



## **Local Plan News 6 December 2024**

### **Examination of the Climate Emergency Review of the Lancaster District Local Plan**

#### **Receipt of Inspector's Report**

On 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2024, the City Council received the report on the Examination of the Climate Emergency Review of the Local Plan conducted by government-appointed Inspector Joanna Gilbert MA (Hons) MTP MRTPI. The Inspector has concluded that the reviewed planning documents provide an appropriate basis for the planning of the district, subject to compliance with her binding recommendations. With these modifications the documents can now be adopted. A decision on adoption will be made by Council at a date and time to be confirmed. The [Inspector's Report can be viewed on the Council website](#):

#### Background

Lancaster City Council adopted its current Local Plan on 29 July 2020. At the same time as adopting the plan the City Council also resolved to undertake an immediate partial review of the plan to explore the opportunity to achieve better outcomes from built development for climate change mitigation, adaptation, and resilience, by revisiting the newly adopted policies.

On 31 March 2022, following around 18 months of preparation, the council submitted the Reviewed Local Plan to the Secretary of State and the necessary independent Examination process began.

The “Local Plan” is composed of two documents:

- Part One: Climate Emergency Review of the Strategic Policies & Land Allocations DPD
- Part Two: Climate Emergency Review of the Development Management DPD

#### Objectives of the Climate Emergency Review of the Local Plan

The reviewed plan has a focus on how new development can be made better for nature while also making sure that homes and residents are better protected from flooding, have lower water bills, lower fuel bills, and better access to sustainable travel. New developments also need to have a focus on improving the environment.

One of the policies in the plan requires new build homes to be net zero (or have a 100% reduction in carbon emissions) following a fabric first approach. This means homes will be more insulated making them warm and comfortable while using less energy. For homes with solar generation, they may also be carbon-positive – meaning they will produce more energy than they use.

#### **Progress on a new Local Plan for Lancaster District**

The Climate Emergency Review of the Local Plan was a partial review of the Local Plan; it did not re-visit how much development was needed in the district and where that development should take place. The adopted 2020 plan identifies land for development including a number of strategic sites and a broad location for growth in south Lancaster. In the summer of 2023 Lancashire County Council, supported by Lancaster City Council, decided to suspend work on the “South Lancaster Growth Catalyst”. This project had intended to enable development to the south of Lancaster, including a new settlement, the Bailrigg Garden Village, by providing new infrastructure, particularly new road and transport infrastructure. The infrastructure was to be supported by a significant grant award from the government.

Following the decision to suspend that work Lancaster City Council also stopped

preparing the Lancaster South Area Action Plan. That document was going to provide the detail on where development would be in south Lancaster, the council instead resolved to prepare a whole new Local Plan. Work on the whole-new plan is on-going. The new Local Plan will re-explore how much development is needed, where and how that development should be achieved.

Further information on the new local plan can be found on our [Local Plan Hub on the Council website>>>>>>>>](#)

Many thanks  
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