 Askam and Ireleth Parish Plan

In 2010, Askam and Ireleth Parish Council decided that a refreshed and updated Parish Plan was required. All the Parish Councillors were involved in the process and a smaller team, including Council Officers, met to develop a plan. The Askam and Ireleth Parish Plan was adopted in 2013.

4.2 Dalton with Newton Town Parish Plan

A steering group has been set up to produce a Parish Plan for Dalton with Newton and is made up of representatives of various community groups and organisations, schools and sports clubs and Council Officers. Once completed, the new plan will help Dalton with Newton Town Council, Barrow Borough Council and Cumbria County Council with developing and implementing policies and plans for the area.

5. Co-operation with Other Prescribed Bodies

For the purposes of the duty, Part 2 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 clarifies that the prescribed bodies are:

- Environment Agency
- English Heritage (now Historic England)
- Natural England
- Civil Aviation Authority
- Homes England
- Clinical Commissioning Group
- Office of the Rail Regulator
- Highways Agency (now Highways England)
- Mayor of London
- Transport for London
- Integrated Transport Authorities – Cumbria County Council
- Highway Authorities
- Marine Management Organisation
- Local Enterprise Partnership
- National Grid

5.1 United Utilities

Whilst United Utilities is not a prescribed body for the purposes of section 33A(1)(c) of the Localism Act, the NPPF clearly states that the Local Planning Authorities should work collaboratively with private sector bodies, utility and infrastructure providers.

Annual liaison meetings have been held with United Utilities for the past 3 years to discuss a number of issues including water and wastewater requirements and infrastructure delivery. The meeting also provided an opportunity to discuss any other significant wastewater, drainage or water supply issues that could affect the deliverability of the proposed Local Plan allocations. United Utilities have confirmed the revisions to the Policy C3a and C3b are acceptable to them and they have no further comments to make.

5.2 Environment Agency

The Environment Agency keeps detailed records on the location and type of flood defences within the district. They also record who has responsibility for each, be it the Environment Agency, a local authority or a private business or individual.

During consultation on the draft Local Plan, the Environment Agency has supplied information which indicated flood risk zones. The Local Plan does not allocate any land for development which is located within these areas and the Local Plan contains numerous policies concerning flood risk and water management including Policy C1: Flood Risk and Erosion. The Environment Agency have confirmed they consider the Local Plan to be sound and legally compliant and have no further comments to make.

5.3 Historic England

Historic England is the Government's statutory advisor on the historic environment. They are an executive non-departmental body. Their main role is to look after the national heritage collection of historic sites and monuments, which includes Furness Abbey.

Historic England advises the government on which parts of the nation's heritage is nationally important, so that it can be protected by designation (which includes the listing of buildings) and also advises local authorities on managing changes to the most important parts of the nation's heritage.

Heritage is important to the local economy, with some of the Borough's most significant tourist attractions based upon their heritage. There are 270 buildings listed for their historical or architectural importance in the Borough, and 1 Registered Park and Garden. There are also eleven Conservation Areas and four Schedules Ancient Monuments.

There has been active engagement between Historic England and Barrow Borough Council as the Local Plan has evolved. The nature of engagement has included comments on individual policies and site allocations, together with consultation meetings, such as the meeting held on 6th January 2017. During this meeting the principle issues raised by Historic England as part of their response to the draft Local Plan were discussed, and amendments made to the Plan.

The Council has also taken on board Historic England advice in relation to the Heritage Impact Assessments and they have been updated.

5.4 Natural England

Natural England is the Government's adviser for the natural environment in England, helping to protect England's nature and landscapes for people to enjoy and for the services they provide. Natural England are an executive non-departmental public body, sponsored by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

Natural England has provided advice throughout the preparation of the Local Plan, and the Council has met with them on several occasions. They have been involved as a statutory consultee and their advice has been sought on the production of the Local Plan and the Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Regulation Assessment, which have been produced and updated alongside the Local Plan.

Natural England have confirmed that the requested modifications have been made, they consider the plan to be legally compliant and in accordance with the relevant tests of soundness and have no further comments to make.

5.5 Civil Aviation Authority

The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) is the UK's specialist aviation regulator, established by Parliament in 1972 and have previously provided comments on development consultations within the Borough.

The CAA have been consulted as a statutory consultee throughout the development of the Local Plan, and responded at the Issues & Options Stage.

5.6 Homes England (formally Homes and Communities Agency)

Homes England are an executive non-departmental public body that help to create successful communities by making more homes and business premises available to residents and businesses that need them, they also regulate social housing providers.

Homes England mostly invest in building new homes, but also create employment floor space and other community facilities. This includes funding both affordable and market homes for rent and sale. The Council has a good working relationship with Homes England, and is exploring the potential for joint working on a number of sites.

5.7 Clinical Commissioning Group

The Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) is a GP led commissioning system which focuses on delivering quality healthcare that will bring real benefits to patients and the public. NHS Cumbria Clinical Commissioning Group is the main commissioner of local NHS services in the county.

Barrow Borough Council has had positive discussions with health partners to establish what will potentially be required in terms of health infrastructure (doctors surgeries/health centres), in order to determine what will be required in order to support levels of development proposed within the Local Plan and within the Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP).

The Council has prepared an Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) that shows what major infrastructure will be required to support the development proposed in the Local Plan. As part of this, the Council will consider what implications there will be for health provision, looking at the following:

- What currently exists;
- What is needed to support the development proposed;
- Likely costs of providing new health infrastructure, and potential sources of funding to meet these costs;
- Any potential gaps in funding and how these will be addressed.

5.7 Office of Rail Regulation

The Office of Rail Regulation (ORR) is an independent regulator and operates within the framework set by UK and EU legislation. The ORR regulates the rail industry's health and safety performance and hold Network Rail to account. They also make sure that the rail industry is competitive and fair.

The ORR work alongside rail infrastructure companies, the Government, other safety bodies and companies in the railway industry.

More information on rail infrastructure is detailed within the Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP).

5.8 Highways England

Highways England are a new Government company charged with operating England's motorways and major A roads. This includes modernising and maintaining the highways. Highways England manage around 4,300 miles of motorway and trunk roads.

The A590 is important to the economic success of the Borough, as there is no alternative direct route onto the Furness Peninsula from the M6 motorway.

Highways England has been involved as a statutory consultee throughout the preparation of the Local Plan and discussions have been held on an ongoing basis to identify and understand any implications as a result of the proposals in the Local Plan.

Officers have met with Highways England to discuss the Local Plan in detail in 2015 and 2016. Highways England commented that they have no major issues with the Plan and that they are happy with the approach to future working and cooperation.

A further meeting was held on 16th November 2016, where Highways England asked for clarification on the modelling and transport assessments undertaken, with particular reference to junctions on the SRN. Barrow Borough Council will continue to work with Highways England and Cumbria County Council as the Plan progresses.

5.9 Marine Management Organisation

The Marine Management Organisation (MMO) license, regulate and plan marine activities in the seas around England and Wales so that they are carried out in a sustainable way. This helps the government achieve its vision for clean, healthy, productive and biologically diverse oceans and seas. The MMO is an executive, non departmental body, sponsored by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

The MMO were invited to comment on the draft Local Plan, but have made no specific comments to date, however informal discussions between officers have been held.

5.10 National Trust

The National Trust is an organisation dedicated to preserving the cultural heritage of the region. The principal role is to ensure the preservation of historically significant items and to conserve areas of natural beauty.

New development will be required in the Borough over the plan period, and this will have an impact on the landscape, although the impacts do not need to be detrimental to the overall visual quality of the landscape if they are carefully designed.

The National Trust has been involved as a consultee throughout the preparation of the Local Plan and the Council has considered suggested amendments to the Plan.

5.11 National Grid

National Grid are an international electricity and gas company, who play a vital role in connecting millions of people to the energy they use. As part of their strategy National Grid promise to engage externally and work with stakeholders to promote the development and implementation of sustainable, innovative and affordable energy solutions. National Grid have been part of our consultation process and have made representations throughout the Local Plan process.

National Grid have confirmed they have reviewed the Local Plan and have no further comments to make.

6. Cumbria Local Enterprise Partnership and Local Nature Partnerships

6.1 Local Enterprise Partnership

The Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) is the strategic economic development organisation for Cumbria. The LEP's function is to provide a strategic lead in all activities contributing to the growth and vibrancy of the county's economy and where appropriate take positive action, using the skills, capabilities and networks of the LEP partners.

The Technical Officers Group (TOG), who advise the LEP board and provide support to the delivery of the Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) have endorsed the alignment of objectives between the two plans.

The vision for growth is focussed around four strategic priorities:

- Advanced manufacturing growth
- Nuclear & energy excellence
- Vibrant rural and visitor economy
- Strategic connectivity and the M6 corridor

The Cumbria LEP has confirmed that intervention will need to be focused on four economic drivers:

- Skills development
- Business growth
- Infrastructure improvements
- Environmental quality
- National Cradle for Advanced Manufacturing

There is a formal arrangement for cooperation with the LEP.

6.2 Local Nature Partnership

The Cumbria Local Nature Partnership (CLNP) development group was formed in 2011 from the following organisations:

- Cumbria Biodiversity Partnership
- Cumbria Wildlife Trust
- Cumbria County Council
- Lake District National Park Authority

In July 2012, the partnership was formally confirmed. The CLNP have the following objectives:

- Act as a forum for the stakeholders in Cumbria's natural environment;
- Act as an advocate for the natural environment in Cumbria;
- Support and add value to delivery for the natural environment;
- Co-ordinate delivery for the natural environment;
- Provide input on the natural environment for local policies, plans and networks/frameworks;

- Provide information/data on the natural environment;
- Identify, promote and provide learning and training on the natural environment.

The CLNP have been involved as a statutory consultee both on an informal and formal basis to provide input into the development of the policy and to provide advice on proposed site allocations.

7. Local Stakeholders

7.1 BAE Systems

BAE Systems play an important role in the Borough and have significantly increased their workforce in the last few years. The Council work closely with BAE Systems in relation to the Site Redevelopment Programme and BAE are also involved with FEDF and BID within the Borough. BAE have been consulted throughout the Local Plan process, and are committed to working with strategic partners to enable and maximise opportunities for local improvement and sustainable, long term prosperity.

7.2 Associated British Ports

Associated British Ports (ABP) are included on Barrow Borough Council's consultation database as a local stakeholder with an interest in any planning policy documents. ABP is the UK's largest and leading port operator and is responsible for the Port of Barrow. The Port of Barrow comprises Buccleuch Dock, Cavendish Dock, Devonshire Dock and Ramsden Dock and continues to play an important role in the construction of the offshore wind farms in the Irish Sea, and also provides support for both existing and proposed future renewable energy projects in the Irish Sea.

Cooperation with ABP has mainly taken the form of joint meetings and formal consultation. A meeting took place on Monday 18th April 2016, regarding policies in the Local Plan. ABP are committed to ensuring that the Port of Barrow remains an economic hub, which attracts investment and skilled job creation to the local and wider regional economies. Integral to this is ABP's intentions to continue to plan for, and invest in, the future developments of the Port of Barrow.

ABP have requested that Barrow Local Plan identifies the Port of Barrow as a priority location for the development of renewable and low carbon energy generating uses taking into account the sustainability benefits of locating such development at the port.

7.3 Business Improvement District (BID)

A Business Improvement District (BID) is a precisely defined geographical area of a town, city or commercial district where business ratepayers are invited to vote to invest collectively in local improvements that are additional to those currently provided by local government.

Business ratepayers are asked to vote on an additional levy to their rates bill that, if supported, will be collected in a ring-fenced account and then used to finance the delivery of projects, services and activities detailed in their own Business Plan.

BIDs are business led initiatives taking advantage of government legislation that gives local businesses the power to raise their own funds and spend on their priorities in order to improve their trading environment.

Barrow BID will contribute to the broader strategic aim of improving the economic performance of Barrow in Furness by seeking to generate increased economic activity that not only acts to safeguard the existing employment in the services sector but also as a stimulant for new economic growth and investment in the town.

The Barrow BID vision is to create a well promoted, economically viable, attractive and vibrant town centre that serves its community, visitors, businesses and other key stakeholders with an experience that encourages them to keep coming back and to stay longer.

Since January 2015, work has been led by a BID Steering Group, which has involved a growing number of local business people and representatives of the local authority. A list of members of the BID Steering Group is shown in Appendix A. Since their inception Barrow BID have been consulted on the Local Plan.

7.4 Furness Economic Development Forum (FEDF)

Furness Economic Development Forum (FEDF) is a public/private sector partnership. Its objective is to support the economic growth of the Furness area and its companies through leadership, direct provision of services by partner organisations, by influencing others and coordinating. Cooperation with FEDF has mainly taken the form of joint meetings and formal consultation. A meeting took place on 2nd March 2016, which discussed development opportunities and employment sites within the Borough.

In 2017, FEDF established the following four Working Groups:

- Employment and Skills
- Business Support
- Quality of Life
- Infrastructure

The Quality of Life Working Group will be used as a delivery mechanism for the Local Plan forming the basis of the agenda for this group. A list showing the FEDF Board membership is shown in Appendix B.

8. Internal Collaboration

Although not strictly covered by the terms of the Duty to Cooperate, this section of the statement references how the Planning Policy Team have collaborated with other departments in Barrow Borough Council throughout the evolution of the Local Plan.

8.1 Development Services

Development Services was formed in April 2014, bringing together Building Control, Planning (including Policy, Development Management and Enforcement) and Property Information into one combined service. The whole team ensures the Council's statutory duties are met with regard to the relevant legislation and in accordance with the Constitution of the Council to provide an efficient and cost effective service. Joint working ensures the delivery of a coordinated service for private and commercial customers undertaking development in the Borough.

8.2 Estates

Barrow Borough Council have agreed to dispose of sites within the Council's ownership for housing development. These sites are included in the proposed sites for housing allocation in the Local Plan. A Council Owned Sites Group is held every three months, which is attended by the Planning Policy team, the Estates team, the Assistant Director of Barrow Borough Council and Private Sector Housing. This group monitors the progress of the development of the Council owned sites.

8.3 Housing

A member of the Development Services Team attends the Corporate Housing Group, which meets every six weeks. The Group covers issues including housing renewal, development, social housing and housing support programmes.

8.4 Community Services and Tourism

The Planning Policy Team has liaised with the Community Services Department to produce the Sport and Recreational Facilities Assessment as part of the Local Plan preparation process. Production of this document also included discussions with the Parks and Amenities Officer, who provided information on children's play areas within the Borough.

8.5 Environmental Health

The Senior Environmental Protection Officer reviewed all the proposed housing sites and met with the Policy Team on 2nd March 2017 to discuss his comments. The environmental and landscape quality information provided by Environmental Health has been included in the Proposed Sites Assessment Document, which forms part of the evidence base for the production of the Local Plan.

9. Summary

This statement seeks to provide an overview as to how the 'duty to cooperate', inherent within national legislation and policy, has been complied with in preparing Barrow Borough Council's Local Plan. It has sought to identify which key bodies have been consulted and the key issues discussed with these bodies.

The Duty to Co-operate should be read in conjunction with the Council's Consultation Statement and Infrastructure Delivery Plan, which provide much of the reasoned justification for the policy approach and allocations taken forward demonstrating that the Local Plan has resulted from cooperation, consultation and evidence.

Barrow Borough Council has demonstrated a high level of co-operation with other authorities and public bodies in the preparation of the Local Plan. In particular, it has participated in a number of joint projects with other authorities on key evidence base documents and has worked closely with key infrastructure providers to ensure that the Local Plan will deliver infrastructure as required.

This approach has resulted in a robust and sound evidence base for the Local Plan, which is reflected in the support the Local Plan has received from statutory bodies detailed in this document. Barrow Borough Council are holding on-going discussions with neighbouring authorities who have raised no objection regarding the level of co-operation with by Barrow Borough Council.

Cooperation is not a one off exercise and will remain fundamental in implementing and monitoring the effectiveness of the policies within the Local Plan. The extent to which the Council continue to cooperate will be reported annually within the Annual Monitoring Report and Infrastructure Delivery Plan.

Appendices

Appendix A – BID Steering Group

Phil Collier (Chair)	Federation of Small Businesses (FSB)
Simon Cragg (Vice Chair)	Marks and Spencer
Phil Heath (Treasurer)	Heath's Toymaster
Paula Moore	Debenhams
Keiron Hart	The Custom House
Jonathan Hartley	J N Murray Pharmacies
Andrea Scraggs	Andrea's Accessories
Bill Johnston	The Bay FM
Morag McMeekin	Boots
Derek Pearce	Poole Townsend
Mike Stephenson	The Last Resort
David McKendry	RFM Chartered Accountants
Mike Arnold	Fitzsimmons Newsagents
Paul Graves	Identity
Kevin Pybis	Cumberland Building Society
Amelia Atkins	Shot @ Photography
Tiffany Battersby	BAE Systems
Elise Higham	Barclays
Doug Walters	User EA (Market Hall)
Tim Miller	Grove Veterinary Centre
Rob Dunphy	Research Team EU
Keith Johnson	Barrow Borough Council
Alison Meadows	Cumbria County Council

Appendix B – FEDF Board Membership

BAE Systems

Barrow BID Steering Group

Barrow Borough Council

CN Media

Cumbria Chamber of Commerce

Cumbria Clinical Commissioning Group

Cumbria County Council

Cumbria LEP

Furness College

GSK

Holker Group

John Woodcock MP

South Lakeland District Council

Vattenfall

How to get involved

We welcome people getting involved in the Local Plan process. People can tell us what they think by email, letter or coming along to one of our consultation events. More information can be found on our website at www.barrowbc.gov.uk/planning

Contact:

Planning Policy Team

Development Services

Barrow Borough Council

Town Hall

Duke Street

Barrow-in-Furness

Cumbria

LA14 2LD

Email: developmentplans@barrowbc.gov.uk

Website: www.barrowbc.gov.uk/residents/planning/



Working together to support sustainable development within the Borough of Barrow-in-Furness

