

# Central Lancashire Local Plan 2023-2041 (Publication version)

Interim Duty to Cooperate Statement  
(Regulation 19)

**JANUARY 2025**

## Contents

List of Acronyms.....	3
1 Introduction .....	4
1.1 Duty to Cooperate .....	4
1.2 Purpose of the Duty to Cooperate Statement .....	5
2 Context.....	6
2.1 Strategic Geography.....	6
2.2 Plan to Date.....	8
2.3 Duty to Cooperate Approach.....	8
2.4 Collaborative Working Amongst the Central Lancashire Authorities .....	8
2.5 Collaborative Working with Lancashire County Council .....	9
2.6 Cooperation with Neighbouring Authorities .....	10
2.7 Collaborative Working with Statutory Consultees.....	11
3 Key Cross Boundary Strategic Issues .....	14
3.1 Delivery of New Homes .....	14
3.2 Development of a Prosperous Economy.....	16
3.3 Transport .....	17
3.4 Community Services and Public Health .....	18
3.5 The Environment and Flood Risk.....	18
4 Duty to Cooperate to Date.....	19
Appendix 1: Schedule of DtC meetings and outcomes .....	20
Appendix 2: Memorandum of Understanding between CLAs (2017).....	24

## List of Acronyms

CLAs – Central Lancashire Authorities  
CLLP – Central Lancashire Local Plan  
DtC – Duty to Cooperate  
LCC – Lancashire County Council  
LDS – Local Development Scheme  
MoU – Memorandum of Understanding  
NPPF – National Planning Policy Framework  
OAN – Objectively Assessed Needs  
PPG – Planning Policy Guidance  
SoCG – Statement of Common Ground  
UCLan – University of Central Lancashire

# 1 Introduction

1.0.1 This Interim Statement summarises the Central Lancashire Authorities (CLAs) evidence base with regards to Duty to Cooperate (DtC) and demonstrates that the CLAs have complied with the Duty in the making of the Central Lancashire Local Plan (CLLP). It has been published to support the Pre-Submission CLLP. This document will be updated, and the final version published to support the submission of the CLLP for examination.

## 1.1 Duty to Cooperate

1.1.1 The Duty to Cooperate is enshrined in law through section 33A of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004<sup>1</sup>. It is also included in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)<sup>2</sup> (December 2023) and Planning Practice Guidance (PPG)<sup>3</sup>.

1.1.2 The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act introduces DtC in relation to the planning of sustainable development. It places a legal duty on local planning authorities and other prescribed bodies to engage constructively, actively and on an ongoing basis to make development plan documents, in respect of cross boundary strategic matters.

1.1.3 Paragraph 20 of the NPPF (December 2023) sets out what is considered a strategic policy stating that they should set out the overall strategy for the pattern, scale, and design quality of places, and make sufficient provision for:

- a) Housing (including affordable housing), employment, retail, leisure and other commercial development;
- b) Infrastructure for transport, telecommunications, security, waste management, water supply, wastewater, flood risk and coastal change management, and the provision of minerals and energy (including heat);
- c) Community facilities (such as health, education and cultural infrastructure); and
- d) Conservation and enhancement of the natural, built and historic environment, including landscapes and green infrastructure, and planning measures to address climate change mitigation and adaptation.

1.1.4 These matters have formed the basis of discussion of cross boundary matters between the CLAs and strategic partners.

1.1.5 The CLLP has been prepared in line with paragraphs 24 to 27 of the NPPF (December 2023) which set out that:

- Local planning authorities and county councils (in two-tier areas) are under a duty to cooperate with each other, and with other prescribed bodies, on strategic matters that cross administrative boundaries.
- Strategic policy-making authorities should collaborate to identify the relevant strategic matters which they need to address in their plans.
- There should be effective and on-going joint working between Local planning authorities- and relevant bodies.

---

<sup>1</sup> [Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004](#)

<sup>2</sup> [National Planning Policy Framework](#)

<sup>3</sup> [Plan-making - GOV.UK](#)

- To demonstrate effective and on-going joint working, strategic policy making authorities should prepare and maintain one or more statements of common ground.

1.1.6 The NPPF states that the DtC is a proactive, ongoing and focussed approach to strategic matters. Policy outcomes must be able to demonstrate that constructive cooperation was an integral part to their creation, this must be evident through the examination process.

## 1.2 Purpose of the Duty to Cooperate Statement

1.2.1 The purpose of this Interim Statement is to demonstrate that the CLAs have complied with the DtC throughout the preparation of the CLLP in line with the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act, the NPPF and PPG.

1.2.2 The CLLP is at Regulation 19 (pre-submission). According to the currently published Local Development Scheme (LDS)<sup>4</sup>, the Plan is anticipated to be submitted for examination in June 2025.

1.2.3 Throughout the preparation of the CLLP, the CLAs have engaged constructively with key partners. This statement documents that engagement and highlights the outcomes of it, demonstrating how DtC has been met.

1.2.4 Established practice recognises that the DtC is ongoing up until the date of submission of the Local Plan to the Secretary of State (Regulation 22). Consequently, this document should be considered as interim and will be revised, as further DtC activities occur, and outcomes are achieved prior to submission of the CLLP for examination.

---

<sup>4</sup> [Central Lancashire Local Plan](#)

## 2 Context

- 2.0.1 The CLAs have been working collaboratively since the early 2000s on key strategic planning matters. The new CLLP will replace the current Central Lancashire Core Strategy (2012) and individual local Plans (each adopted in 2015).
- 2.0.2 This section of the Interim Statement outlines the strategic geography of Central Lancashire and the approach taken to date for DtC within Central Lancashire, with neighbouring authorities, and with statutory bodies.

### 2.1 Strategic Geography

- 2.1.1 Central Lancashire is located in the heart of Lancashire within the North West Region and covers the three local authority districts of South Ribble, Chorley and Preston. It comprises an urban core surrounded by attractive scenery ranging from the Pennine foothills/West Pennine Moors in the East, to the Lancashire Plain and the Ribble and Alt Estuary in the West. All three of the CLAs fall within the two-tier jurisdiction of Lancashire County Council.
- 2.1.2 The area is bounded by Fylde and West Lancashire to the West, Ribble Valley and Blackburn with Darwen to the East, Wyre to the North and Greater Manchester (specifically Bolton and Wigan) to the South. Map 1 shows the CLAs in relation to its neighbouring authorities.

Map 1: Central Lancashire and Neighbouring Authorities



- 2.1.3 Central Lancashire contains a diverse mix of landscapes ranging from urban to rural including towns, villages, and sparsely populated countryside.
- 2.1.4 The City of Preston is the largest settlement in the area and acts as the main commercial and retail centre, with a large and successful university (UCLan) and student population. Other areas are characterised by inner terraces and industry, inner and outer suburbs, industrial / business, and rural villages. Preston also has a large rural hinterland and development within these rural areas is characterised by smaller settlements. North West Preston, Cottam and the City Centre are the main area identified for change in the Preston area, with two-thirds of expected development in North West Preston already completed.
- 2.1.5 The largest settlement within Chorley is Chorley Town – a thriving market town and centre for business and other services. Buckshaw Village is a former strategic regional site which is nearing completion and has delivered over 4,000 new homes and a significant amount of business space, along with key infrastructure such as a new primary school, health facilities and retail. To the East and West of the Borough, Chorley is characterised by rural settlements bound by Green Belt.
- 2.1.6 Leyland is the largest settlement in South Ribble. In recent years, new housing estates have been developed along the northern boundary of the town. Outside of the centre, there are a number of towns that create a fairly continuous urban area running south from the River Ribble providing popular places to live and work. Like Chorley, much of the land surrounding settlements is Green Belt.
- 2.1.7 As stated, much of the open space in Chorley and South Ribble is Green Belt, which is not proposed for release in this local plan period. In Preston, land located North of the City is classed as open countryside with areas of separation delineated around settlement boundaries. With these protections in place, development in opportunities within Central Lancashire are mainly found on brownfield and greenfield lands within existing settlements.
- 2.1.8 There are a number of strategic sites included in the CLLP, three located in Preston and one in South Ribble. For these sites to be developed sustainably and within the plan period, strategic partnered engagement must take place between the CLAs and site owners/developers. Other parties that should be involved in any strategic conversations related to the sites include, but are not limited to, Lancashire County Council, the Environmental Agency, National Highways, and where relevant Historic England. Strategic sites outlined within the plan include:
- North West Preston/Bartle - Preston
  - Fulwood Barracks - Preston
  - Preston West - Preston
  - Pickering's Farm – South Ribble
- 2.1.9 Through the DtC, the CLAs have undertaken collaborative working with neighbouring authorities, ensuring that they are up to date with the plan-making process and timelines. Matters such as addressing housing and employment needs, the impacts of new development on transportation infrastructure and flood risk, and the provision of sites for gypsy and travelling communities have been discussed. The results of these conversations have been outlined within a SoCG and embedded in the CLLP policies.

## 2.2 Plan to Date

- 2.2.1 Following the Regulation 18 consultation, the CLAs are now moving forward with the Pre-Submission version of the CLLP.
- 2.2.2 Table 1 sets out the stages of formal consultation undertaken on the CLLP to date.

*Table 1: The Central Lancashire Local Plan timetable for Preparation*

<b>Timetable for Preparation</b>		
Regulation 18	Issues and Options	November 2019 – February 2020
	Preferred Options	December 2022 – February 2023
Regulation 19	Consultation on the proposed Local Plan	February 2025
Submission (Regulation 22)	Submission of the Plan to the Secretary of State	June 2025
Examination in Public	Examination of the Plan by an appointed Inspector	Expected to take between 6-12 months post-submission*
Adoption	Full council meeting for each CLA to form the Adoption proceedings	December 2026*

\*Timescale to be set by the Planning Inspector and not the CLAs

## 2.3 Duty to Cooperate Approach

- 2.3.1 There have been several key ways that the CLAs have approached DtC including:
- Sub-regionally amongst the three CLAs and Lancashire County Council
  - Individual and combined discussions with neighbouring authorities
  - Individual and combined discussions with statutory consultees/partners
- 2.3.2 Occasionally there is overlap between these approaches and bodies that are a part of one category are included in meeting/discussions with bodies from another. This is necessary to ensure that strategic conversations can take place and information shared at the appropriate level.
- 2.3.3 The DtC requires evidence of ongoing cooperation with partners. Appendix 1 outlines the meetings and activities which have taken place so far in the plan-preparation process that have ensured effective joint working between the CLAs and strategic partners.

## 2.4 Collaborative Working Amongst the Central Lancashire Authorities

- 2.4.1 This section of the Interim Statement outlines how collaborative working has taken place between the three CLAs throughout the preparation of the Plan.
- 2.4.2 The CLAs, together with Lancashire County Council, have a considerable history of joint working which reflects the compact nature of this part of Lancashire. Joint



working is formally constituted in a Joint Advisory Committee of the Councils that was established in 2008.

- 2.4.3 The Central Lancashire Joint Advisory Committee (JAC) is made up of elected members from across the CLAs and was created to consider and examine issues related to the Central Lancashire Core Strategy. Today, it is still responsible for scrutinising and deciding on the Local Plan. It meets every few months to consider proposals, debate key issues, and endorse or challenge elements of the plan.
- 2.4.4 The Core Strategy was adopted by the three Central Lancashire Councils in July 2012. It sets out that the combined area functions as an integrated local economy, travel to work area, and single housing market area. It is therefore appropriate and efficient to consider the similar issues facing Central Lancashire in a collaborative way and so better plan for the future of the area.
- 2.4.5 It was agreed in 2017, that the CLAs would work collaboratively to create the CLLP which will replace the adopted Core Strategy and individual Local Plans. The decision was contained in a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) (see Appendix 2).
- 2.4.6 The CLAs have cooperated in the preparation of the CLLP. Evidence has been commissioned jointly, regular strategic meetings take place with officers from across the CLAs to ensure effecting ongoing cooperation, and reports and information is consistently shared between for review.

## 2.5 Collaborative Working with Lancashire County Council

- 2.5.1 The CLAs are lower tier authorities within the administrative boundary of LCC. The CLAs have cooperated with LCC on key strategic matters throughout the plan preparation process. Key matters discussed have been:
- Location and provision of housing
  - Location and provision of employment land
  - Flood risk
  - Public health (specifically hot food take-aways, specialist housing, and active design)
  - Education provision and school places
  - Transportation and active travel
- 2.5.2 Meetings have been held across several working groups which include officers from LCC and the CLAs to ensure open and consistent dialogue between the two throughout plan preparation. In addition to these working groups, specific DtC meetings have been held to specifically inform an ongoing SoCG. Working for the CLLP that include LCC officers include:
- Central Lancashire Local Plan Steering Group
  - Transportation Study Working Group
  - Strategic Flood Risk Working Group

2.5.3 On matters that require the cooperation between the CLAs and LCC, drafts have been sent to LCC for comment. In most instances, the comments made from LCC officers have been implemented into the policies. In cases where there has been disagreement, further meetings have taken place to reach a mutually agreed outcome. All matters, agreed and outstanding, will be identified in the SoCG.

## 2.6 Cooperation with Neighbouring Authorities

2.6.1 The CLAs have cooperated with neighbouring authorities throughout the plan-preparation process. SoCGs are being developed where there is a strategic need to so. The CLAs are undertaking SoCGs with the following neighbouring authorities (full copies of which will be made available in the Evidence Document Library):

- Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council
- Bolton Council
- Fylde Borough Council
- Greater Manchester Combined Authority
- Ribble Valley Borough Council
- West Lancashire Borough Council
- Wigan Metropolitan Borough Council
- Wyre Borough Council

2.6.2 These SoCGs are jointly agreed statements between the Council and the neighbouring LPAs. They set out the position and understanding with respect to key cross boundary strategic issues between them and the CLAs. The SoCGs set out a clear and positive direction to inform ongoing strategy and plan making and may reflect areas of further work. The SoCGs are ongoing documents which can be subject to change based on further consultations.

2.6.3 The SoCGs will outline the strategic geographies of Central Lancashire and the neighbouring authorities, showing the interrelationship between the two. Each SoCG will then set out the key cross boundary strategic issues addressed with an agreed position between the councils on each issue. Where relevant areas of disagreement will also be set out.

2.6.4 Each SoCG will focus upon the key cross boundary issues between the identified authorities, however, they also cover a number of key areas set out in detail later in this document including (but not limited to):

- Housing supply and need
- Employment need
- Community services and public health
- Environmental management and protection
- Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople needs

2.6.5 These identified key cross boundary issues were decided in reference to paragraph 20 of the NPPF<sup>5</sup> which states that strategic policies should set out an overall strategy

---

<sup>5</sup> [National Planning Policy Framework](#)

for but not limited to the pattern, scale and design quality of places and make sufficient provision for housing; infrastructure for transport; community facilities; and conservation and enhancement of the natural, built and historic environment.

- 2.6.6 The individual SoCGs will represent the culmination of ongoing DtC discussions between the CLAs and the neighbouring authorities over the plan-preparation period. In addition, the Authorities have in many instances made representations on each other's draft plans to address key cross boundary issues, which have been taken into consideration in the SoCGs.

## 2.7 Collaborative Working with Statutory Consultees

- 2.7.1 The CLAs have worked collaboratively with all the statutory undertakers throughout plan making. The CLAs referenced the prescribed bodies as set out in Regulation 4 of section 33A (1)c of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012<sup>6</sup>. The relevant bodies have been approached to undertake a SoCG. In addition, the Council is working closely with providers in the development of its Infrastructure Delivery Plan. Statutory Consultees that were approached for a SoCG include:

- Environment Agency
- Historic England
- Lancashire Nature Partnership
- Marine Management Organisation
- National Highways
- Natural England
- NHS England (Central Lancashire) and NHS Property Services
- Network Rail
- Sports England
- Transport for Greater Manchester
- United Utilities

- 2.7.2 At the time of this document, each of the above – and a select number of additional bodies were approached for the development of a SoCG. However, the mentioned bodies have been included closely throughout the plan preparation process, and many did not feel that additional meetings or a SoCG was needed leading into Regulation 19. It was made clear to the bodies that if any matters arose during the Regulation 19 consultation, then a SoCG would be developed ahead of submission.

- 2.7.3 Bodies that were consulted that do not feature on the list of prescribed bodies include:

- British Gas
- Canal and River Trust
- Coal Authority
- Electricity North West
- National Grid

---

<sup>6</sup> [The Town and Country Planning \(Local Planning\) \(England\) Regulations 2012](#)

- National Trust
- University of Central Lancashire
- Transport for the North

2.7.4 The following table outlines the progress to date of DtC with Statutory Bodies

*Table 2: Progress of DtC with statutory bodies*

Statutory Body	Progress as of November 2024	Matters to be addressed
Environment Agency	Have been heavily involved in the plan process, especially with policies related to strategic flood risk. Continue to be consulted on relevant policies.	No outstanding matters, all previous representations and requests have been addressed for the Reg. 19 Plan.
Historic England	Have been heavily involved in the Heritage Impact Assessments for the site allocations in the CLLP.	None, approval has been given and it has been clearly stated that HE will not object to any of the allocations in the Plan.
Marine Management Organisation	Received a response to Reg. 18 consultation. Contact made in Oct 2024 to update them on CLLP progress, no response received.	No outstanding matters, concerns raised at Reg 18 have been addressed.
National Highways	Ongoing consultation related to the Transport Assessment.	Transport Assessment is in progress and matters are being addressed through this.
Natural England	Received a response to Reg. 18 consultation. Contact made in Oct 2024 to update them on CLLP progress, no response received.	No outstanding matters, concerns raised at Reg 18 have been addressed.
NHS England (Central Lancashire) and NHS Property Services	Received a response to Reg. 18 consultation. Contact made in Oct 2024 to update them on CLLP progress, no response received.	No outstanding matters, concerns raised at Reg 18 have been addressed.
Network Rail	Received a response to Reg. 18 consultation. Contact made in Oct 2024 to update them on CLLP progress, no response received.	No outstanding matters, concerns raised at Reg 18 have been addressed.

**Central Lancashire Local Plan 2023-2041  
Duty to Cooperate Statement, January 2025**

Statutory Body	Progress as of November 2024	Matters to be addressed
Sports England	Received a response to Reg. 18 consultation. Contact made in Oct 2024 to update them on CLLP progress, no response received.	No outstanding matters, concerns raised at Reg 18 have been addressed.
Transport for Greater Manchester	Contact made in Oct 2024 to update them on CLLP progress, no response received.	No outstanding matters.
United Utilities	Have been heavily involved in the plan process, especially with policies related to strategic flood risk. Continue to be consulted on relevant policies.	No, outstanding matters made thus far have been resolved.

## 3 Key Cross Boundary Strategic Issues

- 3.0.1 Key strategic cross-boundary planning matters have been determined by referring to the NPPF, and through conversations with LCC, neighbouring authorities, and statutory consultees throughout the plan making process.
- 3.0.2 The key strategic cross-boundary matters/issues are identified as:
- Delivery of new homes, including the distribution of housing across the CLAs and meeting Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople needs
  - Development of a prosperous economy
  - Transport
  - Community services and public health
  - The environment and flood risk
- 3.0.3 There is a range of other less strategic issues that have been raised by the DtC bodies, which may or may not have cross boundary implications. These have been dealt on a pragmatic basis with amendments as necessary to the Local Plan during its preparation.
- 3.0.4 The following section of this report addresses each key strategic issue in turn. For each of these it provides a brief background, summarises what actions have been undertaken, sets out any joint evidence prepared, lists other evidence studies for which the input of a number of other bodies has been sought and summarises the outcomes to date of the collaborative working.

### 3.1 Delivery of New Homes

- 3.1.1 Paragraph 11 of the NPPF requires strategic policies to provide as a minimum for their area's objectively assessed housing need as well as any needs that cannot be met within neighbouring areas unless:
- i. the application of policies in this Framework that protect areas or assets of particular importance provides a strong reason for restricting the overall scale, type or distribution of development in the plan area; or
  - ii. any adverse impacts of doing so would significantly and demonstrably outweigh the benefits, when assessed against the policies in this Framework taken as a whole.
- 3.1.2 Paragraph 61 of the NPPF states that in order to determine the minimum number of homes needed, strategic policies should be informed by a local housing need assessment, conducted using the standard method in national planning guidance. The outcome of the standard method is an advisory starting-point for establishing a housing requirement for the area Local Planning Authorities should then establish a housing requirement figure, which shows the extent to which their identified housing need can be met over the plan period.
- 3.1.3 The CLAs commissioned a Local Housing Needs and Demand Assessment along with a Central Lancashire Housing Study. The Housing Study has had a number of iterations with the most recent update published in December 2024.

- 3.1.4 The table below outlines the proposed housing split between the CLAs from the Housing Study, compared to the current Core Strategy requirement, the requirement proposed at Regulation 18 (preferred options) and the standard method.

*Table 3: Annual Housing Requirement for Central Lancashire by authority*

Authority	Current Core Strategy	Proposed at Preferred Options	Standard Method*	Housing Study: Recommended 1:1 Commuting Ratio
Chorley	417	384	564	410
Preston	507	500	590	441
South Ribble	417	450	489	386
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,341</b>	<b>1,334</b>	<b>1,643</b>	<b>1,237</b>

\*The standard method as outlined in the NPPF published December 2024

- 3.1.5 The housing study identifies that a range of indicators continue to comprehensively support the conclusion that housing need within Central Lancashire exceeds the result of the Government's Standard Method (using the previous standard method formula). The recommended scenario from the original Housing Study was the employment-led (Commuting Ratio ((CR) -1-to-1) scenario which produced a dwelling growth outcome of 1,334 per year. The equivalent figure for the updated employment-led (CR-1-to-1) scenario is either 1,137 per year (applying 2011 Census economic activity rates) or 1,237 per year (applying 2021 Census economic activity rates). The latter of these is the newly recommended housing need figure.
- 3.1.6 In considering how this need should be delivered going forward, the three councils considered the spatial options being developed. These included delivery of the existing spatial strategy and remaining allocations as a starting point for how future housing need should be distributed and whether this approach is still appropriate. This has identified that there is a need to consider redistribution of the housing need identified by DLP to reflect the pattern of spatial growth proposed through Policies SS1 and SS2.
- 3.1.7 These factors have been considered when looking at how housing need can and should be delivered across Central Lancashire and if any constituent need should be redistributed to ensure allocations for housing conform to this approach.
- 3.1.8 An overall redistribution of need has been identified as appropriate to ensure delivery of new sites confirm with the spatial strategy and to enable existing commitments to come forward.
- 3.1.9 Following publication of the NPPF in December 2024, the overall housing requirement was increased slightly to 1,314 dwellings per annum in order to meet the transitional arrangements set out in the NPPF which require local authorities to achieve at least 80% of LHN (calculated using the new standard method formula) to progress to Regulation 19 under the previous version of the NPPF. This increase could be met without the need to allocate additional land.



3.1.10 This has resulted in the following redistribution as shown in the table below:

*Table 4: Agreed redistribution of Housing Requirement for Central Lancashire*

Authority	Agreed Figure (dwellings per annum)
Chorley	334
Preston	520
South Ribble	460
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,314</b>

3.1.11 This figure will be officially agreed and set out in the SoCG between the CLAs.

3.1.12 When conducting DtC meetings with neighbouring authorities, the question was asked if any would have the capacity to take on unmet need from the CLAs. The response was unanimously no. This response will be reflected in the SoCG between the CLAs and neighbouring authorities.

### **Key Policy Outcomes for Housing through Duty to Cooperate**

3.1.13 The CLAs have cooperated in the preparation of each of the housing policies within the CLLP. Workshops were held with officers from Policy and Development Management in each of the CLAs to ensure that they would be applicable and robust enough to address the needs of each Authority individually and as a collective.

## **3.2 Development of a Prosperous Economy**

3.2.1 Central Lancashire has strong levels of employment in the financial and professional services sector and the health and social care sector, both of which are focusses of growth. The logistics sector has been the fastest growing area of the economy in recent years, and this is expected to see continued growth.

3.2.2 The CLAs commissioned an Employment Land Study to review the potential future employment land supply of the three local authorities, in the light of changing market conditions. The study also provides an Objectively Assessed Needs (OAN) for the CLLP. The Study separates need by industry, providing requirements for office space and industrial and warehouse uses. The combined OAN for the CLAs as per the most recent Employment Land Study is outlined in the table below:

*Table 5: Combined OAN for the CLAs*

Authority	Combined Employment Use OAN
Chorley	41.45 ha
Preston	74.43 ha
South Ribble	56.99 ha
<b>Total</b>	<b>172.87 ha</b>

3.2.3 The CLAs are confident that the Plan's employment need will be met within the borders of Central Lancashire, with more land than required to meet the OAN being allocated.



- 3.2.4 Through DtC meetings with neighbouring authorities, specific matters discussed related to employment and retail. Discussions were had with Blackburn with Darwen Council about the connection of their growth corridor in relation to Central Lancashire and any proposed strategic employment sites. This conversation is still ongoing and will be addressed in the SoCG if necessary.
- 3.2.5 There has been cooperation between the CLAs and LCC over strategic employment sites within the Plan. Through detailed conversations, Central Lancashire has been identified as an area for employment growth by LCC, especially in the tech industry.
- 3.2.6 LCC have expressed a desire for the CLAs to allocate specific strategic sites to meet the growth needs they foresee in the area. The Proposed allocations in the plan provide for significantly above the OAN for the area but do not include a new strategic employment site.
- 3.2.7 LCC noted that the Enterprise Zone in Samlesbury is nearing capacity and they are aware of interest from business looking to support the industries located there and asked that the plan consider if sufficient land is available to enable this. LCC asked for the Councils to consider the allocation new strategic employment sites. At this time, sites available were discussed and the Plans monitoring mechanism was noted as identifying if an early review was needed if the sites being allocated were not sufficient in meeting this demand.
- 3.2.8 It was agreed the Councils will continue to work closely to discuss how we can support businesses seeking to move into the area, and through DtC conversations, a SoCG is being drafted that will address LCC's concerns and ensure that this need will be considered in the future, as and when needed.

### 3.3 Transport

- 3.3.1 Transport planning is a function of LCC and the CLAs have worked cooperatively with them on the matter. A Transport Study has been commissioned by LCC to update the existing Central Lancashire Highways and Transport Masterplan which will examine the needs of Central Lancashire Councils based on their proposed allocations.
- 3.3.2 A transport working group meeting takes place monthly where officers from LCC, the CLAs, and the commissioned consultant discuss the strategic outcomes of the Study as it progresses.

#### **Key Policy Outcomes for Transport through Duty to Cooperate**

- 3.3.3 There is a specific focus in the Plan on Active and Sustainable Travel. The CLAs have worked closely with highways officers from LCC to develop the active travel and transportation policies in the Plan.

## 3.4 Community Services and Public Health

- 3.4.1 Community services and public health infrastructure such as school places, active design, and hot food take-aways have been a focus for DtC conversation during plan preparation between the CLAs and LCC.
- 3.4.2 Education provision is a function of LCC and cooperation between them and the CLAs has been integral to the CLLP. School places were a concern arising from resident representations to the Regulation 18 Consultations<sup>7</sup>. The CLAs have engaged closely with officers from LCC on education and school place provision for the CLLP and worked collaboratively to develop a policy which suits both the plan area and the goals and ambitions of LCC.
- 3.4.3 On the topic of public health, there has been ongoing conversations between the CLAs and LCC on a hot food take-aways policy. It has been made clear that LCC are working towards a forward-thinking approach to hot food take-aways across Lancashire to ensure the health of its residents is prioritised<sup>8</sup>.
- 3.4.4 Officers from LCC have agreed to support the proposed policy approach at Examination for the CLLP which further demonstrates the collaborative working between the two bodies. A SoCG is also being developed between LCC and the CLAs which will address the above matters in more detail.

## 3.5 The Environment and Flood Risk

- 3.5.1 Matters related to the overall environment, climate change and flood risk have been subject to many cooperative discussions. The CLAs have engaged with flood risk management officers from LCC, the Environmental Agency and United Utilities when developing the policies and choosing site allocations for the CLLP.

### **Key Policy Outcomes for Flood Risk through Duty to Cooperate**

- 3.5.2 The Level 1 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment was commissioned by the CLAs to inform the site allocations of the Plan. The findings of this assessment were shared with strategic bodies and agreed before being incorporated in the site selection process. A Level 2 Assessment is currently being undertaken and will be completed in time for the Regulation 19 consultation.
- 3.5.3 When writing the strategic flood risk policies, officers from LCC were heavily involved in their development. United Utilities were also engaged to ensure that the policies were deliverable and supported their long-term plans for the area.

---

<sup>7</sup> [central-lancashire-local-plan-part-one-consultation-statement.pdf](#)

<sup>8</sup> [hft-and-spatial-planning\\_ph-advice-note.pdf](#)

## 4 Duty to Cooperate to Date

- 4.0.1 The DtC is an ongoing process that will continue through the Regulation 19 consultation and other plan preparation stages. To date, meetings have taken place as necessary between the CLAs and prescribed bodies. Appendix 1 outlines the meetings which took place and their outcomes. Meetings and outcomes from them will continue to be recorded throughout the remaining stages of the plan making process.

## Appendix 1: Schedule of DtC meetings and outcomes

This table highlights the key points and decisions made through the DtC in the preparation of the Regulation 19 Local Plan. This table will be updated after the regulation 19 Pre-Submission consultation to include details of any further collaborative working.

### List of Abbreviations:

CC – Chorley Council  
CLAs- Central Lancashire Authorities  
CLLP – Central Lancashire Local Plan (team)  
BwD - Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council  
BC - Bolton Council  
EA – Environmental Agency  
FBC - Fylde Borough Council  
GMCA - Greater Manchester Combined Authority  
HE – Heritage England  
LCC – Lancashire County Council  
NE – Natural England  
TfGM – Transport for Greater Manchester  
PCC – Preston City Council  
RVBC - Ribble Valley Borough Council  
SRBC – South Ribble Borough Council  
UCLan – University of Central Lancashire  
UU – United Utilities  
WLBC - West Lancashire Borough Council  
WMBC - Wigan Metropolitan Borough Council  
WBC - Wyre Borough Council

**Central Lancashire Local Plan 2023-2041  
Duty to Cooperate Statement, January 2025**

<b>Organiser</b>	<b>Date of Meeting(s)</b>	<b>Name/Purpose of the Meeting</b>	<b>Organisations Involved</b>	<b>Topics Discussed</b>
CLLP	25/01/23	Catch-Up with the Environmental Agency and United Utilities	CLLP, CC, EA, PCC, SRBC, UU	The involvement of the EA in the CLLP site selection process
CLLP	21/02/23	Meeting with Transport for Greater Manchester	CLLP, CC, PCC, TfGM, SRBC	The need for engagement and cooperation between TfGM and the CLAs
CLLP	08/02/23	Meeting with UCLan	CLLP, PCC, UCLan	The need for UCLan to be consulted on a specific policy for them in the CLLP and to outline dates for further meetings
CLLP	14/08/24	Heritage Impact Assessment Training/Discussion	CLLP, CC, PCC, SRBC, HE	HE provided advice and training to officers from the CLAs on how to produce Heritage Impact Assessments. HE also agreed to support the CLAs through the HIA writing process
CLLP	Weekly (since 08/02/24)	CLAs Local Plan Catch-up	CLLP, CC, SRBC, PCC	Commissioning of evidence, division of work such as policy writing and report production
CLLP	Monthly (since 10/11/23)	CLLP Steering Group	CLLP, CC, LCC, PCC, SRBC,	Commissioning of evidence, progress of the Plan, approval of evidence, key policy issues
CLLP	18/10/24	DtC meeting with LCC	CLLP, LCC, CC, SRBC, PCC	Progress of the Plan, flood risk, transport and public health policies, site allocations and matters for the SoCG

**Central Lancashire Local Plan 2023-2041**  
**Duty to Cooperate Statement, January 2025**

<b>Organiser</b>	<b>Date of Meeting(s)</b>	<b>Name/Purpose of the Meeting</b>	<b>Organisations Involved</b>	<b>Topics Discussed</b>
CLLP	06/11/24	DtC meeting with neighbouring authorities	CLLP, CC, SRBC, PCC, BwD, FBC, RVBC, WBC	Progress of the Plan, Housing and employment land requirements, flood risk, transportation and Gypsy and Traveller policies, and matters for the SoCG
CLLP	11/11/24	DtC meeting with LCC Education	CLLP, CC, PCC, SRBC, LCC	Housing requirement and impact on school places need, LCC school places methodology and proposed education policy
LCC	11/11/24	DtC Meeting (Strategic Sites)	CLLP, CC, PCC, SRBC, LCC	The need for future strategic employment sites in Central Lancashire and matters for the SoCG
CLLP	13/11/24	DtC meeting with neighbouring authorities	CLLP, WLBC, CC, PCC, SRBC	Progress of the Plan, Housing and employment land requirements, flood risk, transportation and Gypsy and Traveller policies, and matters for the SoCG
CLLP	26/11/24	DtC meeting with neighbouring authorities	CLLP, CC, BC, GMCA, PCC, SRBC, WMBC	Progress of the Plan, Housing and employment land requirements, flood risk, transportation and Gypsy and Traveller policies, and matters for the SoCG

**Central Lancashire Local Plan 2023-2041  
Duty to Cooperate Statement, January 2025**

Organiser	Date of Meeting(s)	Name/Purpose of the Meeting	Organisations Involved	Topics Discussed
CLLP	11/12/24	DtC meeting with Natural England	CLLP, CC, SRBC, PCC, NE	The general approach taken by CLAs towards protection and designation of sites, BNG, and peat protection.

## Appendix 2: Memorandum of Understanding between CLAs (2017)

(attached separately on the CLLP website here: [Evidence - Central Lancashire Local Plan](#))