

Local Plan, Planning & Housing Strategy Latest News February 2024



A new Local Plan for Lancaster District

In the next few months the Council will be talking to people and organisations who are interested in helping to shape the new Local Plan. We are looking forward to

conversations with local community representatives from Parish and Town Councils, infrastructure providers, the development industry and others with an interest in our district.

The ideas and concerns that we hear will help us to prepare the new Local Plan. We will also be gathering evidence (information) about topics including housing need and demand, opportunities for the economy and prosperity, and updating our environmental surveys.

We have set up a new website to explain the process for the new Local Plan. We will keep adding new information and updates to the website. Please take a look at the [new Local Plan](#) website and start to get involved.

Climate Emergency Local Plan 'Partial' Review



On 18 December 2023 the Inspector for the Climate Emergency Local Plan Review wrote to the council following the publication by the government of a new Written Ministerial Statement (WMS) on “Planning – Local Energy Efficiency Standards Update”. The Inspector asked for the council’s views on how this would affect Local Plan Policy DM30a on Sustainable Design and Construction. The council replied, on 10 January 2024, to the effect that it believes that the content of Policy DM30a in the submitted plan is compliant with the new WMS. On 30 January the Inspector wrote again to say that she would like a further Main Modifications consultation to take place on this matter. The Inspector also wishes for further consultation on matters relating to Policy DM53 on Wind Energy. Following the consultation she will advise whether a further examination hearing session is needed. The [Inspector’s letter](#) is published in the Local Plan Library on our website

5 -Year Housing Land Supply Position as of 1 April 2023

The housing land monitoring report provides detailed information on the supply of housing land across the district. The report includes information relating to annual completion rates, housing commitments and five-year land supply trajectory.

[You can view the latest version which for the first time is embedded in a digital interactive map](#)

Registered Provider Framework

Lancaster City Council is seeking to formalise current arrangements with existing Registered Partners by introducing a new Registered Provider Framework and is inviting new and existing Registered Providers to apply to join the framework. The Framework is limited to Registered Providers who currently own/manage or are seeking to provide affordable housing in the form of general needs accommodation, older people's housing and/or supported housing for homeless households for which Lancaster City Council is the lead commissioner. At present, affordable housing is typically provided as social housing in the form of rented homes (social and affordable rented) and shared ownership. However, other forms of low cost home ownership such as rent to buy may be considered. We are also particularly keen to work with Registered Providers who will deliver affordable housing through purchase and repair schemes and not just focus on new build opportunities in order to increase the existing affordable housing supply at pace..

Good Lighting Planning Advisory Note

A Technical Advice Note (TAN) has been developed by Dark Source Lighting Design Studio and Friends of the Lake District (CPRE – The Countryside Charity, Cumbria branch) in collaboration with the local planning authorities to provide technical lighting guidance on how to inform the lighting design in order to conserve and enhance Dark Skies.

Lancaster City Council has published this as a Planning Advice Note [PAN 13] to provide guidance to applicants proposing development within the part of the Arnside and Silverdale AONB that is within Lancaster district, on issues and considerations relating to light pollution. This reflects the principle of the approach taken in the Arnside and Silverdale AONB Development Plan Document (DPD) which was jointly prepared and adopted by Lancaster City Council and South Lakeland District Council in 2019 to achieve consistency in the decision making process across the two authorities. Applicants are strongly encouraged to take account of the advice when designing proposals that might illuminate the external environment. [You can view the PAN on the Council website.](#)

Morecambe Area Action Plan Update



A [Morecambe Area Action Plan \(MAAP\) Monitoring Report](#) has been published. The report highlights the positive outcomes in the MAAP area since the plan was adopted in 2014. Progress has been made on improvements to shop fronts, the public realm and footpath links through regeneration projects such as the second Morecambe Townscape Heritage Initiative. The report also highlights where work is still needed to address the issues.

We're on a mission - to reduce our emissions

The vision is for the Lancaster district to thrive as a vibrant regional centre in the north west of England, making the most of our district's many attributes as a great place to live, work and visit.

You can find out more on [what we are doing to tackle climate change and to get involved](#).



Lancaster City Council is celebrating after topping a Leaderboard for district councils in an assessment of the actions being taken to achieve net zero. Climate Emergency UK created the scorecards by assessing seven areas: buildings and heating; transport; governance and finance; planning; biodiversity; collaboration and engagement, and waste reduction and food. **We scored 85% in Planning and Land use.** The full results of the Climate Emergency UK scorecard can be found at councilclimatescorecards.uk.