

Lake District National Park Partnership's Plan – The Management Plan for the Lake District (2026-2031)

Sustainability Appraisal Report

October 2025

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1. Non-technical summary

1.1. Introduction

The Lake District Partnership is currently updating the Partnership's Plan (also known as the Management Plan) for the Lake District National Park. The Partnership's Plan (the Plan) sets out the policies to be applied to ensure the sustainable management of the Lake District.

To inform the development of the Plan, the Lake District National Park Authority (LDNPA) on behalf of the Partnership, is carrying out a Sustainability Appraisal (SA). The SA aims to identify the significant environmental, social and economic effects of the Plan, and promote sustainable development and land use through better integration of sustainability considerations in the preparation and adoption of the Plan. The SA meets the requirements of both the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and the Environmental Assessment of plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (the SEA Regulations).

Alongside the SA, a Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) screening appraisal and Appropriate Assessment has been undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the Conservation of habitats and Species Regulations 2002 (as amended) (the Habitats Regulations). The HRA aims to identify whether the proposed policies of the Plan, alone or in combination with other plans and projects, are likely to have an adverse effect on the integrity of any European sites (Special Areas of Conservation, Special protection Areas and Ramsar sites) within the Park or surrounding area.

1.2. Lake District National Park Partnership Plan

In Autumn 2024 the Partnership agreed to review and produce a new Management Plan for the National Park, with the intention of setting out revised strategies and policies needed to manage the Park for the next five-year period to 2031. The Plan establishes a single management approach for the Park to meet the requirements of the both the National Park and the English Lake District World Heritage Site designation.

The Plan sets out a series of 'policies' which replace the 'strategies' under the 2020-2026 Partnership Plan. These policies are focussed on delivering effective protection for the Special Qualities of the Lake District and for the defined attributes of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) that underpin the World Heritage Site designation. In addition to these policies, ambitions and objectives have been identified with associated actions where the Partnership have determined that by working collaboratively, they can make transformational changes. These actions are aligned to the policies and so have not been separately appraised.

1.3. Sustainability Appraisal

The Sustainability Appraisal (SA) is a systematic process used to ensure the social, environmental and economic effects of plans and policies are assessed as part of the plan preparation process. A key element of the SA is the testing of plans and policies against the SA objectives to identify the likely effects of the Plan. This is with

a view to avoiding and mitigating adverse effects and maximising positive outcomes. The SA process promotes sustainable development through better integration of sustainability considerations in the preparation and adoption of plans.

The LDNPA uses a common set of SA objectives to appraise its development plans. A review of the SA objectives has been carried out and they are still considered relevant for the National Park Management Plan. These cover environmental, social, and economic concerns.

These objectives were reviewed in 2016 to support the SA of the Authority's 'Living Lakes: Your Local Plan' which was adopted in May 2021. The scoping exercise identified the main sustainability issues facing the Lake District, which were then reflected in the choice of the final set of 17 SA objectives.

1.4. Sustainability Appraisal Framework

The SA assessment framework is a recognised way on which the potential environmental and sustainability effects of a Plan can be identified and evaluated in a consistent way. The framework comprises a set of SA objectives that have been developed to reflect the key sustainability issues of relevance to the Lake District. These objectives are supported by a series of indicators, which are used as a means to measure the potential significance of the sustainability issues and can also be used to monitor implementation of the Plan's policies. The policies are tested against the SA framework to identify whether individual policies will support or inhibit achievement of each SA objective.

The unmitigated effects of the Plan policies on achieving the SA objectives were identified through the analysis of the key sustainability issues and the use of professional judgement. The significance of effects was scored using the five-point scale (significant positive/minor positive/neutral effect/ minor negative/ significant negative). If a high level of uncertainty regarding the likelihood and potential significance of an impact (either positive or negative) was identified, it was scored as uncertain.

1.5. Policy Alternatives

In accordance with the SEA Regulations, an SA should include an appraisal of 'reasonable alternatives' considered during the preparation of a plan. The Plan has been developed through an iterative process of discussion between the Partnership organisations. No specific alternatives to the Plan or its delivery have been considered by the Partnership, as the focus has been on achieving the overarching Vision for the National Park and establishing a management approach that seeks to address the current context affecting the Lake District, its communities and businesses.

A range of alternatives to delivering the Plan have been assessed through the SA. These alternatives include the 'do nothing' scenario, where no management action is taken and the National Park is left to evolve and change organically, and the 'business as usual' scenario, where management continues to follow the current Management Plan.

The assessment indicates that the 'do nothing' approach is likely to result in a number of significant adverse effects due to a reduction in the maintenance of services and in management actions, which would lead to a decline in the condition and quality of environmental and social assets including water quality, historic sites and biodiversity. This would result in a range of adverse economic effects as tourism and recreation industries suffer due to greater external competition and a lack of strategic promotion.

The option for 'business as usual' is likely to result in a range of positive effects as actions to promote the landscape, cultural heritage, economic development and a vibrant community are delivered. Conflicts between actions are likely to arise as the Plan aims to contribute to all aspects of sustainable development. However, these conflicts are likely to be effectively managed as the Plan is well balanced and does not favour one particular strand of sustainability over another.

Since the adoption of the 2020-2026 Partnership Plan, significant policy changes have happened impacting the Lake District. The Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023 shifted the requirement for 'Responsible Bodies' to further the purposes of National Parks. The Government has also introduced a new Protected Landscapes and Targets and Outcomes Framework which sets ambitious targets for National Parks and other protected landscapes. The SA identifies that implementation of this draft Plan is the best approach to deliver the requirements of both the National Park and WHS designations in a balanced and sustainable manner. The draft Plan is focused on delivering effective protection for the special qualities of the National Park and encompasses the attributes of OUV. In addition, the Plan goes much further than the previous plan by placing a greater emphasis on leading action to address the challenges currently facing the Lake District.

1.6. Impact assessment

A qualitative assessment has been undertaken to identify the range of potential effects that the Plan may have on delivering each SA objective. Where a particular policy is underpinned by a series of measures, each of which may give rise to a range of environmental impacts, an overall impact has been identified for each SA objective.

1.7. Habitats Regulations Assessment

A Habitats Regulations Assessment screening assessment and appropriate assessment has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Habitats Regulations to determine whether the plan is likely to adversely affect the integrity of a European site (alone or in combination). This is presented as a separate document.

The Screening Assessment identified adverse impacts on European sites within or adjacent to the Lake District National Park from the Plan, and an Appropriate Assessment was undertaken on 15 policies, including a detailed account of the way in which any effects would be mitigated. No-site-specific development proposals have been set out as part of the Plan itself, and furthermore, it has been considered that a project level HRA would be more suitable in these circumstances.

In conclusion, subject to mitigation measures, the Lake District Partnership's Plan will not have an adverse impact on the integrity of the European sites within or adjacent to the Lake District National Park.

1.8. Conclusion

Overall, the Plan offers an important opportunity to address many of the sustainability issues prevalent in the Lake District. The Plan provides a balanced approach to delivering sustainable management of the Lake District, its Special Qualities and attributes of OUV. Assessment of the Plan policies against the SA objectives has identified a wide range of potential positive effects, with many significant positive effects possible. No significant adverse effects were identified by the SA.

Some policies could have both positive and negative effects depending on how they are implemented. For example, policies which seek to strengthen and diversify the economy through job creation and retention, improving access to jobs and greater access to training and education will provide a positive effect on community vibrancy and cohesion. Yet economic growth could be delivered at the expense of biodiversity and landscape character through new housing and employment development, infrastructure improvements, profitable land management or greater access to the countryside. However, the Plan seeks to balance these risks by including a suite of policies focused on the protection and enhancement of the natural and built environment and the cultural history of the Lake District.

It is essential that integrated delivery across all policies is achieved to ensure individual actions do not cause a significant conflict with the achievement of the wider vision. To this effect, policies should not operate in isolation. For example, there is a focus on improving the visitor experience and accommodation, to encourage longer stays. There is the risk that these objectives could adversely affect local communities without careful planning, as the Lake District is already a popular tourist destination, and this could be exacerbated without careful management. However, there are measures in place that seek to influence how visitors travel to and move around the Lake District using more sustainable modes of transport, and support initiatives which encourage the use of smart tech developments which could benefit local communities.

On balance, the draft Plan delivers a sound basis for achieving sustainability and the policies will contribute towards achieving the 2031 Vision for the Lake District.

1.9. Next steps

The next stage of the SA process involves consulting upon the draft Plan and draft SA Report with statutory consultees, stakeholders and the public, and then making any necessary amendments and updates to the documents. All consultation responses received will be reviewed and taken into consideration for the next stage of appraisal process. A report will be produced setting out how the findings of the SA Report and the views expressed during the consultation period have been taken into account as the Plan has been finalised and formally approved. The report will also set out any additional monitoring requirements to track the significant effects of the Plan.

2. Sustainability Appraisal Framework

2.1. Introduction

The SA assessment framework is a recognised way in which the potential environmental and sustainability effects of a Plan can be identified and evaluated in a consistent way. The framework comprises a set of SA objectives that have been developed to reflect the key sustainability issues of relevance to the Lake District. These objectives are supported by a series of indicators, which are used to measure the potential significance of the sustainability issues and can also be used to monitor implementation of the Plan's policies. These policies are tested against the SA framework to identify whether individual policies will support or inhibit achievement of each SA objective.

Table 2.1 below summarises the purpose and requirements of the SA objectives and indicators.

Framework measure	Purpose
SA Objective	Provides a benchmark 'intention' against which effects of the plan can be tested. They need to be fit-for-purpose.
SA Indicator	Provides a means of measuring the progress towards achieving the objectives over time. They need to be measurable and relevant and ideally rely on existing monitoring networks.

2.2. Sustainability Appraisal Objectives and Indicators

The following SA objectives and indicators have been used for this assessment. The framework consists of 18 objectives and related appraisal criteria (i.e. local considerations) and indicators that were informed by the identified sustainability issues.

The multi criteria framework provides a methodology for assessing the impact significance and provide a means of ensuring that key environmental, economic and social sustainability issues are considered within the assessment process. The SA objectives and indicators used to assess the Plan are shown in the table below. The SA framework was reviewed to support the development of the Lake District National Park Local Plan. The sustainability assessment indicators provide a means of measuring the progress towards achieving the sustainability objectives over time and the lifetime of the Partnership's Plan.

Table 2.2: SA Objectives and Indicators

EU Directive Consideration	Cumbria Sustainability Objectives		Local considerations	Sustainability Assessment Indicators
Air Quality	1. NR1	To improve air quality and reduce greenhouse gas emissions	Support developments that mitigate the effects of climate change by reducing the lake District's Carbon Budget	• Number/condition of Air Quality Management Areas in the National Park • NOX emissions • CO2 emissions • Annual average daily traffic flows • Peak traffic flows • Average Environmental Impact rating and Dwelling CO2 Emissions rate of all dwellings • Number of publicly accessible EV charging points
			Support developments that reduce the overall cost of fuel and energy, for example renewable energy schemes, small-scale hydro schemes, etc.	
			Support developments that encourage sustainable transport, e.g. EV charging points, bicycle hire hubs, etc.	
Biodiversity	2. EN1	To protect and enhance biodiversity	Support development that protects / enhances biodiversity	• Percent of SSSI in favourable condition • Number of newly designated biodiversity sites • Number of sites "at risk" • Are of priority habitat lost through planning permissions • Number of planning permissions leading to improvements for priority species • Percent of designated land lost to development • Amount and condition of ancient semi-natural woodland
			Support developments that restore previously degraded sites	
			Protect biological SSSIs and County Wildlife Sites	
			Protect priority habitats and species outside of designated areas	
			Promote biodiversity provision and enhancement, including the linking of natural assets/green spaces to create habitat networks	

Climate Change Mitigation	3. n/a	To improve mitigation and adaptation to probable climate changes	Support developments that mitigate the effects of climate change and reduce the Lake District's Carbon Budget	• Percent change in Lake District Carbon Budget • Number of planning applications including micro- or community-scale sustainable power schemes • Total generating capacity of local-scale sustainable power generation schemes granting planning permission
			Support developments that reduce the overall cost of fuel and energy, for example renewable energy schemes, small-scale hydro schemes, etc.	
Community and Wellbeing	4. SP1	To increase the level of participation in democratic processes	Encourage active participation in the planning process through effective consultation	• Percent of households within 500 metres of village hall, civic building or community centre • Number of community engagement events held • Number of responses to formal consultations • Up to date Statement of Community Involvement • Number of Neighbourhood Plans adopted • Number of other community-led plans/initiatives.
			Promote and encourage the opportunities offered by Neighbourhood Plans	
	5. SP4	To improve the level of skills, education and training	Support projects that promote personnel training and skills development	• Percentage of population Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET) • Percentage of population with Level 2 or higher qualifications • Percentage of Y0-Y6 pupils living within km of a primary school
	6. SP5	To improve the health and sense of	Support projects that create leisure and activity developments	• Life expectancy

		well-being of people	Promote the provision of high-quality public and amenity sites, prioritising development in locations where provision is deficient Encourage development that has multi-use capacity, to provide community facilities Ensure that new homes contribute to the overall community by requiring permanent occupancy as part of the planning consent. Seek to minimise the number of houses that are empty or 'holiday homes' Ensure 'Secured by Design' principles are incorporated in all public realm developments	• No. of households within 4km of a GP Surgery • Number of First Responders and defibrillators within National Park • Percent population participating in regular volunteering • Total area (ha) Local Green Space • Percent of villages / Rural Service Centres with 4 or more services • Number of homes /housing schemes approved with occupancy conditions
Economy and Employment	7. EC1	To retain existing jobs and create new employment opportunities	Promote, through the planning system, the employment of young people in sustainable industries such as land management, forestry and farming Support nuclear and energy industries in West Cumbria and other major infrastructure projects in Cumbria, provided there is no negative impact upon the Lake District Support the development of new employment sites and buildings Support development for local / traditional businesses and activities	• Percent population (16-64) unemployed • Percent population (16-64) in full time employment • Percent population (16-64) in part-time employment • Average earnings of employees in the Lake District • Amount of floor-space available for employment (by type) overall Lake District • Amount of employment land (Ha) lost to other use
	8. EC2	To improve access to jobs	Encourage through development the widest possible provision of superfast	• Percent population by journey to

			broadband, and mobile telephone and internet	- work distance - Percent population by journey to work transport type - Amount of floor-space available for employment (by type) in Rural Development Centres
			Promote economic development in Rural Development Centres	
	9. EC3	To diversify and strengthen the local economy	Promote the Rural Service Centre and other similar initiatives	- Percent employed population by sector/ industry - Number of apprenticeship / workplace training opportunities available in Lake District - Overall value of development grants in Lake District - Planning Applications approved by type
			Support projects that require personnel training and skills development	
			Encourage economic development in conjunction with the Local Enterprise Partnership	
Housing	10. SP3	To provide everyone with a decent home	Provide decent, good quality, affordable housing for all types, sizes and tenures, including Key Workers	- Area land available for housing development - Number of community-led housing schemes - Local demand for 'affordable housing' - Amount of land (Ha) available for housing development in Rural Service Centres
			Provide sufficient land for housing in Rural Service Centres.	
			Support community led housing schemes to meet local needs in appropriate development locations.	
Land and Cultural Heritage	11. EN2	To preserve, enhance and manage landscape quality and character for future generations	Seek to conserve, maintain and manage the historic environment and designated / undesignated heritage assets.	- Area of land covered by Environmental Stewardship Agreements (ESA) - Number of Tree Preservation Orders (TPO) - Loss of trees covered by TPOs
			Support and encourage development that ensures sustainable land management, farming or forestry	

			Support development for local/traditional businesses and activities	• Proportion of land (%) designated as tranquil • Number of changes consistent /inconsistent with defined landscape character • Proportion of new housing build on previously developed land
	12. EN3	To improve the quality of the built and natural environment, including the historic, heritage assets and their setting	Encourage development that conserves / improves the condition of the built and historic environment Utilise locally source building stone and slate to maintain the special quality of distinctive buildings and/or settlement character Encourage and support design inspired by and complementing the qualities and attributes of the Lake District's cultural landscape.	• Number of Conservation Areas (Total/Assessed/with Management Plan) • Number of Listed Buildings (Total/At Risk/Improving) • Number of Scheduled Monuments (Total/At Risk/Improving) • Number of applications where design uses local building stone/slate.
	13. SP6	To create vibrant, active, inclusive and open-minded communities, with a strong sense of local history	Encourage Rural Service Centre (and other) projects that benefit the cultural landscape of the Lake District	• Number (by type and location) of community facilities
Soil	14. NR3	To restore and protect land, soil and geodiversity	Through the planning system, support the extraction of building stone and slate where this is needed to maintain the special quality of distinctive buildings and/or settlement character Seek to minimise mineral waste from development or exploitation sites	• Percent development (by area) on brownfield sites • Number of applications relating to minerals exploitation • Number of minerals exploitation sites with waste management plans

			Protect geological SSSI and Local Geological Sites	Number and type of contaminated sites in the National Park
			Support development that enhances soil stability and quality	
Transport and Accessibility	15. SP2	To improve access to services, facilities, the countryside and open spaces	Promote development that improves connectivity for visitors to the Lake District	- Number of applications including Travel Plans - Number of applications in Rural Service Centres - Percent Journeys to Work by public transport - Percent Journeys to Work by bicycle or on foot - Rights of Way Network (Ease of Use score) - Access to Public Transport - No. of primary schools, post offices, convenience stores, public houses, village halls, churches, information centres, libraries and garages within the National Park - Amount of new residential development within 30 minutes public transport time of GP, hospital, primary school, secondary school, areas of employment and retail centre - Percent of population within 2 km of a post office - Percent of population within 4km of a supermarket
			Support nuclear and energy industries in Wes Cumbria and other major infrastructure projects in Cumbria, provided there is no negative impact upon the character of the Lake District	
			Support transport infrastructure maintenance and development, provided there is no negative impact upon the Lake District	
			Promote development in Rural Service Centres	
			Encourage transport providers to develop integrated local, regional and national links between population and transport centres and the Lake District gateways	
			Promote development that provides and/or improves integrated transport within the Lake District	
			Promote the development of mobile services	
			Encourage the development of visitor transport services that will also benefit residents of the Lake District	

			Promote economic development in Rural Service Centres	
Waste	16. NR4	To manage mineral resources sustainably and minimise waste	Seek to minimise waste from development and unnecessary mineral exploitation through reuse of existing materials Seek to protect Minerals Safeguarding Areas against inappropriate development	• Number of applications containing designs that re-use materials • Number (by Type) of local recycling facilities • Number of applications within minerals safeguarding areas • Percent applications rejected for Minerals Safeguarding reasons
Water (including flood risk)	17. NR2	To improve water quality and water resources	Support development plans which aim to increase flood resilience through, for example slowing surface water run-off by increasing absorption and storage, or by protecting settlements with hard defences Ensure that new developments adopt sustainable approach to waste water management Promote development that includes sustainable water use plans.	• Number of water resources in 'good' condition • Number of water resources in 'improving' condition • Bathing water standards
World Heritage Site Status	18.	To preserve, enhance and manage the attributes of OUV	Support WHS by promoting protections of the attributes of OUV	• Number of traditional farming methods in place • Number of events/courses held in the cultural aspects of the Lake District

3. Strategy Alternatives

3.1. Developing and appraising alternatives

The SEA Directive requires an SA to include an appraisal of 'reasonable alternatives' considered during the preparation of the Plan. The Plan has developed through an iterative process of discussion between the Partnerships organisations; a key driver being the long-term Vision for the Lake District. No alternatives to the Vision or were identified during the preparation of the Plan and the focus has been on establishing appropriate management approaches for both the National Park and the World Heritage Site.

Since the publication of the current Plan, several national and local priorities have affected the context for the Plan. The environment and climate emergency is the biggest driver for change in the Lake District, having witnessed first-hand impacts including drought, wildfires and extreme flooding events.

The Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023 shifted the requirement for 'Responsible Bodies' to further the purposes of National Parks. This strengthened legislation should form the basis for strong partnerships and joint working, enabling greater commitment and resources to the delivery of this Plan. Supporting delivery of this Plan is a key method in which relevant bodies can demonstrate their commitment to furthering the purposes of the National Park, as set out in the legislation. The Government has also introduced a new Protected Landscapes and Targets and Outcomes Framework which sets ambitious targets for National Parks and other protected landscapes.

Therefore, several strategic alternatives can be identified, and these have been assessed against the SA objectives. These alternatives are described below, and the assessment of their potential effects is shown in table 3.1.

- **Alternative A – Do nothing:** Where no management actions are taken or associated investment made and where the National Park is left to evolve and change organically
- **Alternative B – Business as usual:** Where management of the National Park continues following the current Plan policies and actions.
- **Alternative C – new integrated Plan:** Where management of the Lake District seeks to address the new priorities identified and delivers the requirements of both the National Park and World Heritage Site designations.

Table 3.1: Assessment of the Plan alternatives against the SA objective

SA Objectives		Potential effects		
		Do nothing	Business as usual	Integrated management plan
1	To improve air quality and reduce greenhouse gas emissions	Air quality may reduce in areas affected by poor air quality due to a lack of management actions. Greenhouse gas emissions may increase as activities to manage visitor numbers and promote sustainable transport options cease.	The current Plan is likely to deliver both positive and negative effects in relation to this SA objective. The Plan includes a strategy to improve air quality and promotes energy efficiency, renewable energy generation, improved public transport and better use of online services and technologies – improving air quality. Support for greater visitor numbers, transport infrastructure and housing provision could have adverse effects on carbon emissions.	The Plan has a strong focus on the climate emergency. Several policies within the Plan are likely to deliver positive effects in relation to this SA objective through the promotion of climate change mitigation and adaptation measures. Support for small-scale housing development and encouraging profitable land management could have adverse effects on carbon emissions.
2	To protect and enhance biodiversity	Reduced management of the Park may lead to some biodiversity benefits but may also result in an overall decline in biodiversity across the area. It is unlikely that there would be a significant effect on the geology of the Park.	The current Plan includes strong actions in the future of farming and forestry, nature recovery and climate change theme that could deliver positive benefits for the protection and enhancement of biodiversity.	The Plan continues to focus on restoring and enhancing habitats and species whilst creating a climate resilient landscape. There are also several policies in the Plan which will have a significant positive effect on this SA objective.
3	To improve mitigation and adaptation to probable climate changes	Without a strategic and proactive approach to climate change funding opportunities would not be utilised effectively and there would be a lack of coordination.	The current Plan includes a key outcome to secure the future of farming and forestry, nature recovery and climate change and includes an action to support climate adaptation and resilience. Several strategies in the Plan directly reference climate change, carbon reduction, and storage or soil stability which could deliver positive benefits.	Climate action is a cross-cutting theme in the Plan, with the ambition to reduce carbon emissions from human activity and for the Lake District to store more carbon than it emits. Several policies directly reference climate change, carbon reduction, and storage or soil stability delivering positive benefits.
4	To increase the level of participation in democratic processes	No actions would be taken to increase public participation and many of the	The Plan provides opportunities for public participation by supporting community-led initiatives	The Plan continues to provide opportunities for public participation by supporting community-led

		mechanisms by which public engagement is promoted and facilitated would be lost.	and the introduction of planning tools to help communities engage directly with planning in their local area.	initiatives, including community-led housing to help communities engage directly with planning in their local area.
5	To improve the level of skills, education and training	Some educational activities would continue, but there would be no strategic focus on providing opportunities for traditional sectors or measures to increase economic diversity.	Strategies in the current Plan promote green recovery and low carbon initiatives which could provide opportunities for new skills as new projects are developed. Investment in good digital connectivity will help with online training as will strategies which focus on addressing skills gaps and increasing the working age population particularly in the hospitality and farming sectors.	Improving skills, educations and training is identified as a priority for the new Plan. The Plan aims to address skills gaps across heritage and environmental sectors through investment and additional work experience, graduate placements and internships. This SA objective is also supported by a number of policies that contribute directly to skills, education and training.
6	To improve the health and sense of well-being of people	Health and wellbeing are primarily influenced by factors external to the management of the Park. However, a lack of management activities could exacerbate issues as there would be a likely reduced opportunities to provide recreational and amenity benefits.	The Spectacular Landscape and Vibrant Community themes in the current plan provide the most significant positive effects, as improved health and sense of well-being are impacted by the environment, access to services, good public realm and local green space.	This SA objective is supported by the Plan ambitions. The Plan contributes to this SA objective by improving accessibility and engagement for everyone resulting in more people caring for and enjoying the landscape. This includes being able to access and use public rights of way, local green space and access to services. Ambitions to reduce carbon emissions and facilitate active travel will also contribute to improving people's health and wellbeing by reducing pollution from private vehicles.
7	To retain existing jobs and create new employment opportunities	Economic activity would continue and might benefit as there would be less restrictions on development. However, such economic development would be less likely to be sustainable and could result in longer-term employment issues. In	Having regard to the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic and Brexit, the Plan has a strong focus on strengthening the local economy, across a range of strategies. A particular focus is on green recovery and addressing climate change but also supporting farming and forestry through profitable land management and	An ambition of the Plan is to create a thriving, diverse economy with a focus on supporting people to live and work in the Lake District. A particular focus is on green growth, supporting profitable farming and a regenerative visitor economy.

		addition, there would be no specific support for marginal economic activities.	supporting the visitor economy.	The Plan further contributes to this SA objective by promoting economic investment to diversify the economy.
8	To improve access to jobs	Economic activity would continue and might benefit as there would be less restrictions on development. However, without specific actions to promote training opportunities or to assist people to access job		
9	To diversify and strengthen the local economy	Without strategic management, it is likely that a lack of diversity in the local economy would increase as certain traditional industries might continue to dominate.		
10	To provide everyone with a decent home	Without a strategic and proactive approach to providing adequate and affordable housing, the existing situation would become worse.	The effects of the Plan will have a positive effect on this SA Objective. The Vibrant Community theme provides the most significant effect by supporting new housing for permanent occupation and by supplying land for small-scale housing schemes.	The Plan significantly contributes to this SA objective. The ambitions support people to live and work in the Lake District by increasing the working age population and increasing the supply of new homes. Actions in the Plan further support this action by facilitating appropriate new housing development.
11	To preserve, enhance and manage landscape quality and character for future generations	The landscape quality and character of the Park are maintained by a comprehensive management arrangement delivered by the LDNPA, landowners and farmers. No strategic management would result in significant changes to the landscape that would ultimately lead to a change in the distinct character of the area.	The Plan has the potential to deliver a range of both positive and negative effects in relation to landscape character and quality, although on balance it is more likely to achieve significant benefits. Strategies that seek to promote transport infrastructure, profitable land management and land allocated for new development could possibly cause adverse effects. However, there are several strategies that	As with the current Plan, the new Plan has the potential to deliver a range of positive and negative effects in relation to landscape character and quality. There are risks of adverse effects associated with policies and objectives that seek to promote infrastructure, development or changes in land management. However, the new Plan includes ambitions and policies which aim to protect and conserve the extraordinary beauty and harmony of the landscape.

			focus on protecting and enhancing the landscape.	On balance, and when taking into consideration the purposes of National Parks, the Plan is more likely to achieve significant benefits.
12	To improve the quality of the built and natural environment, including the historic, heritage assets and their setting	Doing nothing could lead to unplanned development, which could impact on the quality and distinctiveness of the local environment.	This SA objective is supported by a number of the strategies that aim to improve understanding and the management and conservation of the built and historic environment.	The Plan significantly contributes to this SA objective. The ambitions seek to conserve and enhance the cultural and historic environment. Additionally, a number of policies aim to improve understanding and engagement with the historic environment and World Heritage Site.
13	To create vibrant, active, inclusive and open-minded communities, with a strong sense of local history	There would be no specific efforts to promote inclusiveness and participation, or to connect local communities to their heritage.	The current Plan contains many actions that are likely to deliver benefits to community health, cohesion and awareness of its local history.	The Plan promotes a better understanding of the cultural landscape and historic environment. Vibrant, active, inclusive and open-minded communities are supported through actions that enable people to live and work in the Lake District.
14	To restore and protect land, soil and geodiversity	A lack of management would result in increased soil erosion due to unplanned development, farming activities and increased visitor numbers.	The Plan encourages sustainable soil management including the quality, stability and function of soils.	The Plan supports better land management through the delivery of natural solutions and explicitly aims to improve soil health to increase the resilience and the carbon storage potential of the landscape.
15	To improve access to services, facilities, the countryside and open spaces	Without a proactive approach defined by strategic priorities, there would be increased difficulties in delivering key services to the community. In addition, no management actions would be undertaken to maintain open access of the rights of way network.	The Plan takes a proactive approach through strategic priorities that will have positive effects on this SA Objective across all vision themes.	Improving access to services, the countryside and open spaces is supported through the ambitions of the new Plan. Policies that support this SA objective include delivering effective, integrated travel options and providing opportunities to discover, appreciate and experience a unique, rich cultural landscape.
16	To manage mineral resources sustainably and minimise waste	Unplanned exploitation of mineral resources would occur that could affect the quality of the environment but could	The current Plan encourages the wise use of geology. The strategy seeks to support the extraction of building	The new Plan carries forward a policy to support the extraction of building stone and slate where it is principally

		offer new economic opportunities. Without strategic management there would be no activities undertaken and little incentive to reduce waste generation.	stone and slate where it is principally needed to maintain the Special Quality of distinctive buildings and settlement character and attributes of Outstanding Universal Value, in line with policies in the Local Plan.	needed to maintain the Special Quality of distinctive buildings and settlement character and attributes of Outstanding Universal Value, in line with policies in the Local Plan.
17	To improve water quality and water resources	Water quality may decrease due to the impacts of farming, unplanned development and greater visitor numbers.	The Plan seeks improvements in water quality, including sea water and to sustain water resources. Several strategies seek to address flooding and soil stability. Changes to land management associated with farming activities could impact on water quality, but on balance the Plan will have a positive effect on this SA objective.	One of the key priorities in the Plan is to reduce water pollution and improve water quality contributing positively to this SA objective. Land management activities, including farming could negatively impact water quality but the Plan aims to increase and improve nature-friendly farming mitigating any potential harmful impacts.
18	To preserve, enhance and manage the attributes of OUV	Potential threats to the cultural landscape, landscape degradation takes place due to changes in land management and unplanned development.	Several strategies within the current plan will have a positive effect on this SA Objective. The Spectacular Landscape strategy provides the most positive impact.	The policy to protect and conserve attributes of OUV and special qualities is maintained and expanded on in the new Plan. This SA objective is further supported by the ambitions and objectives, in particular ambition 7.

The assessment indicates that the 'do nothing' approach is likely to result in a number of significant adverse impacts, particularly due to a reduction in the maintenance of services and in management actions that would lead to a decline in the condition and quality of environmental and social assets including water quality, historic sites and biodiversity. This would result in a range of adverse economic effects as tourism and recreation industries suffer due to greater external competition and a lack of strategic promotion.

The option for 'business as usual' is likely to result in a range of positive effects as actions to promote the landscape, cultural heritage, economic development and a vibrant community are delivered. The integrated plan delivers the requirements of both the National Park and WHS designations by focussing on delivering effective protection for the Special Qualities of the Lake District and attributes of OUV. It does not however adequately address the key priorities identified since it was published which are now drivers for change, such as the environment and climate emergency, the Protected Landscapes and Targets and Outcomes Framework and devolution which will change local structures and partnerships during the life of this plan.

Therefore, the SA identifies that implementation of this draft Plan is the best approach to deliver the requirements of both the National Park and the WHS designations in a balanced and sustainable manner, and which also seeks to address the strategic priorities identified since the publication of the current Plan.

4. Appraisal of Partnership's Plan Policies

4.1. Identifying impact significance

The unmitigated effects of the Plan policies on achieving the SA objectives were identified through the analysis of the key sustainability issues and the use of professional judgement. The significance of effects was scored using the five-point scale summarised in table 4.1. If a high level of uncertainty regarding the likelihood and potential significance of an impact (either positive or negative) was identified, it was scored as uncertain.

Table 4.1: SA assessment codes

Effect significance	Impact symbol
Significant positive effect	++
Minor positive effect	+
Positive/negative effect	+/-
Neutral effect	0
Minor negative effect	-
Significant negative effect	--
Uncertain effect	?

Throughout the assessment the following approach was applied:

- Positive, neutral and negative impacts are assessed, with uncertain impacts highlighted.
- The duration of the impacts are considered over the short, medium and long term.
- The reversibility and permanence of the impact are assessed (e.g. temporary construction impacts, impacts which can be mitigated against/restored over time or completely irreversible changes to the environment).

4.2. Impact Assessment

Table 4.2 provides an assessment of the Plan's policies against each of the SA objectives, whilst Table 4.3 provides a summary of the overall effect the Plan will have on each SA objective. This is a qualitative assessment that identifies the type and range of potential effects that the Plan may have. Where a particular policy is

underpinned by a series of measures, each of which may give rise to a range of environmental impacts, an overall impact has been identified for each SA objective. The monitoring indicators will enable the Plan to be monitored and any problems or shortfalls to be highlighted and remedied at an early stage. If failings are evident, it will be necessary for the Plan to be revised so that the achievement of the SA objectives is not compromised.

Table 4.2: Assessment of Plan Policies against SA objectives

Policy ref	Policy	SA objectives appraisal score																		Comments	
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18		
1	A world-class living cultural landscape of exceptional beauty	a) Protect and conserve the extraordinary beauty and harmony of the Lake District landscape and attributes of Outstanding Universal Value and Special Qualities.	0	+	0	0	0	+	+	0	+	0	++	++	0	0	0	0	0	+	This policy aims to protect the landscape quality of the National Park and improve management decisions relating to its protection. They have the potential to deliver significant positive effects in relation to SA objectives 11 and 12, which are focused on protecting and/or improving landscape quality and of the built environment and natural environment. In doing so, there may be tangible benefits for other SA objectives, as greater protection of high-quality landscapes may also help deliver greater protection for important species and habitats (SA objective 2). As a result of this, there may be positive impacts on the tourism and recreation economies, which rely to a great deal on the high-quality landscape of the Park.
		b) Support the maintenance of traditional upland farming systems in the Lake District based on the open fell hefted grazing of local breeds of livestock including the Herdwick sheep, and commons management.	0	-	0	0	+	+	+	0	0	0	+	+	+	-	0	0	0	++	This policy has the potential to provide a range of social, environmental and economic effects. Greater support for farming communities will benefit the health and wellbeing of the local people and will help foster greater community health, cohesion and connection to their cultural heritage. The maintenance of traditional upland farming systems in the Lake District may ensure the continued sustainment of heritage assets designated or non-designated associated with this activity. In addition, this policy may offer a range of important training and education opportunities to these communities to equip them with the knowledge required to maintain traditional upland farming systems. This policy will also have economic effects, most notably as it will support job creation and retention in upland areas. In addition, the policy will help maintain historical landscape character in upland areas and will therefore contribute towards SA objective 8. However, this policy does have the potential to have a minor negative effect in relation to SA objective 2, as the grazing of land is usually to the detriment of biodiversity and could result in a reduction in soil stability and quality. Such practices are historic and therefore the impacts of this have occurred for a long time. SA objective 11 seeks to preserve, enhance and manage landscape quality and character for future generations, which should be realised in places where this policy is implemented. The policy will also provide a significant contribution to SA objective 18 as protection and preservation of these cultural practices will support several key OUV attributes.
		c) Maintain, enhance, and celebrate the historic environment and cultural landscape.	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	0	0	+	++	+	0	0	0	0	++	These policies aim to maintain and protect the historic environment and cultural landscape of the National Park and improve management decisions relating to its protection. They have the potential to deliver significant positive effects in relation to SA objectives 11, 12 and 18, which are focused on protecting and/or improving landscape quality and of the built environment, natural environment and attributes of OUV. In doing so, there may be tangible benefits for other SA objectives, as greater protection of high-quality landscapes may also help to create communities with a strong sense of local history. The policy will also provide a significant contribution to SA objective 18 as protection and preservation of these cultural practices will support several key OUV attributes.

Policy ref	Policy	SA objectives appraisal score																		Comments	
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18		
2	Mineral extraction in the Lake District	d) Encourage and support the retention of traditional skills and practices.	0	0	0	0	++	+	++	++	+	0	++	+	+	0	0	0	0	++	This policy has the potential to provide a range of social, environmental and economic effects. Encouraging and supporting traditional skills maintains local identity and character and helps ensure that valuable skills are passed down, keeping local traditions alive. The policy also has potential to deliver positive effects in relation to SA objectives 7, 9 and 10 by creating and supporting employment opportunities and by reducing reliance on external contractors.
		Support the extraction of building stone and slate where this is principally needed to maintain the Special Quality of 'distinctive buildings and settlement character' and attributes of Outstanding Universal Value, in line with policies in the Local Plan.	0	0	+	0	0	0	+	0	+	0	0	++	0	0	0	++	0	+	This policy could provide significant positive effects in relation to SA objectives 12 and 16 as the materials could be utilised locally to deliver better quality built development, whilst the use of local mineral resources in preference to other materials will contribute towards greater sustainability within the local construction industry. This in turn could have a range of positive economic effects such as job creation and retention within the construction and mining industries, and the strengthening and diversification of the local economy. The potential adverse risks to the natural environment associated with new or greater quarrying activities can largely be managed through application of wider environmental policies within the Local Plan. However, policies protecting the biodiversity, geodiversity and landscape quality of the Park must be robustly applied otherwise such risks may be realised. The use of locally sourced building materials will have a positive effect of SA objective 3. Natural slate has the lowest embodied energy of all roofing materials and natural stone is one of the oldest sustainable building materials. Both can be easily dismantled and recycled at the end of its useful life.
3	Well considered tree and woodland establishment and improvement	a) Maximise the number of established woodlands that are well managed. Priority will be given to semi-natural woodland and other woodland where there is a significant opportunity to enhance their resilience and contribution to the landscape including the attributes of Outstanding	+	++	++	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	++	+	0	+	+	0	+	0	These policies aim to deliver more high-quality woodland in the Lake District. In doing so, the policies seek to achieve a wide range of benefits including improvements to biodiversity, landscape character and quality, flood prevention, carbon storage and recreation. The policies are also likely to achieve a number of associated economic benefits, with new and better managed woodlands providing opportunities for new job creation in tourism and recreation related activities, carbon storage and forestry. Therefore, these policies are very important due to its wide range of positive effects. They have the potential to deliver significant benefits to SA objectives 2 and 11, as new and better managed woodland will enhance the biodiversity and landscape of the Park. In addition, SA objectives 1, 14 and 17 will also realise a range of benefits as new woodland will help to achieve improvements in air quality, water quality and resources and land quality. In particular, new woodland provides an important opportunity to reduce carbon emissions within the Park, which also contributes positively to SA objective 3. The policies will also benefit SA objectives 7, 9 and 15 as new woodlands offer opportunities to strengthen the local economy and provide access to the countryside. New tree cover does not have to be at the expense of the OUV of the English Lake District. It will require careful planning and delivery in the right places and through the

Policy ref	Policy	SA objectives appraisal score																		Comments
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
	Universal Value, biodiversity, recreation, historic environment, flood prevention, carbon storage, and productivity.																			right methods to ensure new woodland cover avoids harm to the OUV of the Lake District.
	b) Support the establishment of new tree cover throughout the Lake District, at a locally agreed scale, guided by the Partnership's woodland creation and tree establishment guidelines for the Lake District National Park Our goal is to focus on achieving the optimum balance between timber production, flood prevention, carbon storage, water quality, soil stability, biodiversity, historic environment, conservation of the cultural landscape, recreation, loss of grazing land, landscape change, hefting, and communal management of common land, where relevant.	0	++	++	0	0	0	+	0	+	0	+++	+	0	+	+	0	++	0	

Policy ref	Policy	SA objectives appraisal score																		Comments	
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18		
4	Resilient and well-functioning habitats and wildlife																				
		c) Manage the spread of disease in tree species, increase resilience to pests, and take a planned approach to landscape restoration if and increase the resilience of woodlands.	+	+	++	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	++	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	
		a) Support interventions that help to achieve bigger, better and more joined up resilient habitats and species in line with the Cumbria Local Nature Recovery Strategy, contributing to delivering 30x30 as well as other national targets to restore nature.	+	++	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	++	0	0	++	0	
		b) Encourage sustainable soil management by developing improved understanding of soils and conserving and enhancing the quality, stability and function of soils.	+	++	++	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	++	0	0	++	0	

Policy ref		Policy		SA objectives appraisal score																		Comments	
				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18		
5	The continuation of the Lake District as a source of artistic, literary, and cultural inspiration	a)	Support opportunities for continued inspiration from the cultural landscape and heritage by further understanding and celebrating artistic inspiration, cultural traditions, skills and activities.	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	+	++	0	0	0	0	0	++	This policy provides an opportunity to connect local communities to their local cultural history, which is a focus of SA objective 13. In addition, the policy will have a positive effect on SA objectives 6 and 12 as supporting opportunities for cultural inspiration will potentially help improve health and sense of well-being and help improve the quality of the built and natural environment. The policy will have a significant positive effect on SA objective 18 as supporting opportunities for cultural inspiration will preserve and potentially enhance the attributes of OUVs.
		b)	Conserve, maintain, manage and make use of cultural heritage assets through supporting and promoting how these assets are understood and interpreted, in line with the World Heritage Interpretation Strategy, which will support the growth of cultural tourism in the Lake District.	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	+	0	+	+	+	0	+	0	0	0	++	This policy has the potential to deliver a wide range of social, environmental and economic benefits. Better management and promotion of cultural heritage assets could deliver improvements to the landscape and built environment, which could in turn positively affect tourism related activities. This would be of benefit to the local economy as increasing visitor numbers could lead to job creation opportunities. In addition, this could also provide new opportunities for local communities, which could gain from better promotion and access to these heritage features. There is also likely to be a significant positive effect in relation to SA objective 18 because promoting cultural tourism will assist in preserving and managing the OUV attributes.
6	Profitable land management, farming, and forestry industries maintaining traditional land-based skills and sustaining our agro-pastoral farming system	a)	Ensure farming, forestry and land management remain or become viable through diversifying their income, securing funding to deliver public goods, adding value to their products, securing efficiency savings and identifying and	-	-	0	0	+	0	+	+	+	0	-	0	0	-	0	0	-	+	This policy assists the farming and forestry industries to become more profitable and will help to retain existing jobs and create new employment opportunities. This will also help diversify and strengthen the local economy, and by establishing new markets access to jobs can be improved and new training opportunities can be provided. Therefore, these policies are likely to have a direct positive effect in relation to SA objectives 5, 7, 8 and 9. This policy has the potential to have a negative effect on SA objectives 2 and 11, as encouraging the farming and forestry industries could be at the detriment of biodiversity and landscape quality and character within the National Park. There could be a negative effect on SA objectives 1 and 17, as increased farming activity and new diversified industries could lead to a decrease in water quality and greater water demand as well as an increase greenhouse gas emissions. There is also a positive effect on SA objective 18 as encouraging farming and other land management activities will help to protect and promote traditional industries and cultural	

Policy ref	Policy	SA objectives appraisal score																		Comments
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
7	A sustainable and responsible Lake District visitor economy	establishing new markets.																		practices, which is an OUV attribute. In relation to all other SA objectives the effect of this policy is likely to be neutral on balance.
		b) Support and encourage young people into farming, forestry and land management, to maintain traditional skills and develop new ones to accrue the knowledge necessary for the maintenance of our cultural landscape.	0	0	0	0	+	0	+	0	+	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	There is the potential for this policy to have a positive effect on SA objective 5 through the opportunity to support projects that promote personnel training and skills development. The focus on education will help to retain existing jobs and create new employment opportunities, help to strengthen the local economy and help to preserve, enhance and manage landscape quality and character, therefore having a positive effect on SA objectives 7, 9 and 11.
		a) Ensure the Lake District visitor economy continues to grow by attracting UK and overseas visitors, encouraging longer and overnight stays, as outlined in the Cumbria Destination Management Plan.	-	-	0	0	0	0	++	+	++	-	-	0	+	0	+	0	0	Increasing the duration of visits will have a range of economic benefits, providing opportunities for job creation and retention, and to strengthen the local economy. These policies are likely to result in increased visitor access to the countryside and open space and may also benefit local communities by providing new opportunities to enjoy the countryside and cultural events. However, there is a risk of an adverse effect in relation to SA objective 10, as encouraging overnight stays could result in more houses being turned into holiday lets or second holiday homes, reducing the availability of housing, particularly affordable housing, to the local community. Greater visitor numbers may also give rise to a range of adverse environmental effects, creating greater pressure on biodiversity and landscape quality, including impacts on tranquillity. There may also be a minor negative in relation to SA objective 1 as increased numbers of tourists and tourism activity is likely to result in greater greenhouse gas emissions within the National Park.
		b) Support initiatives that promote the Lake District as a year-round	-	0	0	0	0	0	++	0	++	-	0	+	+	0	+	0	0	++

Policy ref	Policy	SA objectives appraisal score																		Comments
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
8	Access to services	destination to a range of audiences at different times of year.																		Seeking to promote several key features of the Park including its landscape and environment has the potential to cause a range of effects on these features, both positive and negative. Retaining the quality and value of these features will be an inherent aspect of their successful promotion. However, increasing visits has the potential to conflict with management actions designed to protect these features as increasing numbers of visitors may result in increased damage and disturbance, which could erode their quality and value. On balance, these policies are likely to have a neutral effect on related SA objectives.
		c) Support the evolution of all types of visitor accommodation, to meet continuously changing domestic and international visitor expectations guided by policies of the Local Plan.	-	0	0	0	0	0	++	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Supporting the evolution of visitor accommodation to meet changing domestic and international visitor expectations will have a range of economic benefits, providing opportunities for job creation and retention to diversify and strengthen the local economy. There is a risk of an adverse effect in relation to SA objective 1, as encouraging domestic and international visitors is likely to result in greater greenhouse gas emissions within the National Park.
		d) Support skills training to improve the quality of the hospitality sector.	0	0	0	0	++	0	+	++	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Supporting skills training to improve the quality of the hospitality sector will have a range of economic benefits, providing opportunities for job creation and retention to diversify and strengthen the local economy whilst improving the level of skills, education and training.
		a) Support complete coverage of superfast broadband and mobile telephone to all premises in every valley, and targeted 4G and 5G mobile internet coverage.	+	0	+	+	+	+	++	+	++	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	By improving broadband provision there is potential for a positive effect in relation to SA objectives 4 and 15 as this would offer an important opportunity to deliver a means by which more people can gain access to services and facilities, such as online healthcare advice, banking and social services, and also encourage greater participation in the democratic process and management of the Park. This impact could be significant if the enhanced broadband provision was mirrored by improvements in online services and a suite of training and educational opportunities to promote the enhanced access. There is also a potential positive effect on SA objective 1 and 3 as it would enable more people to work from home and could reduce the amount of cars travelling to work places, therefore reducing greenhouse gas emissions. There is also a positive effect on SA objectives 7, 8 and 9, as improving digital infrastructure has the potential to have a range of positive economic effects, from enabling greater diversity in the economy through new online businesses, to increasing job and training opportunities. For other SA objectives, the effects of this policy are likely to be neutral. Whilst the installation of the digital infrastructure has the potential to cause a range of environmental effects, this are likely to be relatively minor and could be effectively managed.
		b) Support initiatives throughout the Lake District which	0	0	0	0	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	+	0	++	0	0	There is a significant positive effect on SA objective 15 as the policy directly supports improving access to a wide range of services. In particular, the policy seeks to provide better provision of mobile services, which would

Policy ref	Policy	SA objectives appraisal score																Comments			
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16		17	18	
9	Access to a range of employment opportunities	provide access to a wider range of services, including mobile services, and the multi-use of community buildings and business premises.																			improve access to information, facilities and amenities for the local population. This could include better provision of, and greater access to, health care information and services, which would have a positive effect on health and wellbeing across the Park, and training and educational opportunities. There would also be greater access to jobs and new opportunities for economic diversification.
		c) Support provision for residents and visitors alike to have access to healthcare services and facilities that meet their essential needs.	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	Making better use of community buildings will also increase the inclusivity and vibrancy of a community, which will provide a positive effect to SA objective 13.
		a) Support the promotion of the Lake District as a desirable place to locate businesses on the basis of digital infrastructure, workforce, quality of life and high quality environment and cultural heritage, using the Local Plan to guide investment decisions.	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	This policy focusses on supporting the provision of healthcare services, and has the potential to have a positive effect on SA objective 6 by improving the health and sense of well-being of people. Although the effects of this policy are largely neutral, it is likely healthcare provision will be focussed in the larger settlements within the Lake District which could impact on the demand for housing in these areas, which in turn could have a positive impact on the vibrancy of local communities.
		b) Promote Rural Service Centres as locations for business where the travel and accommodation needs for employees can be	0	0	0	+	0	0	++	++	++	0	0	0	0	0	+	++	0	0	0
																				This policy will have a number of positive economic and social impacts. Increasing the number of businesses in the Rural Service Centres will help to strengthen local economies by improving access to jobs. This in turn has the potential to lead to greater job creation and retention. There are no other effects on the SA objectives from this policy. However, effects to the quality of the built environment, the landscape and biodiversity should be considered during the supportive planning process.	

Policy ref	Policy	SA objectives appraisal score																		Comments
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
10	Availability and supply of a full range of housing types, sizes and tenures to meet local needs, and a high proportion of housing in permanent occupation	most easily be met.																		
		c) Maximise the Lake District's potential for green economic growth through for example, natural capital investments to embed green recovery and increase jobs and investment.	+	+	++	0	+	0	+	0	+	0	+	0	0	+	0	0	+	0
		a) Ensure new homes contribute to community vibrancy by requiring their permanent occupancy, as part of the planning consent.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	++	0	0	++	0	0	0	0	0
		b) Support appropriate ways to tackle excessive numbers of empty and, or 'holiday houses' where this occurs.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	++	0	0	++	0	+	0	0	0
		c) Ensure that local community housing needs are met, including by supporting community led schemes to meet local needs in appropriate locations, guided by the adopted Local Plan.	0	-	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	++	-	0	+	0	0	+	0	0
		d) Ensure the work of housing	0	-	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	++	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0

Policy ref	Policy	SA objectives appraisal score																		Comments	
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18		
11	Increased resilience to flooding	authorities, enablers and housing providers is coordinated to maximise the delivery of new affordable housing.																			to provide everyone with a decent home. This policy also has potential to deliver additional benefits including improving the health and wellbeing of people and by contributing to the delivery of vibrant, active and inclusive communities.
		a) Secure optimum solutions to flood resilience for the catchment as a whole, balancing the need to reduce flood risk in towns and villages against potential impacts up and down stream, including on agricultural land, and sustaining the Special Qualities and attributes of Outstanding Universal Value.	0	?	++	+	0	++	0	0	0	+	?	?	+	++	0	0	++	0	Improving resilience to the effects of flooding and undertaking actions to reduce flood risk has the potential to deliver a range of important social, environmental and economic benefits. It has the potential to make a significant contribution to SA objectives as reducing flood risk can positively affect the health and wellbeing of affected communities, by reducing the stress and uncertainty associated with the risks and impacts of flooding. This will also benefit community cohesion (SA objective 13) and will help maintain or improve the quality of people’s homes (SA objective 10), as well as helping communities adapt to the impacts of climate change. This policy may also deliver a significant positive effect in relation to SA objectives 14 and 16 as it encourages the implementation of projects that deliver better surface water management. If undertaken on a landscape scale, this could lead to opportunities to deliver improvements in water quality and the management of water resources and could help to restore land and soil quality.
		b) Mitigate and adapt to the increased likelihood and severity of flooding that is predicted to result from climate change by increasing the resilience to flooding. This includes slowing surface water run-off by increasing absorption and storage, or protecting settlements with hard defences whilst sustaining	0	?	++	+	0	++	0	0	0	+	?	?	+	++	0	0	++	0	However, if undertaken on a landscape scale, there are potential risks to the quality and characteristics of the affected landscape, and these would need to be carefully considered as any such project is developed to ensure the effects are sustainable. Conversely, such schemes undertaken in appropriate locations could deliver a range of landscape benefits. The potential for positive and negative effects also applies to biodiversity, which could be adversely affected if inappropriate flood risk management actions are taken in sensitive areas, but could experience a range of benefits through opportunities for new habitat creation. Therefore, in relation to both biodiversity and landscape (including the built environment) the potential effects of the policy are difficult to determine at this stage and will be dependent upon how and where flood risk management measures are delivered.

Policy ref	Policy		SA objectives appraisal score																		Comments
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
12	Sustained major industries and provision of infrastructure outside the Lake District	the Special Qualities and attributes of Outstanding Universal Value.																			
		a) Recognise the importance of nuclear and low carbon energy industries in West Cumbria, the defence sector in South Cumbria, and other major economic investments in Cumbria. Where they do not prejudice the Lake District, its setting, Special Qualities, attributes of Outstanding Universal Value, or visitor economy we will assist with the development of proposals for associated infrastructure.	?	?	+	0	+	0	+	+	+	0	?	0	0	?	0	0	?	0	
13	Addressing workforce and skills gaps	a) Support initiatives that maintain a working age population which can provide a workforce for existing and new businesses.	0	0	0	0	0	0	++	+	++	++	0	0	++	0	+	0	0	+	

Policy ref	Policy	SA objectives appraisal score																		Comments	
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18		
14	An effective and integrated transport infrastructure supporting low carbon travel options	b) Support initiatives that address labour shortages and skills gaps in the local workforce, including delivery of Enterprising Cumbria's Going for Growth: Cumbria's Economic Strategy 2025-2045.	0	0	0	0	++	0	+	++	+	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	These policies will have a significant positive effect in relation to SA objectives 5 and 8 because it directly supports the creation of new education and training opportunities and will provide people with the skills needed to better access jobs. In addition, it will also have a positive impact on SA objective 13 as it will encourage people of working age to reside in the Lake District. In addition, better training and access to jobs is likely to have a range of social benefits, particularly in relation to community cohesion.
		a) Support improvements to the Cumbria Coast and Furness rail lines, the Lakes Line and Windermere ferry where they contribute to an integrated transport service and do not prejudice the Lake District's Special Qualities and attributes of Outstanding Universal Value.	-	-	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	-	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	Both these policies seek to support the delivery of improvements to key transport infrastructure in the National Park and facilitate greater access across the region. This has the potential to create a range of economic and social benefits, by facilitating greater access to services and the countryside, and offering better opportunities to access jobs or for job creation and retention. In contrast, significant infrastructure development could have a range of adverse effects on the natural environment, and most notably on biodiversity and landscape character, which are sensitive to development pressures. However, the policies seek to control such impacts by ensuring that infrastructure improvements are sensitive to the Special Qualities of the Park and attributes of Outstanding Universal Value. In addition, improvements to the road and rail network may have implications for air quality and carbon emissions, particularly if they facilitate a significant increase in the number of vehicle movements.
		b) Support development and delivery of infrastructure and services that decarbonises travel and enables low carbon and active travel (including cycling and walking infrastructure, electric vehicles,	+/-	0	0	0	0	++	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	++	0	0	0

Policy ref	Policy	SA objectives appraisal score																		Comments	
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18		
15	An inclusive destination with opportunities to discover, appreciate and experience a unique, rich cultural landscape	electric bikes and other modes of transport), and more people to reach the Lake District by rail and integrated onward travel.																			
		c) Support initiatives that revolutionise how visitors and residents travel using smart tech developments, including shared transport, mobility as a service and travel.	+	0	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	++	0	0	0	
		a) Support regenerative tourism that benefits the environment, supports communities, and ensures that every visitor has the best experience through the breadth of activity. Experiences will benefit visitors health and wellbeing, and enhance their understanding and appreciation of the	-	0	0	0	0	++	+	0	++	0	+	0	+	0	++	0	0	0	++
This policy delivers a range of positive benefits including the retention of jobs and creating new employment opportunities in hospitality, culture and heritage sectors helping to diversity and strengthen the local economy. Supporting the conservation and enhancement of heritage assets has potential to have a positive effect on SA objective 11 through improved learning and understanding of heritage features. Using the Interpretation Strategy to promote the Lake District's cultural heritage assets will also deliver a positive benefit to local communities, helping them to embed a strong sense of local history. Supporting and promoting inclusive and accessible adventures on foot will deliver positive benefits for SA objective 15, helping to improve access to services, facilities the countryside and open spaces. There is potential for a minor negative benefit to SA objective 1 through a potential increase in the number of visitors and consequent greenhouse gas emissions as a result of travelling to the National Park. This negative effect is mitigated through other aspects of the policy, including supporting and promoting active travel.																					

Policy ref	Policy	SA objectives appraisal score																		Comments
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
	attributes of Outstanding Universal Value and Special Qualities of the Lake District.																			
	Landscape and environment																			
	i. Sustain the Lake District as a place to experience a unique landscape and environment in a variety of ways, offering opportunities for experiencing, tranquillity, peacefulness, spiritual refreshment, dark skies, and wildlife.																			
	ii. Support the maintenance of routes and rights of navigation so people can explore and enjoy, ensuring appropriate management practises where necessary.																			
	Culture and heritage																			
	Support the conservation and enhancement, and use the Interpretation																			

Policy ref	Policy	SA objectives appraisal score																		Comments
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
	Strategy to promote the Lake District's cultural heritage assets to improve learning and understanding.																			
	Inclusive and accessible																			
	i. Support and promote new and existing opportunities for inclusive and accessible adventure on foot, bicycles, ropes, in and on water, and through events – all sensitive to the unique landscape, guided where appropriate through the Active Travel Network Plan.																			
	ii. Support organised events where they are sensitively managed and where the organisers have undertaken community engagement and consultation, and developed event management plans, including																			

Policy ref	Policy	SA objectives appraisal score																		Comments
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
	mitigation of an impacts.																			
	Hospitality, food and drink																			
	i. Encourage a consistently high standard of hospitality and a warm welcome for everyone.																			
	ii. Celebrate the provenance and quality of Cumbria's food and drink by supporting local produce available in the Lake District, raising its profile through the World Heritage Site brand.																			
	b) Promote the Lake District as a place for everyone to enjoy and appreciate, and to support the nation's health and wellbeing.	-	0	0	0	0	++	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+
	c) Support opportunities for people to give in order to significantly increase the amount of contributions made by visitors to sustain,	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	++	++	0	0	++	0	0	0	++

Policy ref	Policy	SA objectives appraisal score																		Comments
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
	maintain and improve the Lake District's environment and the landscape.																			

Table 4.3: Summary of the effects on the SA objectives

Receptor	SA Objective	Assessment score	Justification for assessment score	Timescale, probability and permanence of effects
Air Quality	1 To improve air quality and reduce greenhouse gas emissions	++ -	The Plan is likely to deliver both positive and negative effects in relation to this SA objective. Some negative effects have been identified across the ambitions associated with new land management, development initiatives, and promotion of new housing. Each of these activities are likely to result in carbon emissions, which could lead to a conflict with wider objectives to better manage and reduce such emissions. Also, increasing visitor's length of stay could also lead to greater emissions. Policies that seek to deliver improved transport infrastructure, including active travel, and services may have a positive and negative influence on emissions; these measures could lead to additional traffic but could also see the promotion of public transport, increased active travel and low emissions vehicles over private vehicle journeys. The Plan may also deliver some important benefits, most notably in relation to delivery of new digital infrastructure, which will enable far greater access of services and information online, and may promote better ways of working, including home working or new online businesses, with associated reductions in vehicle usage – although this must be tempered by increases in energy demand. Policy 14 (c) seeks to support development and delivery of infrastructure and services to enable low carbon and active travel and enable more people to arrive in the Lake District by rail and the provision of integrated onward travel. A range of policies which seek to restore carbon sinks, improve habitats and reduce nitrogen deposits will have a significant positive effect on improving air quality and reduce greenhouse emissions.	Many areas of the Lake District are unaffected by the issues that affect local air quality. The most common kind of air pollution is nitrogen dioxide from vehicles exhausts. There is one Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) in Kendal (SLDC, 2016). Any effect is likely to be longer term; due to complex nature of air quality and the time it will take for any management measures introduced to be put in place and effective. The probability that the positive effects will be achieved will depend on the technical and financial viability of any proposals, such as small-scale renewable energy generating schemes supported by the Local Plan. Increase in the use of public transport depends largely on incentives offered, ease of use and the cost of travelling by public transport kept comparably low. The proposed reductions to greenhouse gas emissions in the Plan, in combination with policies in the adopted Local Plan and National air quality targets are likely to result in a positive cumulative effect.
Biodiversity	2 To protect and enhance biodiversity	++ -	The Plan is likely to affect this SA objective in a variety of ways, both positive and negative. It does present a number of potential negative effects. Policies that promote greater tourism or access to the countryside, land development, transport infrastructure and traditional upland farming all risk having a negative impact on biodiversity. This is particularly relevant to policies that aim to support development and improve the landscape and cultural heritage quality of the Park, which may occur to the detriment of the area's species and habitats. A picturesque and rich cultural landscape may not have a robust and biodiverse natural environment. Several policies may also have both positive and negative effects; for example the implementation of better flood risk management measures at a catchment scale could offer biodiversity enhancement opportunities through sensitive techniques such as Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS) and habitat creation but could also damage biodiversity through the introduction of hard engineering measures. There are several policies that could make a positive contribution to this SA objective. Improvements to land management practises could be delivered in a manner that is consistent with protecting and enhancing biodiversity. In addition, Policy 4 makes a positive commitment to achieving bigger, better and more joined up habitats and restoring protected sites, whilst policy 4 with its focus	Development proposals can have immediate and permanent effects on biodiversity, both positive and negative. However, the type and scale of effects are influenced by a complex series of variables including the type of development, the location and geographic scale of the development and the quality of the receiving environment. Mitigation measures can be built into development proposals to avoid or minimise the significance of effects, whilst enhancement actions could be included to deliver benefits. Many of the Plan policies that could significantly affect biodiversity are likely to be realised in the medium to long term. However, increasing access for visitors to the Lake District is likely to have a more immediate effect due to a number of policies aiming to achieve increased visitor numbers in the short term. Robust monitoring of effects, utilising and supporting existing networks will be needed to identify potential issues over the same timescales. The significance of any negative effects are likely to be mitigated through the enforcement of wildlife legislation and other

				contributing to 30 x 30 targets also makes an important positive contribution to this SA objective. Policy 3 is particularly important as it focuses on better management of woodlands, including new woodland planting. Therefore, overall, the Plan has the potential to deliver both adverse effects and important positive contributions towards this SA objective. Given the biodiversity-focused objectives and ambitions the LDNPA and other Partner organisations should take these aims into account when delivering other Plan policies to ensure significant conflicts do not occur and that sustainable development is effectively delivered.	environmental regulations i.e., HRA, Environment Bill etc., as well as biodiversity objectives contained in the Local Plan. Positive effects of the Plan associated with better protection of designated sites, enhancement of woodlands and new habitat creation are also likely to take effect in the longer term due to the need to agree the approach to be adopted and the need to secure land or landowner agreements before any practical measures can be effected. However, these effects are likely to be permanent, provided the management measures in place to improve quality of the environment are maintained. Simultaneous application of the Plan with the Local Plan and local action plans will positively contribute to protecting and enhancing biodiversity.
Climate Change Mitigation	3	To improve mitigation and adaptation to probable climate changes	++	Improving mitigation and adaptation to probable climate change is embedded within the Plan. Positive contributions will be made through the application of policies which support improved woodland management and the planting of trees, sustainable soil management, reducing nitrogen deposition, maximising funding opportunities to help farming and forestry be more climate resilient, encouraging a green economy and improving the Lake District's resilience to flooding. Other contributions will be secured through low carbon travel options, improving digital connectivity to facilitate more working from home, achieving bigger, better habitats and restoring protected habitats, helping farming and land management be resilient to climate change and encouraging energy efficient buildings. These measures will help reduce sources of greenhouse gases, and enhance the carbon sinks within the Lake District. Increasing resilience to flooding by slowing surface water run-off and hard defences will help communities adapt to the probable impacts of climate change.	The Plan seeks to improve mitigation and adaptation to probable climate change. Climate change impacts are not constrained to administration boundaries meaning the collaborative approach set out in the Plan is an appropriate option. Many of the plan policies that could significantly affect climate change are likely to be realised in the medium to long term, especially projects relating to the natural environment and sustainable land management. Investment in the green economy could, especially through government intervention, be an immediate action, however the projects themselves are likely to take effect in the medium to longer term reflecting agreements that will need to be in place. However, any positive outcomes achieved are likely to be permanent.
Community and Wellbeing	4	To increase the level of participation in democratic processes	+	The Partnership Plan makes a number of commitments to promote greater engagement with the public and certain interest groups. The forms of participation include supporting community-led initiatives to improve access to services, housing and transport, management activities to influence consumers' behaviour, helping communities adapt to the probable impact of climate change and increasing residents' responsibility in looking after the Lake District. These all support this SA objective as local communities and residents will benefit from opportunities to participate in the management and delivery of certain aspects of the Plan.	The Plan may contribute cumulatively with the Local Plan towards future increases in participation within the Lake District when applied alongside national efforts to increase participation. The Volunteering Service offered by the LDNPA and other Partners is an important way of involving residents in the future management of the Lake District in accordance with policies in the Plan, which can be achieved over the short, medium and longer term. Supporting community-led initiatives is also a good way of encouraging public participation in locally important projects such as affordable housing and have direct long-term benefits on the local community and on local service provision.
	5	To improve the level of skills, education and training	+	The Plan scores relatively well against this SA objective. Policy 13 is likely to make a significant contribution if effectively implemented and resourced as it is focused on addressing skill gaps in the local workforce, whilst policy 9 seeks to improve access to a range of employment opportunities. In addition, policies 5 and 15 aim to provide greater educational opportunities to embed better understanding of the Special Qualities of the lake District and the attributes of	Uncertainties in how the training is going to be provided, and the willingness of training providers makes the probability and timescale of this SA objective hard to predict. It is likely that the effects will be felt in the longer term, as it will take time to develop a larger, more knowledgeable workforce, and also to develop an

				OUV. Other policies score positively against this SA objective and this reflects that the Plan, in relation to training and skills levels, is focused on the key challenge of trying to diversify the economy and attracting people of working age to live permanently in the Lake District. Supporting low carbon industries, embedding economic growth in the green economy and new land management practices addressing the probable impacts of climate change all provide opportunities for new skills and training, along with job creation. Improved broadband connectivity will also provide tangible benefits to improving skills and training with the availability of online courses. Achieving this objective is also dependent on a number of important factors, such as funding and resourcing, and therefore, although the Plan will introduce positive measures, these are likely to take time to implement and so are more likely to deliver in the short to medium term. Therefore, there is a minor positive cumulative effect on this SA objective. Ambition five and objective E in the Partnership Plan provide the most significant positive effects, as training and skills levels are essential elements for a successful economy.	economy where the skilled workforce will have access to jobs. The effects will be permanent if the training provided is correctly delivered and addresses the needs of the National Park and its local communities. However, positive effects could be more temporary if the training is focused on an external workforce, is too narrow in its scope or is ineffectively delivered. To achieve this SA objective, a holistic approach to training and job provision is required, where skills and training are developed hand in hand with economic stimuli.
	6	To improve the health and sense of wellbeing of people	+	This SA objective is supported by a number of policies. Policy 15 promotes health and wellbeing through access to the outdoors and policy 8 enables greater access to services including healthcare. Other policies support a range of social and environmental benefits that impact positively on the health and well-being of communities, including broadband and mobile connections, new affordable homes, good air quality and improved water quality. Policies aimed at maintaining and conserving the natural, built and historic environment also have the potential for positive effects. All of these objectives will help improve physical health and wellbeing, as well as support greater community cohesion, which further benefits public health. In addition, a number of other policies are likely to deliver benefits for this SA objective. Policies that seek to create new jobs or provide better access to jobs may have a positive effect on local health and wellbeing. Actions to increase access to the outdoors or improve public service provision will also play a part. In addition, actions targeting specific sectors of the community or economy, such as those aimed at delivering benefits for farmers or for accommodation providers, can all contribute to achieving this SA objective. It is also worth noting that no policies scored negatively against this SA objective and that this is an important positive outcome.	Improvements in health and well-being are likely to be felt in the medium term, and, as it will take time, to be felt significantly in the longer term. The timescale is dependent on how quickly improvements to services and access to them are implemented. It is likely that access is improved in the short-term, along with access to the countryside, but to achieve an improvement in health will take a longer time. The effects are likely to be permanent provided the Plan delivers across all its objectives. Houses must be built to a good standard, access to jobs must be maintained, flood resilience measures must be implemented, and new outdoor recreation facilities must be developed. It is only through a holistic approach that improvements in public health and wellbeing in the long term will be sustained. Key to this will be effective communication and public engagement, ensuring public awareness of the actions being undertaken and effective public uptake in new and improved service provision is achieved.
Economy and Employment	7	To retain existing jobs and create new employment opportunities	++	There are a range of policies that contribute to these SA objectives. Many policies seek to promote the Park as a visitor destination or for a range of experiences, which have the potential to make an important contribution to job creation and retention. In addition, there are policies aimed at improving access to jobs, either through better availability of physical infrastructure i.e., digital technologies or transport connections, or through greater access to training and educational activities. There is also a focus on diversifying the economy whilst also providing new support to a range of traditional economic activities including farming, forestry and activities associated with the cultural history of the area. However, economic growth and increases in tourism need to be carefully balanced with the other priorities of the Plan so that they are not achieved to the detriment of other important features of the Park. There is a need to ensure that the benefits of economic growth and diversification are adequately felt by local	Many actions to deliver economic growth and diversification are already underway in the current Management Plan (2020-2026). However, realising the benefits of this as well as the positive effects on local community cohesion are longer term goals and will require long-term management to meet changing external influences. Diversification activities are therefore particularly important to achieving a balanced and sustainable economy, and these activities are likely to be medium to long term projects. However, they do offer the best route to delivering a sustainable economy that is flexible to meet future challenges and opportunities.
	8	To improve access to jobs			
	9	To diversify and strengthen the local			

		economy		communities to support actions to strengthen community vibrancy and cohesion, and that the benefits of these newly acquired skills are sustained within the Lake District.		
Housing	10	To provide everyone with a decent home	+		There are varying effects of the Plan on this SA objective. There is a clear focus on increasing visitor numbers and improving visitor accommodation, and there is a risk that these objectives could be achieved to the detriment of local communities as competition for accommodation increases property prices and makes homes less affordable, or some of the existing housing stock is lost to the holiday let market. This is an existing issue for people living in the National Park and it could be further exacerbated without careful planning and management. Therefore, measures designed to improve visitor accommodation should be delivered in a holistic manner with controls in place to ensure such improvements are not delivered at the expense of local people. To balance this, there are a number of Plan policies that will make a positive contribution to this SA objective. In particular, policy 10, which aims to maintain an available supply of land for housing and enabling small scale housing schemes. Since the housing proposed in the Local Plan is generally small scale and focused on existing rural centres, it is unlikely to present a significant risk to other land uses including farming and forestry. However, this needs to be balanced against potential risks of new development to the landscape and natural environment. In addition, policy 10 outlines specific objectives to promote full time occupancy of new homes and develop means of reducing the issue of excessive holidays lets or empty houses.	This SA objective will be achieved in the medium to longer term, provided all relevant policies are implemented effectively, with the objective of delivering a Plan that works for the local people and the risks associated with second home ownership are fully considered. Actions to allocate land for housing development and actions to reduce the number of second homes are already underway; however, realising the objectives in relation to both of these issues is likely to occur in the longer term and may require policy assistance from sources external to the National Park to make them effective.
Land and Cultural Heritage	11	To preserve enhance and manage landscape quality and character for future generations	++	-	The Plan has the potential to deliver a range of both positive and negative effects in relation to landscape character and quality, although on balance it is more likely to achieve significant benefits. There are risks of several negative effects associated with objectives that aim to increase the resident working-age population, in particular, there are potential impacts associated with the release of employment and housing land and small scale housing development and transport infrastructure, whilst the promotion of farming and forestry diversification (and potentially intensification) could be realised to the detriment of local landscape character. However, given the strong focus of the Plan to better manage and promote the outstanding landscape and cultural heritage features of the Park, it is likely that adequate mitigation of adverse effects associated with several of the policies would be provided. The potential negative effects of the Plan are perhaps more than balanced by a range of policies that seek to protect and enhance the landscape. Policy 1 and 15 both seek to protect and conserve the historic environment and cultural landscape. Objective G has potential to deliver a range of significant benefits to deliver improved management of the historic environment and cultural landscape. Policy 3 promotes better woodland management and new woodland creation and this may lead to a range of both landscape and biodiversity benefits.	Landscape effects could occur over a range of timescales. Small scale development proposals could be delivered in the short term, which could act cumulatively to affect the wider landscape. However, large scale development would probably occur over a longer time frame, as would measures to change existing land management practices such as the re-introduction of traditional farming methods, where the effects produced will also be more subtle. With all actions that could affect the landscape, a thorough review should be undertaken to determine their landscape effects and assess their importance against the other Plan objectives. The LDNPA and Partners should seek to preserve landscape character and enhance this across all policies; this is particularly important given the over-riding value of the landscape to the local economy and wellbeing of communities. Inappropriate development should not be permitted.
	12	To improve the quality of the built and natural environment . including	+		There is a significant positive effect in relation to this SA objective as the Plan contains many policies aimed at improving and protecting the quality of the built environment. Many policies are focused on maintaining, conserving and protecting cultural heritage and landscape character, and the special qualities of the Park. They also seek to further promote these assets to visitors and local people, and it is likely that successful promotion may lead to even greater	Given the breadth of policies that will contribute to this SA objective, it is considered that there is a medium to high probability that the objective will be effectively achieved. The timescales for this will be dependent upon the delivery of individual policies and a range of external economic factors, i.e. the willingness of housing

		the historic, heritage assets and their setting		protection. Objective G in particular, provides a wealth of opportunities to achieve benefits. Policy 1 aims to protect and conserve the extraordinary beauty and harmony of the landscape. Policy 5 supports the use of the World Heritage Interpretation Strategy to promote the understanding of heritage assets. Policy 2 promotes the use of local materials to maintain special quality of distinctive buildings and settlement character. The Plan also includes measures that require development to be undertaken sensitively within context of the surrounding landscape. There are no significant negative effects arising from the Plan in relation to this SA objective. However, there are risks that negative effects could arise through inappropriate development – both minor household level of housing development through to major infrastructure works. The LDNPA and Partners will need to influence such proposals to ensure delivery of high-quality schemes that actively contribute to the Plan's wider built environment objectives	developers to provide high quality houses that complement and enhance built environment. Policies within the Local Plan will be a determining factor. However, the effects from these policies and the measures and developments that are implemented are likely to be both immediate and permanent.
	13	To create vibrant, active, inclusive and open-minded communities, with a strong sense of local history	++	The Plan is considered likely to deliver a significant positive effect in relation to this SA objective. The Plan contains many actions that are likely to deliver benefits to community health, cohesion and awareness of its local history. These are set out across the ambitions, with actions to deliver a diverse economy, a better protected or enhanced environment as well as those more directly focused on promoting community services, all making important contributions to this SA objective. There are also a number of policies that aim to improve the inclusiveness of the National Park, be it through community schemes or increasing the number of community events. The WHS designation can play an important role in delivering benefits related to this SA objective, as its focus on promoting cultural heritage and assets offers an excellent opportunity to promote the value of these aspects to local communities. However, there are risks that the strong visitor centred focus of the Plan may be achieved to the detriment of local communities and the LDNPA and other Partner organisations should be careful to ensure that visitor focused policies also deliver for local people.	Significant benefits at a community scale are likely to take a longer timescale to realise. Positive benefits achieved may be permanent if these actions are cross-generational in their approach and appeal. Other actions could also be realised in the short term, such as delivering better online services through new broadband provision or measures to promote better access to the countryside. Many actions will take longer to achieve a significant and sustained legacy, most notably those connected to delivering economic growth or to improving housing provision for local people. However, these elements are particularly critical to a successful outcome for this SA objective.
Soil	14	To restore and protect land, soil and geodiversity	+	The effects of the Plan in terms of restoring and protecting land and soil quality are largely positive, although there are likely to be some minor effects. The significant positive effects arise from Objectives A and D and the policies aim to improve land and habitat management, flood risk and water resources, which could have a range of positive benefits for the quality of the soil and land. The Plan also supports more sustainable land management practices related to farming and forestry, which in the past have been particularly damaging for soil quality, and also proposes new woodland planting, which will help restore and protect soils. Negative effects are most likely to be associated with policies that promote development such as policy 10, as these may require land take because of the National Park's limited amount of brownfield land. Traditional upland farming will need careful management as the over grazing of land can be to the detriment of biodiversity and could result in a reduction in soil stability and quality.	Some of the effects of the Plan are likely to be felt in the short term, due to increased support for development to include sustainable drainage measures and a focus on achieving better water quality. These measures will be permanent if sustained focus is provided. Potential effects of land management measures will be longer term, as it will take time for the practices to be developed and therefore become a permanent fixture in the future.
Transport and Accessibility	15	To improve access to services, facilities, the	++	The Plan provides an opportunity to make a significant positive contribution to this SA objective. Many policies include core aims that are focused on improving access to services, facilities or to cultural heritage, landscape or environmental features. In particular, the Plan seeks to increase the number of	Provided a range of physical and digital infrastructure improvements are implemented, the Plan has the potential to deliver a series of permanent positive effects over the short to medium term. However, it is vital that the

		countryside and open spaces		users of sustainable travel around the Lake District to enable local communities to gain better access to their own area. The Plan includes policies to maintain and improve a range of services, particularly in Rural Service Centres, which would provide obvious benefits to local residents. Policy 8 aims to improve access for visitors through better physical and digital infrastructure.	LDNPA and other Partners ensure that the infrastructure introduced for visitors is promoted as accessible and relevant to local communities as well to achieve these positive effects.
Waste	16	To manage mineral resources sustainably and minimise waste	0	There are few policies in the Plan that are directly relevant to this SA objective, therefore most have been scored as neutral. Policy 2 does however focus on the use and protection of mineral resources, promoting the use of stone and slate extraction to deliver better quality-built development. This promotion of local mineral resources in preference to other materials will contribute towards greater sustainability within the local construction industry. The Plan does not specifically address the issue of waste management, although better waste management practices will be incorporated into more sustainable development of housing and other infrastructure through the application of policies in the Local Plan. It is recommended that reconsideration is made to strengthening this aspect of the Plan to include actions that promote good waste management practices i.e., reduce, reuse and recycle or energy from waste schemes, across business and local communities.	Supporting the mineral extraction industry could occur in the short to medium term since the Plan requires new buildings to be sensitive to the existing landscape and promotes greater use of traditional building techniques and materials. Any management measures to reduce waste will have an effect in the medium term as more efficient policies are introduced and enacted.
Water (Including flood risk)	17	To improve water quality and water resources	+	The Plan has the potential for some negative effects on water quality and resources associated with changes in land management and farming activities that could lead to increased intensification and impacts on water quality and water demand. Also, actions to deliver new development, particularly housing development, will result in increased water demand. It is recommended that all housing developments include measures to reduce water consumption and maintain surface water quality in line with good practice sustainable design and construction techniques. These risks are balanced by Objective B that seeks to achieve improved water quality, supported by policy 11 that seeks to achieve better flood risk management through a range of actions including improved surface water management. These objectives extend to cover inland and coastal waters.	Improvements in water quality are likely to be medium term, with best practice catchment management taking a period to implement and become effective. Improved water quality can be achieved permanently provided appropriate management is kept in place. Potential effects on water resources are also likely to be in the medium term, with changes in water demand across businesses and communities and reduced abstraction rates likely to take time to implement due to the large number of stakeholders involved. For changes in water resource use to become permanent appropriate policy and management should be in place. However, is not necessarily within the control of the LDNPA as catchments extend outside of the National Park and water resources issues are more often a regional matter requiring wider participation and agreement.
World Heritage Site Status	18	To preserve, enhance and manage the attributes of OUV	++	There is a significant positive effect on this SA objective as the Plan has been written to incorporate effective protection and promotion of the WHS OUV attributes. These actions are embedded across the ambitions of the Plan and are integrated to better manage the needs of the National Park. The Plan effectively aims to preserve and enhance the cultural traditions of the Lake District and fully meet the WHS requirements. No significant negative effects were identified in relation to this SA objective	This SA objective is likely to be achieved in the short to medium term, particularly as there are already measures in place to achieve the OUV attributes. The effect is also likely to be permanent, as communities with a strong sense of local history and culture are more likely to pass it on to future generations.

5. Conclusions

This SA has been undertaken to identify likely significant environmental, social and economic effects of the draft Partnership's Plan. The Plan policies have been assessed against each of the SA objectives to identify any positive and negative effects, and appropriate mitigation has been identified where necessary.

Alternatives to delivering the Plan have also been assessed. These alternatives include the 'do nothing' scenario, where no management action is taken and the National Park is left to evolve and change organically, and the 'business as usual' scenario, where management continues to follow the current Management Plan.

The assessment indicates that the 'do nothing' approach is likely to result in a number of significant adverse impacts, particularly due to the absence of strategic land management which could lead to further decline in the condition and quality of environmental assets such as biodiversity and water quality and social assets such as historic sites and cultural heritage. This in turn could result in adverse effects on the economy, particularly tourism and recreation.

The option for 'business as usual' is likely to result in a range of positive effects as actions to promote the landscape, cultural heritage, economic development and a vibrant, thriving community are delivered. It does not however adequately address the priorities identified since the current Plan was published which are now key drivers for change, such as the environment and climate emergency, the Protected Landscapes and Targets and Outcomes Framework and devolution which will change local structures and partnerships during the life of this plan.

This SA identifies that implementation of policies within this draft Plan is the best approach to deliver the requirements of both the National Park and World Heritage Site designations in a balanced and sustainable manner. The Plan is focussed on delivering effective protection for the Special Qualities of the National Park and encompasses the World Heritage Site attributes of OUV. In addition, the draft Plan goes much further than the previous plan in leading action on strategic priorities affecting the Lake District, such the environmental, climate and nature emergencies, all of which have environmental, social and economic effects.

Assessment of the Plan's policies against the SA objectives has been undertaken (see Section 4). The assessment identifies a wide range of potential positive effects, with many significant positive effects possible. These effects are delivered across all ambitions and stand to benefit the environment, society and local economy. Many effects contribute positively to all three pillars of sustainable development, highlighting their complex interactions and interdependencies. No significant adverse effects were identified by the SA.

Some policies could have both positive and negative effects depending on how they are implemented. For instance, the Plan contains an ambition designed to strengthen and diversify the economy. Many policies seek to promote the Park as a visitor destination, which could provide significant opportunities for job creation and

retention. In addition, there are policies aimed at improving access to jobs, either through profitable land management or through greater access to training, education and helping to address skill gaps. These measures will have a positive effect on community vibrancy and cohesion, as more people gain employment in their local area and therefore have a greater vested interest in its condition and management.

It is important to acknowledge that economic growth could be delivered at the expense of environmental protection and enhancement due to policies that focus on supporting new development, infrastructure improvements, profitable land management and greater access. The draft Plan does seek to balance these risks and protect against adverse effects by including a suite of policies focussed on protection and enhancement of the natural and built environment and the cultural heritage of the Lake District. These policies promote improvements to landscape quality, biodiversity, water quality and water resources, the built environment and cultural heritage, and land management. This includes better management of woodland, including new woodland planting and restoration of protected habitats.

The Plan also seeks to improve the visitor experience and encourage longer stays, by promoting the variety of unique opportunities the Lake District presents and improving the range of visitor accommodation. This includes supporting activities for the visitor to expand their understanding and appreciation of the Special Qualities and attributes of OUV. However, there is a risk that these policies could adversely affect local communities without careful planning, as the Lake District is already a very popular tourist destination, and this could be exacerbated without careful management. There are measures in place that seek to influence how visitors travel to and move around the Lake District using more sustainable modes of transport, and support initiatives which encourage the use of smart tech developments which could benefit local communities.

The Plan has the potential to deliver a range of both positive and negative effects in relation to landscape character and quality, with the emphasis being on achieving significant benefits. Landscape effects could occur over a range of timescales. Small scale development proposals could be delivered in the short term, which could act cumulatively to affect the wider landscape. However, large scale development would probably occur over a longer time frame, as would measures to change existing land management practices such as the re-introduction of traditional farming methods, where the effects produced will also be more subtle. Importantly, the extraordinary beauty and harmony of the Lake District will be protected and conserved by using and promoting the Lake District Landscape Character Assessment; this is particularly important given the over-riding value of the landscape to the local economy and wellbeing of communities.

In relation to biodiversity, the Plan is likely to have both positive and negative effects. Policies that promote tourism or access to the countryside, land development, transport infrastructure and traditional upland farming all risk having a negative impact on biodiversity. This is particularly relevant to policies that aim to support more housing and employment development, introduction of hard engineering measures to help address flooding and improvements to the landscape and cultural

heritage quality of the Park, which may occur to the detriment of the area's species and habitats. A picturesque and rich cultural landscape may not have a robust and biodiverse natural environment. The implementation of better flood risk management measures at a catchment scale could offer biodiversity enhancement opportunities through sensitive techniques such as Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS) and habitat creation but could also damage biodiversity through the introduction of hard engineering measures.

However, there are several policies that could make a positive contribution to improved biodiversity. Improvements to land management practises, achieving bigger, better and more joined up habitats, restoring protected sites, better management of woodlands, including new woodland planting, and increased investment into natural capital and eco systems services, all have the potential for significant positive effects.

Overall, the Plan offers an important opportunity to address many of the sustainability issues prevalent in the Lake District. The ambitions offer a balanced approach to delivering sustainable management of the Lake District, its Special Qualities and attributes of OUV. On balance, the draft Plan delivers a sound basis for achieving sustainability and the policies will contribute towards achieving the 2031 Vision for the Lake District.

