

Westmorland and Furness Council Local Plan - Gateway 1 Readiness Checker

27 October 2026



Our Place... Our FUTURE... Join the conversation

Table Key

Colour	Council Position
Red	We may not have started or have significant work to do to make the recommended progress
Amber	We have started but have a bit more work to do to make the recommended progress
Green	We have made the recommended progress.

Legal requirements you must have met before proceeding

Activity	Council Position
Preparing and publishing a timetable in line with the data standard, publishing a notice of intention to commence and undertaking the scoping consultation	We have made the recommended progress. We have complied with these legal requirements.

Preparing and publishing a local plan timetable

Activity	Council Position
Considering the expected time it will take to adopt the plan	We have started but have a bit more work to do to make the recommended progress The timetable shows how we will prepare and adopt a plan within 30 months but there are significant risks to this.

Establishing project management and governance arrangements

Activity	Council Position
Establishing appropriate project management, governance and resourcing to support the timetable	We have made the recommended progress We have a robust approach to manage, govern, resource and finance the preparation of the plan that supports the delivery of the local plan timetable.
Testing and agreeing project management and governance internally	We have made the recommended progress All relevant teams and decision makers have been involved in designing, and signing-off the approach.
Establishing risk monitoring, management and mitigation	We have made the recommended progress We have identified potential risks and have effective processes in place to monitor, manage and mitigate them.

Consulting and engaging on the plan

Activity	Council Position
Preparing an engagement strategy	We have started but have a bit more work to do to make the recommended progress We have made some progress in preparing an engagement strategy.
Establishing processes for consultation and engagement	We have made the recommended progress We have clear processes in place to maximise diversity in participation, utilising both digital-first and traditional methods.
Agreeing the engagement strategy internally	We have started but have a bit more work to do to make the recommended progress We have sought feedback on the engagement strategy with key decision makers, but it's not yet signed off.

Scoping the anticipated content of the plan

Activity	Council Position
Defining the scope of the plan	We have started but have a bit more work to do to make the recommended progress Scoping work is underway. We have reviewed monitoring information for the previous local plan, but still have work to do on information gathering, baselining and early engagement. The scoping work aligns or partially aligns with the work we have carried out on our SEA (if SEA is required).
Drafting a vision for the plan	We have started but have a bit more work to do to make the recommended progress Using our baselining work and analysis of feedback from the scoping consultation we have started to develop some ideas about what the vision might focus on.
Considering how we will monitor progress towards the vision	We have started but have a bit more work to do to make the recommended progress We have considered how we might monitor progress towards our vision, but haven't identified specific measurable outcomes yet.
Gathering evidence to inform the new plan	We have made the recommended progress We have mostly identified and scoped our evidence needs and have a plan for how we will deliver this.
Calculating a housing requirement	We have made the recommended progress

Activity	Council Position
	We have calculated a housing requirement for the plan area using the Government's recommended standard method and started to identify the needs for homes of different sizes, types and tenures, including affordable homes.
Exploring our high-level options and policies	We have started but have a bit more work to do to make the recommended progress We have identified the high-level capacity and constraints for development but have not started to develop spatial options to deliver the development need or scoped out locally specific policies.

Progressing the Strategic Environmental Assessment

Activity	Council Position
Identifying other plans/programmes that have a relationship with the local plan	We have made the recommended progress We have identified other relevant plans and programmes and their relationship to the local plan to establish how the plan or programme is affected by those plans or programmes.
Collecting baseline information for the SEA	We have made the recommended progress We have identified baseline information showing the existing environmental characteristics of the area and their likely evolution without implementation of a new plan, as well as data on historic and likely future trends. It provides the basis against which we can assess the likely effects of our different options.
Identify environmental protection objectives to inform plan preparation	We have made the recommended progress We have identified the relevant environmental protection objectives, established at international, community or national level, and environmental considerations that will be taken into account during the preparation of the plan and recorded in the environmental report.

Activity	Council Position
Developing the scope of the SEA	<p>We have made the recommended progress</p> <p>We have begun to identify the scope and level of detail of the information we intend to include in the environmental report. We have started to set out this information in a suitable document, such as a draft, emerging environmental report or scoping document. We are on track to consult on the scope of the SEA at the consultation on proposed plan content and evidence.</p>
Developing SEA objectives	<p>We have made the recommended progress</p> <p>We have started to develop SEA objectives which will help assess the environmental performance of the local plan.</p>