

# Local Development Scheme 2019

Barrow Borough Local Plan - Barrow Borough Council – February 2019





## Contents

1	.....	0
1	Introduction .....	1
2	Core Planning Documents.....	2
2.2	The Local Plan .....	2
2.3	Barrow Port Area Action Plan .....	2
2.4	Proposals Map .....	2
2.5	Supplementary Planning Documents.....	2
2.6	Statement of Community Involvement .....	3
2.7	Monitoring Documents.....	3
3	The Local Plan - Preparation .....	4
3.2	Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) .....	5
3.3	Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) .....	5
3.4	Equality Impact Assessment (EIA).....	5
3.5	Health Impact Assessment (HIA).....	5
4	Local Plan Evidence Base .....	7
4.2	Community Led Plans.....	9
5	Other Key Documents.....	10
5.2	Central Barrow Masterplan.....	10
5.3	Marina Village Masterplan.....	10
5.4	Empty Homes Strategy.....	10
5.5	Gypsy and Traveller Assessment.....	10
6	Slippage against the previous LDS .....	11
7	Project Management .....	11
7.1	Resources and responsibilities.....	11
8	Risk Management .....	12
9	Contact.....	14

## 1 Introduction

- 1.1.1 The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended by the Localism Act) states that local planning authorities must prepare and maintain a Local Development Scheme (LDS). The LDS sets out the Council's timetable for preparing planning policy documents.
- 1.1.2 The Council has produced a new Local Plan which will guide development over a 15 year period from its adoption. The Plan allocates sites for specific uses and contains policies for determining planning applications.
- 1.1.3 The Local Plan replaces the Local Plan 2001 and Housing Chapter Alteration 2006 and sits alongside the Barrow Port Area Action Plan 2010 (or any document replacing it) to form the Borough's Development Plan.

## 2 Core Planning Documents

- 2.1.1 The Government sets out its approach to planning in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG).
- 2.1.2 The NPPF requires local planning authorities to produce a Local Plan for their area and states that any additional Development Plan Documents should only be developed where clearly justified.

### 2.2 The Local Plan

- 2.2.1 The Local Plan 2016-2031 replaces previous 'saved' local planning policy:
- Barrow-in-Furness Borough Council Local Plan Review 1996-2006; and
  - Barrow-in-Furness Borough Council Local Plan Review 1996-2006 - Housing Chapter Alteration, 2006.

### 2.3 Barrow Port Area Action Plan

- 2.3.1 The Barrow Port Area Action Plan (the Action Plan) was adopted in July 2010 and forms part of the Development Plan. The policies are afforded weight according to their consistency with the NPPF.
- 2.3.2 A number of policies in the Action Plan have been superseded by those in the Local Plan 2016-2031.
- 2.3.3 The Council has made a commitment through the Local Plan to commence work on a Review of the Action Plan shortly.

### 2.4 Proposals Map

- 2.4.1 The Proposals Map identifies existing land allocations and designated sites. It illustrates which policies are specific to those sites.

### 2.5 Supplementary Planning Documents

- 2.5.1 Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) provide detail on the policies and proposals in the Local Plan. At present, the Council has regard to the following SPDs when decision making:
- Biodiversity & Development (Barrow Borough Council, 2018)
  - Cumbria Development Design Guide (Cumbria County Council, 2017)
  - Shopfront & Advertisement Design SPD (Barrow Borough Council, 2010)

- 2.5.2 The Council has also produced a Draft Green Infrastructure SPD which has been subject to a round of public consultation. It has become apparent that a number of amendments are required to the document before it can be formally adopted. A review of the document will therefore be carried out shortly.

## **2.6 Statement of Community Involvement**

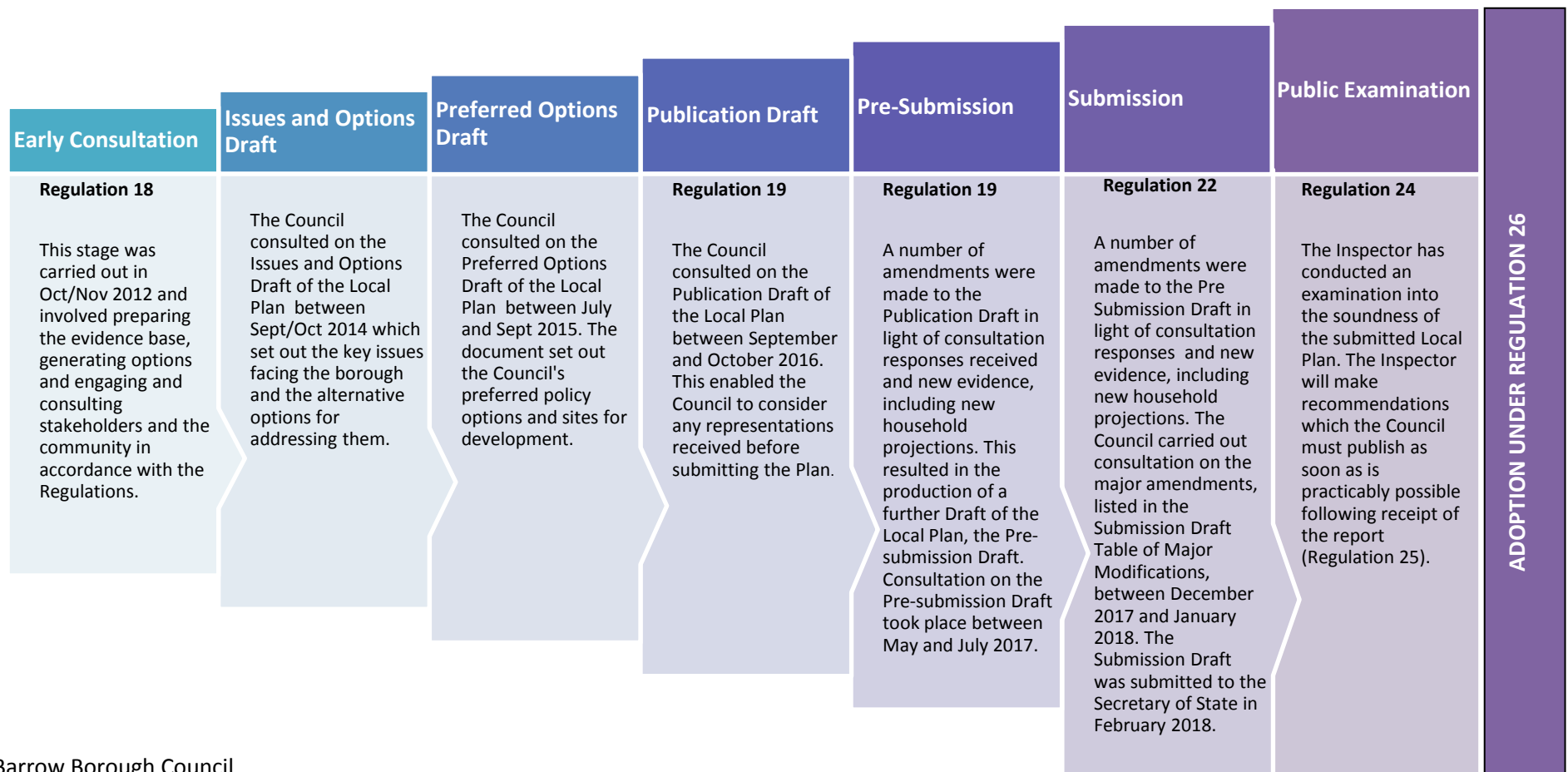
- 2.6.1 The Statement of Community Involvement describes how the Council engages with the community and others in preparing planning policy documents and also in dealing with planning applications. The SCI was originally adopted by the Council in July 2007 and updated versions were adopted in 2010 and 2016.
- 2.6.2 The Council has also produced a Consultation Statement which accompanies the Local Plan. This sets out how the Council has undertaken community participation and stakeholder involvement in the production of the Local Plan, setting out how such efforts have shaped the Plan and the main issues raised during consultation. The document is available to view on the Council's website.

## **2.7 Monitoring Documents**

- 2.7.1 The Annual Monitoring Report is an important tool to show progress against the Council's Local Development Scheme, details of development plan policies and how they are to be reviewed, and the number of dwellings delivered against any targets. The Council produces an AMR annually: the latest AMR was published in February 2019 and covers three monitoring periods 2015/16, 2016/17 and 2017/18. The AMR monitors the successes of Local Planning Policy in place at that time (see para 2.2.1 above) whilst future AMRs will monitor the Local Plan 2016-2031.
- 2.7.2 The Housing Land Statement is produced annually and identifies the supply of deliverable housing sites in the Borough. The document helps assess housing delivery against identified targets.

### 3 The Local Plan - Preparation

3.1.1 The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (2) sets the process of preparing and adopting Local Plans. A summary of this process is outlined below.



## **3.2 Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)**

- 3.2.1 SAs and SEAs are tools which are used to appraise planning policy documents. Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is a requirement of the EU Directive 2001/42/EC (more commonly known as the SEA Directive). Local planning authorities are required to carry out an SEA of all planning policy documents likely to have significant environmental impacts under these regulations. Sustainability Appraisal considers wider social and economic effects. The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and the NPPF require all emerging Development Plan Documents to be subject to SA.
- 3.2.2 The Council produced a joint SA and SEA to support the Local Plan 2016-2031.

## **3.3 Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA)**

- 3.3.1 The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended) states that a Habitats Regulations Assessment should be carried out where it is considered likely that the Plan will have significant effects on European habitats or species. HRAs assess the potential impacts of a Local Plan on Natura 2000 sites. Such sites are of European importance in respect of rare, endangered or vulnerable natural habitats and species and include the following:
- Special Protection Areas (SPAs) designated under the European Union “Wild Birds Directive”,
  - Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) designated under the European Union “Habitats Directive”,
  - Ramsar Sites, which are wetlands of international importance designated under the Ramsar Convention
- 3.3.2 In order to comply with the Regulations, a Screening Assessment was undertaken of the first draft of the Local Plan (Issues and Options Draft) and of subsequent drafts of the Local Plan. The Assessments highlighted that several of the policies in the Local Plan were likely to have an adverse impact upon Natura 2000 sites. Given this, an Appropriate Assessment was carried out.

## **3.4 Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)**

- 3.4.1 The Council carried out an EIA of the Local Plan to ensure that equality is placed at the centre of policy development, review and service delivery. The purpose of the EIA is to analyse the likely impact of Local Plan policies on different groups in the community and how the needs of such groups have been taken into account in the development of policies.

## **3.5 Health Impact Assessment (HIA)**

- 3.5.1 The Council carried out a HIA of the Local Plan. This seeks to measure the potential health impacts of any policies or proposals within the Local Plan on the



wider population. The HIA aims to reduce health inequalities and contribute to improved health and better decision making.

## 4 Local Plan Evidence Base

- 4.1.1 The NPPF requires that Local Plans are founded upon a robust evidence base. Paragraph 31 of the NPPF states that “*The preparation and review of all policies should be underpinned by relevant and up-to-date evidence. This should be adequate and proportionate, focussed tightly on supporting and justifying the policies concerned, and take into account relevant market signals.*”
- 4.1.2 The Local Plan was developed based upon a comprehensive evidence base, which comprised a combination of internally and externally prepared documents and assessments. Relevant caselaw, appeal decisions and development briefs were also given consideration.
- 4.1.3 The following table identifies the key documents which have been produced; all of which can be found on the Council’s website.

**Table 1: Evidence Base Documents**

	Authors	Year Published
<b>Sub-Regional Documents</b>		
Cumbria Gypsy & Traveller Accommodation Assessment	Arc4	2013
Cumbria Extra Care Housing Strategy 2016-2025	CCC	2016
Cumbria Joint Protocol for Unauthorised Encampments	BBC in Partnership	2015
Cumbria Asset Cumbria Housing Strategy 2006-2011	BBC in Partnership	2006
Cumbria Housing Strategy Statement 2017	BBC in Partnership	2017
Cumbria Infrastructure Plan	Cumbria LEP	2016
Cumbria Development Design Guide	CCC	2017
Cumbria Transport Plan 2011-2026	CCC	2012
Delivering Cumbria’s Transport Need – Implementation Plan 2012-2015	CCC	2012
West of M6 Strategic Connectivity Study	CCC	2016
Planning Obligations Policy	CCC	2013
Cumbria Strategic Economic Plan – the four pronged attack	Cumbria LEP	2014
Cumbria LEP Technical Annexes – Our 4 Economic Drivers	Cumbria LEP	2014
Furness Economic Development Forum Delivery Plan 2017-2022	FEDF	2018
Cumbrian European Structural Investment Funds Plan 2014-2020	Cumbria LEP	2015
Morecambe Bay Coastal Communities Team Economic Plan 2017-2022	Morecambe Bay CCT	2017
Cumbria Minerals & Waste Local Plan	CCC	2017
North West Shoreline Management Plan	BBC in Partnership	2010

Cumbria Biodiversity Action Plan	BBC in Partnership	2001
Developers Guide to Contaminated Land – Cumbrian Authorities	BBC	2013
Cumbria Wind Energy SPD Parts 1 & 2	CCC	2007
Cumbria Renewable Energy Capacity and Development Study 2011	CCC	2011
Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy Cumbria	CCC	2008
Cumbria Green Infrastructure Investment Strategy	BBC in Partnership	Mar 2014
Cumbria Landscape Character Guidance and Toolkit Pt 1	BBC in Partnership	Mar 2011
Cumbria Health & Wellbeing Strategy 2016-19	CCC	2015
<b>Local Documents</b>		
<b>Housing</b>		
Update to Demographic Evidence	Edge Analytics	Nov 2017
Strategic Housing Market Assessment	Arc4	May 2014
Strategic Housing Market Assessment Update	Arc4	Aug 2016
Strategic Housing Market Assessment Addendum	Arc4	Mar 2017
Housing Land Need and Supply Topic Paper	BBC	Nov 2017
Housing Land Statement	BBC	May 2017
Housing Land Statement	BBC	Jun 2018
Housing Land Statement Update	BBC	Aug 2018
Proposed Housing Site Assessment Document	BBC	Nov 2017
Non Selected Sites Document	BBC	Jul 2016
Settlement Profiles for Barrow Borough	BBC	Oct 2017
Local Plan Housing Trajectory	BBC	May 2018
Local Plan Housing Trajectory Update	BBC	Aug 2018
<b>Economy &amp; Employment</b>		
Employment Land Review	BBC	Nov 2017
<b>Transport &amp; Infrastructure</b>		
Infrastructure Delivery Plan	BBC	Jan 2018
Barrow Transport Improvement Study	Mott McDonald	Sep 2016
Barrow Transport Modelling Report & Appendices	CCC/ Barrow Borough Council	Aug 2016
Stoneleigh Close Transport Technical Note	WYG	Apr 2017
<b>Viability</b>		
Local Plan Viability Assessment	BBC	Aug 2016
<b>Retail &amp; Town Centres</b>		
Retail & Town Centre Uses Study	BBC	Feb 2013
Barrow Town Centre Parking & Movement Study	BBC	Jul 2016
Barrow BID Strategy	BBC	Jun 2017
<b>Port</b>		
Barrow Port Area Action Plan	BBC	Jul 2010
<b>Climate Change &amp; Environment</b>		
Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Report	Capita	May 2015
Suitable Areas for Wind Energy Document	BBC	Mar 2017
Suitable Areas for Wind Energy Document Update	BBC	Jul 2018
Biodiversity Checklist for Sites	Cumbria Wildlife Trust	

Walney Island Flood and Coastal Erosion Strategy Review	BBC	Sep 2014
<b>Green Infrastructure</b>		
Draft Green Infrastructure Strategy	BBC	2016
Green Wedge Review	BBC	2014
<b>Healthy Communities</b>		
Sports & Recreational Facilities Assessment	BBC	Mar 2017
Barrow Borough Health Profile	Public Health England	2017
<b>Heritage &amp; Conservation</b>		
Heritage Impact Assessments	BBC	May 2017
Barrow Island Conservation Area Appraisal	BBC in Partnership	2007
Central Barrow Conservation Area Appraisal	BBC in Partnership	2005
Heritage Impact Assessments Update	BBC	April 2018

Table 2: Evidence Base Documents – Other Supporting Documents

	Authors	Year Published
Draft Interim Sustainability Appraisal (incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment)	BBC	Feb 2016
Sustainability Appraisal (incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment)	BBC	Aug 2016
Sustainability Appraisal (incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment) Updates	BBC	Mar 2017 & Aug 2018
Habitats Regulations Assessment Pre-Screening Report	BBC	Oct 2014
Habitats Regulations Assessment	BBC	Apr 2016
Habitats Regulations Assessment Addendum	BBC	Jul 2016
Habitats Regulations Assessment	BBC	Mar 2017
Habitats Regulations Assessment Updates	BBC	Nov 2017 & Aug 2018
Consultation Statement – Regulation 22	BBC	
Duty to Cooperate Statement	BBC	2017
Equality Impact Assessment	BBC	2017
Health Impact Assessment	BBC	2017
Statement of Community Involvement	BBC	2016
Annual Monitoring Report 14-15	BBC	2016
Council Plan 2017-20	BBC	2017

## 4.2 Community Led Plans

- 4.2.1 The parish of Askam and Ireleth have produced a Parish Plan 2014 which can be viewed on the Parish Council website.
- <http://www.askamandirelethparishcouncil.org.uk/communityPlanning.html>
- 4.2.2 The parish of Dalton and Newton are currently preparing a Parish Plan; more details can be found on their website.

- <http://www.daltoncouncil.org.uk/1160359056.html>

## 5 Other Key Documents

5.1.1 In the Local Plan 2016-2031 the Council makes a commitment to produce a number of additional planning policy and regeneration documents.

### 5.2 Central Barrow Masterplan

5.2.1 The Central Barrow area (comprising parts of the wards of Central and Hindpool) faces a number of challenges, including higher than average retail vacancies, a high proportion of older housing and empty homes and a shortage of green spaces.

5.2.2 The Council has therefore commissioned Cushman & Wakefield to produce a Masterplan for the area to identify strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats and identify potential funding for short term and long term actions. Work has commenced and the public engagement will continue into 2019.

### 5.3 Marina Village Masterplan

5.3.1 Marina Village is the largest of the housing allocations identified in the Local Plan, with an indicative yield of 650 dwellings. Progress has been made to help bring the site forward for development in terms of site assembly and the creation of a new access road from Salthouse Rd however there are still a number of constraints which must be overcome.

5.3.2 WYG have been commissioned to produce a masterplan for the site and work has commenced. The first draft of the document is due in 2019.

### 5.4 Empty Homes Strategy

5.4.1 Barrow Borough has a high level of vacant housing when compared to the national average. This can have a negative impact upon the health and well-being of neighbouring residents, visitor's perceptions and the environment.

5.4.2 Initial work has begun on an Empty Homes Strategy for the Borough. This document will assess the issue of empty homes and will identify a number of actions to reduce the overall number of vacant homes in the Borough. It will also identify key partners who the Council will work with to tackle the issue and potential funding sources.

### 5.5 Gypsy and Traveller Assessment

5.5.1 The Government's Planning Policy for Traveller Sites 2015 requires local planning authorities to make their own assessment of the need for gypsy and traveller pitches. Once the need has been identified authorities can then work collaboratively to meet need through the identification of sites.

- 5.5.2 An Assessment into the need for gypsy and traveller pitches was produced jointly in 2013 by the Cumbrian planning authorities. The document identified a need for 8 pitches over the period 2013/13 to 2029/30, however this was based on assumptions that the current gypsy and traveller site at Schneider Road will remain. As there are now uncertainties surrounding the availability of the Schneider Road site, and given the fact that the document is of some age, a review of need over the revised plan period 2016-2031 is deemed necessary, and will be produced within 12 months of the adoption of the Local Plan.
- 5.5.3 The updated Assessment will inform a Gypsy and Traveller Development Plan Document which will identify demand for pitches and list sites suitable for gypsy and traveller pitches to meet the identified demand. The commencement of the DPD is based on the delivery and outcomes of the Gypsy and Traveller Assessment.

## 6 Slippage against the previous LDS

- 6.1.1 The Council's previous LDS was published in March 2018.
- 6.1.2 There has been slight slippage against the timetable set out in the previous document in terms of the production of the Annual Monitoring Report which was anticipated earlier this year. The slippage is primarily due to resources being focused on the examination of the Local Plan.

## 7 Project Management

### 7.1 Resources and responsibilities

- 7.1.1 The production of planning and regeneration documents is the responsibility of the Assistant Director of Regeneration. The Development Services Manager (Policy, Regeneration and Information) is responsible for the management of staff and resources within the Policy and Regeneration team.
- 7.1.2 The Policy and Regeneration Team lead on the production of the Local Plan and other policy documents and is comprised of the following members of staff:
- 1 Development Services Manager (full time)
  - 1 Senior Planning Officer (part time)
  - 1 Planning Officer (full time)
  - 1 Planning Policy Assistant (part time)
- 7.1.3 An element of technical support (mapping etc.) is provided by staff within Development Services.
- 7.1.4 As well as producing Local Plans and evidence documents, the Policy and Regeneration Team must also carry out other planning functions for example responding to consultations from other Council departments, other authorities and

government bodies (e.g. responding to planning applications, planning policy documents and proposals for changes to national policy and guidance), producing evidence for appeals, and enabling and supporting the delivery of economic schemes.

- 7.1.5 Consultants are engaged on specific tasks or projects where specialist skills are required or there is a resource shortage.
- 7.1.6 The preparation of Policy documents has financial implications for the Council and the progress of these documents is dependent upon the allocation of budget beyond committing staff resources. Such costs for example relate to hiring consultants, consultation events, examination in public etc.

## 8 Risk Management

- 8.1.1 In preparing the LDS, a number of risks have been identified which may delay progress on documents produced by the Policy & Regeneration Team. These should be kept under review.

**Table 2: Potential Risks to Local Plan production**

Risk	Problem	Potential Mitigation
Staff turnover or redundancies	Staff turnover is difficult to predict. Significant and constant turnover would severely affect ability to achieve timely progressions on scheduled work.	Ensure that vacant posts are filled promptly and if appropriate secure resources to allow for the use of consultants, temporary staff or internal secondments.
Pressure on staff time due to competing work streams	It is difficult to predict the number of consultations which the policy team must respond to. Any increase in the number could result in slower than anticipated progression on scheduled work.	The Council is required by the NPPF to carry out regular reviews of the Local Plan to ensure it remains up-to-date.
Impact of new legislation, guidance or regulation	The introduction of new legislation, guidance or regulations could require revisions work and/or further work	It is not possible to plan for further changes to the planning system however the Council can try to stay aware of proposals for change.
Impact of emergence of new evidence e.g. new household projection figures	The introduction of new evidence could require revisions of already completed work.	It is not possible to plan for the emergence of new evidence.
Impact of national budget cuts	Government reduction in support grant to local authority. Leads to budget cuts and spending reviews across council services.	The Council is required by the NPPF to carry out regular reviews of the Local Plan to ensure it remains up-to-date.

### Timetable for Planning Policy Document Production

Year:	2018		2019												2020												
Month:	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	
Local Plan 2016-2031																											
Annual Monitoring Report																											
Central Barrow Masterplan*																											
Marina Village Masterplan*																											
Barrow Port Area Action Plan Review																											
Gypsy & Traveller Assessment*																											
Gypsy & Traveller DPD																											
Empty Homes Strategy																											
Green Infrastructure SPD																											

\* Produced by external consultants

#### KEY

- Document Production
- Draft Completed
- Document Completion
- Consultation
- Local Plan Examination
- Adoption of Local Plan (Date to be confirmed)





## 9 Contact

- 9.1.1 For further information on the preparation of Local Plan documents, please contact the Planning Policy Team:

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Barrow-in-Furness

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Website: [www.barrowbc.gov.uk/residents/planning](http://www.barrowbc.gov.uk/residents/planning)

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