



Central Lancashire Local Plan 2023-2041

Duty to Cooperate Statement

June 2025

Contents

1. Introduction	1
2. Strategic Context.....	3
3. Collaborative Working amongst the Central Lancashire Authorities.....	5
4. Collaborative Working with Lancashire County Council.....	6
5. Cooperation with Neighbouring Authorities.....	7
6. Cooperation with Prescribed Bodies.....	8
7. Collaboration with Other Organisations	13
8. Key Cross Boundary Strategic Issues	14
a. Delivery of New Homes.....	14
b. Development of a Prosperous Economy	16
c. Transport.....	17
d. Community Services and Public Health.....	17
e. The Environment and Flood Risk	18
9. Conclusion	19
Appendix 1: Schedule of Duty to Cooperate Meetings	20

1. Introduction

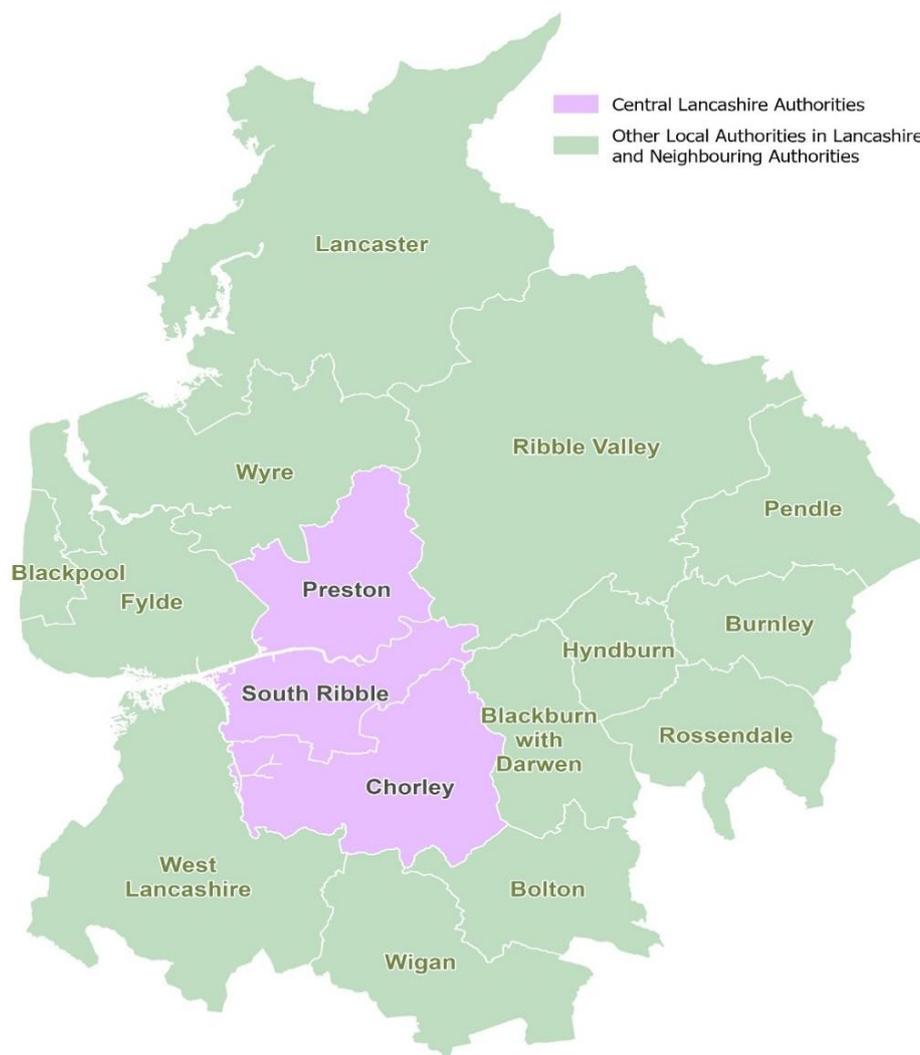
- 1.1 This Duty to Cooperate Statement demonstrates how the Central Lancashire Authorities (CLAs) have complied with the requirements of the duty to cooperate throughout preparation of the Central Lancashire Local Plan (CLLP).
- 1.2 Section 110 of the Localism Act 2011 sets out the duty to cooperate. It is enshrined in law through section 33A of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. It is also included in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and Planning Practice Guidance (PPG).
- 1.3 The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act introduces duty to cooperate 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.
- 1.4 The NPPF states that local planning authorities and county councils (in two-tier areas) continue to be under a duty to cooperate with each other, and with other prescribed bodies, on strategic matters that cross administrative boundaries. It also states that policy making authorities should collaborate to identify the relevant strategic matters which they need to address in their plans and once the matters that require collaboration have been identified, plan policies should align as fully as possible with those of other bodies where a strategic relationship exists on these matters.
- 1.5 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 the duty to cooperate has been met.
- 1.6 As part of the Councils duty to cooperate requirements, a number of Statements of Common Ground have been prepared between the CLAs and the following bodies:
 - Lancashire County Council
 - The Environment Agency
 - Historic England
 - Bolton Council, Wigan Council, Greater Manchester Combined Authority and Transport for Greater Manchester
 - Fylde Borough Council
 - Ribble Valley Borough Council
 - Wyre Borough Council
- 1.7 Statements of Common Ground have been drafted between the CLAs and the following bodies, but they have not yet been signed:
 - Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council
 - West Lancashire Borough Council
 - Natural England
- 1.8 A Statement of Common Ground has also been prepared between the Central Lancashire Authorities.

1.9 These Statements of Common Ground are jointly agreed statements setting out the key cross boundary strategic issues with an agreed position on each issue. Where relevant, areas of disagreement are also set out.

2. Strategic Context

- 2.1 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 the individual Local Plans (each adopted in 2015).
- 2.2 Central Lancashire is located in the heart of Lancashire within the North West Region and covers the three local authority districts of Chorley, Preston, and South Ribble. 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.
- 2.3 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



- 2.4 Central Lancashire contains a diverse mix of landscapes ranging from urban to rural including towns, villages, and sparsely populated countryside.
- 2.5 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.
- 2.6 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.
- 2.7 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.
- 2.8 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 opportunities within Central Lancashire are mainly found on brownfield and greenfield lands within existing settlements.
- 2.9 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

3. Collaborative Working Amongst the Central Lancashire Authorities

- 3.1 The CLAs have a considerable history of joint working as the 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.
- 3.2 The joint working is formally constituted through the Central Lancashire Joint Advisory Committee (JAC) which was established in 2008 and is made up of elected members from across the CLAs and Lancashire County Council. It was created to consider and examine issues related to the Central Lancashire Core Strategy. Today, it is still responsible for scrutinising and deciding on matters relating to the CLLP. It meets every few months to consider proposals, debate key issues, and endorse or challenge elements of the plan.
- 3.3 The Core Strategy was adopted by the three Central Lancashire Councils in July 2012. 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 once adopted. This decision was contained in a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).
- 3.4 The CLAs have cooperated in the preparation of the CLLP. Evidence has been commissioned jointly, weekly meetings take place between officers and monthly strategic meetings take place with officers and members from across the CLAs to ensure effecting ongoing cooperation, and reports and information are consistently shared for review.
- 3.5 A Statement of Common Ground between the CLAs has been prepared in order to address the strategic planning matters between the authorities.

4. Collaborative Working with Lancashire County Council

- 4.1 The CLAs are lower tier authorities within the administrative boundary of Lancashire County Council (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
 - Strategic growth
 - Flood risk
 - Public health (specifically hot food take-aways, specialist housing, and active design)
 - Education provision and school places
 - Transportation and active travel
- 4.2 Meetings have been held across several working groups which include officers from both LCC and the CLAs collectively to ensure open and consistent dialogue throughout plan preparation. These working groups include:
- The Central Lancashire Local Plan Steering Group
 - Transportation Study Working Group
 - Strategic Flood Risk Working Group
- 4.3 In addition to these working groups, specific duty to cooperate meetings have been held to specifically discuss matters that require the cooperation between the CLAs and LCC. Details of these meetings are included in Appendix 1. Drafts of policies were 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.
- 4.4 At each stage of consultation on the CLLP, LCC were also formally notified of the consultation and how comments could be submitted.
- 4.5 A Statement of Common Ground has been prepared between the CLAs and LCC in order to address the strategic planning matters between the authorities.

5. Cooperation with Neighbouring Authorities

- 5.1 The CLAs have cooperated with the following neighbouring authorities throughout the plan preparation process:
- Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council
 - Bolton Council
 - Fylde Borough Council
 - Greater Manchester Combined Authority
 - Ribble Valley Borough Council
 - West Lancashire Borough Council
 - Wigan Council
 - Wyre Borough Council
- 5.2 Specific duty to cooperate meetings have taken place throughout the preparation of the CLLP, details of these meetings are set out in Appendix 1. These meetings provided the opportunity to present updates on the progress of the Central Lancashire Local Plan and evidence base documents and discuss strategic and cross boundary matters.
- 5.3 In addition to the specific duty to cooperate meetings, officers from the CLAs attend the Lancashire Development Plan Officer's Group (DPOG) which meets quarterly. It comprises of all the local authorities in Lancashire and LCC. A number of other organisations are also invited to attend to discuss key issues including the Environment Agency, the Lancashire Local Nature Partnership (LNP) and Natural England. The aim of DPOG is to provide the authorities in Lancashire with a forum to discuss planning policies, raise awareness of cross boundary issues, and share best practice examples on local issues. Progress on Local Plans is a standing agenda item, and the CLAs have provided updates on the preparation of the CLLP at each meeting.
- 5.4 At each stage of consultation on the CLLP, neighbouring authorities were also formally notified of the consultation and how comments could be submitted.
- 5.5 Statements of Common Ground have prepared between the CLAs and all the neighbouring authorities in order to address the strategic planning matters between the authorities. The majority of these statements are fully agreed and signed by the relevant parties with the exception of two, specifically Blackburn with Darwen and West Lancashire Borough Council, which are in the late stages of preparation and are expected to be signed shortly after submission.

6. Cooperation with Prescribed Bodies

- 6.1 The CLAs have cooperated with the following prescribed bodies as set out in Regulation 4 of section 33A(1)(c) of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012:
- Environment Agency
 - Historic England
 - Natural England
 - Civil Aviation Authority
 - Homes England
 - Integrated Care Board
 - NHS England
 - Office of Rail and Road
 - Integrated Transport Authority
 - Highway Authority
 - Marine Management Organisation
- 6.2 The Mayor of London and Transport for London are also identified as prescribed bodies and details of the Regulation 19 Consultation were provided to the two bodies, however given the geography, they are not considered relevant to the CLAs for the purposes of duty to cooperate. Part 1, Section 2 (Interpretation) of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 confirms that the Mayor of London is only a specific consultation body where the local planning authority is a London Borough Council.
- 6.3 Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) and Local Nature Partnerships (LNPs) are not subject to the requirements of the duty to cooperate however local planning authorities and those organisations that are subject to the duty to cooperate must cooperate with LEPs and LNPs in preparing their Local Plans. The CLAs have also cooperated with these bodies.
- 6.4 Lancashire Combined County Authority (LCCA) as a new strategic authority was formally established in February 2025. The LCCA were notified of the Regulation 19 Publication of the Local Plan. However, they advised in a response that the timeline for the LCCAs approval processes did not align with the deadline for submission of responses.
- 6.5 Table outlines details of how the CLAs have cooperated with the prescribed bodies.
- 6.6 At each stage of consultation on the CLLP, the prescribed bodies were also formally notified of the consultation and how comments could be submitted.

Table 1: Details of Engagement with Prescribed Bodies

Prescribed Body	Details of Engagement/ Cooperation	Outstanding Matters
Environment Agency	There has been engagement with the Environment Agency throughout preparation of the CLLP. They provided detailed representations on the Regulation 18 consultations which have been taken into consideration by the CLAs and helped to shape the plan. They have also been heavily involved in preparation of the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment, working closely with the consultants commissioned to undertake the SFRA. In addition they provided detailed comments on sites being considered for housing and employment allocation as part of the Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment.	Outstanding matters in relation to flood risk. The Environment Agency submitted a representation to the Regulation 19 consultation raising concerns about Policy EN10: Development and Flood Risk. A Statement of Common Ground has been prepared addressing these matters.
Historic England	There has been engagement with Historic England throughout preparation of the CLLP. They provided detailed comments on the Regulation 18 consultations which have been taken into consideration by the CLAs and helped to shape the plan. In addition they provided a RAG assessment of sites being considered for housing and employment allocation as part of the Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment. These RAG assessments informed which sites required a Heritage Impact Assessment. They were heavily involved in the preparation of the Heritage Impact Assessments, providing guidance on the methodology and review of the assessments.	Outstanding matters in relation to the historic environment. Historic England submitted a representation to the Regulation 19 consultation raising concerns about Policy EN13: Heritage Assets and Archaeology. A Statement of Common Ground has been prepared addressing these matters.
Natural England	Natural England have been consulted at each stage of plan preparation. They provided representations on the Regulation 18 consultations which have been taken into consideration by the CLAs and helped to shape the plan. They have also been involved in the preparation of the Habitats Regulations Assessment. They submitted representations on the Regulation 19 Local Plan but no significant issues were raised.	Outstanding matters in relation to recreation pressure. The CLAs committed to work with neighbouring authorities and Natural England to help establish Zones of Influence for these Habitats Sites to determine whether development within the Local Plan could adversely affect the Habitats Sites. A Statement of Common Gound is in preparation.

Prescribed Body	Details of Engagement/ Cooperation	Outstanding Matters
Civil Aviation Authority	There are no aeronautical sites in Central Lancashire and the Civil Aviation Authority state on their website that they will not respond to correspondence on strategic planning documents other than those with direct aviation involvement. They were however consulted on the CLLP given they are a prescribed body but no response was received.	None
Homes England	Homes England have been consulted at each stage of plan preparation. They provided representations on the Regulation 18 consultations which have been taken into consideration by the CLAs and helped to shape the plan, particularly in relation to sites owned by Homes England. Meetings were held with Homes England prior to the Regulation 19 consultation, on their request, to discuss sites being considered for allocation owned by Homes England. They provided information on their plans for these sites in terms of the number of dwellings proposed and timescales for development. This information fed into the site allocation policies and the trajectory. They submitted a representation on the Regulation 19 Local Plan but no significant issues were raised.	None
Integrated Care Board (Lancashire and South Cumbria ICB)	Lancashire and South Cumbria ICB have been consulted at each stage of plan preparation. They provided a response to the Regulation 18 consultations which were taken into consideration by the CLAs. They submitted a representation on the Regulation 19 Local Plan but no significant issues were raised.	None
NHS England (Lancashire and South Cumbria NHS Foundation Trust and NHS Property Services)	NHS Lancashire and South Cumbria have been consulted at each stage of plan preparation. They provided a response to the Regulation 18 consultations which were taken into consideration by the CLAs. They submitted a representation on the Regulation 19 Local Plan but no significant issues were raised.	None
Office of Rail and Road	The Office of Rail and Road have been consulted at each stage of plan preparation but no responses have been received.	None

Prescribed Body	Details of Engagement/ Cooperation	Outstanding Matters
Integrated Transport Authority (Transport for Greater Manchester)	There is no integrated transport authority in Central Lancashire however Transport for Greater Manchester have been consulted on the plan given they provide services in neighbouring Greater Manchester authorities. Some of these services also operate through parts of Central Lancashire. No response has been received.	None
Highways Authority (Lancashire County Council)	Lancashire County Council are the Highways Authority for Central Lancashire. As set out in this Statement of Common Ground, the CLAs have worked closely with LCC on a number of matters, including highways and transport. They commissioned the Transport Study that forms the evidence base for the CLLP and provided detailed highways and access comments on sites being considered for housing and employment allocation as part of the Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment.	None
National Highways	There has been engagement with National Highways throughout preparation of the plan. They provided representations on the Regulation 18 consultations which have been taken into consideration by the CLAs and helped to shape the plan. They have also been heavily involved in preparation of the Strategic Transport Study commissioned by Lancashire County Council which forms part of the evidence base for the CLLP.	National Highways need time to review the recently concluded strategic transport evidence in order to be satisfied with the methodology and findings. Engagement between the CLAs, National Highways and LCC will continue post submission.
Marine Management Organisation	The Marine Management Organisation have been consulted at each stage of plan preparation. They submitted a response to the Regulation 18 preferred options consultation which was taken into consideration by the CLAs. No response was received to the Regulation 19 consultation.	None

Prescribed Body	Details of Engagement/ Cooperation	Outstanding Matters
Local Enterprise Partnership	The Lancashire Enterprise Partnership ceased to exist on 31 st March 2024. Prior to this the CLAs worked closely with them on the preparation of CLLP. They were consulted on the Regulation 18 consultations but did not provide a response. The roles previously fulfilled by the LEP are now fulfilled by Lancashire County Council. As set out in this Statement of Common Ground, the CLAs have worked closely with LCC on a number of matters, including on economic matters.	Outstanding matters in relation to economic growth. Lancashire County Council raised concerns about the amount of strategic employment land allocated in the CLLP. A Statement of Common Ground has been prepared addressing these matters.
Local Nature Partnership	The CLAs have worked closely with the Lancashire Local Nature Partnership throughout preparation of the plan. Officers are involved in the preparation of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy, attending regular meetings and inputting into the process. They have been consulted on all stages of the CLLP but have not provided a response. In addition, they attend the Lancashire Development Plan Officers Group (DPOG) meetings and the CLAs have provided an update on preparation of the CLLP at these meetings	None

7. Collaboration with Other Organisations

- 7.1 The CLAs have also worked collaboratively with a number of other organisations on cross boundary issues relating to infrastructure planning throughout plan making. Whilst these are not prescribed bodies, it was considered crucial to engage with these organisations on the preparation of the CLLP.
- 7.2 The following organisations were therefore also included in the Council's duty to cooperate activities:
- British Gas
 - Canal and River Trust
 - Coal Authority
 - Electricity North West
 - Network Rail
 - National Grid
 - National Trust
 - Sport England
 - United Utilities
 - University of Central Lancashire
 - Transport for the North
 - Lancashire Combined County Authority
- 7.3 These organisations were consulted on all stages of preparation of the CLLP and all comments received were taken into consideration by the CLAs.
- 7.4 Where considered necessary, meetings were held with these organisations to discuss particular matters.
- 7.5 At each stage of consultation on the CLLP, these organisations were also formally notified of the consultation and how comments could be submitted.

8. Key Cross Boundary Strategic Issues

8.1 Key strategic cross-boundary planning matters have been determined by referring to the NPPF, and through conversations with Lancashire County Council, neighbouring authorities, and prescribed bodies throughout the plan making process.

8.2 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

8.3 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.

a. Delivery of New Homes

8.4 Paragraph 11 of NPPF requires strategic policies to, as a minimum, provide for their area's objectively assessed needs for housing 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.

8.5 The CLAs have prepared the CLLP under the 2023 version of the NPPF. Paragraph 61 of the 2023 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.

8.6 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.

8.7 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 2: 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
Total	1,341	1,334	1,643	1,237

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

- 8.8 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.
- 8.9 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.
- 8.10 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.
- 8.11 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.
- 8.12 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.
- 8.13 This has resulted in the following redistribution as shown in the table below:

Table 3: Agreed Redistribution of the Housing Requirement for Central Lancashire

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

- 8.14 This figure has been officially agreed and set out in the Statement of Common Ground between the CLAs.
- 8.15 When conducting duty to cooperate 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 is reflected in the Statements of Common Ground between the CLAs and neighbouring authorities.
- 8.16 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.

b. Development of a Prosperous Economy

- 8.17 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.
- 8.18 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 4: Combined OAN for the CLAs

Authority	Combined Employment Use OAN
Chorley	41.45 ha
Preston	74.43 ha
South Ribble	56.99 ha
Total	172.87 ha

- 8.19 The CLAs are confident that the CLLPs employment need will be met within the borders of Central Lancashire, with more land than required to meet the OAN being allocated.
- 8.20 Through duty to cooperate meetings with neighbouring authorities, specific matters discussed related to employment and retail. Discussions were had with Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council about the connection of their growth corridor in relation to Central Lancashire and any proposed strategic employment sites. This conversation has been addressed in a Statement of Common Ground.
- 8.21 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 Lancashire County Council, especially in the tech industry.
- 8.22 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.

- 8.23 LCC noted that the Enterprise Zone in Samlesbury is nearing capacity and they are aware of interest from businesses looking to support the industries located there and asked that the CLLP considers 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 CLLPs monitoring mechanism was noted as identifying if an early review was needed if the sites being allocated were not sufficient in meeting this demand.
- 8.24 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 duty to cooperate conversations, a Statement of Common Ground has been prepared that addresses LCC's concerns and ensures that this need will be considered in the future, as and when needed.

c. Transport

- 8.25 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 examines the needs of the CLAs based on their proposed allocations.
- 8.26 A transport working group meeting has taken place monthly where officers from LCC, the CLAs, and the commissioned consultant discussed the strategic outcomes of the Study as it progressed.
- 8.27 There is a specific focus in the CLLP on active and sustainable travel. The CLAs have worked closely with highways officers from LCC to develop the active travel and transport policies in the CLLP.

d. Community Services and Public Health

- 8.28 Community services and public health infrastructure such as school places, active design, and hot food take-aways have been a focus for duty to cooperate conversation during plan preparation between the CLAs and LCC.
- 8.29 Education provision is a function of LCC and cooperation between them and the CLAs has been integral to the Local CLLP. School places were a concern arising in representations from residents to the Regulation 18 Consultations. 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.
- 8.30 On the topic of public health, there has been ongoing conversations between the CLAs and LCC on a hot food take-away 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.
- 8.31 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.
- 8.32 A Statement of Common Ground has been developed between LCC and the CLAs which addresses the above matters in more detail.

e. The Environment and Flood Risk

- 8.33 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.
- 8.34 The Level 1 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment was commissioned by the CLAs to inform the site allocations of the CLLP. The findings of this assessment were shared with strategic bodies and agreed before being incorporated in the site selection process. A Level 2 Assessment has been undertaken for relevant site allocations and the findings have been taken into consideration in the CLLP.
- 8.35 When writing the strategic flood risk policies, officers from LCC were heavily involved in their development. United Utilities and the Environment Agency were also engaged to ensure that the policies were deliverable and supported their long-term plans for the area.

9. Conclusion

- 9.1 As evidenced in this Duty to Cooperate Statement, the CLAs have demonstrated that they have cooperated constructively, actively and on an ongoing basis with each other, Lancashire County Council, neighbouring authorities, prescribed bodies, and other infrastructure providers. This process has informed the CLLP.
- 9.2 Statements of Common Ground have been prepared between the CLAs and all neighbouring authorities and other prescribed bodies, where considered necessary, with the majority concluded and signed and a small number to be finalised and signed post submission.

Appendix 1: Schedule of Duty to Cooperate Meetings

Date of Meeting	Purpose of the Meeting and Attendees	Topics Discussed
Lancashire County Council (LCC)		
25/01/23	Duty to Cooperate meeting with the Highways Team at LCC	Progress of the CLLP, commissioning of the Transport Study, highways and access assessment of sites being considered for housing and employment allocation
31/01/23	Duty to Cooperate meeting with the Lead Local Flood Authority Team at LCC	Progress of the CLLP, SFRA Level 1 update, SFRA Level 2 commission
05/02/23	Duty to Cooperate meeting with the Public Health team at LCC	Progress of the CLLP, hot food takeaway policy, active travel, and extra care
18/10/24	Duty to Cooperate meeting with various teams at LCC	Progress of the CLLP, flood risk, transport and public health policies, site allocations and matters for the SoCG
11/11/24	Duty to Cooperate meeting with the Education team at LCC	The housing requirement and impact on school places need, LCC school places methodology and the proposed education policy
11/11/24	Duty to Cooperate meeting with the Economic Growth team at LCC	The need for future strategic employment sites in Central Lancashire and matters for the SoCG
08/04/25	Duty to Cooperate meeting with the Education team at LCC	Further discussion on the school place need
Ongoing (throughout all stages of plan preparation)	Monthly Steering Group Meetings between the CLAs and LCC	Relevant matters relating to the CLLP
Ongoing (April to June 2025)	Fortnightly meetings between the CLAs and various teams at LCC	Outstanding matters to be addressed in the SoCG
Neighbouring Authorities		
23/04/18	Duty to Cooperate meeting with Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council	Progress of the CLLP and BwD Local Plan Part 2
09/02/21	Duty to Cooperate meeting with Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council	Progress of the CLLP and BwD Local Plan Part 2 and discussion of cross boundary strategic issues
18/11/21	Duty to Cooperate meeting with West Lancashire Borough Council	Progress on the CLLP and WLBC Local Plan and discussion of cross boundary strategic issues
27/01/23	Duty to Cooperate meeting with Wigan Council	Progress of the CLLP, housing and employment land requirements, flood risk, transport and gypsy and traveller policies
31/03/23	Duty to Cooperate meeting with Bolton Council	Progress of the CLLP, housing and employment land requirements, flood risk, transport and gypsy and traveller policies
06/11/24	Duty to Cooperate meeting with Blackburn with Darwen Council, Fylde Borough Council, Ribble Valley Borough Council and Wyre Borough Council	Progress of the CLLP, housing and employment land requirements, flood risk, transport and gypsy and traveller policies, and matters for the SoCG

Date of Meeting	Purpose of the Meeting and Attendees	Topics Discussed
13/11/24	Duty to Cooperate meeting with West Lancashire Borough Council	Progress of the CLLP, housing and employment land requirements, flood risk, transport and gypsy and traveller policies, and matters for the SoCG
26/11/24	Duty to Cooperate meeting with Bolton Council, Wigan Council and Greater Manchester Combined Authority	Progress of the CLLP, housing and employment land requirements, flood risk, transport and gypsy and traveller policies, and matters for the SoCG
06/05/25	Duty to Cooperate meeting with Wyre Borough Council	WBCs Regulation 19 representation and agreement of matters for the SoCG
13/05/25	Duty to Cooperate meeting with Fylde Borough Council	FBCs Regulation 19 representation and agreement of matters for the SoCG
05/06/25	Duty to Cooperate meeting with West Lancashire Borough Council	WLBCs Regulation 19 representation and agreement of matters for the SoCG
11/06/25	Duty to Cooperate meeting with Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council	BwDs Regulation 19 representation and agreement of matters for the SoCG
Ongoing	Development Plan Officers Group (DPOG) Meetings – every 4 months	Standing agenda item on Local Plan updates - the CLAs have provided updates on the preparation of the CLLP at each meeting and discuss strategic cross boundary issues
Prescribed Bodies		
25/01/23	Meeting with the Environment Agency and United Utilities	Their involvement in the CLLP site selection process
21/02/23	Meeting with Transport for Greater Manchester	The need for engagement and cooperation between TfGM and the CLAs
27/11/23	Meeting with the Environment Agency	SFRA inception meeting
20/03/24	Meeting with the Environment Agency	SFRA Steering Group meeting
16/05/24	Meeting with the Environment Agency	SFRA Steering Group meeting
14/08/24	Meeting with Historic England	Historic England provided advice and training to officers from the CLAs on how to produce Heritage Impact Assessments. They also agreed to support the CLAs through the HIA writing process
11/12/24	Duty to Cooperate meeting with Natural England	The general approach taken by CLAs towards protection and designation of sites, BNG, and peat protection
15/01/25	Meeting with the Environment Agency	SFRA update
10/04/25	Meeting with the Environment Agency	SFRA Level 2 update
09/05/25	Duty to Cooperate meeting with Natural England	Natural England's Regulation 19 representation and how this can be addressed
05/06/25	Duty to Cooperate meeting with Historic England	Historic England's Regulation 19 representation and how this can be addressed in the SoCG
17/06/25	Duty to Cooperate meeting with Natural England	Natural England's Regulation 19 representation and how this can be addressed