

Appendix 5

A Profile of Key Issues/Pressures affecting Cumbria

Social

- Pressure for housing pushing prices up – implications for housing to meet local needs and affordability of housing (S. Lakeland, Eden & LDNP);
- Second homes/holiday lets and inward migration by retired people adds to this pressure (S. Lakeland, Eden & LDNP);
- Run-down and vacant properties not utilised fully (Barrow & West Coast);
- Access to services and facilities problematic in rural communities;
- Public transport network inadequate in rural areas;
- Comparatively safe communities overall but fear of crime disproportionately high in isolated rural areas;
- Some alcohol-fuelled anti social behaviour linked to the night-time economy (Carlisle and Barrow) and a comparatively high number of race related incidents;
- 'Tourist' shops, for example in LDNP, may reduce the number of shops and services providing for local needs;
- Established out of town shopping affecting the viability of smaller town centres;
- Traffic congestion at peak times (Carlisle, Kendal) and also seasonal congestion (LDNP);
- Lack of cycle networks within towns and cities;
- Lack of Cumbrian university;
- Loss of young people, particularly graduates and a reluctance of young people to continue family farming traditions;

Economic

- Unemployment with higher levels of economic inactivity in West Cumbria and Furness partly linked to large number of incapacity benefit claimants;
- Low unemployment and skills shortage in Eden and South Lakes;
- Economic vulnerability due to decline of manufacturing & uncertain future of nuclear industry (West Coast & Barrow);
- Increasingly frequent relocation of jobs outside the county (and the country);
- Low wage economy particularly tourism related jobs;
- Below average share of growth sectors in local economy;
- Limited research and development facilities;
- Gross Value Added growing more slowly than the rest of the UK causing the economy to underperform and a widening of regional disparities of wealth;
- Recent farming crises causing problems for agriculture coupled with unique problems of farming in upland areas (falling incomes and the labour intensive nature of the work);
- Poor access to West Cumbria and Barrow;
- Redundant port and harbour areas in need of rejuvenation;

- Pressure from mobile phone and internet companies/users to improve telecommunications in Cumbria;
- Lots of derelict/contaminated (brown field) land in some areas due to decline in industry;

Environmental

- Loss of tranquillity and impact of lights on dark skies;
- Vulnerability of the landscape to recreational, leisure and sporting activities;
- High proportion of species identified for national conservation priority;
- Large tracts of upland and coastal habitat remain but elsewhere there are declines in extent (fragmentation) and quality of wildlife habitats and populations for some species;
- High proportion of nutrient rich lakes supporting a wide range of aquatic plants, invertebrates and breeding and wintering wildfowl;
- Vulnerability of nutrient rich lakes and nutrient poor lakes (and their resident species) to additional enrichment from farming fertilizer run off and sewage;
- Significant pressure on rivers, lakes and tarns from diffuse sources of pollution (agricultural wastes, fertilizers and run off from drains and road surfaces, coupled with some air pollution);
- Unknown impact of climate change possibly leading to outward migration of some species and inward migration of other as average temperatures rise;
- Unsympathetic alterations to old buildings and bland new developments altering historic character and damaging archaeology in some areas;
- National renewable energy targets likely to lead to pressures for more development of wind farms which could affect landscape character and quality;
- Air quality problems in urban areas;
- Need to reduce the risk to people and property from flooding (Carlisle, Kendal and Keswick);

Resources

- Pressure responding to regulations preventing biodegradable waste going to landfill;
- The need to develop alternative waste management methods and secure the necessary level of investment in additional facilities;
- Problems of disposal and storage of radioactive wastes;
- Pressure to continue to supply scarce mineral resources to meet national demand (gypsum and skid resistant roadstone);
- The need to meet mineral demand by substituting secondary and recycled material for primary aggregates.