

# Wirral Local Plan 2020-2035

## Draft Spatial Portrait

January 2020

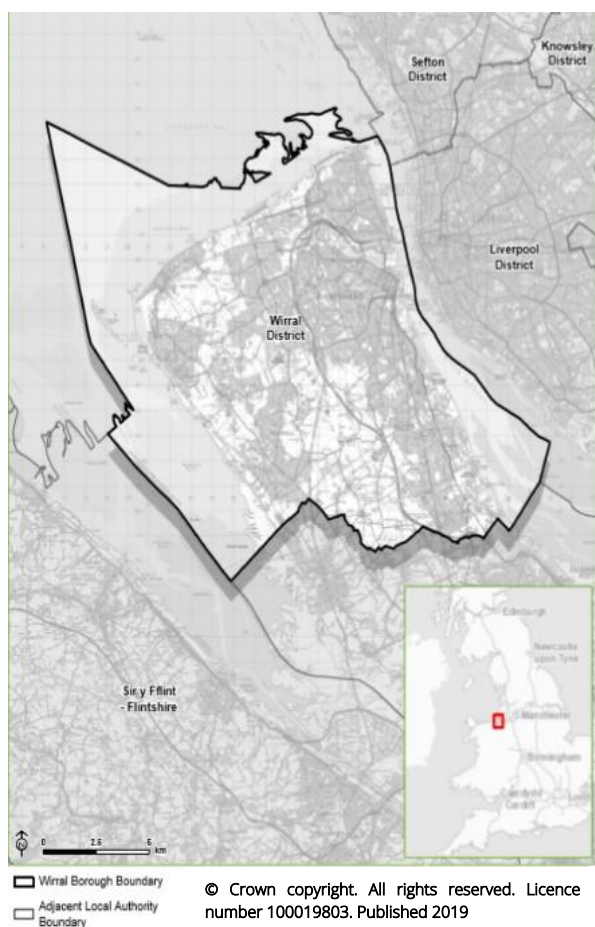


#wirrallocalplan

## INTRODUCTION

The Spatial Portrait provides the council with an up to date demographic and environmental spatial analysis of the Borough. It is intended to provide a more detailed description of the historic, social and economic picture of the Borough to accompany the evidence base for the Local Plan. The Spatial Portrait reviews the existing data available and maps the accessibility to key services and facilities across the eight Settlement Areas that make up the Borough.

Figure 1



## Place Setting

Wirral is a large metropolitan area covering the northern 60 square miles of the peninsula between the Dee and Mersey Estuaries (Figure 1). Wirral is well known for the high quality of its countryside and coast and transport links to Liverpool, Chester and North Wales.

The Borough is formed around two sandstone ridges stretching from Wallasey through Bidston and Storeton in the east and from West Kirby to Heswall in the west. The remaining land is boulder clay, drained by the rivers Birket and Fender in the north and by the Arrowe and Dibbin Brooks, further inland and to the west.

The majority of the foreshores around the coastline are of national and/or international importance for nature conservation and the Borough's coastal resorts and recreation facilities provide a regular destination for visitors from across Merseyside and beyond. The deep narrow mouth of the Mersey has the second highest tidal range in the UK and the Dee Estuary is one of the top five sites in the UK for wintering and passage wildfowl.

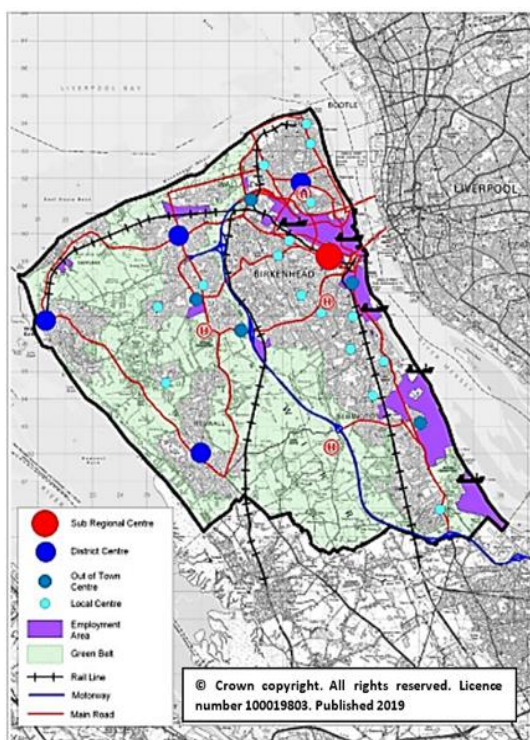
The Borough is an area of strong contrasts. The predominantly built-up eastern area of the Borough, opposite Liverpool, forms part of the core of the Merseyside conurbation. Almost two thirds of the Borough's population live within the urban area to the east of the M53 Motorway, between the

coastal resort of New Brighton in the north to the entrance of the Manchester Ship Canal in the south. Birkenhead, located at the heart of east Wirral, is the largest town within the area, historically built around the maritime trades associated with the Mersey docklands.

The west of the Borough is characterised by a series of largely dormitory residential settlements surrounded by open countryside, of which over 60 percent is still used for farming.

Figure 2 shows the spatial distribution of the main settlements and retail centres, key transport routes and the present boundaries to the Greenbelt, designated in the Unitary Development Plan for Wirral in February 2000.

**Figure 2**



## Historic Context

The Borough shows evidence of settlement since the middle stone age. The Borough's oldest buildings, such as Birkenhead Priory and Storeton Hall, date from 1150 and 1360, respectively. The majority of built heritage, however, dates from the Victorian and Edwardian periods associated with the expansion of Liverpool, the Mersey dock estates and the railway system. The current settlement pattern is, however, also largely the result of significant post war suburban growth in areas such as Leasowe, Moreton, Greasby, Pensby Woodchurch and Eastham.

Before the industrial revolution, Wirral contained only a collection of small farmsteads and fishing villages. During the 19th Century Birkenhead grew to a sizeable town, closely related to the growth of Liverpool. The introduction of steam powered boats across the Mersey made Birkenhead and the surrounding countryside attractive to wealthy commuters and high quality residential developments initially spread out around Birkenhead, close to the ferry terminals or up the hills of Clifton Park, Oxton Hill and Mountwood, where the views were more expansive and the air cleaner.

The establishment of William Laird's boiler works and shipyard on Wallasey Pool in the 1820s and their later transfer by John Laird to the Mersey waterfront in the mid-1850s, the

construction of the inland dock estate at Birkenhead, the establishment of Price's Candle Works at Bromborough in 1854 and the Levers Soap Works at Bebington in 1888, opened up Wirral's eastern coast for industrialisation, with a reliance on chemicals and port-related heavy engineering. Wirral's first railway, in 1840, encouraged further growth and the opening of the Mersey Railway Tunnel in 1886 enabled residential development to move away from the ferry terminals. Many of Wirral's most distinctive and attractive residential areas originate from this period.

Most of Wirral's oldest settlements, including the early workers village at Bromborough Pool, the early commuter settlements and merchant estates at Oxton, Rock Park, and the later residential settlements at Caldy, Heswall, Hoylake and Mountwood, have been designated as Conservation Areas. Hamilton Square, Birkenhead Park and Port Sunlight are of national significance. The Liverpool waterfront, on the opposite bank of the Mersey, is a World Heritage Site.

Following a peak in growth during the 1960s, there has been a slow decline in jobs and population. Over the last 30 years the older eastern parts of the Borough have been the subject of a series of national regeneration initiatives including the Inner Area Programme; the Merseyside Development Corporation; City Challenge; Single Regeneration

Budget; the Merseyside Objective One Programme; and the Housing Market Renewal Initiative, which ended in March 2013.









The Borough continues to have a legacy of vacant and underused previously developed land, the majority of which is focused within the older urban areas in east Wirral, around Birkenhead and the docks and the industrial areas of Bromborough.

## WIRRAL AREA PROFILE

<b>Whole Borough*</b>	
<b>Administrative Area</b>	25,110 hectares (97 squaremiles)
<b>Borough Land Area</b>	15,560 hectares (60 square miles)
<b>Coastline</b>	41km (26 miles)
<b>Urban Area</b>	8,507 hectares (55% of total land)
<b>Green Belt</b>	7,053 hectares (45% of land area)
<b>Designated Employment Areas</b>	1120 hectares (7% of total land area)
<b>Residential Properties</b>	150,552 (Mid- 2017)
<b>Social Housing Properties</b>	23,152, 15 % of total housing stock (April 2019)
<b>Population</b>	322, 796 (ONS, 2018)
<b>Economically Active Population</b>	155,300 (79.2%) (ONS, 2018)
<b>Jobs Density</b>	124,000 (0.64) (ONS, 2017)
<b>Median Gross Annual work placed income</b>	£27,685 (ONS, 2018)
<b>Average Residential Property Price</b>	£160,102 (2019, Land Registry)
<b>Population within lowest 20% of IMD 2019</b>	115,522 (35.8% of Wirral)
<b>Recreational Open Space</b>	2,640 hectares (8.6 hectares per 1000)
<b>Publicly Accessible Open Space</b>	1,384 hectares (4.5 hectares per 1000)
<b>Sites of Special Scientific Interest</b>	7,216 hectares (12 Sites) (including inter-tidal areas)
<b>Conservation Areas</b>	25 Areas (714 hectares)
<b>Listed Buildings</b>	710 List Entries (1771 buildings or structures)
<b>Scheduled Ancient Monuments</b>	9 Monuments (5.7 hectares)
<b>Historic Parks and Gardens</b>	4 sites (114 hectares)

\* All data subject to update

## Social & Economic Profile

 <p><b>Population</b></p>	<p>There are 323,200 people living in Wirral</p> <p>48.4% Male; 51.6% Female</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Working Age Population 193,665 (60.0%)</li> <li>- Aged 65+ 68,820 (21.3%)</li> <li>- Aged 0-15 60,310 (18.7%)</li> <li>- 95% White British (ONS 2018)</li> </ul>	 <p><b>Education &amp; skills</b></p>	<p>23% of people have no qualifications in Wirral Local Authority compared with 22% across England</p>
 <p><b>Vulnerable groups</b></p>	<p>20% of children are living in poverty in Wirral Local Authority compared with 17% across England</p>	 <p><b>Economy</b></p>	<p>36% people aged 16-74 are in full-time employment in Wirral Local Authority compared with 39% across England</p>
 <p><b>Health &amp; wellbeing</b></p>	<p>23% of people have a limiting long-term illness in Wirral Local Authority compared with 18% across England</p>	 <p><b>Access &amp; transport</b></p>	<p>28% of households have no car in Wirral Local Authority compared with 26% across England</p>
 <p><b>Crime &amp; safety</b></p>	<p>The overall crime rate is lower than the average across England</p>	 <p><b>Communities &amp; environment</b></p>	<p>The % of people 'satisfied with their neighbourhood' (82.2%) is higher than the average across England (79.3%)</p>

### **Economic Context**

Economic output in Wirral, measured by GVA per head, continues to lag behind national, regional and sub-regional averages. Wirral is currently in the bottom 10 GVA per head in the UK (ONS, December 2018). Job densities and VAT registrations are also well below national and regional averages and average wages are lower than the surrounding areas.

According to the 2011 Census, 61.1% of residents in employment work within the borough, 6.9% had no fixed place of work and the remainder commute out of the borough to work. There are strong economic linkages with other areas, notably Liverpool.

The ONS identifies that across the borough, residents' incomes are lower than national averages. Lower quartile earnings in 2018 were £20,273, compared with £21,273 across England. Median incomes were £27,685 compared with £29,869 across England.

The gap in performance has been attributed to low productivity, low rates of enterprise and a lack in the quantity and quality of available business space.

Less than two thirds of residents in employment work within the Borough. Of those who travel to work outside Wirral, just under half travel to Liverpool, providing approximately 8 percent of the Liverpool workforce. Approximately 11 percent travel to

Chester, providing just over 7 percent of the Chester workforce; and 10 percent to Ellesmere Port, providing just over 14 percent of the workforce in the former borough of Ellesmere Port and Neston. A further 7 percent travel to North Wales.

Work journey patterns also increasingly involve longer distances, to areas such as Warrington and Manchester, with implications for traffic, emissions and climate change. The largest flow is from western and southern fringes of the Borough.

### **Social Context**

The Borough's social context is closely related to the economic fortunes of the wider subregion.

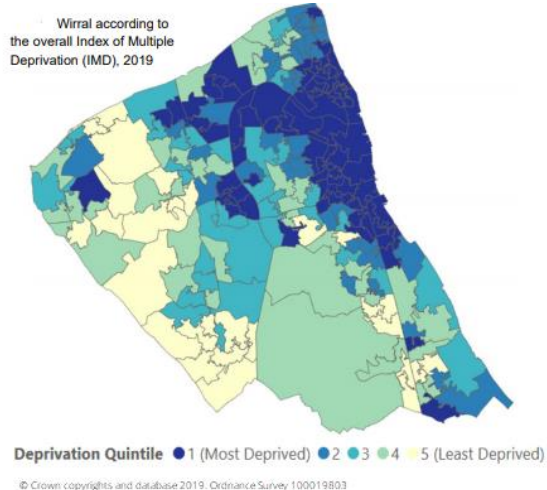
While the proportion of people of working age, particularly of younger adults, is at its highest in the central and inner areas of east Wirral, where housing is cheaper and jobs and services are more easily accessible, the proportion of older age groups is generally larger in the west. The proportion of children is also higher in east Wirral.

Although parts in the Borough are relatively wealthy, with average household incomes amongst the highest in Merseyside, other parts are not.



The 2019 statistical release from the English Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) showed that overall, there are still many areas of severe deprivation in certain areas of Wirral (largely in the East of the borough) (Figure 3).

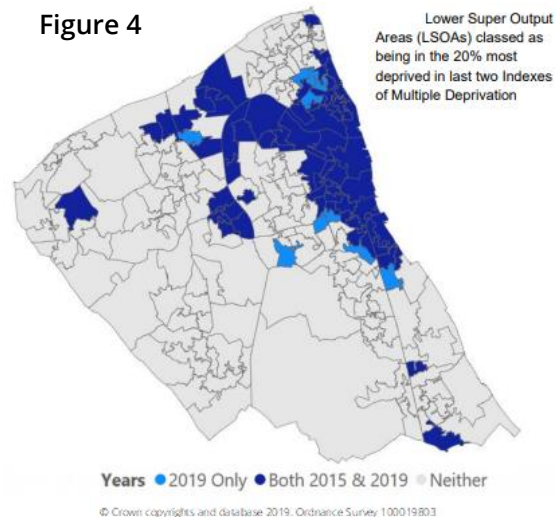
**Figure 3**



In 2019, Wirral was ranked the 177th most deprived authority (out of 317 authorities) in England (1= most deprived, 317 = least deprived). Although Wirral's overall ranking has gone down, the number of Wirral LSOAs in the most deprived 20% of areas in England has increased to 72 in the 2019 IMD, from 62 in 2015 (an increase of 10 LSOAs). Therefore, Wirral is one of the authorities which has become relatively more deprived in 2019 compared to 2015. This means an additional 20,000 residents are now classed as living in deprivation, compared to 2015 (MHCLG, IMD, 2019) (Figure 4).

<sup>1</sup> The number of Local Authorities has reduced from 326 in 2015, to 317 in 2019 and it is this factor which is likely

**Figure 4**



The main areas of deprivation are concentrated in the east of the Borough- Birkenhead, Bidston, Seacombe and Rock Ferry. Notable pockets of deprivation in south and west of Wirral include the Mill Park area of Eastham, the Acre Lane area of Bromborough, Prenton Dell in Prenton, Woodchurch, Overchurch, Moreton, Leasowe and the Greenbank Road area of West Kirby.

There is a significant concentration of social housing in east and central Wirral. These areas often correlate closely with areas of greatest socio-economic need.

### Environmental Context

Wirral is generally considered to offer a high quality of life. A recent local survey indicated that 74% percent of residents were satisfied with their local area as a place to live. (Residents survey 2017, Ipsos MORI) Wirral's

to account for some of the change in rank from 66th in 2015 to 77<sup>th</sup>.



historic and natural environment is highly valued.

Almost 5 percent of the Borough's land area is designated as a Conservation Area, Scheduled Ancient Monument or Historic Park or Garden (Figure 5).

The Wirral Open Space Assessment 2019 shows that the Borough is generally well-provided with open space against the normal national benchmarks, but that there are local deficiencies in certain types of open space within some locations, particularly within the older urban areas (Figure 6).

Large areas of the Borough also have significant value for wildlife and nature conservation.

Almost a third of the administrative area is designated as part of a Site of Special Scientific Interest. The majority of the coastline is also of international importance for nature conservation, which the Council are under a legal duty to keep in good condition, alongside any supporting habitats (Figure 7).

The Dee and Mersey Estuaries and the Mersey Narrows and North Wirral Foreshore are designated as Wetlands of International Importance under the Ramsar Convention and as Special Protection Areas under the EC Wild Birds Directive. The Dee Estuary including the North Wirral Foreshore is also designated as a European

Special Area of Conservation. These sites form part of the wider network of Natura 2000 sites, where minimising the disturbance to bird species will be an important consideration for future development proposals.

The Liverpool City Region Ecological Framework identifies opportunity areas for habitat creation, enhancement and restoration, which could help to provide better connections with existing sites and create more sustainable ecological networks.

Figure 5

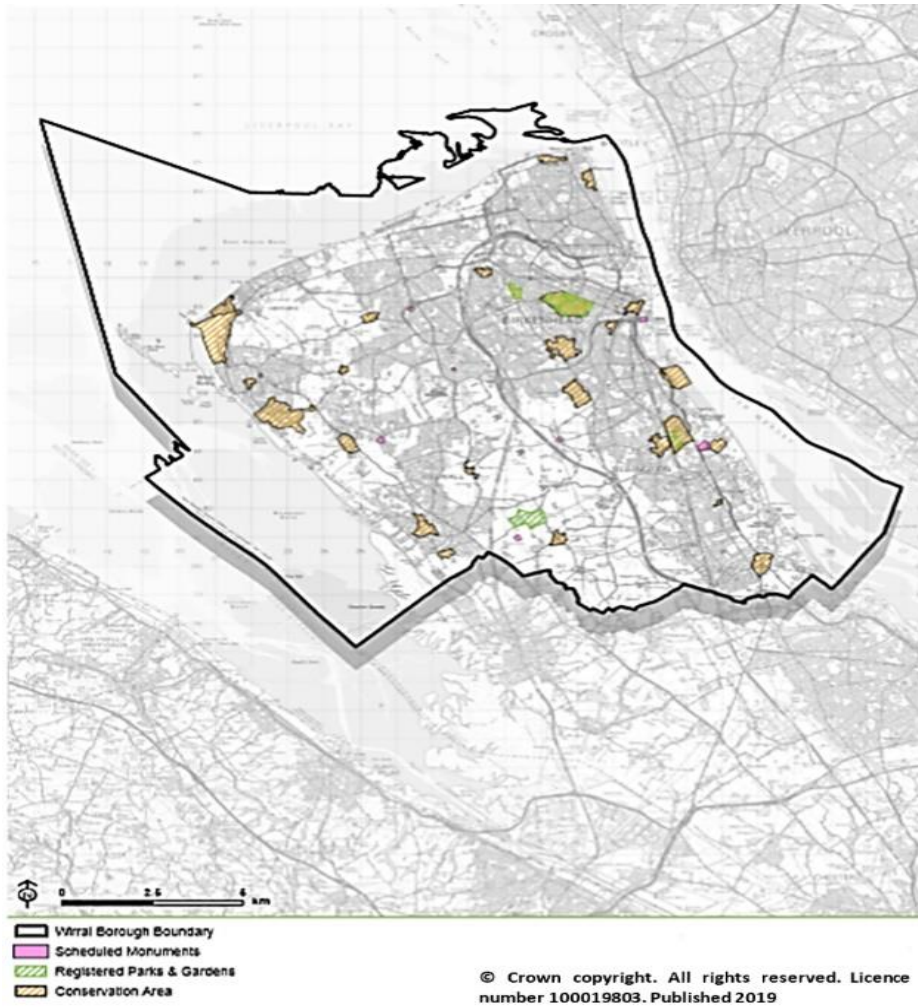


Figure 6

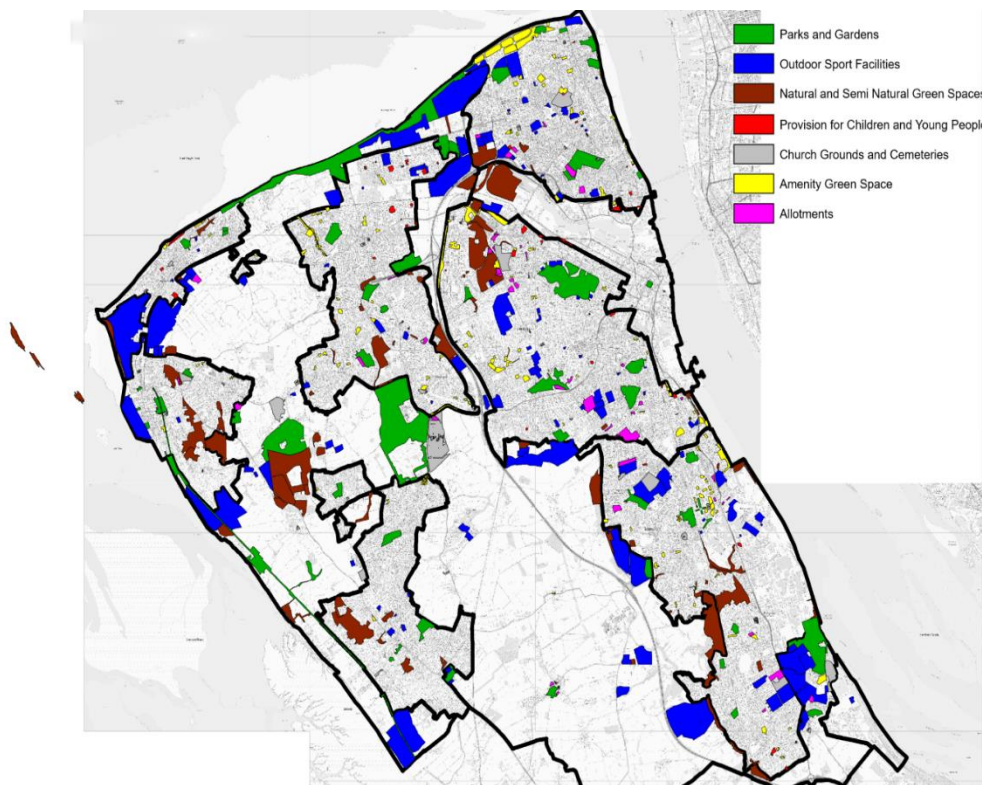
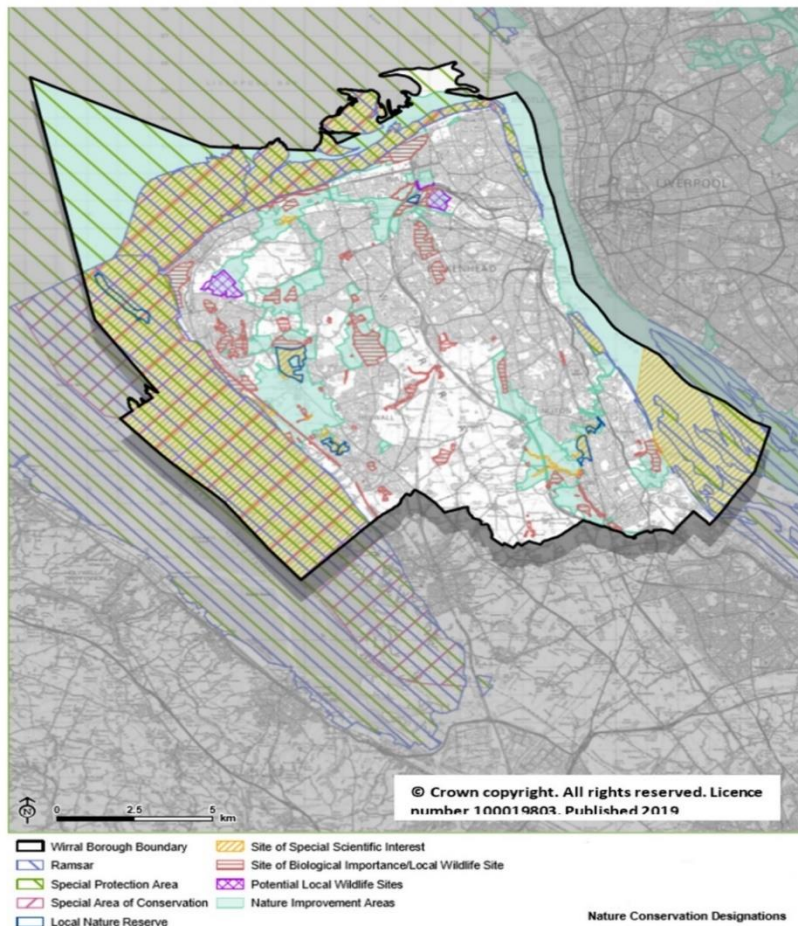


Figure 7



Wirral forms an important part of the Liverpool City Region Centre for Offshore Renewable Engineering, one of only six such centres across the UK and the only one on the west coast.

Cammell Lairds Ship Building and Repair Yard was used as a base port for the construction of the now operational 160 turbine, 576MW Gwynt y Môr wind farm in the Irish Sea, around 18 kilometres off the Welsh coast and continues to host the remaining crew transfer and storage facility. In addition to the twenty-five wind turbines, capable of supplying electricity to up to 80,000 households, already operating off the Wirral

shoreline at Burbo Bank in Liverpool Bay, an extension consisting of a further thirty-two 8MW wind turbines, with an additional generating capacity of 258MW, enough to supply approximately 230,000 homes, came online in May 2017. A new operations facility was completed at Kings Wharf, Seacombe, in August 2017.

### **Tourism**

Wirral's visitor economy has increased by 36 percent since 2012, from £313.42 million in 2012 to £426.35 million in 2017. Employment in tourism has increased by 21 percent, from 4,424 jobs in 2012 to 5,347 jobs



in 2017; and visitor numbers have increased by 26 percent, from 6.98 million in 2012 to 8.8 million in 2017. Nine out of ten current visitors would recommend the Borough as a place to visit. The countryside, coast and food were key attractions.

Wirral's beaches are consistently among the cleanest in the North West, which include four out of the North West's eight Marine Conservation Society recommended beaches in 2012, a recommendation only given to beaches that meet the highest European standard for water quality on the basis of regular testing by the environment Agency. The beaches at Meols, Moreton and West Kirby achieved the classification of 'excellent' and the beach at Wallasey the classification of 'good' by the Bathing Water Directive in 2015.

Golf continues to be important, highlighted by the return of The Gold Open in 2022 which attracts a broad range of regional, national and international visitors.

### **Agriculture**

According to Defra Agricultural Survey data, nearly 27% of land in Wirral (4,304 hectares) is still used for agricultural purposes, with 67 holdings recorded in 2016. However, agriculture accounts for only around 0.2% of all employment in Wirral. The predominant farm enterprise in the area is dairy, with around 30% of agricultural land in Wirral being used by seven dairy holdings (2016). Statistics indicate that the majority of the crops grown in Wirral are cereals, with over 24% of agricultural land utilised for this purpose.

**Figure 8**

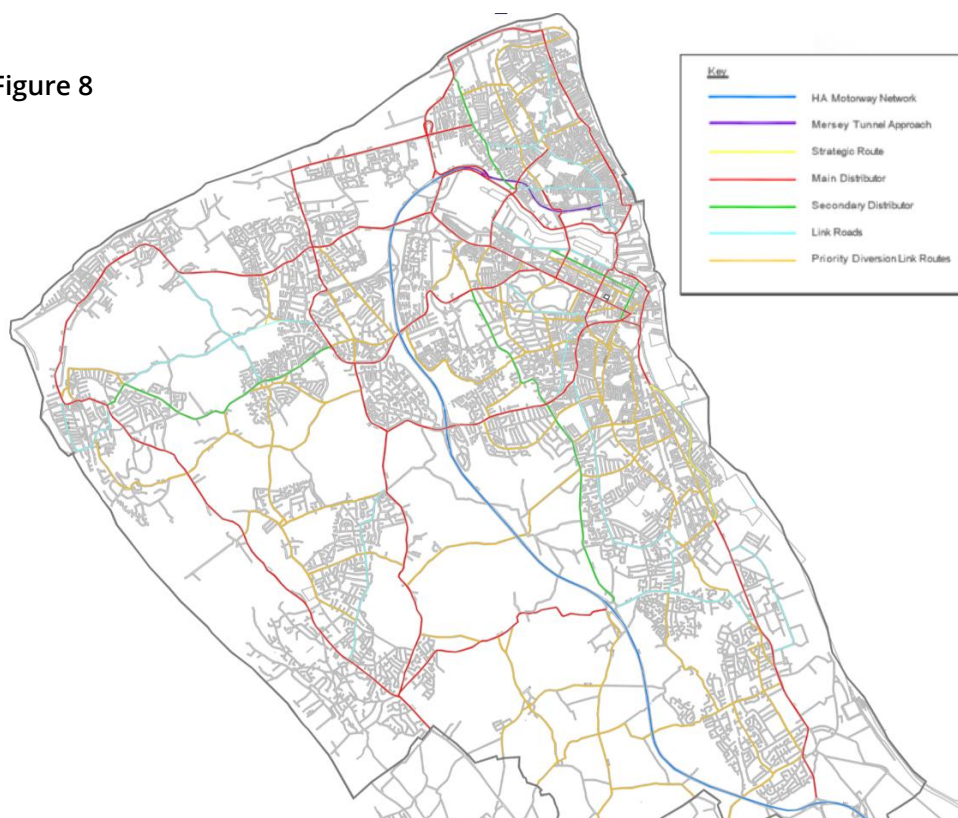
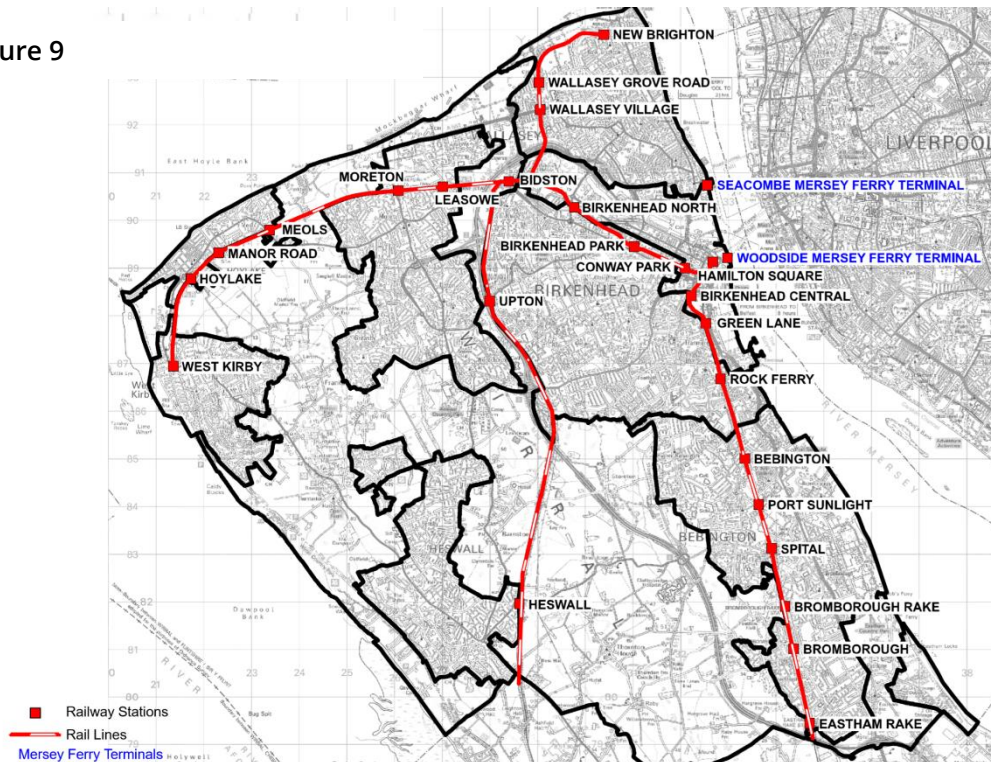


Figure 9



## Transport

The M53 motorway running through Wirral from Birkenhead to Chester, links Wirral to the wider motorway network via the M56 to Warrington and beyond, as well as to the A55 to North Wales. Wirral is closely connected to the rest of the Liverpool City Region (LCR) by road from Birkenhead via the Queensway Tunnel (A41) and from Wallasey via the Kingsway Tunnel (M53/A59) (Figure 8). Up to 90,000 vehicles per day cross under the River Mersey via these tunnels between Wirral and Liverpool.

The A41 is the main road corridor on the east of the Borough linking Birkenhead to Chester, and the A540 is the main road on the west side linking Hoylake to Chester. East-west links across the borough are provided

by several other main roads such as the A552 and the A553.

There are over 1135 km roads in Wirral. Wirral has a smaller number of roads that are classed as needing immediate maintenance than almost all other Council areas. Overall, there is a long-term improving picture of safety on Wirral roads with 430 injury collisions in 2018 compared to 1,379 in 2000. Whilst measuring collision data year to year is affected by annual random fluctuations. There were 1.6% fewer people injured on Wirral in road crashes in 2018 compared to 2017 and 24% fewer people injured comparing the average of the last 5 years (2014 – 2018; 651 casualties) to the average of the previous 5 years (2009 -2013; 860 casualties).

Car availability is generally higher in Wirral compared to the LCR as a

whole. The vast majority of Wirral residents travel to work via a car or van (69%) or motorcycle with only 15% travelling to work via public transport (Train 8%, Bus 7%).

Wirral is served by a network of 38 bus routes. Some bus routes are commissioned and subsidised by Merseytravel, who provide these services where there is a gap in the network or a particular social need. 8 out of 10 public transport journeys in Merseyside are made by bus, equating to 136.7 million journeys a year, 100,000 people use the bus every day to get to work and a further 60,000 young people travel to education and training on a bus.

The majority of Wirral is well connected by rail with Merseyrail operating frequent services (between 4 - 6 trains per hour) to Ellesmere Port and Chester, and to Liverpool via the Mersey Railway Tunnel. Transport for Wales (TfW) operate hourly services from Wrexham to Bidston where it connects with Merseyrail services, providing connectivity to Deeside in Flintshire (Figure 9).

New trains are planned for the Merseyrail Network in 2020 and will be able to carry more than 50 per cent more passengers whilst retaining the same number of seats. TfW is implementing plans to introduce new rolling stock to increase capacity and reduce journey times. There are also plans to

increase weekday service frequency on the Bidston – Wrexham line to two trains per hour by the end of 2021, and by the end of 2023, the frequency of Sunday services will increase to one train per hour.

Wirral is served by a direct commuter shuttle ferry service from Seacombe Ferry to Liverpool's Pier Head, and a tourist 'daily explorer' ferry service that also calls at Woodside, Birkenhead.

Wirral benefits from a network of local on and off road cycle routes and paths, as well as the National Cycle Network 'Route 56' which runs from Seacombe along the coast to New Brighton and Leasowe, and south through Wirral via Brimstage to Neston, and the Wirral Circular Trail (Regional Route 89) which runs predominantly along Wirral's coastline. There has been a steady increase in cycling across the borough – up by 43% between 2008/09 and 2016/17.

There are 75 miles of public rights of way, plus a further 25 miles of permissive footpaths, bridleways and off-road cycle tracks. This is in addition to the 15 miles of the Wirral Way within Wirral Country Park from West Kirby to Hooton.

Wirral Council has not declared any Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA) in the borough, and monitoring results have not indicated any breaches of the UK Air

Quality Objective levels for air pollution.

The Council is developing a Climate Emergency Action Plan to address the commitments and requirements of the Climate Emergency Declaration in 2019. The Action Plan will set out the long-term direction for the Council and provide a route map for the changes required to address climate pollution to enable Wirral to become carbon neutral and resilient to unavoidable changes to the climate.

### **Strategic Infrastructure**

Strategic oil pipelines connect Tranmere Oil Terminal to the refineries at Eastham and Stanlow and Wirral lies along the route of the high-pressure gas main between Liverpool and Ellesmere Port.

The majority of the Borough's electricity is provided via National Grid's high voltage electricity overhead transmission 275kV line from Capenhurst and underground cables from Liverpool to Prenton. Energy generated by the wind farms in Liverpool Bay also connects to the grid at Birkenhead. A trans-national high-voltage cable from Scotland, via the Irish Sea and Liverpool Bay, to Meols and Connah's Quay was also completed in 2018. Scottish Power Energy Networks (SPEN) operate the 132kV (major), 33kV (primary) and 11 kV (secondary) substations and power lines within Wirral on an interconnected system.

Sutton Hall Water Treatment Works, supplies over 90 percent of Wirral's water. There are some additional boreholes at Prenton, Grange and Newton to meet localised needs, with reservoirs at Crosshill (Barnston), Gorsehill, Flaybrick, Grange and Prenton. The public water supply enters the peninsula from the south, which poses challenges when providing additional water supply to northern areas of Wirral.

United Utilities (UU) and Dwr Cymru Welsh Water (DCWW) are the water companies responsible for the management of the majority of the drainage networks within the borough. Waste water Treatment Works (WwTW) are located at Birkenhead, Bromborough, Meols and Heswall. The WwTWs currently have capacity to accept wastewater generated by projected growth within existing consents.

The hospitals at Arrowe Park and Clatterbridge provide specialist sub-regional health services. Arrowe Park delivers a full range of emergency and acute services for adults and children, plus maternity services, while Clatterbridge currently undertakes the majority of planned surgical services and some specialist rehabilitation services. The Clatterbridge Cancer Centre also provides radiotherapy and chemotherapy treatment services.

The Twelve Quays Roll-on Roll-off Ferry Terminal operates from the waterfront opposite Liverpool. Other



significant waterfront facilities include Cammell Lairds, which is a major marine engineering and ship repair centre for the UK west coast, the nationally important Oil Terminal at Tranmere and a small port facility at Mersey Wharf handles both bulk and general cargo.

The Manchester Ship Canal is a regionally important facility with links to Ellesmere Port, Runcorn and Manchester, operated under development rights granted by Act of Parliament. At Eastham, a large area adjacent to the canal entrance accommodates a series of port and refinery related and chemical storage compounds with direct access to Junction 6 of the M53 Motorway and handles over 8 million tonnes of cargo each year.

### **Waste Management**

The amount of total household waste arising decreased in 2018/19, mainly due to reductions in tonnages of recycling and composting. This included residual, recycling and green waste.

Over two thirds (65 percent) of waste collection authorities across England also saw a reduction in total household waste and almost two-thirds (64 percent) a reduction in recycling tonnages.

Overall, the amount of collected household waste per person reduced to 366.2kg per person in 2018/19, compared to 374.1kg in 2017/18.

### **Minerals**

Mineral activities in Wirral have historically been limited to small quarries for local sandstone and winnable brick clay reserves, most of which are now reclaimed or subject to designations for nature conservation.

### **Key Issues**

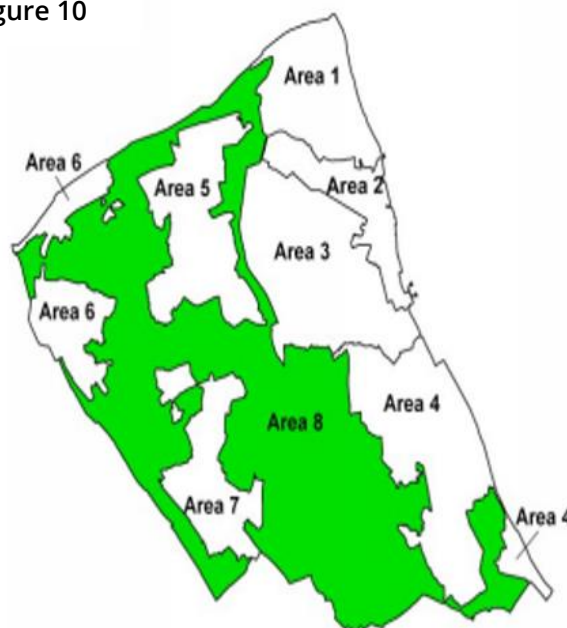
The key issues identified for the Borough as a whole include:

- Promoting sustainable economic growth and revitalization;
- Providing for adaption to and the mitigation of climate change;
- Closing the gap between social, economic and environmental conditions and opportunities;
- Prioritising the re-use of vacant previously developed land;
- Providing affordable and specialist housing needs for an ageing population;
- Protecting and enhancing locally distinctive assets such as landscape, countryside and coast, heritage and areas of importance for nature conservation
- Promoting a more sustainable pattern of transport and travel;
- Addressing localised shortfalls in the quality, quantity and distribution of green infrastructure including linkages and corridors for wildlife;
- Minimising the potential impact of flooding from all sources; and
- Securing sustainable waste management.

## SETTLEMENT AREA PROFILES

The Council has divided Wirral into eight broad Settlement Areas (Figure 10), based on the main groups of settlements within the Borough. A key to the areas included within each of the Settlement Areas is provided below:

Figure 10



<b>Settlement Area 1</b>	Wallasey, New Brighton, Liscard, Egremont, Seacombe, Poulton and Wallasey Village
<b>Settlement Area 2</b>	Commercial Core Birkenhead and Wallasey Docklands, Bidston Moss, Valley Road, Birkenhead Town Centre, Hamilton Square, Twelve Quays, Woodside, Hind Street, Monks Ferry and Cammell Lairds
<b>Settlement Area 3</b>	Birkenhead Bidston, Beechwood, Claughton, Oxton, Noctorum, Prenton, Mountwood, Tranmere, Rock Ferry and Rock Park
<b>Settlement Area 4</b>	Bromborough and Eastham New Ferry, Bebington, Port Sunlight, Brookhurst, Raby Mere, Poulton, Spital, Eastham and Bromborough Pool
<b>Settlement Area 5</b>	Mid-Wirral Leasowe, Moreton, Upton, Woodchurch and Greasby
<b>Settlement Area 6</b>	Hoylake and West Kirby Meols, Newton and Caldy, Birchcroft Road/Rycroft Road and Barn Hey Crescent.
<b>Settlement Area 7</b>	Heswall Gayton, Pensby, Thingwall and Irby
<b>Settlement Area 8</b>	*Settlement Area 8 is equivalent to the extent of the Green Belt shown on the Unitary Development Plan Proposals Map adopted in February 2000. Rural Areas Clatterbridge Hospital, Thornton Hough, Raby, Barnston, Brimstage, Storeton, Landican, Thurstaston, Frankby, Saughall Massie, North Wirral Coastal Plain, M53 Corridor, Eastham.

## Settlement Area 1 (SA1) – Wallasey

Settlement Area 1 includes the urban settlements of Wallasey including New Brighton, Liscard, Seacombe, Poulton and Wallasey Village.

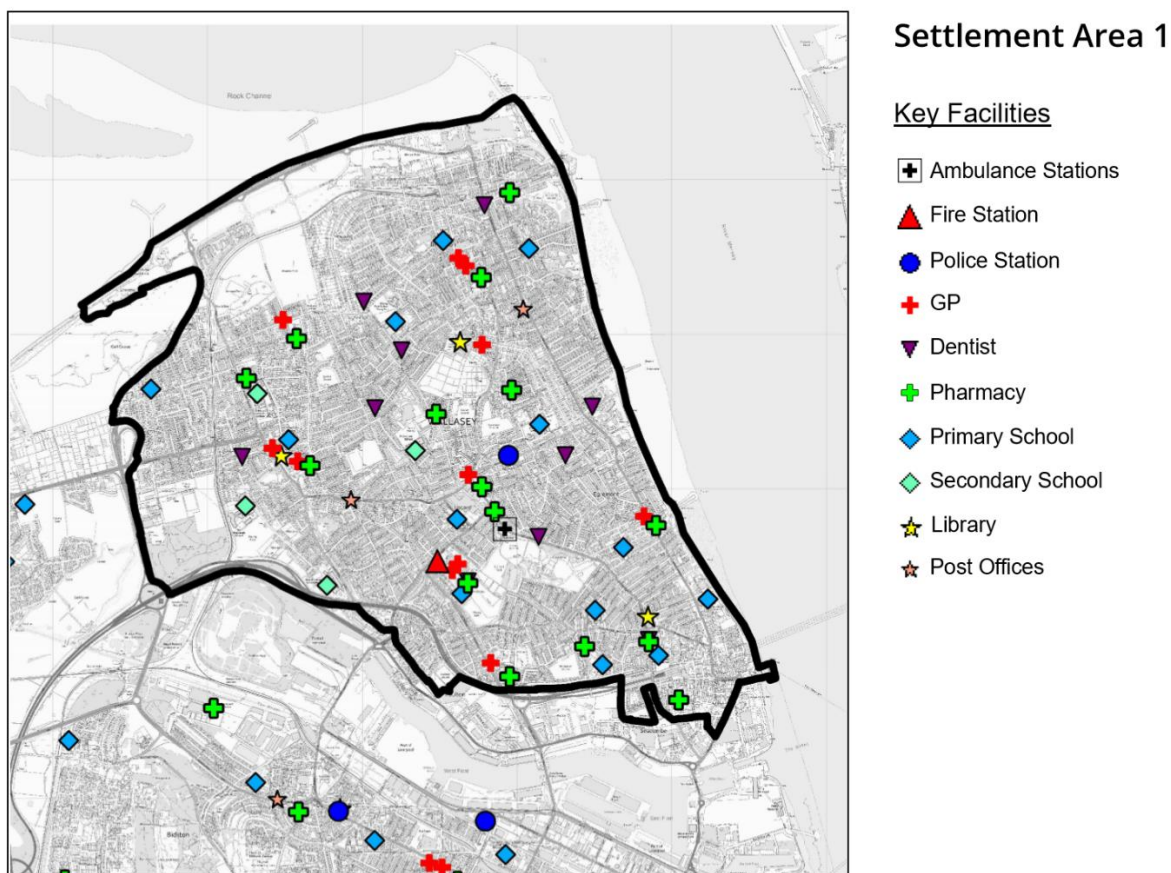
Wallasey	
<b>Land Area</b>	1,021 hectares (15% of Wirral land area)
<b>Urban Coastline</b>	6.5km (4 miles)
<b>Population</b>	61339 (mid-2017) 18.5% of Wirral population
<b>Residential Properties</b>	28,692 (mid 2-17) 19% of Wirral stock
<b>Social Housing Properties</b>	3,351 (12% of Area 1)
<b>Dwellings Completed since 2012 (Gross)</b>	726 units (16 % of Wirral Completions)
<b>Dwellings Demolished Since 2012</b>	44 dwellings (4.3% of Wirral Demolitions)
<b>Number of units with Planning Permission</b>	472 (April 2019)
<b>Key Town Centres</b>	Liscard, New Brighton, Seacombe, Wallasey Village
<b>Other Retail Centres</b>	Cross Lane Industrial Estate (7.0 hectares),
<b>Employment Areas</b>	Wallasey Village; New Brighton (Victoria Road); New Brighton (Seabank Road); Seacombe (Borough Road/Poulton Road).
<b>Open Space Provision</b>	191 hectares (3.15 hectares per 1000)
<b>Open Space within 400m of SA1</b>	446.66 hectares (7.36 per 1000) (OSS 2019)

Figure 11



## Key Services and Facilities within Settlement Area 1

Figure 12



Description	Key Services and Facilities				
SHLAA Sites	8 SHLAA Sites (Figure 11)				
Primary Schools	Size	Size	Capacity	Capacity	Expansion potential
Egremont Primary School	399	2FE	82%	Limited	None
Kingsway Primary School	175	1FE	61%	Moderate	Difficult
Liscard Primary School	638	3FE	99%	At or near capacity	None
Mount Primary School	330	1.5FE	103%	At or near capacity	Difficult
New Brighton Primary School	594	3FE	101%	At or near capacity	None
Park Primary School	420	2FE	96%	At or near capacity	Difficult
Riverside Primary School	236	1FE	81%	Limited	Possible
St Alban's Catholic Primary School	392	2FE	101%	At or near capacity	None

St George's Primary School	869	4FE	93%	At or near capacity	None
St Joseph's Catholic Primary School Seacombe	304	1.5FE	68%	Moderate	None
St Peter & Paul Catholic Primary School	315	1.5FE	96%	At or near capacity	None
Somerville Primary School	525	3FE	95%	At or near capacity	None
Greenleas Primary School	315	1.5FE	101%	At or near capacity	None
<b>Secondary Schools</b>	<b>Size</b>		<b>Capacity</b>	<b>Capacity</b>	<b>Expansion potential</b>
Mosslands School	1418		76%	Limited	Difficult
Weatherhead High School	1651		96%	At or near capacity	None
St Marys Catholic Aided College	1805		68%	Moderate	None
The Oldershaw Academy	1005		81%	Limited	Possible
<b>SEN provision</b>	Ellery Park School				
<b>GP</b>	<b>Size</b>			<b>Capacity</b>	<b>Expansion potential</b>
Central Park Medical Centre	10468			Spare Capacity	Possible
Earlston & Seabank Medical Centre	N/A (List size part of Miriam Medical Centre)			At or Near Capacity	None
Egremont Medical Centre	4421			Moderate	Possible
Field Road Health Centre	3440			Spare Capacity	Possible
Grove Road Surgery	3223			At or Near Capacity	None
Liscard Group Practice	4414			Spare Capacity	Possible
Manor Health Centre	5936			At or Near Capacity	None
Somerville Medical Centre	8585			Spare Capacity	Possible
St. Georges Medical Centre	9611			Moderate	None
St. Hilary Group Practice	5763			Moderate	None
The Village Medical Centre	6693			At or Near Capacity	Possible
<b>Other Facilities</b>	Pharmacies (15), Dentists (11), Post Offices (2), Libraries (3), Police station (1), Fire Station (1), Ambulance Station (1) (Figure 12)				

<b>Hospitals</b>	Victoria Central Hospital is located at the edge of Liscard Town Centre with Wirral NHS and Cheshire and Wirral Partnership NHS running a number of departments.
<b>Emergency Services</b>	Police, Fire and Rescue and Ambulance services are located at the edge of Liscard Town Centre. The RNLi currently operates two facilities in New Brighton at either end of Kings Parade.
<b>Community Facilities</b>	Public facilities include Wallasey Central, Wallasey Village and Seacombe libraries, and the swimming pools and fitness suite at Guinea Gap Recreation Centre. Sports halls are provided at the secondary schools at Weatherhead, Mosslands, Oldershaw and Weatherhead; and a smaller hall at St Joseph's RC Primary. Floodlit artificial turf pitches are provided at Weatherhead and Oldershaw. There is also a private indoor soccer facility at Birkenhead Road. The Warren Golf Club is located in Wallasey. Redevelopment of the New Brighton resort at Marine Point has included a refurbished Floral Pavilion theatre and conference centre, refurbished marine lake, model boating lake, supermarket, retail units, hotel, cinema, restaurants, bars and public realm improvements. There is also a ten-pin bowling facility on marine Promenade in New Brighton.
<b>Retail Centres</b>	Liscard is the main shopping and service centre for the Settlement Area. The Cherry Tree Shopping Centre and the pedestrianised Liscard Way form the core of the shopping area. The centre has experienced a 136-place increase in the national retail rankings since 2010/11. Its comparison retail offer is at the value end of the spectrum and the vacancy rate is above the UK average and has increased. Liscard Town Centre Masterplan presents the opportunity to improve the centre. Two main supermarkets now serve the Settlement Area, Asda at Liscard and Morrisons at New Brighton. The Local centres at Seacombe, Victoria Road, Seabank Road (New Brighton), and Wallasey Village provide more local facilities. Seacombe is one of the largest local centres in Wirral accommodating 90 units, the quality of the centre is compromised by a high number of vacant units. The 2019 Retail Study recommends reducing the eastern and western extent of the centre to consolidate the boundary.
<b>Employment Areas</b>	Cross Lane Industrial Estate is the only dedicated industrial estate within the Settlement Area. The Wirral Employment Land and Premises Study concluded that the Estate provided good local employment opportunities and should be retained. Council services are located at Wallasey Town Hall in Seacombe.
<b>Open Space</b>	There are four parks and gardens in this Settlement Area. Central Park, Harrison Park and Vale Park have Green Flag Awards. There are five natural and semi-natural greenspaces, 38 amenity greenspaces, 21 areas of provision for children and young people and seven allotments. Provision for amenity greenspace sits above the national guideline for greenspace, however the provision for parks and gardens, natural and semi-natural greenspace, provision for children and young people and allotments each fall below their respective national guidelines.

	<p>The availability of playing fields is significantly constrained and almost a third of football teams and a number of cricket teams travel outside the Settlement Area for home fixtures.</p>
<b>Biodiversity</b>	<p>Biodiversity value is mainly limited to the coast. The North Wirral Foreshore is nationally and internationally significant and the Mersey coastline is nationally designated. Wallasey Golf Course and the remnant dune areas associated with the North Wirral Coastal Park are also locally significant for nationally rare species and breeding birds. The sandstone outcrop at Red and Yellow Noses at New Brighton is a site of local importance for earth science.</p>
<b>Coast and Flooding</b>	<p>There are 6.5Km of urban coastline. The coastal promenade from Seacombe Ferry to New Brighton and the North Wirral Coastal Park are major features of the Settlement Area. The majority of the Settlement Area is protected from the sea by the Wallasey Embankment there is still a risk of flooding if the Embankment was breached or over-topped. Approximately 35 hectares of land associated with the adjacent north Wirral coast and the Fender Valley is, therefore, liable to potential tidal and / or fluvial river flooding, according to the EA's Flood Map for Planning. This risk could affect the perimeter of Wallasey and New Brighton, particularly affecting the north east area including Marine Point, Kings Parade and Marine Promenade according to the updated Level 1 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA).</p>
<b>Heritage</b>	<p>The National Heritage List for England contains forty-seven entries including seventy-three separate structures, representing 4 percent of the Borough total. Three entries are listed as Grade II*. There are Conservation Areas at Magazine Promenade and at Wellington Road, which includes the original cliff top villas at New Brighton. Fort Perch Rock and Lighthouse are also prominent landmarks on the New Brighton waterfront.</p> <p>Six listed buildings within this Settlement Area are on the national Heritage at Risk Register. These are, Grade II Church of St Paul, Church Crescent; Grade II Church of St Mary; Grade II Church of St Peter and St Paul, Atherton Street; Grade II Church of St James, Victoria Road; Grade II* Church Fort Perch Rock, Marine Promenade and Grade II Church of St Nicholas, Newport Avenue.</p>
<b>Utilities</b>	<p>United Utilities operate a major pumping station at Scotts Field, Seacombe, detention tanks at Coastal Drive and Tower Grounds in New Brighton and a reservoir at Gorsehill Road. The whole of the Area drains to the wastewater treatment works at Birkenhead.</p> <p>There is potential for particular challenges providing additional water supply this part of the Wirral as it is at the top of peninsular. Public water supply only comes from the south, so the options to redistribute water supply to the north of the peninsular can become quite limited. Reinforcement and local upgrades are expected to be required.</p>
<b>Road Network</b>	<p>Access to Liverpool is via the Kingsway Tunnel within the Settlement Area. Access to Birkenhead is via Tower Road, Duke</p>



	Street and Wallasey Bridge Road; and to the M53 Motorway from the Docks Link and Wallasey Link Roads.
<b>Public Transport Infrastructure</b>	The settlement is well located with access to Liverpool Seacombe Ferry Terminal and three train stations at Wallasey Village, Wallasey Grove Road and New Brighton. The majority of the Settlement Area is highly accessible by bus.
<b>Cycling and Walking Infrastructure</b>	The public coastal promenades between Seacombe Ferry and the North Wirral Coastal Park are of Borough-wide significance and provide part of National Cycle Route 56. Walking and cycle linkages are also provided across Central Park to Liscard.
<b>Transport Accessibility</b>	Walking and public transport accessibility to key facilities is shown in Figure 13 and 14 respectively.
<b>Key issues</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consolidating the continued regeneration of New Brighton.</li> <li>• Addressing the decline of Liscard Town Centre through the upcoming masterplan.</li> <li>• Safeguarding employment uses at Cross Lane Industrial Estate.</li> <li>• Addressing the social, economic and environmental needs of Seacombe and Liscard.</li> <li>• A number of Primary schools in the area approaching capacity.</li> <li>• Maintaining the attractiveness, recreation value and biodiversity of coastal facilities.</li> <li>• Risk of flooding in Wallasey and New Brighton, particularly affecting the north east area including Marine Point, Kings Parade and Marine Promenade.</li> <li>• Constrained number of playing fields.</li> <li>• Improving sustainable transport links including safe cycle routes with the surrounding areas.</li> <li>• Understanding the context in water supply and wastewater infrastructure.</li> </ul>

## Accessibility maps for key facilities within SA1

Figure 13

Walking time to key facilities in SA1

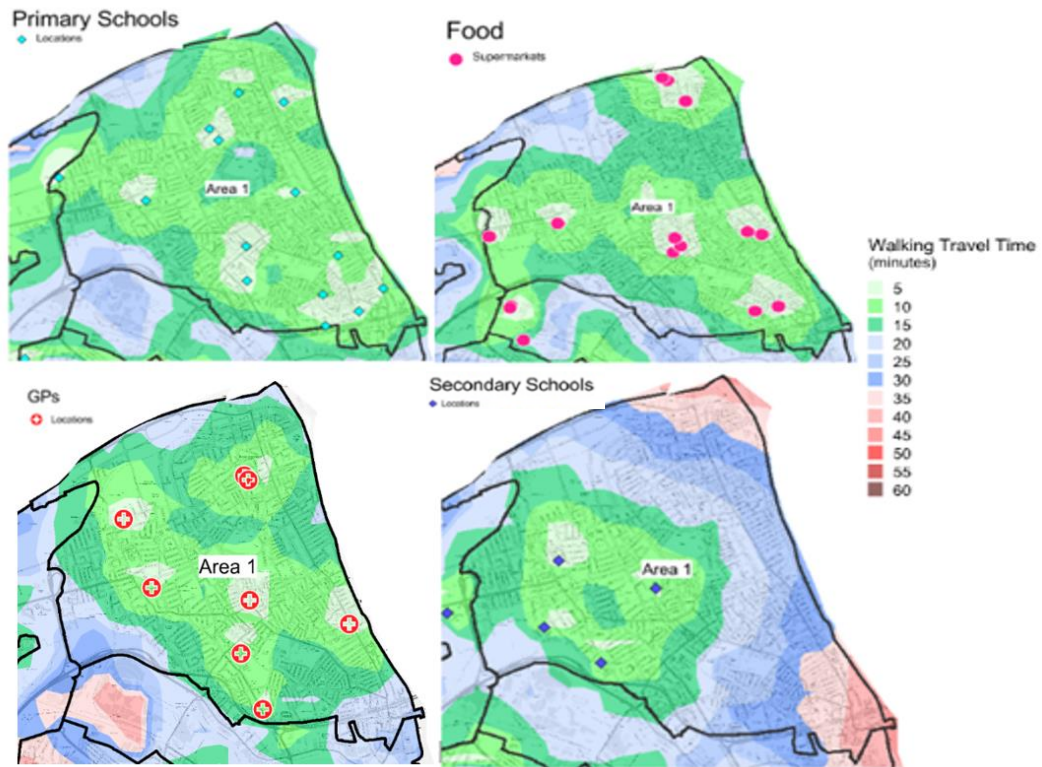
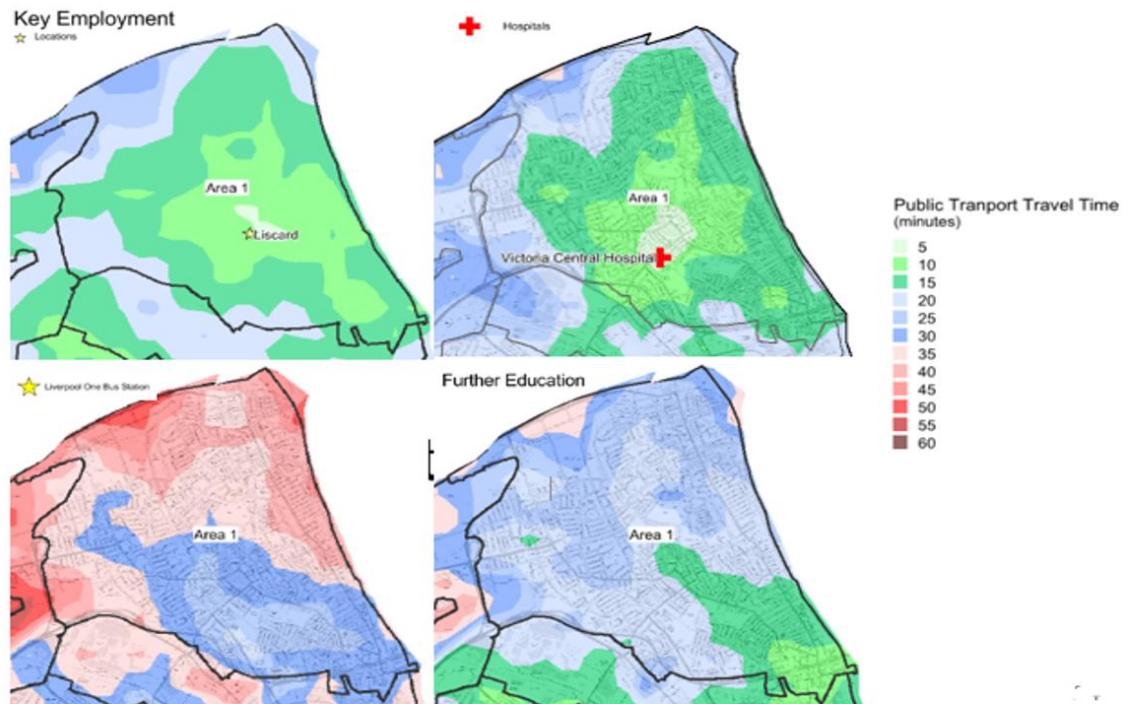


Figure 14

Public Transport Travel time to key facilities within SA1

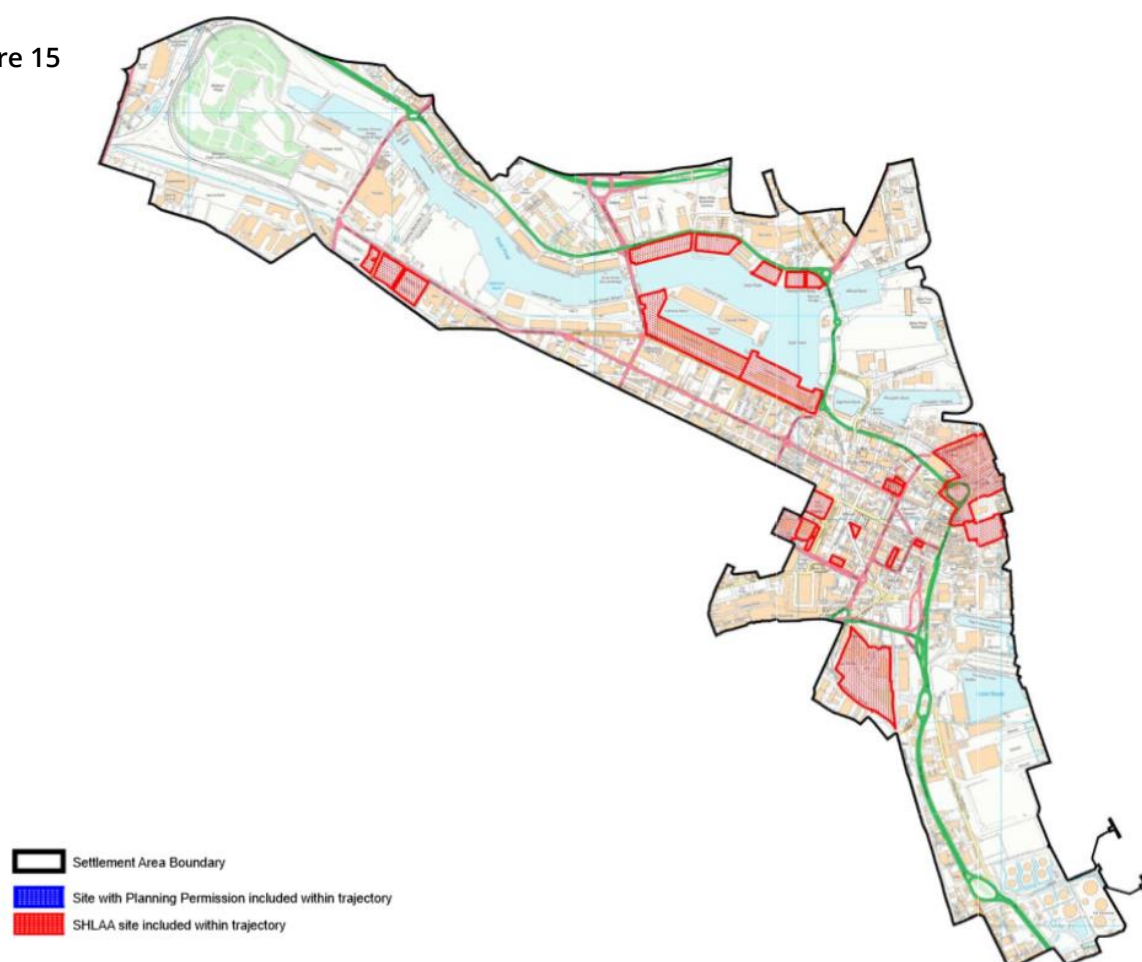


## Settlement Area 2 (SA2) - Commercial Core

Settlement Area 2 is the historic industrial and commercial heart of the Borough at Bidston, Seacombe, Birkenhead and Tranmere, centred around Birkenhead Town Centre and the coastal and inland docks system constructed in the early to mid-1800s.

<b>SA2- Commercial Core</b>	
<b>Land Area</b>	1,433 hectares (9% of Wirral land area)
<b>Urban Coastline</b>	4km (2.5 miles)
<b>Population</b>	2554 (mid 2017) 0.7% of Wirral population
<b>Residential Properties</b>	1715 (1.1% of Wirral stock April 2017)
<b>Social Housing Properties</b>	626 (36.5% of Area 2)
<b>Dwellings Completed Since 2012 (Gross)</b>	72 (2% of Wirral Completions)
<b>Dwellings Demolished Since 2012</b>	95 Dwellings (9.4% of Wirral Demolitions)
<b>Number of units with Planning Permission</b>	496 (April 2019)
<b>Key Town Centres</b>	Birkenhead
<b>Other Retail Centres</b>	Jct1 Retail Park; Rock Retail Park; Tesco, Bidston,
<b>Employment Areas</b>	Twelve Quays, Dock Estate, Dock Road Corridor, Seacombe, Cleveland Street Corridor, Birkenhead, Beaufort Road, Valley Road Industrial Estate, Woodside Approach, A41 Corridor, Tranmere
<b>Open Space Provision</b>	50.3 hectares (28.91 hectares per 1000)
<b>Open space within 400m of SA</b>	283.78 162.62 (hectares per 1000)

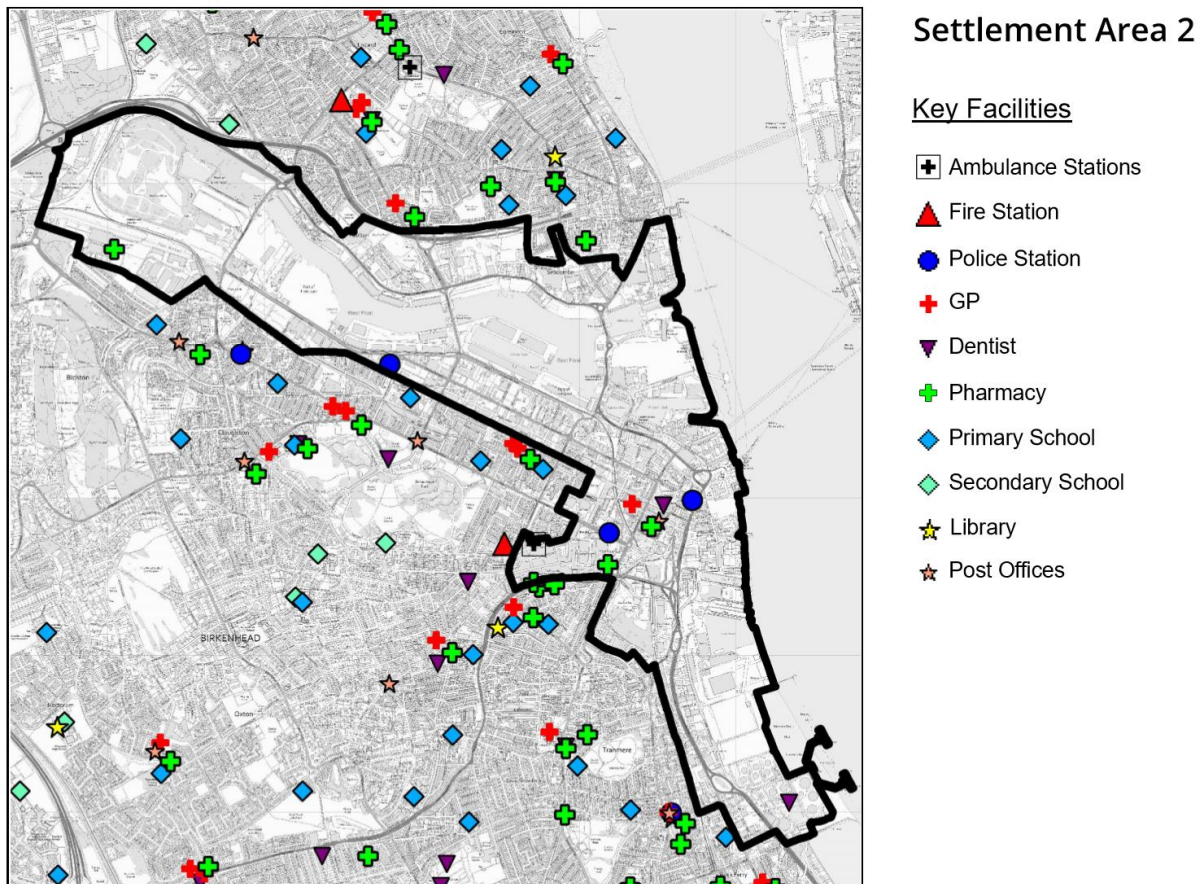
Figure 15





## Key Services and Facilities within Settlement Area 2

Figure 16



Description	Key Services and Facilities		
<b>SHLAA Sites</b>	24 SHLAA Sites (Figure 15)		
<b>Schools</b>	No schools located within the commercial core Settlement Area		
<b>Further Education</b>	Wirral Metropolitan College has 3 campuses in the commercial core - Conway Park, Twelve Quays and Wirral Waters. The Maritime and Engineering College North West has operated since 1998 as a centre of vocational excellence for maritime, engineering, manufacturing and related sectors.		
<b>GP</b>	<b>Size</b>	<b>Capacity</b>	<b>Expansion potential</b>
<b>Hamilton Medical Centre</b>	2538	At or Near Capacity	None
<b>Other Facilities</b>	Pharmacies (4), Dentists (2), Post Offices (1), Libraries (0), Police Station (3), Fire Stations (0), Ambulance Stations (0) (Figure 16)		
<b>Emergency Services</b>	Police, Magistrates, and Probation are located in and around Birkenhead Town Centre. The Borough's main Police Custody Suite is adjacent to the docks.		

<p><b>Community Facilities</b></p>	<p>Public facilities of Borough wide importance include the swimming pools and fitness suite at Europa Pools in Birkenhead Town Centre and the indoor tennis centre, sports hall, fitness suite, playing fields and floodlit artificial turf pitch at the Wirral Tennis and Sports Centre at Bidston. The Hive, Wirral Youth Zone is a purpose-built facility in central Birkenhead. The Vue Cinema adjacent to Europa Pools in the town centre attracts 15% of all cinema trips from across the Wirral. Wirral Register Office is located within Birkenhead Town Hall.</p> <p>Cultural and leisure facilities in community ownership include Pacific Road Arts Centre, and Wirral Tramway Museum and Heritage tramway.</p>
<p><b>Retail Centres</b></p>	<p>Birkenhead Town Centre is a sub-regional shopping centre which provides a range of shopping and service facilities to meet the needs of Wirral residents. The core retail area is centred on the Pyramids covered shopping centre and the pedestrianised Grange Road area, currently in single ownership, and is complemented by a long-established market. Services offered within the town centre include key convenience stores such as Asda and a non-food offer which includes Primark, New Look, Waterstones and Next. The town centre is currently exhibiting signs of decline. Vacancy rates are currently high at 24.3%, more than double the UK average.</p> <p>The Council are actively seeking to bring forward the regeneration of Birkenhead Town Centre. Wirral Growth Company, a 50-50 partnership between Wirral Council and Muse Developments, was established in March 2019. Following consultation, a draft masterplan has been formulated for the redevelopment of land comprising the Market, bus station, The Europa Centre, and land to the north of Conway Street including The Vue Cinema, Europa Pools Leisure Centre and Price Street Car Park.</p> <p>There is also a significant concentration of out-of-centre retail development within the surrounding area, including Rock Retail Park; Junction 1 Retail Park and Tesco at Bidston.</p>
<p><b>Employment</b></p>	<p>The Commercial core is the Borough's most significant destination for journeys to work (16%) and the largest contributor to the Borough's economic output (19% of total GVA).</p> <p>Industrial dock-related facilities dominate the character of the Area. The Twelve Quays Roll-on Roll-off Ferry Terminal operates from the waterfront opposite Liverpool. Other significant waterfront facilities include Cammell Lairds, which is a major marine engineering and ship repair centre for the UK west coast. The nationally important Shell Oil Terminal at Tranmere feeds the upstream refinery facilities at Stanlow, in Cheshire West and Chester. In addition to a number of smaller industrial estates in this area featuring older premises. There have been a couple of recent employment developments in Birkenhead - the Lightbox and Turbine Business Park. The docks hinterland in Seacombe and North Birkenhead are an important source of local employment, providing for a wide range of small and medium sized companies, mainly in light engineering, trade and distribution. Wirral Waters was launched by Peel in 2006. It is one of the largest private sector led regeneration projects in the UK, with a 30+ year build programme. Employment-led development will be</p>

	<p>supported at West Float, with an emphasis on accommodating the relocation of existing port-related employment within East Float. Facilities and areas will be retained to accommodate ongoing maritime activity associated with the operational port, which will continue to operate. A large part of West Float benefits from outline planning permission for a total of 228,300 sqm of employment floorspace.</p> <p>Birkenhead Town Centre represents the main office market in the borough. There are a currently limited number of smaller employment sites available in Birkenhead Town Centre. Wirral Council Growth Company aspirations for the redevelopment of Birkenhead Town Centre include a civic cluster incorporating Council and community uses, commercial offices, retail, food and drink, hotel, and residential. Located on the opposite bank of the River Mersey to Liverpool's iconic skyline, the Woodside area masterplan is currently being refreshed. This mixed-use scheme is likely to deliver a residential, offices, hotel and leisure offer.</p>
<b>Open Space</b>	<p>Hamilton Square Gardens is the only park and garden in the Settlement Area which also has a Green Flag Award. There is one amenity greenspace, two natural and semi-natural greenspaces and two areas of provision for children and young people in the Settlement Area. The provision for natural and semi-natural greenspace sits above the national guideline for natural and semi-natural greenspace, however, the provision for parks and gardens, amenity greenspace and provision for children and young people each fall below their respective national guidelines. There are no allotments within the Settlement Area.</p>
<b>Biodiversity</b>	<p>Bidston Moss is now a proposed site of biological importance, providing an excellent habitat for birds.</p>
<b>Coast and Flooding</b>	<p>According to the EA's Flood Map for Planning, Birkenhead Docks, Woodside and to a lesser extent at Cammell Lairds and Tranmere Oil Terminal are at risk of flooding, which will need to be taken into account as the re-development of these areas progresses. Climate change impacts should also be taken into consideration.</p> <p>Surface water flood risk is evident on Borough Road, south of Hind Street, and around the New Chester Road area.</p> <p>According to historic flooding datasets, the Settlement Area has had approximately 131-200 historic flood incidents north of Birkenhead Dock, which is also mostly a United Utilities drainage area, 200 – 230 incidents south west of the docks, and 230-300 south east of the docks.</p>
<b>Heritage</b>	<p>The Area has a rich historic heritage with 75 entries on the National Heritage List for England, relating to approximately 180 individual structures or approximately 10 per cent of the Borough total. Six entries are listed at Grade I and five at Grade II*. The historic commercial area to the north of Birkenhead Town Centre at Hamilton Square is a nationally significant Conservation Area, it is also on the National Heritage at Risk Register. The Scheduled Ancient Monument at Birkenhead Priory, is believed to be the oldest range of surviving buildings in Merseyside.</p>

<b>Utilities</b>	<p>The high-pressure gas main for the Borough runs into the Settlement Area along the M53 Motorway. Electricity from the wind turbines in Liverpool Bay runs from the north Wirral coast to a transformer at the edge of the Dock Estate.</p> <p>Liverpool City Region is a designated Centre for Offshore Renewable Engineering. There is a Renewable Engineering operations and maintenance centre at Kings Wharf serving Liverpool Bay and Burbo Bank offshore windfarms.</p> <p>Tranmere Oil Terminal is a registered COMAH site where statutory controls apply to protect public safety.</p> <p>Other key infrastructure includes the Borough's main wastewater treatment works at Shore Road, the Great Culvert Pumping Station and the Materials Recycling Facility at Wallasey Bridge Road.</p> <p>Parts of the Area, particularly around the docks, have low water resource availability and network reinforcement and upgrading is expected to be required. Wirral Waters will require the provision of additional water supply infrastructure across the network.</p>
<b>Road Network</b>	<p>The majority of the Borough's principal highways radiate out from Birkenhead Town Centre. Main roads in and out of the Settlement Area include major through routes from across the Borough; the road tunnels to Liverpool; the Docks Link Road to Junction 1 of the M53 Motorway; three routes across the docks system at Tower Road, Duke Street and Wallasey Bridge Road; and the A41 south to Chester and Junction 5 of the M53 Motorway.</p>
<b>Public Transport Infrastructure</b>	<p>Settlement Area 2 is by far the most accessible in the Borough, with good access by bus, rail and ferry. There are 4 rail stations Birkenhead Central, Hamilton Square, Conway Park, and Birkenhead North and Birkenhead Bus Station and Seacombe Ferry terminals within the commercial core. There is also a ferry terminal at Woodside, but this does not provide a commuter service. There are high frequency bus services to all the Borough's main settlements. High frequency, electrified, passenger rail services run through the Town Centre to Liverpool, New Brighton, West Kirby, Ellesmere Port and Chester. There is a large park and ride facility at Birkenhead North. An hourly diesel service runs, with connections to Birkenhead, from Bidston to Wrexham in North Wales.</p>
<b>Port Infrastructure</b>	<p>The Twelve Quays Roll-on Roll-off Ferry Terminal operates from the waterfront opposite Liverpool.</p>
<b>Cycling and Walking Infrastructure</b>	<p>There are coastal footways associated with the Mersey waterfront at Woodside and Seacombe although this is not directly continuous due to industrial and port activity at Cammell Lairds and Twelve Quays. There are plans to remove flyovers which currently dividing the Town Centre from areas in the south providing a physical barrier to walking and cycling. There is a need to link Wirral Waters to Leasowe and Wallasey and to provide safe cycle links across the docks.</p> <p>A disused freight line runs from the Wirral Waters area and across Birkenhead Town Centre (in cutting) to Mollington Street in Tranmere the alignment at Bidston Curve, from Birkenhead North Depot to Duke Street and from Rock Ferry to Canning Street. This will need to be safeguarded to support Wirral Strategic Transport Framework</p>



	proposals for enhanced sustainable transport connections to and within Wirral Waters.
<b>Transport Accessibility</b>	Walking and public transport accessibility to key facilities is shown in Figure 17 and 18 respectively.
<b>Key issues</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Providing for the continued economic revitalisation of Birkenhead, including the re-development of large areas of vacant and underused land and the future development of key waterfront locations.</li> <li>• Supporting the delivery of Wirral Waters and the integration of the proposals with the surrounding area.</li> <li>• Supporting Cammell Lairds as a major centre for heavy and marine engineering.</li> <li>• Supporting the delivery of Wirral Growth Company Birkenhead Town Centre Regeneration.</li> <li>• Community facilities may be required e.g. GP and primary school facilities within area to support increased housing.</li> <li>• Addressing the social, economic and environmental needs of central Birkenhead.</li> <li>• Addressing the lack of appropriate 'quality' employment land, particularly for offices, in the most accessible locations.</li> <li>• Implementation of a transport strategy to enable and support development proposals at Wirral Waters, Birkenhead Town Centre, Hind Street and Woodside and enhance opportunities for active modes of travel.</li> <li>• Addressing the lack of open space and green infrastructure.</li> <li>• Understanding the context in water supply and wastewater infrastructure, to achieve regeneration aspirations within the area.</li> </ul>

## Accessibility maps for key facilities within SA2

Figure 17

Walking time to key facilities in SA2

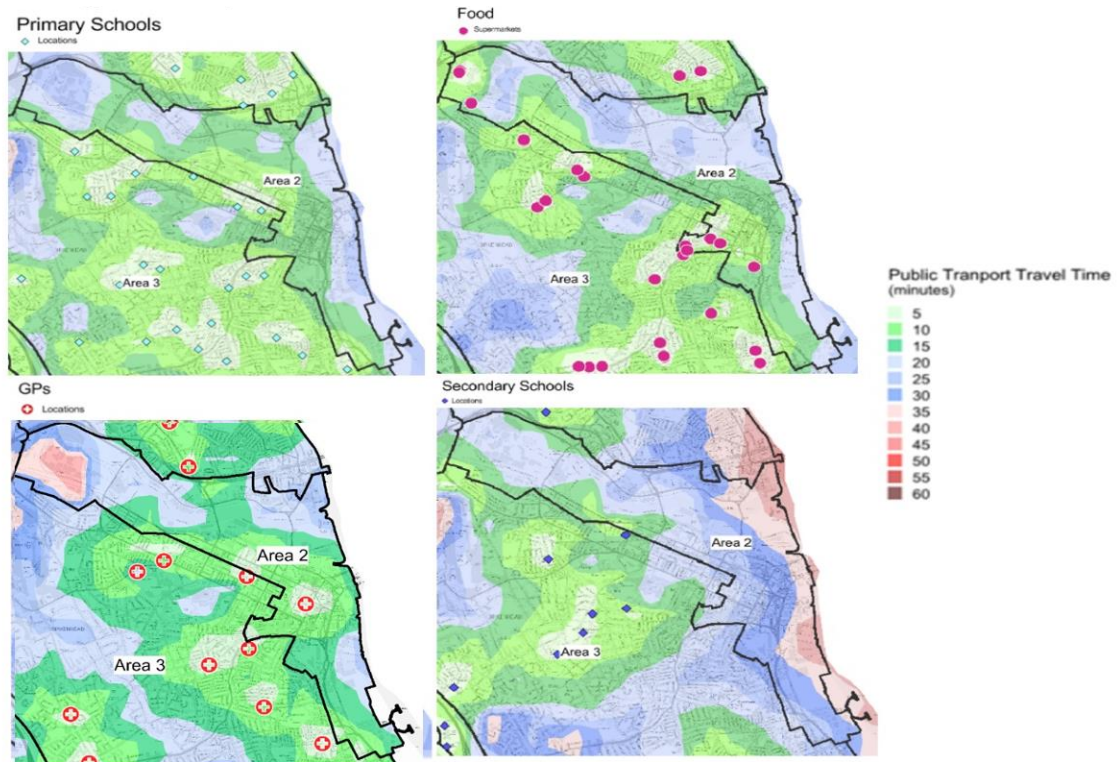
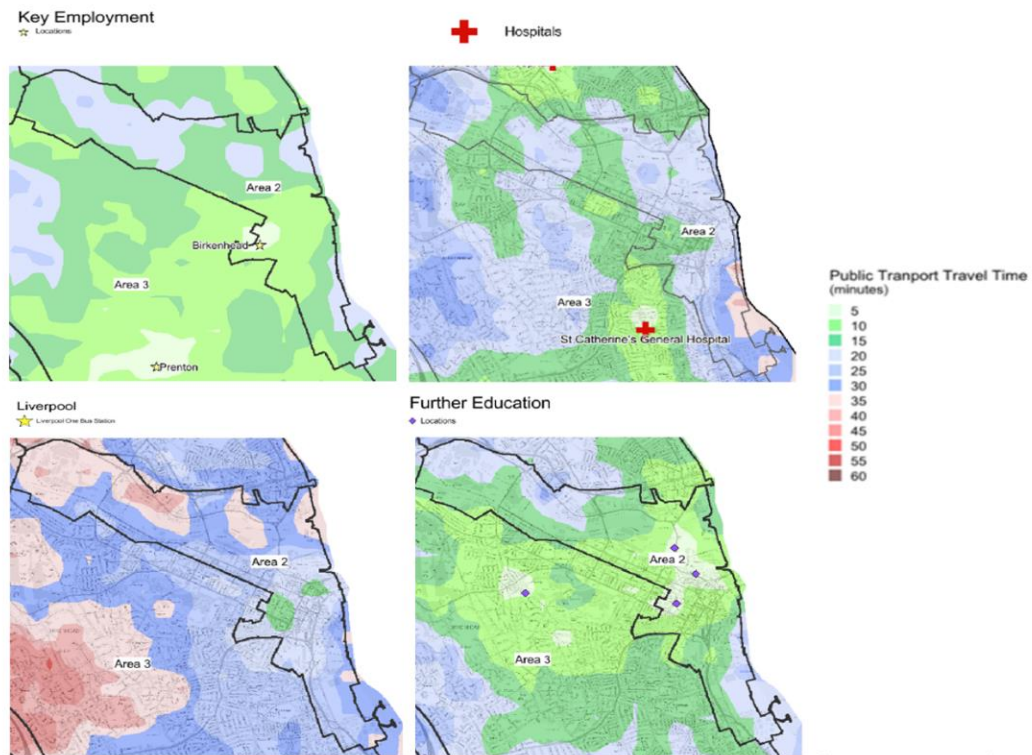


Figure 18

Public Transport Travel time to key facilities within SA2

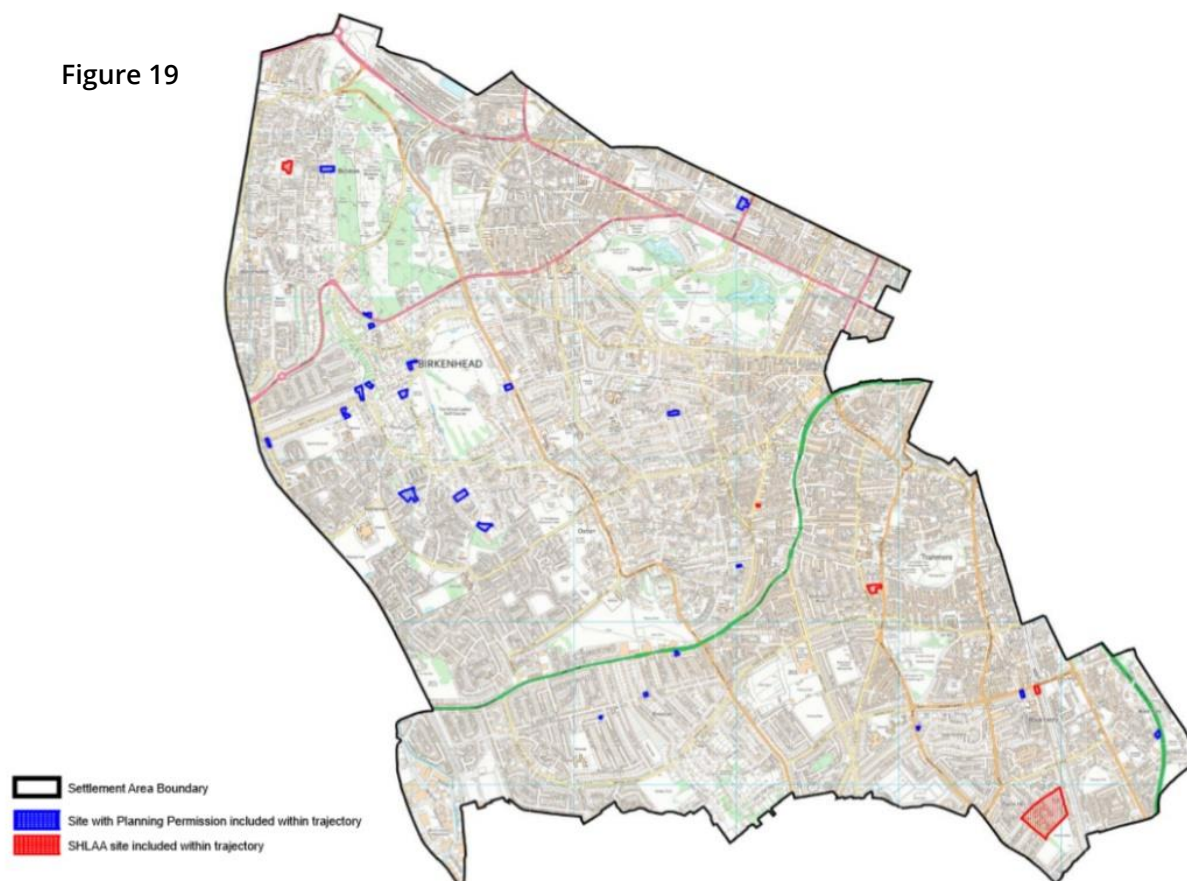


## Settlement Area 3 (SA3) – Birkenhead

Settlement Area 3 includes the densely developed older terraced housing built during the early 1900s surrounding the Birkenhead Dock Estate and the central commercial areas in Birkenhead and Tranmere; the high quality lower density Edwardian and Victorian settlements along the Noctorum Ridge at Bidston, Claughton, Oxton and Prenton; and the more densely developed, modern, outer suburbs at Beechwood, Noctorum and Prenton.

SA3- Birkenhead	
Land Area	1,806 hectares (12% of Wirral land area)
Urban Coastline	0.85km (0.5miles)
Population	89,009 (mid 2017) 27% of Wirral
Residential Properties	42,866 (28% of Wirral stock April 2017)
Social Housing Properties	10,043 (23% of Area 3)
Dwellings Completed Since April 2012 (Gross)	1449 (32% of Wirral Completions)
Dwellings Demolished Since 2012	363 (36% of Wirral Demolitions)
Number of units with Planning Permission	908 (April 2019)
Key Town Centres	Prenton
Other Retail Centres	Grange West Road/Oxton Road; Prenton (Borough Road); Tranmere (Old Chester Road); Claughton Village; Laird Street; Dacre Hill; Church Road; Oxton Village.
Employment Areas	North Cheshire Trading Estate
Open Space Provision	339.46 hectares (3.99 hectares per 1000)
Open Space within 400m of SA3	221 hectares (2.7 hectares per 1000)

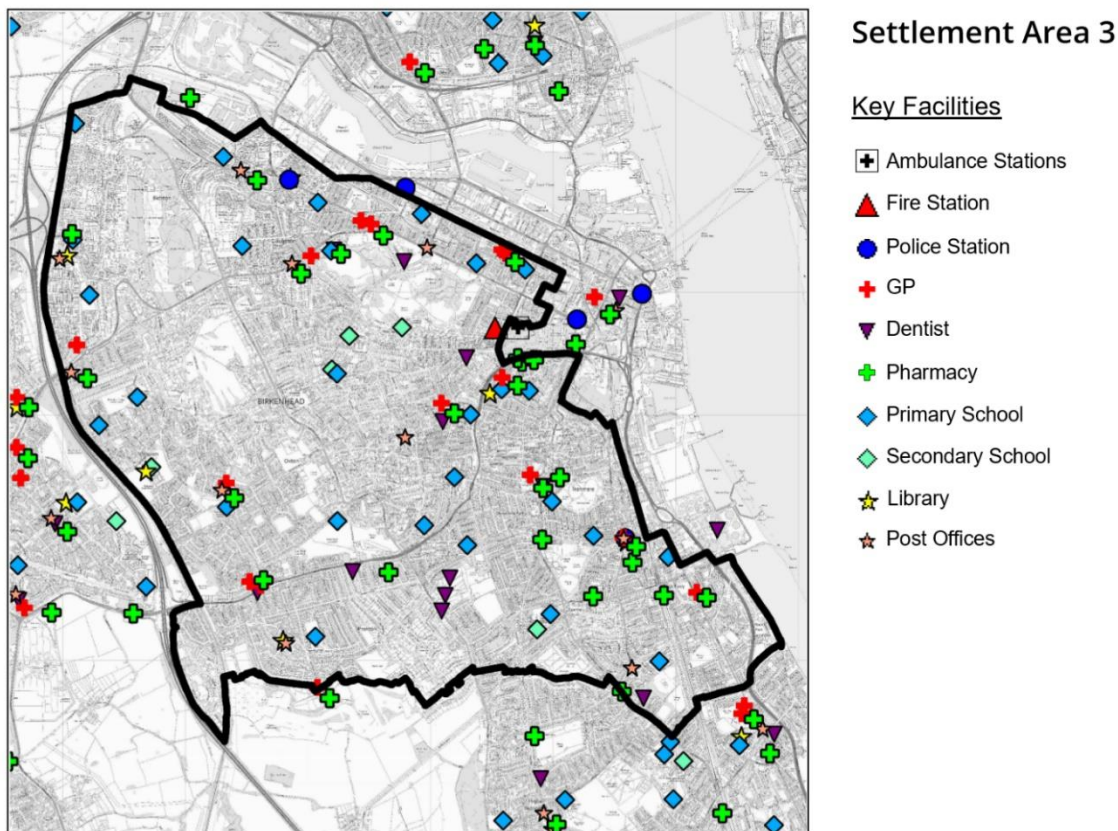
Figure 19





### Key Services and Facilities within Settlement Area 3

Figure 20



Description	Key Facilities and Services				
<b>SHLAA Sites</b>	5 SHLAAA sites (Figure 19)				
<b>Primary Schools</b>	Size	Size	Capacity	Capacity	Expansion potential
<b>Prenton Primary School</b>	420	2FE	97%	At or Near Capacity	Difficult
<b>St Annes Catholic Primary School</b>	243	1FE	84%	Limited	Possible
<b>St Joseph's Catholic Primary School Prenton</b>	420	2FE	80%	Limited	Possible
<b>Bidston Avenue Primary School</b>	420	2FE	99%	At or Near Capacity	None
<b>Cathcart Street Primary</b>	210	1FE	89%	Limited	None
<b>Christchurch CE Primary School Birkenhead</b>	295	1.5FE	66%	Moderate	None
<b>Devonshire Park Primary School</b>	420	2FE	113%	At or Near Capacity	Possible
<b>Holy Cross Catholic Primary School</b>	210	1FE	63%	Moderate	Possible
<b>Mersey Park Primary School</b>	420	2FE	97%	At or Near Capacity	None
<b>Our Lady &amp; St Edwards Catholic Primary School</b>	420	2FE	99%	At or Near Capacity	None

Oxton St Saviours CE Primary	245	1FE	101%	At or Near Capacity	None
Portland Primary School (Co-op Academy)	241	1FE	66%	Moderate	None
Rock Ferry Primary School	390	1.5FE	76%	Limited	Possible
St Werburg's Catholic Primary	210	1FE	90%	At or Near Capacity	None
The Priory Parish CE Primary School	202	1FE	103%	At or Near Capacity	None
Townfield Primary School	445	2FE	100%	At or Near Capacity	Difficult
Well Lane Primary School	210	1FE	87%	Limited	None
Woodchurch Road Primary School	527	2.5FE	76%	Limited	None
Woodlands Primary School	315	1.5FE	93%	At or Near Capacity	None
Bedford Drive Primary School	420	2FE	88%	Limited	Possible
Bidston Village CE Primary School	367	1.5FE	92%	At or Near Capacity	Difficult
Hillside Primary School	210	1FE	86%	Limited	Possible
Manor Primary School	210	1FE	70%	Moderate	Possible
St Paul's Catholic Primary School	150	1FE	57%	Moderate	None
St Peter's Catholic Primary School	210	1FE	54%	Moderate	None
Birkenhead High School Academy for Girls (Junior)	392	1.5FE	101%	At or Near Capacity	None
<b>Secondary Schools</b>	<b>Size</b>		<b>Capacity</b>	<b>Capacity</b>	<b>Expansion potential</b>
St Anselms College	936		99%	At or Near Capacity	None
Prenton Academy (High School for Girls)	850		92%	At or Near Capacity	Difficult
Ridgeway High School	727		102%	At or Near Capacity	Possible
The Birkenhead Park School	1069		57%	Moderate	Difficult
Birkenhead High School Academy for Girls (Senior)	931		77%	Limited	None
<b>SEN provision</b>	The Observatory School, Wirral Hospital School, Kilgarth School				
<b>Further education</b>	Birkenhead Sixth Form College operates from a re-modelled campus adjacent to Birkenhead Park in Cloughton.				
<b>GP</b>	<b>Size</b>		<b>Capacity</b>		<b>Expansion potential</b>
Cavendish Medical Centre	5379		Spare Capacity		Possible
Cloughton Medical Centre (Paxton Medical Group)	14979		Spare Capacity		Possible
Devaney Medical Centre	8122		Spare Capacity		Possible

<b>Fender Way Health Centre</b>	N/A (List size part of Paxton Medical Centre)	Moderate	Possible
<b>Gladstone Medical Centre</b>	4118	At or Near Capacity	Possible
<b>Holmlands Drive Medical Centre</b>	2870	At or Near Capacity	None
<b>Miriam Medical Centre</b>	11007	Spare Capacity	Possible
<b>Prenton Medical Centre</b>	4094	At or Near Capacity	None
<b>Riverside Surgery</b>	7842	At or Near Capacity	Possible
<b>St. Catherine's Surgery</b>	15176	Spare Capacity	Possible
<b>The Villa Medical Centre</b>	6225	Moderate	Possible
<b>Townfield Health Centre</b>	5710	Spare Capacity	Possible
<b>Vittoria Medical Centre</b>	4787	At or Near Capacity	Possible
<b>Vittoria Medical Centre (Dr. R. S. Karyampudi)</b>	1580	At or Near Capacity	Possible
<b>Whetstone Medical Centre</b>	8584	Moderate	Possible
<b>Other Facilities</b>	Pharmacies (27), Dentists (12), Post Offices (10), Libraries (6), Police Stations (2), Fire Station (1), Ambulance Station (1) (Figure 20)		
<b>Emergency Services</b>	There are two community police stations within the Settlement Area at the Rock Ferry Centre and St James Centre. Birkenhead Community Fire and Ambulance Station sits at the boundary of the Settlement Area adjacent to the commercial core. There are 6 libraries within Settlement Area 3.		
<b>Community Facilities</b>	Sports facilities include the public sports halls at Beechwood Recreation Centre and private facilities at the Birkenhead and Shaftesbury Youth Clubs. Sports halls are also available at secondary schools at Park and Prenton and smaller halls at the primary schools at Christchurch and Rock Ferry. Private health club facilities including a swimming pool and indoor running track are also available at Total Fitness in Prenton. Williamson Art Gallery is located on Slatey Road in Oxton. Wirral Golf Club is a private golf course located in Prenton.		
<b>Retail Centres</b>	Woodchurch Road (Prenton) functions as the main district centre within the Area. It is a busy centre with several large convenience supermarkets. The range of uses are good for the size and role of the district centre. A number of smaller more local centres operate at Borough Road (Prenton Park), Cloughton Village, Dacre Hill, Laird Street, Oxton Village, and Tranmere Urban Village.		
<b>Employment</b>	The only significant designated employment area is the North Cheshire Trading Estate at Junction 3 of the M53 Motorway. The estate is popular, almost fully occupied and only small infill plots are now available.		
<b>Open Space</b>	There are seven parks and gardens in this Settlement Area and although the Settlement Area contains the major open spaces of Birkenhead Park and Bidston Hill the majority of open space is already intensively used. There is high demand for playing pitches. There are also smaller parks at Tranmere, Rock Ferry, Oxton and		

	<p>Prenton. Birkenhead Park scored above the threshold for quality in the 2019 Open Space Study. This was due to perceived higher levels of maintenance and cleanliness as well as the variety of recreational uses on offer. The site also has a range of ancillary features and facilities including play and sporting opportunities, toilets and car parking as well as the added provision of a visitor centre. The site also has a Green Flag Award. Mersey Park scored just below the quality threshold. The Settlement Area contains 27 areas of provision for children and young people, 39 amenity greenspaces, 21 allotments and 12 natural and semi-natural greenspaces. The total area of allotments sits above the national guideline for provision, however the total area for amenity greenspaces natural and semi-natural greenspaces and provision for children and young people each fall below the national guideline for provision.</p>
<p><b>Biodiversity</b></p>	<p>Few sites are designated for their importance for biodiversity. Bidston Hill is of local importance for both nature conservation and earth science. It contains important heathland and mature deciduous woodland and is designated as a Local Wildlife Site and Site of Biological Importance. Wirral Ladies Golf Course is also of local significance for wildlife. Bidston Hill forms part of the East Wirral Heathlands Nature Improvement Area, and ecological priorities are to create, restore, maintain and enhance heathland habitats; create, maintain and enhance species diversity of grassland; and enhance the existing woodland to support the heathland. Birkenhead Park, although not formally designated, is important for at least one nationally protected species. The banks of the Mersey alongside Rock Park Esplanade are, however, part of a wider area of national importance for birds.</p>
<p><b>Coast and Flooding</b></p>	<p>Besides the short area of coast at Rock Park and south of Woodchurch road where the fluvial flood risk is mostly confined to the Fender, which could affect some properties in Prenton, the main risk of flooding is from surface water.</p> <p>There are clusters of surface water flood risk around the Birkenhead Park area including locations around Park Road North (A553), Conway Street and Watson Street (A5029). Other notable areas include the eastern boarder of the Settlement Area in Tranmere, south of Woodchurch Road around the Fender and an area of brownfield land south of Melford Drive. This drainage area has had the lowest category of historic flood incidents according with 131-200 incidents recorded. The Wirral Coastal Strategy identifies Rock Park as an area for prioritised works which will include river wall refurbishment works. This is considered 'low' in urgency and can take 3-4 years from potential earliest implementation.</p>
<p><b>Heritage</b></p>	<p>The Area has a strong built heritage, with over two hundred entries on the National Heritage List for England, of which five are Grade II*. There are Seven Conservation Areas: Bidston Village, Birkenhead Park, Clifton Park, Flaybrick Cemetery, Mountwood, Oxtan Village and Rock Park. The former Bidston Observatory is also a prominent local landmark on the crest of the wooded open space at Bidston Hill. Devonshire Park Neighbourhood Plan was adopted in 2015 to preserve</p>



	the heritage and character of Devonshire Park. Flaybrick Cemetery Conservation Area and Flaybrick Memorial Garden are both listed on the national Heritage at Risk Register.
<b>Utilities</b>	The Borough's principal electricity substation is located at the urban edge at Prenton Dell. There is a water abstraction borehole at Prenton and a reservoir on the sandstone ridge at Flaybrick. The north of the Area drains to the waste water treatment works at Birkenhead and parts of the south and east of the Area to Bromborough. The western part of the area has low water resource availability, with pressure issues, where local upgrades may be required.
<b>Road Network</b>	Main routes in and out of the Settlement Area include the Kingsway and Queensway Road Tunnels to Liverpool; the A41 south from Birkenhead to Chester and Junction 5 of the M53 Motorway; the A553 (Laird Street) west to Junction 1 of the M53 Motorway; the A552 west to Junction 3 of the M53 Motorway; and the A5027 west to Upton, Woodchurch and West Kirby.
<b>Public Transport Infrastructure</b>	Areas along radial routes to Birkenhead Town Centre are served by high frequency bus services. High frequency electrified rail services run along the northern edge of the Settlement Area between Liverpool, Birkenhead, New Brighton and West Kirby and along the eastern edge of the Settlement Area between Liverpool, Birkenhead and Chester. Birkenhead Park Station on the New Brighton and West Kirby line and Rock Ferry Rail station on the line to Chester fall within the Settlement Area. An hourly diesel service between Bidston to Wrexham serves Upton rail Station on the western edge of the Settlement Area.
<b>Cycling and Walking Infrastructure</b>	National Cycle Network Route 56 runs along the western edge of the Area through Beechwood with links to Woodchurch, Bidston and Wallasey. There is, however, a need to improve and secure accessible active travel linkages throughout the Area, particularly to key destinations or attractions, such as Birkenhead Park and existing centres.
<b>Transport Accessibility</b>	Walking and public transport accessibility to key facilities is shown in Figure 21 and 22 respectively.
<b>Key issues</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Addressing the social, economic and environmental needs of Beechwood, Bidston, Birkenhead, Tranmere and Rock Ferry.</li> <li>• Protecting and enhancing the limited supply of biodiversity, quality open space and playing fields.</li> <li>• Managing the impact of traffic and congestion and improving cycle linkages.</li> <li>• Providing for the enhancement and protection of local heritage.</li> <li>• Preserving the attractiveness of high-quality residential areas along the Noctorum Ridge at Bidston, Noctorum, Claughton, Oxtan and Mountwood.</li> <li>• Safeguarding employment uses at North Cheshire Trading Estate.</li> <li>• Understanding the context in water supply and wastewater drainage.</li> </ul>

## Accessibility maps for key facilities within SA3

Figure 21

Walking time to key facilities in SA3

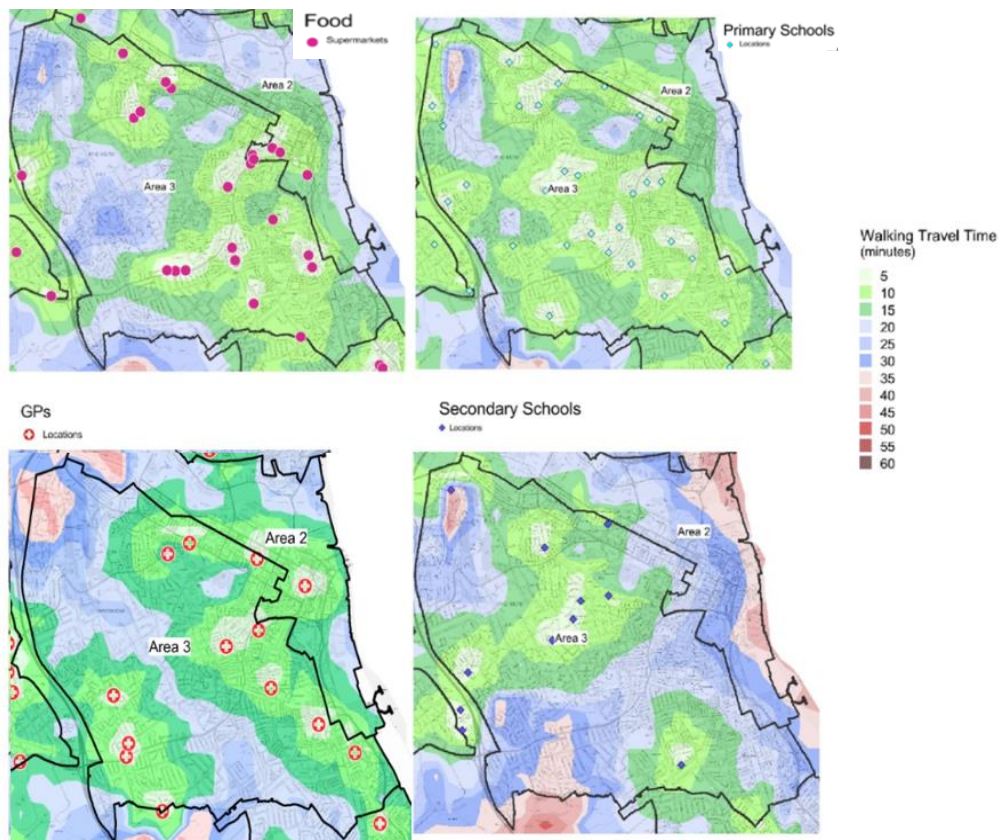
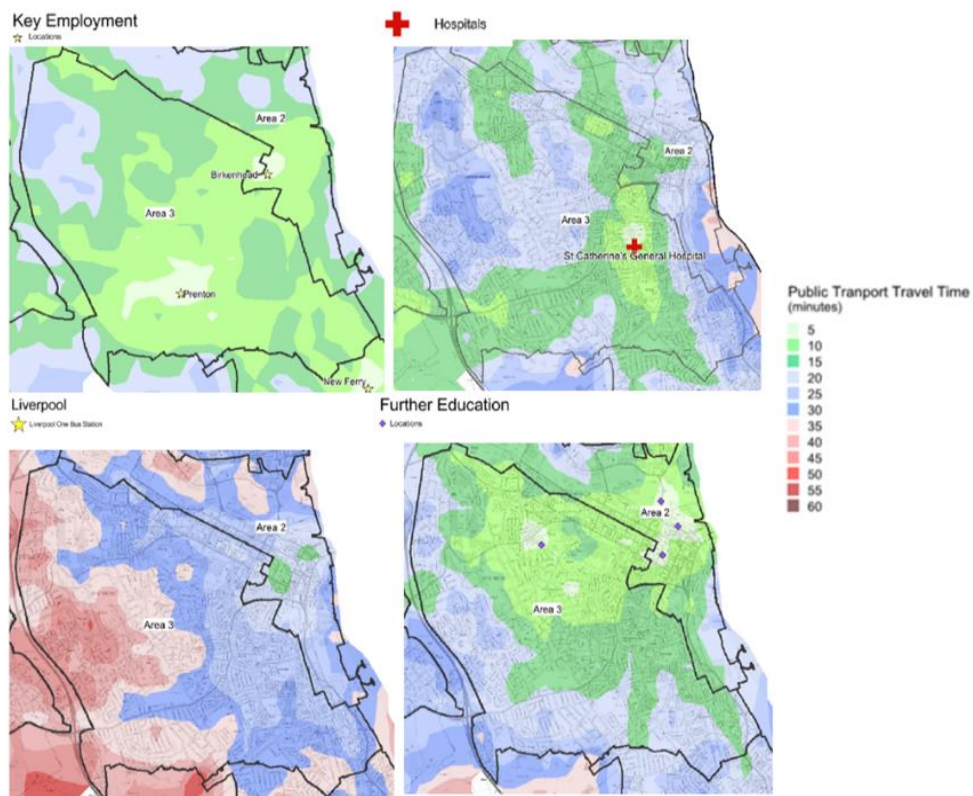


Figure 22

Public Transport Travel time to key facilities within SA3

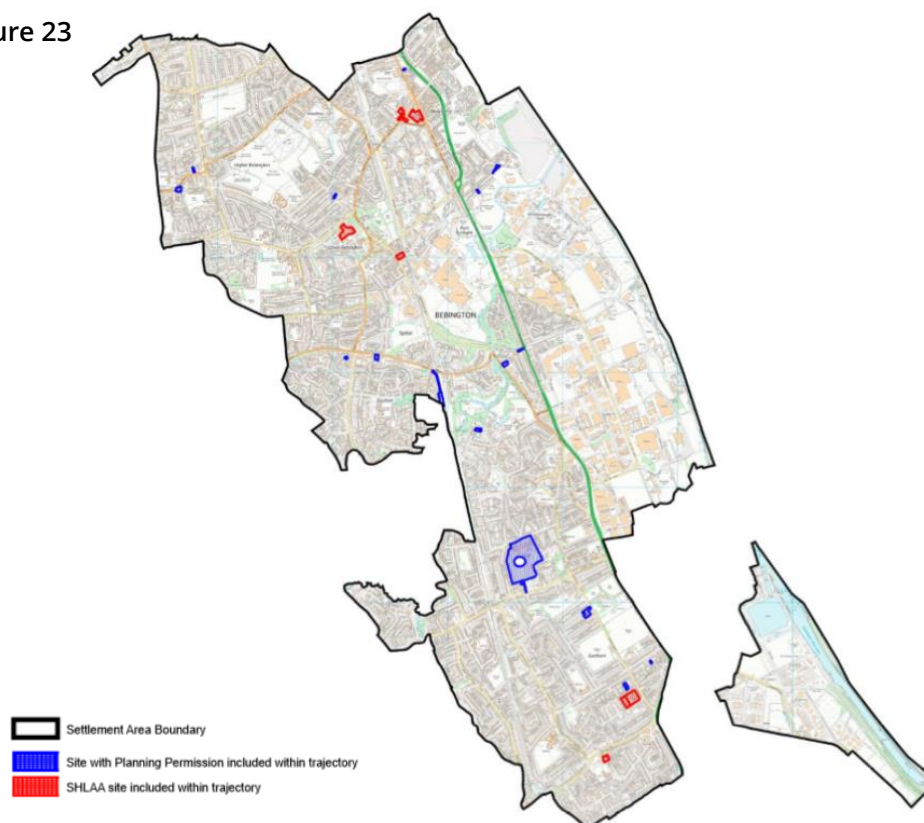


## Settlement Area 4- Bromborough & Eastham

The Settlement Area contains some of the Borough's most significant economic assets and facilities and provides half the Borough's designated employment land. The Area is also the Borough's second most significant destination for journeys to work (9 percent) and is the second largest contributor to the Borough's economic output (12 percent of GVA).

SA4- Bromborough & Eastham	
<b>Land Area</b>	1,912 hectares (12% of Wirral land area)
<b>Urban Coastline</b>	8.4km (5 miles)
<b>Population</b>	55,689 (mid-2017) 17% of Wirral Population
<b>Residential Properties</b>	24,673 (16% of Wirral stock April 2017)
<b>Social Housing Properties</b>	2877 (12% of Area 4)
<b>Dwellings Completed Since 2012 (gross)</b>	900 units (20% of Wirral completions)
<b>Dwellings Demolished Since 2012</b>	40 (4% of Wirral Demolitions)
<b>Number of units with Planning Permission</b>	705 (April 2019)
<b>Key Town Centres</b>	Bromborough Village
<b>Other Retail Centres</b>	New Ferry; Lower Bebington; Croft Retail and Leisure Park.
<b>Employment Areas</b>	Wirral International Business Park (280.2 hectares), Lever Complex (64.7 hectares), other Bromborough sites (14.2 hectares) and Manchester Ship Canal, Eastham (133.5 hectares)
<b>Open Space Provision</b>	253 hectares (4.4 hectares per 1000)
<b>Open Space within 400m of SA4</b>	575 hectares (10 hectares per 1000)

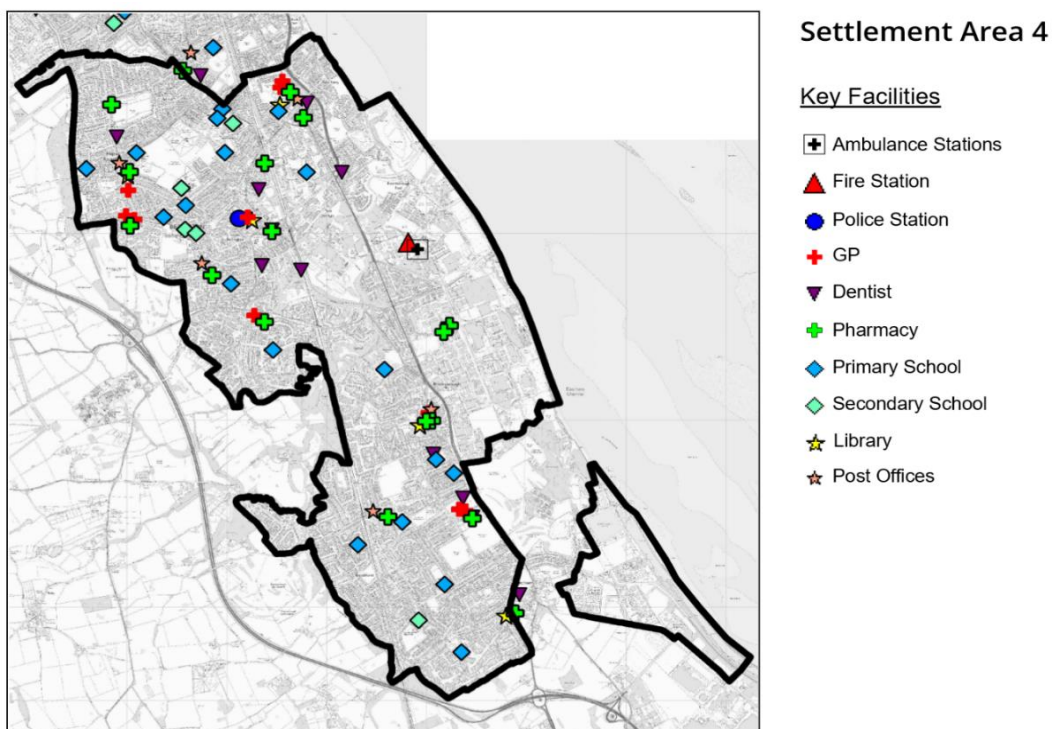
Figure 23





### Key Services and Facilities in Settlement Area 4

Figure 24



Description	Key Facilities and Services				
SHLAA Sites	7 Sites (Figure 23)				
Primary Schools	Size	Size	Capacity	Capacity	Expansion potential
Brackenwood Junior School	240	2FE	102%	At or Near Capacity	Difficult
Christ the King Catholic Primary School	420	2FE	98%	At or Near Capacity	Difficult
Church Drive Primary School	315	1.5FE	97%	At or Near Capacity	None
Grove Street Primary School	420	2FE	75%	Moderate	None
Heygarth Primary School	315	2FE	106%	At or Near Capacity	None
Higher Bebington Junior School	388	3FE	89%	Limited	None
Mendell Primary School	210	1FE	79%	Limited	Possible
Millfields CE Primary School	210	1FE	70%	Moderate	Possible
Raeburn Primary School	420	2FE	100%	At or Near Capacity	Difficult
St Andrews CE Primary School	210	1FE	102%	At or Near Capacity	None

St John's Catholic Junior School	240	2FE	105%	At or Near Capacity	None
St John's Catholic Infant School	180	2FE	101%	At or Near Capacity	None
Stanton Road Primary School	315	1.5FE	98%	At or Near Capacity	Possible
Town Lane Infant School	293	3FE	92%	At or Near Capacity	None
Woodslee Primary School	322	1.5FE	71%	Moderate	Possible
Brookhurst Primary School	242	1FE	88%	Limited	Possible
Poulton Lancelyn Primary School	420	2FE	98%	At or Near Capacity	Possible
Brackenwood Infant School	208	2FE	87%	Limited	Difficult
<b>Secondary Schools</b>	<b>Size</b>		<b>Capacity</b>	<b>Capacity</b>	<b>Expansion potential</b>
Bebington High Sports College (Co-op Academy Bebington)	1249		86%	Limited	Possible
Wirral Grammar School for Girls	1215		98%	At or Near Capacity	None
Wirral Grammar School for Boys	1062		100%	At or Near Capacity	None
South Wirral High School	1217		71%	Moderate	Possible
St John Plessington Catholic College	1629		97%	At or Near Capacity	None
<b>SEN Provision</b>	The Lyndale School				
<b>GP</b>	<b>Size</b>		<b>Capacity</b>		<b>Expansion potential</b>
Allport Medical Centre (Treetops & Eastham GP)	4472		Spare Capacity		Possible
Church Road Surgery	3710		Moderate		Possible
Civic Medical Centre	9846		At or Near Capacity		Possible
Eastham Group Practice	11568		Spare Capacity		Possible
Kings Lane Surgery	4835		Moderate		Possible
Parkfield Medical Centre (Dr. Oates & Partners)	5961		At or Near Capacity		Possible
Sunlight Group Practice	7121		At or Near Capacity		Possible
Teehey Lane Medical Centre	1971		At or Near Capacity		None
The Orchard Surgery	5779		Spare Capacity		Possible
The Spital Surgery	4587		At or Near Capacity		None
<b>Other Facilities</b>	Pharmacies (15), Dentists (10), Post Offices (6), Libraries (5), Police Stations (1) (Figure 24)				

<b>Emergency Services</b>	Fire and Rescue and Ambulance services operate from Dock Road South in Bromborough. A refurbished Bebington Police Station reopened in 2017.
<b>Community Facilities</b>	<p>There are 5 libraries within the Settlement Area at Bebington, Bromborough, Eastham, Higher Bebington and New Ferry. The majority of the Settlement Area is well-served by a wide range of open spaces and indoor and outdoor recreational facilities.</p> <p>Facilities of Borough-wide importance include the Bebington Oval Sports Centre, with a public swimming pool, sports hall, fitness suite, athletics track, playing fields, floodlit artificial turf pitch and sports courts. Plymyard Playing Fields support some of the highest quality competition in the Borough and also serve a wider catchment from areas of shortfall further north up the A41 corridor.</p> <p>Sports halls are available at the secondary schools in Bebington, and South Wirral. Private health club facilities include the swimming pools and fitness centres at the Croft Retail and Leisure Park and at the Village Leisure Hotel. Croft leisure park also provides food and drink, cinema, and bingo facilities. There are two golf courses in the Settlement Area Brackenwood Municipal Golf Course and private Bromborough Golf Course.</p>
<b>Retail Centres</b>	Bromborough Village is a reasonably healthy district centre providing a good range of commercial uses which meet the daily requirements of local residents. It accommodates 92 commercial units including a Matalan, Co-op Food and a Poundstretcher store as well as other facilities including public houses, cafes and financial and business services. New Ferry Local Centre has been badly affected by a gas explosion in March 2017 which destroyed and damaged a number of buildings. The local centre has a high vacancy level with 32 vacant units, a number of these units are waiting potential demolition. The council is in the process of producing a residential led masterplan to bring forward the regeneration of New Ferry. The local centre of Lower Bebington has a limited convenience and comparison offer and is mainly dominated by service providers. The Croft Retail and Leisure Park, to the east of the A41, has become the second most important comparison shopping destination within the Borough (by turnover).
<b>Employment</b>	The International Business Park at Bromborough is one of the Borough's most successful business locations and is home to a number of Wirral's largest companies. The Unilever factory and adjacent Research Laboratory at Port Sunlight is still one of the largest private sector employers in the Borough. The Manchester Ship Canal has links to Stanlow, Runcorn and Manchester. A large area adjacent to the Canal entrance accommodates a series of port and refinery related and chemical storage compounds with direct access to Junction 6 of the M53 Motorway. Approximately a third of the workforce at Vauxhall Motors, located just over the border in Cheshire West and Chester, live in Wirral.

<b>Open Space</b>	The Settlement Area contains nine parks and gardens. Brookhurst Park and Marfords Park are both amongst the 17 lowest scoring sites below the quality threshold. There are 17 natural and semi-natural greenspaces, 48 amenity greenspaces and 9 allotments within the Settlement Area. There are 21 areas for provision for children and young people. The total area of these sites falls below the national guideline for provision. The 28 hectare Port Sunlight River Park, operated by the Land Trust, opened in 2014 at the former landfill site at Bromborough Dock. There are future aspirations to improve linkages to Eastham County Park as part of a new coastal footpath between Rock Ferry and Eastham.
<b>Coast and Flooding</b>	The North West of England and North Wales Shoreline Management Plan provides for existing coast defences to be maintained and for natural erosion of the rocky foreshore to continue to be allowed at Eastham. The only area of undeveloped coastline in east Wirral, at Shorefields in New Ferry, to the north of the Bromborough Dock landfill is expected to continue to erode at a predicted rate of up to 0.5m each year. Approximately 91 hectares of land associated with the immediate coastline, at Dibbinsdale Brook and at Bromborough Pool, is potentially liable to fluvial flooding in accordance with the EA's Flood Map for Planning. Climate change impacts should also be taken into consideration. There is also localised surface water flood risk in Bromborough and Port Sunlight. There are Flood Warning Areas (FWA) at Bromborough Pool and along the coastline. A number of Flood Investigation Reports were produced in line with Section 19 of the Flood Water Management Act 2010 for this area, for which details can be found on the Council's website.
<b>Biodiversity</b>	The Local Nature Reserve at Dibbinsdale is nationally important, as one of the finest examples of ancient woodland on Merseyside. It forms an important part of the landscape character and setting of the Area and has significant value for wildlife which needs careful control to manage visitor pressure. The banks of the River Mersey at Shorefields are nationally important for birds and the erosion of the clay cliffs and the slow expansion of saltmarsh is allowing a good variety of species to develop. The coastline alongside Wirral International Business Park towards Eastham and beyond is designated as a site of national and international importance for nature conservation. With the exception of the Butterfly Park at New Ferry, other locally designated sites are mainly associated with remnant woodlands. A small site at Mill Road, Bromborough is designated for its local importance for earth science. The southern part of the Settlement Area is also served by Eastham Country Park, which contains some of the finest mature trees to be found on Wirral.



<b>Heritage</b>	The older historic settlements at Bromborough Village and Eastham and the innovative early planned settlements for factory workers at Port Sunlight and Bromborough Pool are designated as Conservation Areas. Port Sunlight is of national significance and contains just over the half the Borough's Listed Buildings. Bromborough Pool Conservation Area also contains over fifty Listed Buildings. The site of the former Bromborough Court House, in the industrial area at Pool Lane, and the Pre-Conquest Cross at St Barnabas Parish Church, at the centre of Bromborough Village are Scheduled Ancient Monuments.
<b>Utilities</b>	United Utilities operate a large waste water treatment works adjacent to the coast at New Ferry. Network reinforcement may be required to increase low water resource availability at Spital, Port Sunlight and Bromborough Pool. The main electricity substation for the Settlement Area is located towards the south of the Wirral International Business Park. A number of major pipelines also run throughout the industrial areas and along the coast. Some of the industrial facilities at Bromborough and Eastham are registered as IPPC and COMAH sites to control pollution and public safety.
<b>Road Network</b>	Main routes into and out of the Settlement Area include the heavily trafficked A41, running between Birkenhead and Junction 5 of the M53 Motorway, which is a significant barrier to pedestrian movements; and the similarly busy B5137 running west to Junction 4 of the M53 Motorway. There is existing traffic congestion along Spital Road and the A41. Traffic noise has been identified as a problem along the A41.
<b>Public Transport Infrastructure</b>	The majority of the Area is highly accessible by public transport. High frequency public transport services run along the A41 and the electrified passenger railway line provides links to Liverpool, Birkenhead, Ellesmere Port and Chester. Merseytravel are currently increasing park and ride capacity at Bromborough and Spital stations. The southern parts of the Settlement Area are affected by the flight paths associated with the operation of Liverpool John Lennon Airport.
<b>Port Infrastructure</b>	The Queen Elizabeth II Dock is situated on the River Mersey at Eastham adjacent to the entrance of the Manchester Ship Canal at Eastham Locks. A small port facility at Mersey Wharf handles both bulk and general cargo.
<b>Cycling and Walking Infrastructure</b>	Cycle routes link Port Sunlight with the Wirral International Business Park and Eastham Country Park and the A41 to Eastham Rake Railway Station and along Wirral Circular Trail. There is a need to increase accessible active travel links between the railway stations and the Wirral International Business Park and to and along the coastline, The River Dibbin and to the urban areas further north.
<b>Transport Accessibility</b>	Walking and public transport accessibility to key facilities is shown in Figure 25 and 26 respectively.

<b>Key issues</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Maintaining and enhancing the development of the Wirral International Business Park to maximise accessible employment opportunities.</li><li>• Managing the impact of traffic and congestion on the A41 and B5137 Spital Road and improving cycle linkages.</li><li>• Addressing the social, economic and environmental needs of New Ferry and Mill Park, Eastham.</li><li>• Protecting recreation facilities capable of addressing deficiencies in adjacent Areas.</li><li>• Preserving the woodland setting and attractiveness of high quality residential areas along the eastern fringes of the Area.</li><li>• Protecting the character of Eastham Village from industrial traffic and development.</li><li>• Preventing the further deterioration of air quality along the A41 corridor at Eastham.</li><li>• Understanding the context in water supply and wastewater treatment infrastructure.</li></ul>
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## Accessibility maps for key facilities within SA4

Figure 25

Walking time to key facilities in SA4

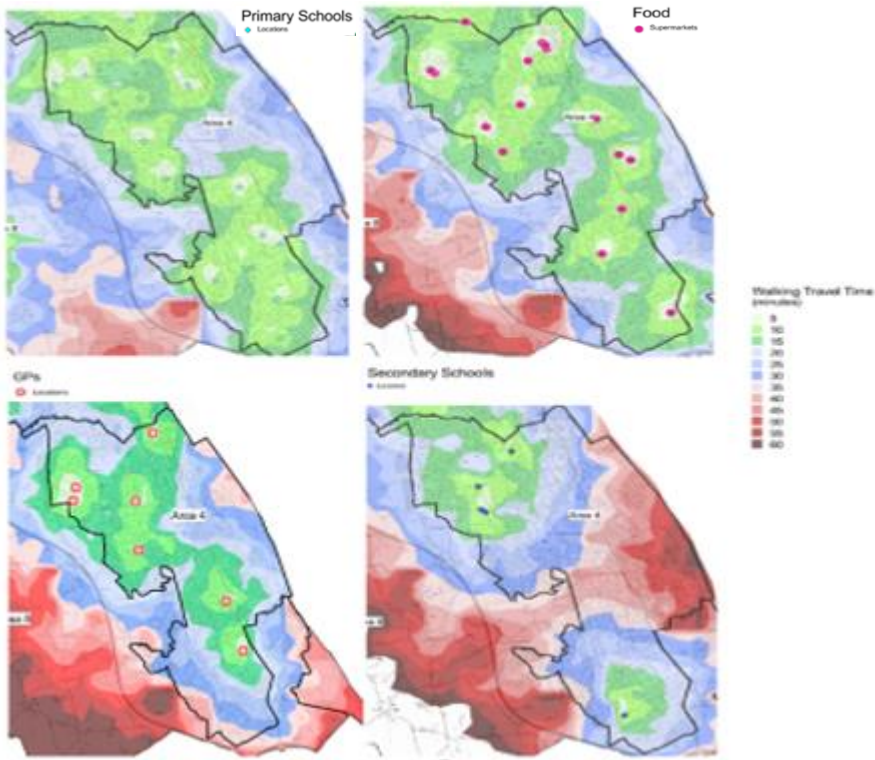
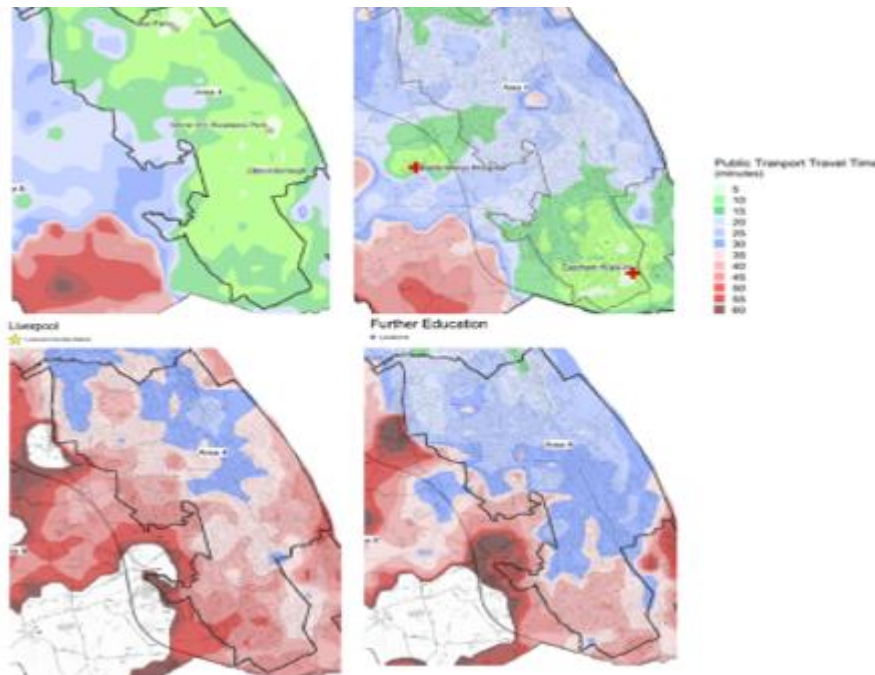


Figure 26

Public Transport Travel time to key facilities within SA4

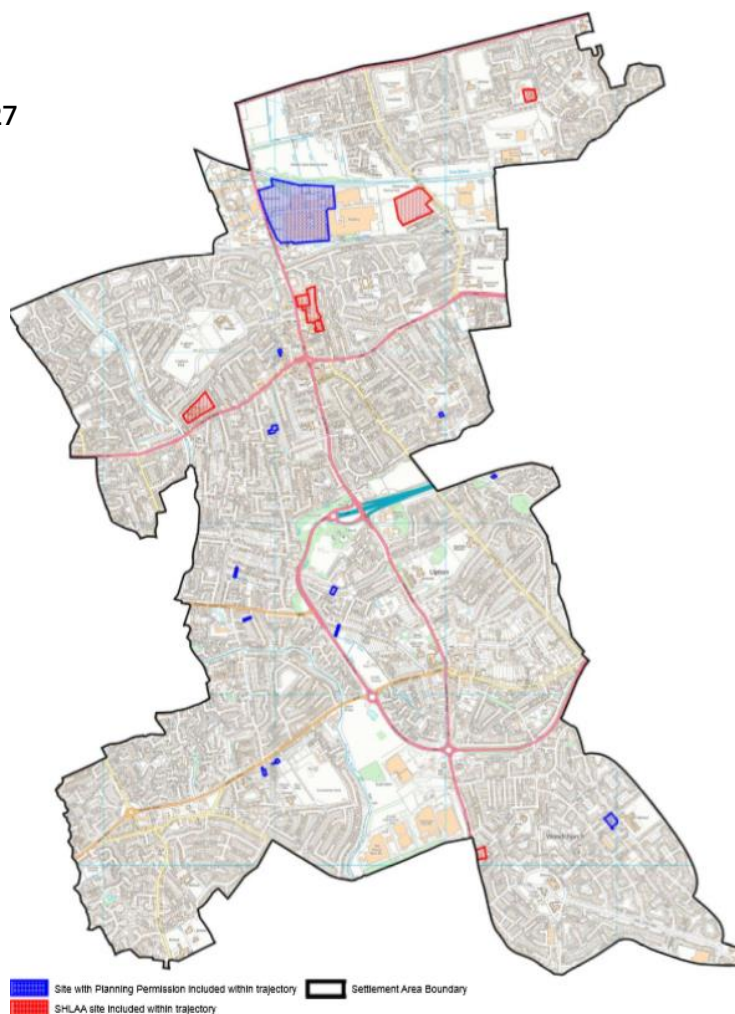


## Settlement Area 5 - Mid Wirral

Settlement Area 5 includes the largely dormitory mid-Wirral settlements of Leasowe, Moreton, Upton, Greasby and Woodchurch.

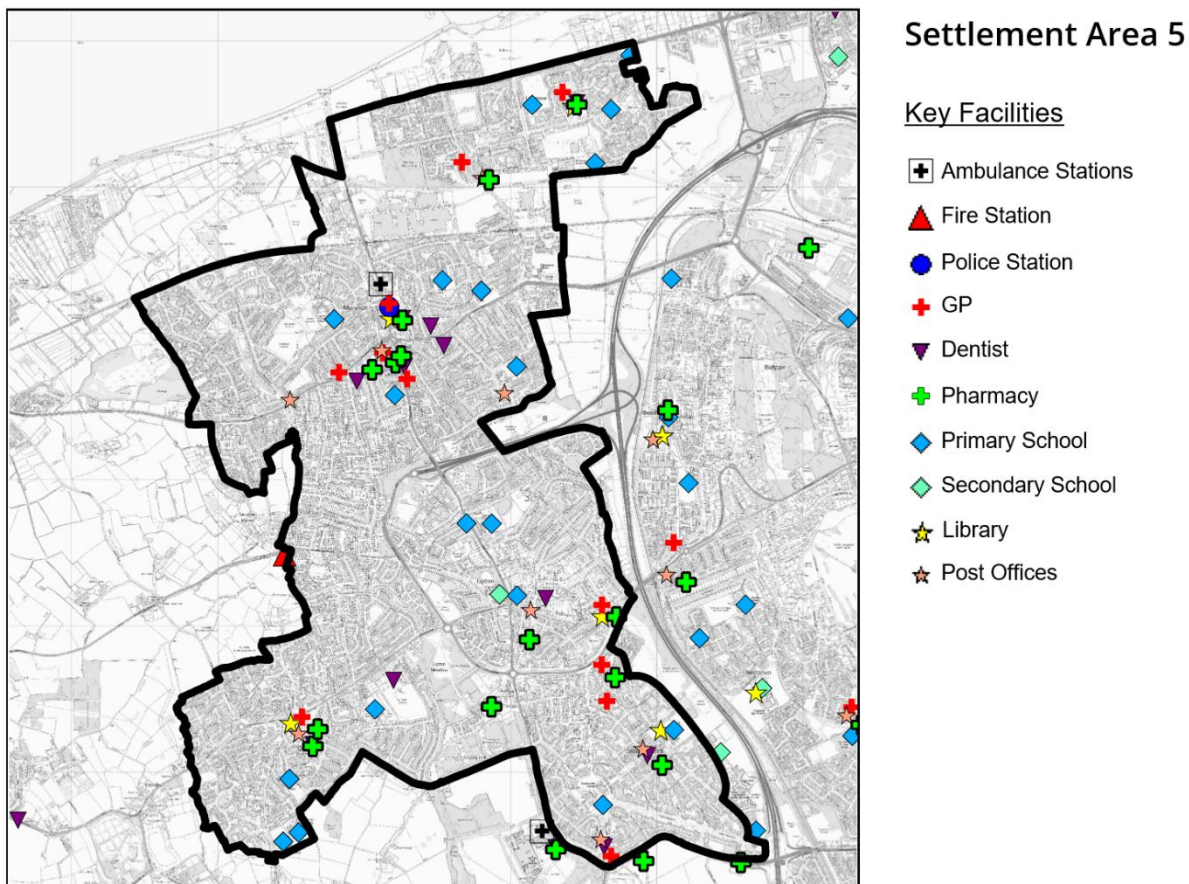
<b>SA5- Mid Wirral</b>	
<b>Land Area</b>	1,249 hectares (11 % of Wirral land area)
<b>Population</b>	60477 (mid-2017) 17% of Wirral population
<b>Residential Properties</b>	24,552 (16% of Wirral stock April 2017)
<b>Social Housing Properties</b>	4,663 (19% of Area 5)
<b>Dwellings Completed Since 2012 (gross)</b>	744 units (16% of Wirral Completions)
<b>Dwellings Demolished Since 2012</b>	379 (37 % of Wirral Demolitions)
<b>Number of units with Planning Permission</b>	719
<b>Key Town Centres</b>	Moreton
<b>Other Retail Centres</b>	Upton Village; Greasby; Upton Retail Park; Asda, Woodchurch Road: Woodchurch and Leasowe.
<b>Employment Areas</b>	Moreton, Upton
<b>Open Space Provision</b>	125.03 (2.33 hectares per 1000)
<b>Space within 400m of SA5</b>	543.86 (10.12 hectares per 1000)

Figure 27



### Key Services and Facilities within Settlement Area 5

Figure 28



Description	Key Facilities and Services				
SHLAA Sites	7 SHLAA sites (Figure 27)				
Primary Schools	Size	Size	Capacity	Capacity	Expansion potential
Leasowe Primary School	210	1FE	106%	At or Near Capacity	None
Brookdale Primary School	210	1FE	100%	At or Near Capacity	Possible
Castleway Primary School	210	1FE	54%	Moderate	Possible
Christ Church CE Primary School Moreton	392	1.5FE	94%	At or Near Capacity	None
Eastway Primary School	238	1FE	86%	Limited	Possible
Fender Primary School	297	1.5FE	83%	Limited	Possible
Greasby Infant School	180	2FE	101%	At or Near Capacity	None
Lingham Primary School	403	1.5FE	87%	Limited	Possible



Overchurch Junior School	410	3FE	88%	Limited	Difficult
Overchurch Infant School	269	3FE	100%	At or Near Capacity	Difficult
St Joseph's Catholic Primary School Upton	315	1.5FE	90%	At or Near Capacity	None
Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School	420	2FE	94%	At or Near Capacity	Possible
Sandbrook Primary School	210	1FE	49%	Moderate	Possible
Woodchurch CE Aided Primary	210	1FE	98%	At or Near Capacity	None
Holy Spirit Catholic & CE Primary School	210	1FE	84%	Limited	Difficult
Greasby Junior School	240	2FE	101%	At or Near Capacity	Difficult
Our Lady of Pity Catholic Primary School	420	2FE	100%	At or Near Capacity	None
Secondary Schools	Size		Capacity	Capacity	Expansion potential
Upton Hall School FCJ (Girls)	1045		93%	At or Near Capacity	None
SEN Provision	Clare Mount Specialist Sports College, Meadowside School, Gilbrook School, Hayfield School, Orrets Meadow School				
GP	Size		Capacity		Expansion potential
Blackheath Medical Centre	3351		Moderate		Possible
Commonfield Road Surgery	5253		At or Near Capacity		None
Greasby Group Practice	7235		Moderate		Possible
Heatherlands Medical Centre	4563		Moderate		Possible
Hoylake Road Medical Centre	4490		Spare Capacity		Possible
Leasowe Medical Centre	2868		Moderate		Possible
Moreton Cross Group Practice	7097		Moderate		Possible
Moreton Health Clinic	6040		At or Near Capacity		None
Moreton Medical Centre	5437		Moderate		None
Upton Group Practice	8034		At or Near Capacity		Possible
Woodchurch Medical Centre	1898		Moderate		None
Other Facilities	Pharmacies (13), Dentists (10), Post Offices (8), Libraries (5), Police stations (1), Fire Station (0), Ambulance Station (1) (Figure 28)				

<b>Emergency Services</b>	There is both an Ambulance Station and Community Police Station on Pasture Road in Moreton.
<b>Community Facilities</b>	There are 5 libraries within the Settlement Area at Leasowe, Moreton, Upton and Woodchurch. There is good provision for indoor recreation at Leasowe and Woodchurch, where there are public swimming pools, sports halls and fitness suites. There is also a private health club facility at Leasowe Castle Hotel. An additional sports hall is available at Wallasey School in Leasowe and new floodlit playing pitches at Woodchurch. Leasowe Lighthouse has been transferred to community ownership and management.
<b>Retail Centres</b>	Moreton is the smallest of Wirral's town centre. It displays reasonable levels of vitality and viability with a low vacancy rate. Main stores include Iceland, Cool Trader, Co-op and Home and Bargain. Aldi have a purpose-built store outside the centre at the eastern edge of the Area. Upton Village Local Centre is the next largest centre within the Settlement Area. The centre provides a good retail/service offer (albeit a stronger service offer) which are considered to adequately meet the day to day needs of its local catchment. Although reasonably healthy, a number of units are small and occupied by service providers. Greasby provides a good range of uses catering for the daily needs of its local catchment. There are small local facilities within the former Council estates of Leasowe and Woodchurch. The Settlement Area is also served by two out-of-centre superstores including Asda, Woodchurch Road and Sainsbury's at Upton.
<b>Employment</b>	Tarran Industrial Estate and the industrial areas to the east host a number of large companies including Typhoo Tea and Manor Bakeries. Bristol-Myers Squibb and Penninsula Business Park and are an important source of local employment. The main industrial area in Upton is the Arrowe Brook Road Industrial Estate.
<b>Open Space</b>	The Settlement Area contains four parks and gardens and also benefits from access to major open spaces outside the Settlement Area at North Wirral Coastal Park, Arrowe Country Park and the walkways and open spaces associated with the M53 Corridor. Greasby is, however, generally poorly served, despite access at Royden Park to the west and Coronation Park, Arrowe Park and Upton Meadow to the east. Overchurch Park is one of 17 parks and gardens that scored the lowest below the quality threshold. Coronation Park scored above the threshold of quality due to perceived higher levels of maintenance and cleanliness as well as the variety of recreational uses on offer. The site also has a range of ancillary features and facilities including play and sporting opportunities, toilets and car parking as well as the added provision of a visitor centre. Coronation Park also has a Green Flag Award. The Settlement Area contains 13 natural and semi-natural greenspaces and 43 amenity greenspaces. The total area of these sites falls below the national standard for provision for natural and seminatural greenspaces and amenity greenspace. There is a local shortage of allotments with only 4

	<p>within the Settlement Area. There are 17 areas of provision for children and young people. The total area of these sites falls below the national guideline for provision for children and young people. There is high demand for playing pitches, especially in Moreton. A number of facilities also provide for needs arising from within the adjoining Settlement Areas, particularly from Wallasey and Birkenhead.</p> <p>Other than the nationally and internationally designated North Wirral Foreshore, sites of high biodiversity value are few and mainly limited to remnant woodlands. Upton Meadow has become an established community woodland with a network of ecologically important habitats, alongside the well-established wildlife corridor along the Arrowe Brook.</p> <p>A small collection of fields at Meols Meadows, to the north west of Moreton is nationally designated as one of the last remaining wetland meadows but is currently in unfavourable condition.</p>
<b>Coast and Flooding</b>	<p>The majority of the Settlement Area is protected from the sea by the Wallasey Embankment, but there is still a risk of flooding if the Embankment was breached or over-topped. According to the Wirral Coastal Strategy (2013), the Wallasey Embankment was identified for works including proposed embankment protection to reinforce the existing defence. The potential earliest implementation would take 11-20 years as it is considered to be low in urgency. The Local Flood Risk Management Strategy 2016-2019 (LFRMS) reinforced that this defence is a priority area for intervention.</p> <p>Approximately 185 hectares of low lying land associated with the adjacent north Wirral coastal plain, the Birket and Fender valleys, Arrowe Brook and Greasby Brook, is potentially liable to flooding, which could affect areas in Leasowe, Moreton and Greasby, although the north west corner of the Settlement Area benefits from flood defences. Other more localised flooding can, however, also be caused by extreme weather conditions causing flash-flooding and sewer surcharges in areas of Greasby and around the floodplains of Leasowe and Moreton. There are also clusters of surface water flood risk in Upton and Woodchurch and other localised risk across the Settlement Area. Climate change impacts should also be taken into consideration.</p> <p>Flood defences were constructed along the Birket in the 1990s and areas previously designated as washland in the Unitary Development Plan and identified on the Environment Agency's Flood Maps must be retained to provide compensatory storage for flood water.</p>
<b>Biodiversity</b>	<p>Other than the nationally and internationally designated North Wirral Foreshore, sites of high biodiversity value are few and mainly limited to remnant woodlands. Upton Meadow is increasingly becoming established as a community woodland with a network of ecologically important habitats and the Arrowe Brook is a well-established wildlife corridor. A small collection of fields at Meols Meadows, to the north west of Moreton is nationally designated.</p>

<b>Heritage</b>	<p>There are only ten structures on the National Heritage List for England, one of which is Grade II*. The site of the church and church yard at Overchurch Park in Upton and the stone cross at Woodchurch are Scheduled Ancient Monuments.</p> <p>The nearest Conservation Areas are the rural villages at the edge of the Settlement Area at Saughall Massie and Frankby. Grade II Roman Catholic Church of St Michael and All Angels is listed on the National Heritage at Risk Register.</p>
<b>Utilities</b>	<p>Almost 70 percent of the Settlement Area drains to the waste water treatment plant to the north of Moreton. The remainder of the Settlement Area, including only parts of Upton, Woodchurch and eastern Leasowe, drains to Birkenhead. United Utilities also operate detention tanks at Moreton Spur in Upton. Parts of Leasowe may have potential water resource availability and connectivity issues requiring network reinforcement.</p>
<b>Road Network</b>	<p>The majority of the Settlement Area is highly accessible by road, with access to three junctions along the M53 Motorway. The Motorway spur road at Junction 2 runs into the heart of the Settlement Area between Moreton and Upton.</p> <p>Main roads into and out of the Settlement Area include the A551 Leasowe Road leading north and west to Wallasey and Junction 1 of the M53 Motorway, the A553 travelling east-west from West Kirby and Hoylake to Birkenhead and Junction 1 of the M53 Motorway, the A551 heading south to Junction 2 of the M53 Motorway, the A552 south to Heswall and Junction 4 of the M53 Motorway and the A5027 Upton Road, heading west to Birkenhead.</p> <p>There is heavy congestion at the heart of the Town Centre at Moreton Cross and along Hoylake Road and at Arrowe Park at the Junction of A551 and A552 at peak times.</p>
<b>Public Transport Infrastructure</b>	<p>The majority of the Settlement Area, with the exception of areas at the urban fringe, is also highly accessible by public transport. High frequency electrified rail services between Liverpool and West Kirby pass through both Leasowe and Moreton. Upton, Greasby, Moreton and Woodchurch are also served by frequent public transport with regular bus links at peak times and throughout the day to West Kirby, Heswall and Liverpool.</p>
<b>Cycling and Walking Infrastructure</b>	<p>A series of cycle routes run throughout the Settlement Area: through Woodchurch and Beechwood to Wallasey and Birkenhead, from Woodchurch through Landican to Higher Bebington, along Arrowe Brook between Greasby and Upton and along the Birket from Leasowe to Meols. There is a need for improved and accessible active travel linkages along the Birket to Wallasey and Birkenhead, and Leasowe Lighthouse to Greasby.</p>
<b>Transport Accessibility</b>	<p>Walking and public transport accessibility to key facilities is shown in Figure 29 and 30 respectively.</p>
<b>Key issues</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safeguarding employment uses at Moreton and Upton.</li> <li>• Addressing the social, economic and environmental needs of Leasowe, Moreton and Woodchurch.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Managing the impact of traffic and congestion.</li><li>• Managing the potential for flooding.</li><li>• Protecting recreation facilities capable of addressing deficiencies in adjacent Areas.</li><li>• Improving sustainable transport links including safe cycle routes with the surrounding areas.</li><li>• Understanding the context in water supply and wastewater treatment.</li></ul>
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## Accessibility maps for key facilities within SA5

Figure 29

Walking time to key facilities in SA5

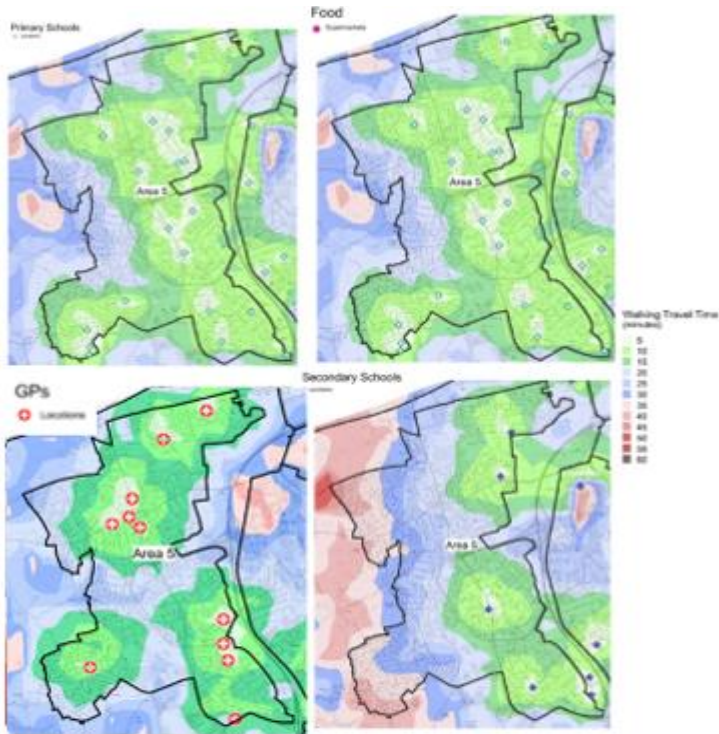
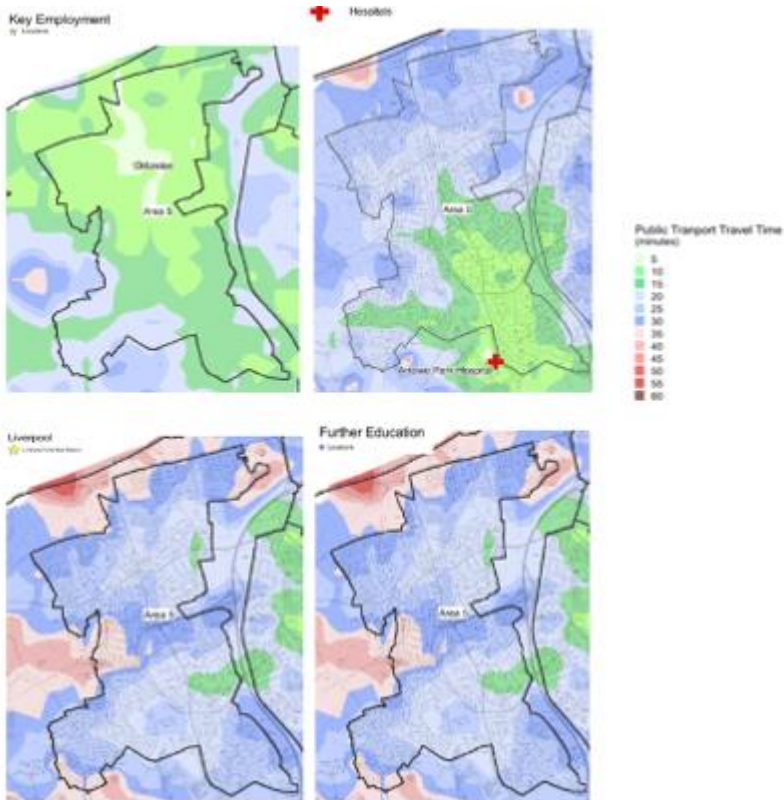


Figure 30

Public Transport Travel time to key facilities within SA5

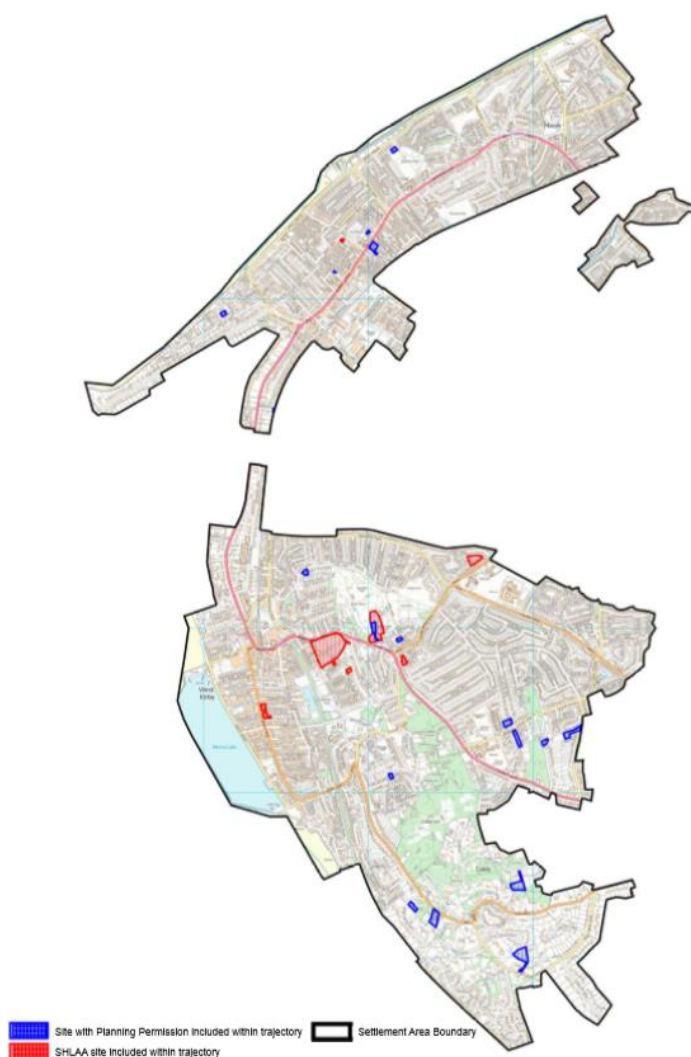


## Settlement Area 6 Hoylake & West Kirby

Settlement Area 6 includes the largely dormitory settlements associated with the coastal resorts of Hoylake and West Kirby.

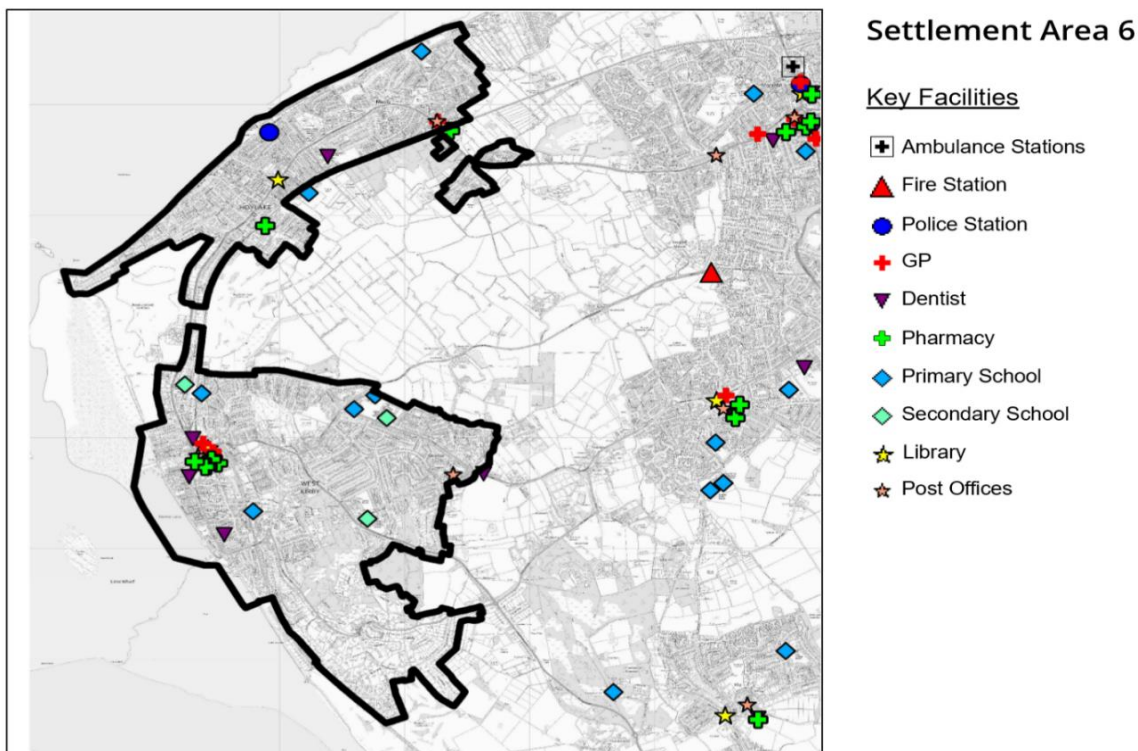
SA6- Hoylake & West Kirby	
<b>Land Area</b>	810 hectares (5% of Wirral land area)
<b>Urban Coastline</b>	6.8km (4 miles)
<b>Population</b>	25287 (mid-2017 ) 17% of Wirral Population
<b>Residential Properties</b>	11,648 ( 8% of Wirral stock April 2017)
<b>Social Housing Properties</b>	625 (4%of Area 6)
<b>Dwellings Completed Since 2012 (gross)</b>	240 units (5% of Wirral Completions)
<b>Dwellings Demolished Since 2012</b>	41Units (4% of Wirral Demolitions)
<b>Number of units with Planning Permission</b>	149 (April 2019)
<b>Key Town Centres</b>	West Kirby, Hoylake
<b>Other Retail Centres</b>	none
<b>Employment Areas</b>	Carr Lane Industrial Estate
<b>Open Space Provision</b>	112 hectares (4.4 hectares per 1000)
<b>Open Space within 400m of SA6</b>	515 hectares (20 hectares per 1000)

Figure 31



### Key Services and Facilities within Settlement Area 6

Figure 32



Description	Key Facilities and Services				
SHLAA Sites	8 SHLAA Sites (Figure 31)				
<b>Primary Schools</b>	<b>Size</b>	<b>Size</b>	<b>Capacity</b>	<b>Capacity</b>	<b>Expansion potential</b>
St Bridgets CE Primary School	420	2FE	101%	At or Near Capacity	None
Black Horse Junior School	240	2FE	80%	Limited	Difficult
Black Horse Hill Infant School	180	2FE	89%	Limited	Difficult
Great Meols Primary School	420	2FE	103%	At or Near Capacity	None
Holy Trinity CE Primary School	315	1.5FE	79%	Limited	None
West Kirby Primary School	259	1.5FE	104%	At or Near Capacity	Difficult
<b>Secondary Schools</b>	<b>Size</b>		<b>Capacity</b>	<b>Capacity</b>	<b>Expansion potential</b>
Calday Grange Grammar School (Boys)	1458		101%	At or Near Capacity	None
West Kirby Grammar School for Girls	1243		95%	At or Near Capacity	None
Hilbre High School Humanities College	1198		93%	At or Near Capacity	Difficult

GP	Size	Capacity	Expansion potential
<b>Marine Lake Medical Practice</b>	16622	At or Near Capacity	Possible
<b>Estuary Medical Centre</b>	2820 (No Longer a Separate Practice Site – Contained in Same building as Marine Lake Medical Centre)	At or Near Capacity	Possible
<b>The Hoylake and Meols Medical Centre</b>	7037	At or Near Capacity	No
<b>Other Facilities</b>	Pharmacies (6), Dentists (5), Post Offices (3), Libraries (2), Police Stations (1), Fire Stations (0), Ambulance Stations (0) (Figure 32)		
<b>Emergency Services</b>	Fire and Rescue services operate from a Saughall Massie Community Fire Station opened in 2019. Lifeboats operate from both West Kirby and Hoylake. There is a Community Police Station within Hoylake Community Hub.		
<b>Community Facilities</b>	West Kirby Concourse provides indoor recreation facilities and public services including library. The existing medical services are due to be relocated to a new purpose-built facility on an adjacent site. There are smaller private swimming pools at Kingsmead School and Calday Grange; and a sports hall at Hilbre High School. There is also a second library in the Settlement Area in Hoylake.		
<b>Retail Centres</b>	West Kirby is an attractive, vibrant and stable town centre, with a healthy convenience and comparison retail offer, including specialist shops and independent retailers. The centre is generally in good condition, with relatively low levels of vacancy and high levels of footfall. It has seen a 9-place increase in its retail ranking. Hoylake is a healthy district centre which provides a good range of retail and service provision. Its uses cater to local and more niche needs and there is a strong representation of restaurants supplemented with other uses which support an evening economy. The environmental quality is considered to be good with recent improvements made in some areas.		
<b>Employment</b>	The only source of local employment outside the retail centres is Carr Lane Industrial Estate which, despite poor access across the railway line, is fully occupied by a wide range of small businesses and provides an important source of local employment.		
<b>Open Space</b>	<p>The Settlement Area contains 10 parks and gardens. Sandlea Park and Meols Lower Green Recreation Ground scored just below the quality threshold. Ashton Park and Wirral Country Park scored above the threshold of quality due to perceived higher levels of maintenance and cleanliness as well as the variety of recreational uses on offer. There are also a range of ancillary features and facilities including play and sporting opportunities, toilets and car parking as well as the added provision of a visitor centre. These sites, along with Coronation Gardens and Victoria Gardens also have a Green Flag Award.</p> <p>Tourism is particularly important to the Settlement Area with eight natural and semi-natural greenspaces contained within it. These include the Hilbre Islands and Caldly Hill. The Settlement Area also contains 14</p>		

	<p>amenity greenspaces. This falls below the guideline quantity and is the second lowest Settlement Area provision for amenity greenspace.</p> <p>The Settlement Area contains 2 allotments and 10 areas of provision for children and young people both of which fall below the national guideline for provision.</p>
<b>Coast and Flooding</b>	<p>The North West of England and North Wales Shoreline Management Plan 2 suggests that the East Hoyle Bank is likely to continue to accrete over the longer term, increasing the level of the foreshore along the north Wirral coast, ahead of existing defences.</p> <p>Approximately 60 hectares of low-lying land associated with the adjoining north Wirral coastal plain and the Birket Valley is, however, currently potentially liable to tidal and river flooding, which could affect areas towards Meols and at the edge of Hoylake. There is also localised surface water flood risk in West Kirby, Grange and Hoylake and Meols. Climate change impacts should also be taken into consideration.</p> <p>Surface water may need attenuation and infiltration systems may be limited by Environment Agency Source Protection Zones.</p> <p>There have been a low number (130-200) of historic flood incidents in Hoylake according to the historic flood incident dataset. In the southern part of the Settlement Area, including West Kirby and Caldy, there have been 240-300 incidents recorded. The Wirral Coastal Strategy and LFRMS identified West Kirby as a priority area for intervention. Since this, the Council and the EA are currently undertaking the West Kirby Flood Alleviation Scheme, better protecting 70 properties from flooding. Meols parade was also identified as a priority area for intervention.</p> <p>The EA's Groundwater Vulnerability Map indicates generally 'high' vulnerability across the Settlement Area.</p> <p>Flood Warning Areas (FWA) are present along the coastline and in Meols.</p>
<b>Biodiversity</b>	<p>Many sites of high biodiversity value with numerous national and international designations also surround the Settlement Area, including the Dee Estuary, North Wirral Foreshore and Hilbre Island Local Nature Reserve, drawing large numbers of visitors from wider Merseyside and beyond. Red Rocks and the dune system to the south are also locally important for earth science and for rare and protected species.</p>
<b>Heritage</b>	<p>The Area has twenty-five entries on The National Heritage List for England, one of which is Grade II*. The older historic settlements at West Kirby and Caldy, which includes areas of high-quality lower-density housing, are designated as Conservation Areas. The high-quality lower-density housing areas surrounding the Royal Liverpool Golf Course at Kings Gap and Meols Drive are also designated as Conservation Areas.</p> <p>The Meols coastline is of high value for archaeology.</p>
<b>Utilities</b>	<p>Parts of the Area have only medium water resource availability based on supplies from local boreholes at Newton and Grange in West Kirby.</p> <p>The sewer network is limited by pumping stations, storage tanks and impacts on Combined Sewer Overflow discharges which service the North Wirral Waste Water Treatment Works at Meols.</p>
<b>Road Network</b>	<p>Main roads into and out of the Settlement Area include the A553, heading east to Moreton and Birkenhead and the A540 heading south to Heswall and Chester. There is existing traffic congestion on routes to Hoylake and</p>



	West Kirby Town Centre but little scope to implement major highway infrastructure improvements.
<b>Public Transport Infrastructure</b>	The majority of the Settlement Area, along main routes towards Birkenhead, is accessible by public transport and West Kirby is the western terminus for high frequency bus and rail services running through Hoylake and Newton to Birkenhead and Liverpool.
<b>Cycling and Walking Infrastructure</b>	Cycle routes with intermittent links to Moreton, Leasowe, Wallasey, New Brighton and Mid-Wirral run east along the coastal promenade from Hoylake and south along the Wirral Way from West Kirby to Thurstaston, Heswall, Parkgate and Hooton. There is a need for improved accessible active travel linkages between West Kirby, Moreton, Wallasey, Birkenhead and Greasby; and between West Kirby and Meols to Three Lanes End.
<b>Transport Accessibility</b>	Walking and public transport accessibility to key facilities is shown in Figure 33 and 34 respectively.
<b>Key issues</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preserving the attractiveness of the high-quality residential areas at Kings Gap, Meols Drive, West Kirby, Newton, Caldy and Meols</li> <li>• Preserving remaining Victorian and Edwardian character</li> <li>• Protection of employment uses at Carr Lane Industrial Estate</li> <li>• Maintaining and protecting the high biodiversity value of the area</li> <li>• Promotion of more sustainable travel choices</li> <li>• Understanding the context in, water supply and wastewater treatment</li> <li>• Addressing flood risk associated with the North Wirral coastal plain</li> </ul>

## Accessibility maps for key facilities within SA6

Figure 33

Walking time to key facilities in SA6

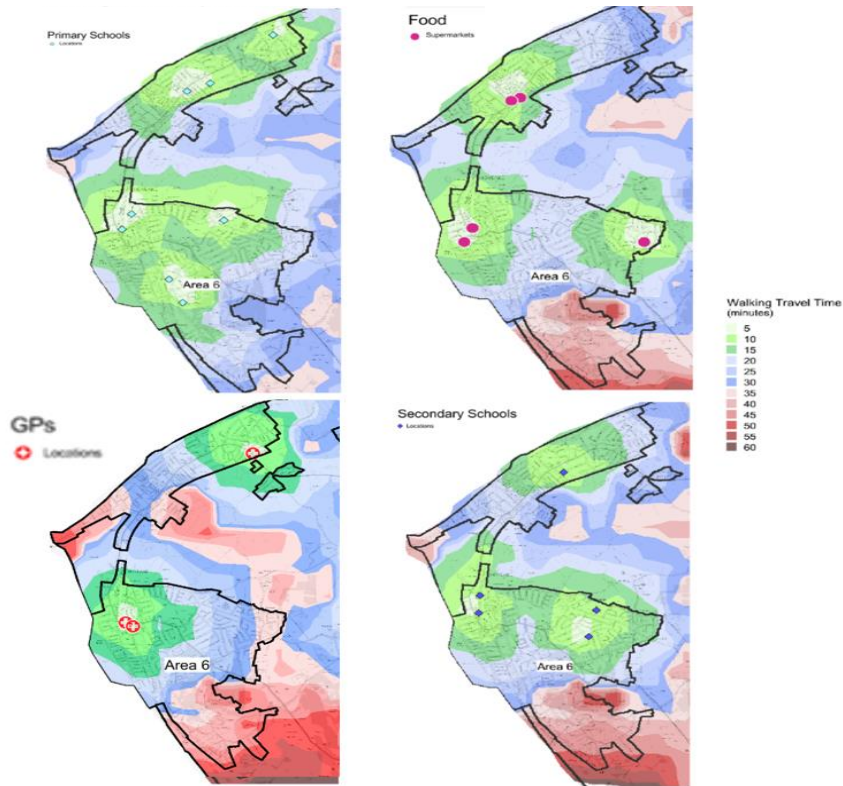
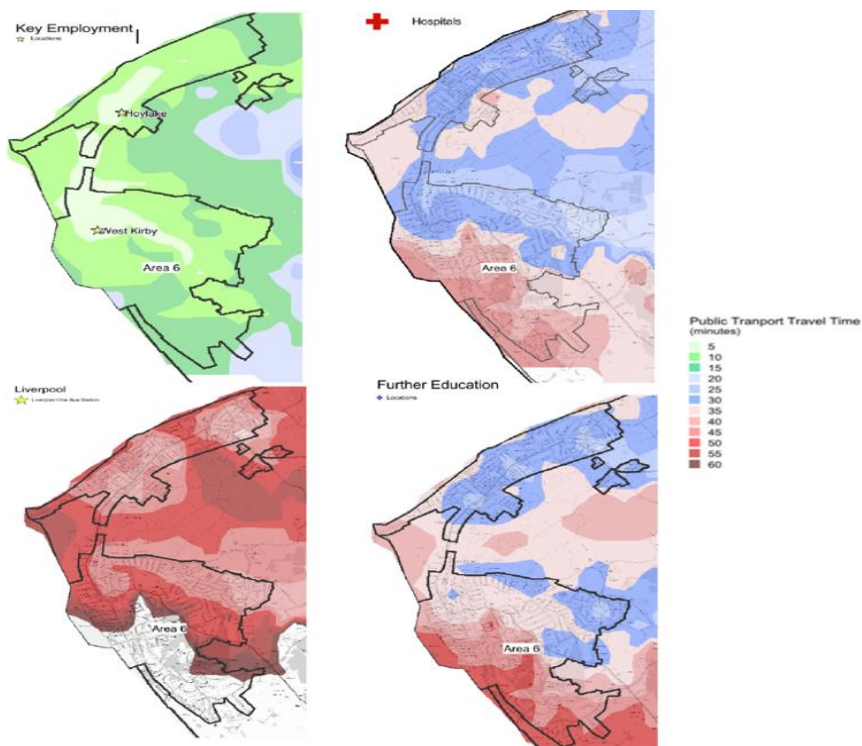


Figure 34

Public Transport Travel time to key facilities within SA6

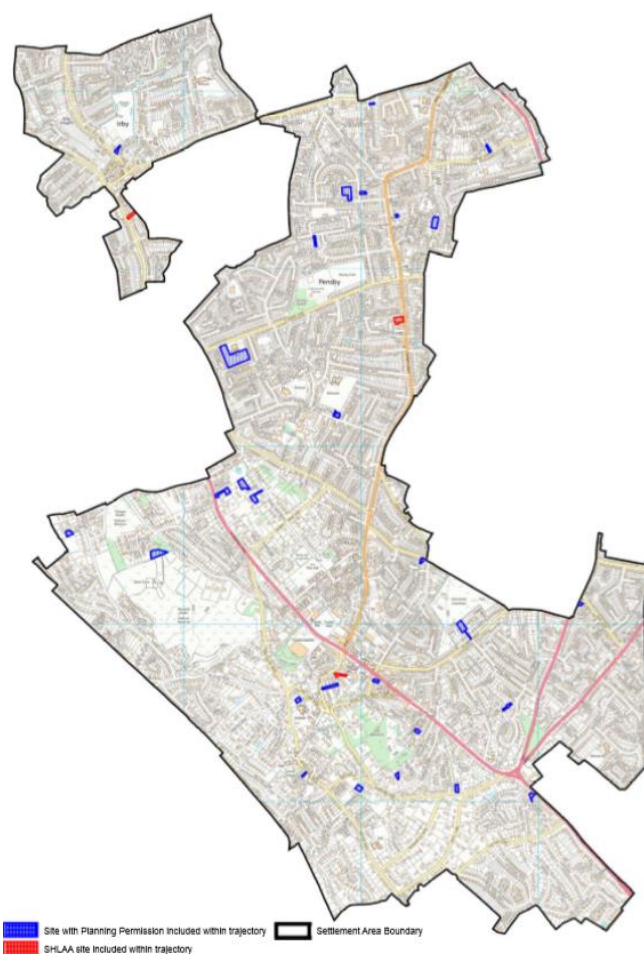


## Settlement Area 7 – Heswall

Settlement Area 7 includes the dormitory settlements of Irby, Thingwall, Pensby, Heswall and Gayton. The majority of the Area is relatively wealthy, with over half the population living in some of the most attractive residential areas in Merseyside, which are a significant economic asset to the sub-region.

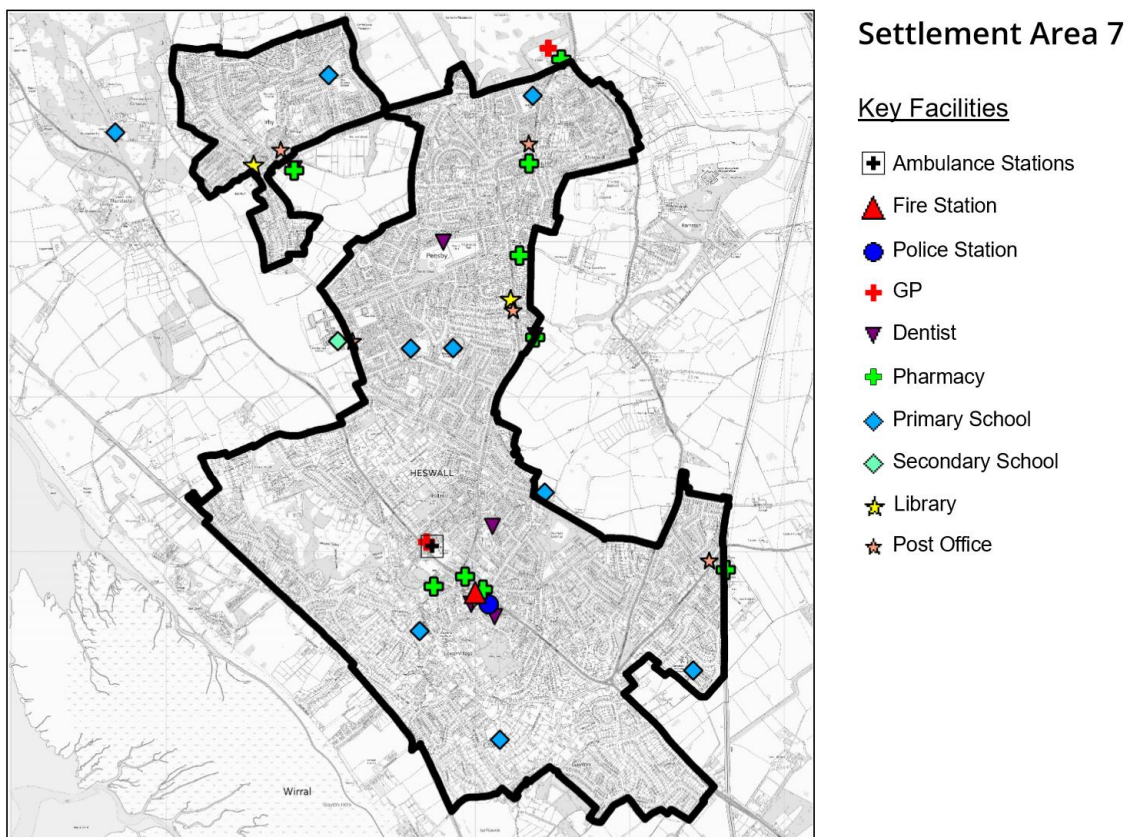
SA7- Heswall	
Land Area	902 hectares (6% of Wirral land area)
Population	26711 (mid-2017) 8% of Wirral
Residential Properties	12,195 (8 % of Wirral stock April 2017)
Social Housing Properties	780 (6% of Area 7)
Dwellings Completed Since 2012 (gross)	225 Units (5% of Wirral completions)
Dwellings Demolished Since 2012	34 Units (3.4% of Wirral Demolitions)
Number of units with Planning Permission	161 (April 2019)
Key Town Centres	Heswall
Other Retail Centres	Irby Village
Employment Land	none
Open Space Provision	77 hectares (2.8 hectares per 1000)
Open space within 400m of SA	461.20 (15.20 hectares per 1000)

Figure 35



### Key Services and Facilities within Settlement Area 7

Figure 36



Description	Key Facilities and Services				
SHLAA Sites	3 SHLAA Sites (Figure 35)				
Primary Schools	Size	Size	Capacity	Capacity	Expansion potential
Pensby Primary School	210	1FE	100%	At or Near Capacity	Possible
St Peter's CE Primary School	315	1.5FE	96%	At or Near Capacity	Difficult
Thingwall Primary School	210	1FE	95%	At or Near Capacity	Difficult
Barnston Primary School	315	1.5FE	97%	At or Near Capacity	Difficult
Gayton Primary School	210	1FE	100%	At or Near Capacity	Difficult
Irby Primary School	210	1FE	105%	At or Near Capacity	Possible
Ladymount Catholic Primary School	315	1.5FE	91%	At or Near Capacity	None
SEN Provision	Stanley School				
GP	Size	Capacity		Expansion potential	
Heswall & Pensby Group Practice	16855	At or Near Capacity		Possible	



<b>Other Facilities</b>	Pharmacies (6), Dentists (5), Post Offices (5), Libraries (3), Police Stations (1), Fire Station (1), Ambulance Station (1) (Figure 36)
<b>Emergency Services</b>	There are Fire and Rescue and Ambulance Stations, and a Community Police Station located along Telegraph Road in Heswall.
<b>Community Facilities</b>	There are 3 libraries within Settlement Area 7 at Heswall, Irby and Pensby. Sports hall and floodlit all-weather pitch facilities are available for public use and Pensby High School. There is a private squash club at Heswall. There are public facilities outside the Borough boundary at Neston and a series of private health club facilities at a number of hotels along the A540.
<b>Retail Centres</b>	Heswall Town Centre display good levels of vitality and viability and has seen a rise of 13 places in the retail rankings. Almost three quarters of main food shopping trips from Heswall residents are retained by facilities in the town.
<b>Employment</b>	Employment within the Settlement Area is mainly within Heswall Town Centre and local centres and parades.
<b>Open Space</b>	The Settlement Area contains four parks and gardens, all of which scored above the threshold for value in the 2019 Open Space Study. This means that the sites were observed as attractive, well used parks, containing wildlife opportunity features along with having high amenity and social value with a variety of ancillary features and recreational opportunities. There are 4 areas of provision for children and young people all of which scored highly on quality and value. The total area of these sites falls below the national guidelines for provision for children and young people. There is a shortage of allotments with none located within the Settlement Area. There are 6 amenity greenspaces and 7 natural and semi-natural greenspaces in this Settlement Area including the linked facilities associated with the Wirral Way and Wirral Country Park and to the Dee coastline, which is internationally important for nature conservation. The Local Nature Reserves at Heswall Dales and Thurstaston Common also form part of a nationally designated network of rare lowland heath associated with the higher ground of the sandstone outcrops, with additional local sites of biological and earth science importance at Quarry Road East and Heswall Beacons. Parks and gardens, natural and semi-natural greenspace and amenity greenspace each fall below the national guideline for provision. There is a shortage of facilities for children and young people and outdoor sports and a number of football teams travel to sites outside the Settlement Area for home fixtures.
<b>Coast and Flooding</b>	Areas adjacent to Arrowe Brook, along the edge of Irby at Glenwood Drive and in the vicinity of Porto Hey Road and Belmont Drive are potentially liable to localised fluvial flooding. Climate change impacts should also be taken into consideration. Surface water flood risk is apparent around Brooklet Road in Heswall, and areas in Pensby. According to historic flooding datasets, the Settlement Area has had a range of historic flood incidents recorded, with the highest (300-360) in the Pensby area.
<b>Biodiversity</b>	Heswall Dales contains nationally important mosaic of open heathland and enclosed woodland, with high biodiversity value reflected in designation as SSSI, LNR, LWS and SBI.

<b>Heritage</b>	The Area contains nine entries on the National Heritage List for England, relating to fourteen structures, of which one is Grade II. Conservation Areas cover the older cores of the original settlements at Lower Heswall and Gayton.
<b>Utilities</b>	A small part of the western part of the Settlement Area drains to the treatment works at Target Road operated by Dwr Cymru Welsh Water. Irby and the western parts of Pensby are served by the North Wirral Wastewater Treatment Works at Meols. The remainder of Pensby, Thingwall and Barnston drains to Birkenhead. The local sewer network is limited by pumping stations, storage tanks and impacts on Combined Sewer Overflow discharges. To reduce pressure on the existing sewer network, there needs to be a sustainable approach to the management of surface water. There will be an expectation for only foul flows to communicate with the public sewer in this area. Attenuation may be needed for surface water and infiltration systems may be limited by Environment Agency Source Protection Zones. There are reservoirs along the sandstone ridge at Poll Hill and at Cross Hill in Thingwall.
<b>Road Network</b>	Main routes through and out of the Settlement Area include the A540 leading to West Kirby and Chester, the A5137 linking to the M53 Motorway at Clatterbridge and the B5138 connecting to the A552 and M53 Motorway at Prenton. There is a congestion at all main junctions along these routes.
<b>Public Transport Infrastructure</b>	Areas along main routes to Birkenhead and Chester are highly accessible by public transport and opportunities to improve bus services between Heswall and Birkenhead are being considered to help reduce congestion. A limited passenger rail service runs along the eastern edge of the Settlement Area from Heswall to Bidston (with connecting services to Liverpool) and Wrexham in North Wales. Merseytravel have identified the need for rail station improvements at Heswall station.
<b>Cycling and Walking Infrastructure</b>	Cycle routes run from Thingwall to Woodchurch, Beechwood and Wallasey; through Landican to Woodchurch, Storeton, Thornton Hough and Brimstage; and through Arrowe Park to Greasby and Upton; and along the Wirral Way between West Kirby and Hooton.
<b>Transport Accessibility</b>	Walking and public transport accessibility to key facilities is shown in Figure 37 and 38 respectively.
<b>Key issues</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preserving the attractiveness of the high quality residential areas at Heswall, Gayton and Barnston</li> <li>• Managing the impact of traffic and congestion on Heswall Town Centre and on main routes to Chester, Birkenhead and the M53 Motorway</li> <li>• Promotion of more sustainable travel patterns</li> <li>• Improving the provision of open space for formal sport and recreation</li> <li>• Addressing local limitations on drainage and wastewater treatment</li> </ul>



## Accessibility maps for key facilities within SA7

Figure 37

Walking time to key facilities in SA7

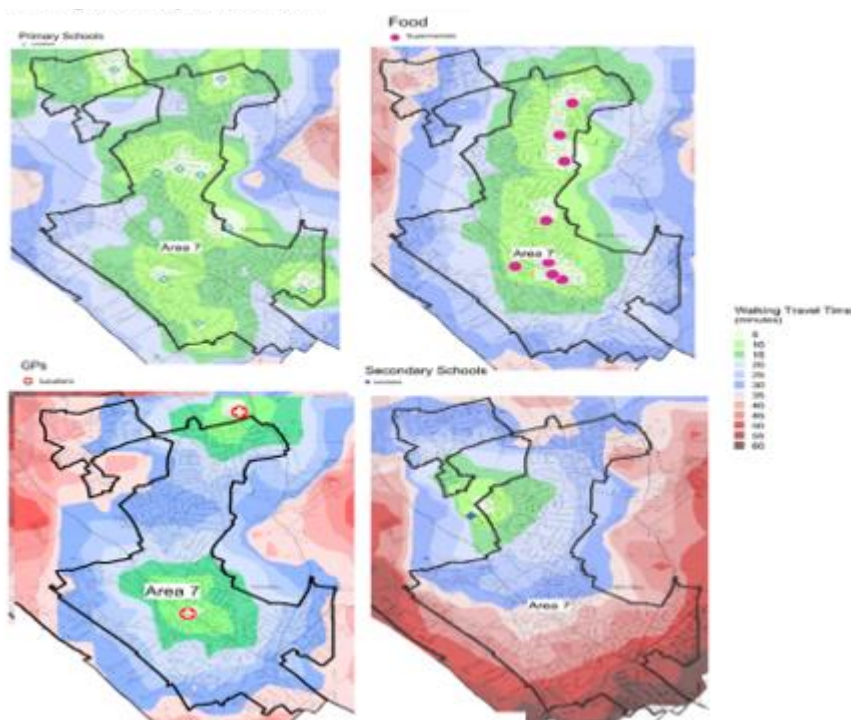
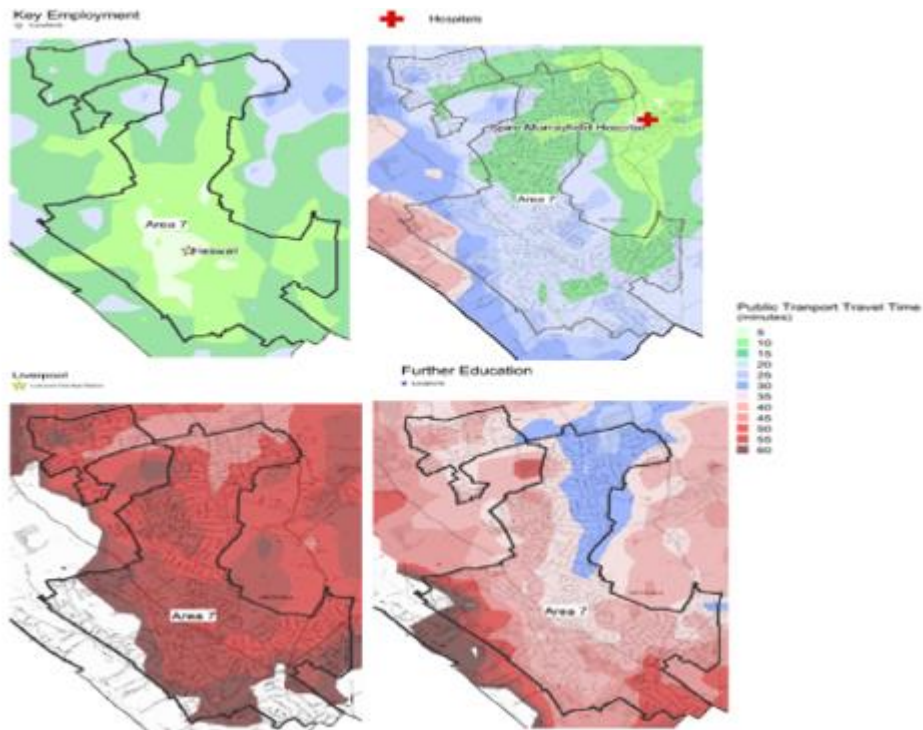


Figure 38

Public Transport Travel time to key facilities within SA7

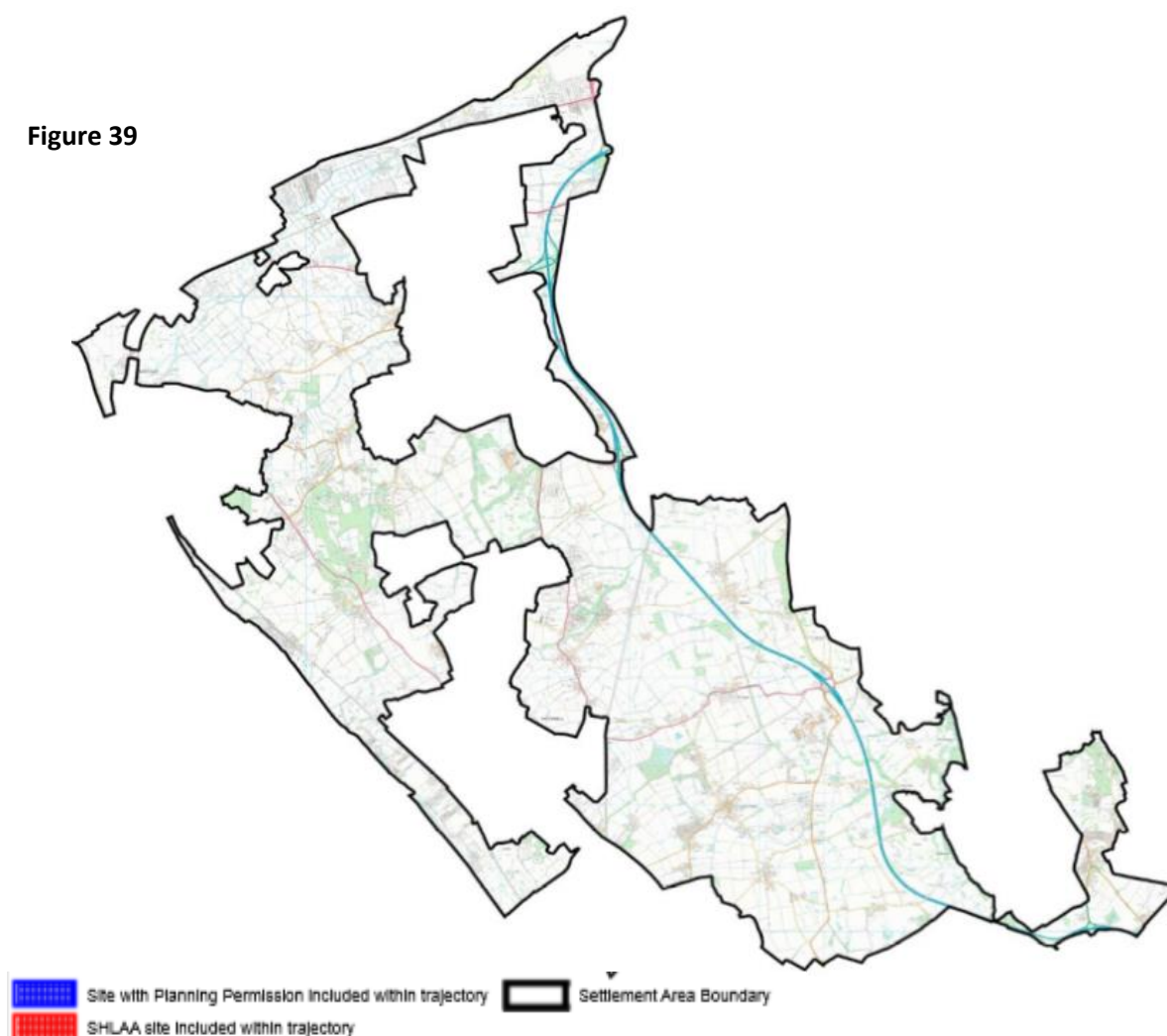


## Settlement Area 8- Rural Areas

Settlement Area 8 mainly comprises open countryside but includes the rural villages of Eastham, Frankby, Saughall Massie, Thurstaston, Storeton, Thornton Hough, Raby, Brimstage and Barnston and is defined by the boundary to the Green Belt designated in Unitary Development Plan in February 2000.

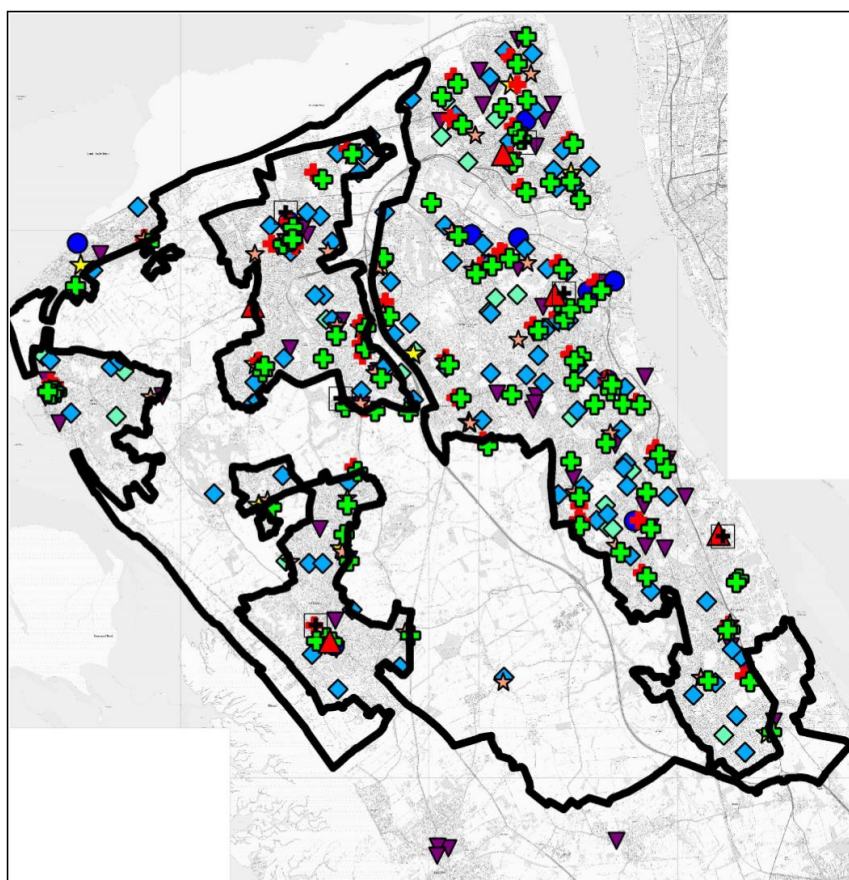
SA8- Rural Areas	
Land Area	7,053 hectares (45% of Wirral land area)
Undeveloped Coastline	15km (9miles)
Population	4211 (mid-2017) 2.7% of Wirral
Residential Properties	9330 (6% of Wirral stock April 2019)
Social Housing Properties	177 (2% of SA8)
Dwellings Completed Since 2012 (gross)	165 units (4% of Wirral completions)
Dwellings Demolished Since 2012	18 Units (1.8% of Wirral Demolitions)
Number of units with Planning Permission	89 (April 2019)
Key Town Centres	None
Other Retail Centres	None
Employment Areas	None
Open Space Provision	1,390.52 hectares (274 hectares per 1000)

Figure 39



### Key Services and Facilities within Settlement Area 8

Figure 40



### Settlement Area 8

#### Key Facilities

- ☒ Ambulance Stations
- ▲ Fire Station
- Police Station
- ✚ GP
- ▼ Dentist
- ✚ Pharmacy
- ◆ Primary School
- ◆ Secondary School
- ★ Library
- ★ Post Office

Description	Key Facilities and Services				
SHLAA Sites	0 SHLAA Sites (Figure 39)				
<b>Primary Schools</b>	<b>Size</b>	<b>Size</b>	<b>Capacity</b>	<b>Capacity</b>	<b>Expansion potential</b>
Thornton Hough Primary School	175	1FE	105%	At or Near Capacity	None
St Michael & All Angels Catholic Primary School	210	1FE	95%	At or Near Capacity	Possible
Dawpool CE Primary School	210	1FE	98%	At or Near Capacity	None
Heswall Primary School	210	1FE	105%	At or Near Capacity	Difficult
<b>Secondary Schools</b>	<b>Size</b>		<b>Capacity</b>	<b>Capacity</b>	<b>Expansion potential</b>
Woodchurch High School Engineering College	1405		102%	At or Near Capacity	Difficult
Pensby High School	937		70%	At or Near Capacity	Possible
<b>SEN Provision</b>	Foxfield School				

GP	Size	Capacity	Expansion potential
<b>West Wirral Group Practice</b>	14119	Moderate	Possible
<b>Other Facilities</b>	Pharmacies (9), Dentists (4), Post Offices (1), Libraries (0), Police Station (0), Fire Station (1), Ambulance Station (1) (Figure 40)		
<b>Hospitals</b>	Clatterbridge Hospital and Arrowe Park Hospital are operated by Wirral Hospital Trust. Clatterbridge Cancer Centre and Claire House Children's Hospice also operates from Clatterbridge Health Park. The Spire private hospital is located in Barnston.		
<b>Emergency Services</b>	There is an Ambulance Station operated from Arrowe Park Hospital Accident and Emergency department.		
<b>Community Facilities</b>	Indoor facilities include the private health club facilities at Thornton Hall Hotel and Barnston Dale Centre which has a sports hall and climbing wall. There are numerous golf courses in the Settlement Area. Leverhulme Sports Ground and Port Sunlight Lawn Tennis club are located at the southern edge of the Bromborough employment area. South Wirral Youth Hub is to transfer Anselmian's new Rugby Club once completed.		
<b>Retail Centres</b>	There are no Key Town Centres within the Settlement Area and retail provision is mainly limited to individual shops in villages such as Thornton Hough.		
<b>Employment</b>	Arrowe Park Hospital which includes an accident and emergency department and Clatterbridge Health Park are major developed sites in the greenbelt providing health care services and a source of local employment.		
<b>Open Space</b>	The Settlement Area contains 12 parks and gardens, five of which are Country Parks. Of the 12 parks and gardens, five scored under the 60% threshold for quality. Royden Park, Wirral Country Park and Eastham Country Park scored above the quality threshold and are observed to be more attractive due to the perceived higher levels of maintenance and cleanliness as well as the variety of recreational uses of offer. The sites also have a range of ancillary features and facilities including play and sporting opportunities, toilets and car parking as well as the added provision of a visitor centre. These sites also have a Green Flag Award. There are 8 allotments, 10 amenity greenspaces and 26 natural and semi-natural greenspaces in this Settlement Area. It is recognised that parks and gardens including Eastham Country Park and Wirral Country Park contribute to the role and use associated with natural and semi-natural green space. The Settlement Area contains 9 areas of provision for children and young people, the total area of these sites falls below the national guidelines for provision for children and young people.		
<b>Coast and Flooding</b>	The Settlement Area also contains the vast majority of the Borough's remaining un-developed coastline. The North West of England and North Wales Shoreline Management Plan indicates that the short stretch of sand dunes fronted by a narrow strip of saltmarsh between Red Rocks and West Kirby is expected to remain relatively stable over the plan period. Natural erosion of the clay cliffs at Thurstaston, a Site of Special Scientific Interest, is expected to continue at between 0.1 and 0.5 metres each year. The impact of erosion on the former landfill at Dawpool will require further investigation. Saltmarsh accretion is expected to continue to the		



	<p>south, between Heswall and Gayton, and is expected to keep pace with sea level rise.</p> <p>Some privately funded maintenance of existing local defences is however likely to take place, subject to gaining the necessary consents. Only the sandstone block revetment at Riverbank Road is currently expected to last less than 20 years. Approximately 576 hectares of low-lying land associated with the north Wirral coastal plain, the Birket and Fender valleys, Greasby Brook, Arrowse Brook, Dibbinsdale Brook, Clatter Brook and their tributaries in south and central Wirral, is at risk from flooding. There is notable surface water flood risk in agricultural land west of Thornton Hough.</p> <p>The flood risk at Hoylake Municipal Golf Course and M53 Moreton Spur Junction, in comparison to the 2009 SFRA, has Areas Benefiting from Defences (ABD), and therefore the functional floodplain has been reduced in the 2019 SFRA outline, although still within Flood Zone 2 and 3, in accordance with most up to date modelling outputs to provide the best picture of flood risk in the area. According to historic flooding datasets, the Settlement Area has had approximately 131-200 and 200-230 historic flood incidents in Mid-Wirral. However, there are areas for example south west of M53 Junction 3 where 300-361 historic flood incidents have been recorded, as well as some areas of Barnston, south of Arrowse Park, and north west of M53 Junction 2.</p>
<p><b>Landscape Character</b></p>	<p>The Settlement Area contains 14 of the 16 areas of landscape character, which are identified in the 2019 Wirral Landscape Character Assessment. The areas contain some of the best quality landscapes in the Borough, including existing Areas of Special Landscape Value that are amongst the most outstanding landscapes within Wirral. These provide an important and positive contribution to the distinctive attractiveness of the peninsula.</p>
<p><b>Biodiversity</b></p>	<p>Just over 11 percent of the Settlement Area is subject to additional nature conservation and/or earth science designations and/or priority habitats. Open areas along the M53 Corridor, have seen extensive tree planting supported by the Forestry Commission and Groundwork Wirral, since they were designated as Areas Requiring Landscape Renewal in the Unitary Development Plan.</p> <p>The Settlement Area is rich in biodiversity and includes the majority of the Borough's most significant biodiversity assets.</p> <p>There are 6 nationally designated Sites of Special Scientific Interest, 4 Local Nature Reserves and over 50 local Sites of Biological Importance sites of local importance for earth science associated with the sandstone ridges at Irby Quarry; Thurstaston Hill; Telegraph Road cutting; Dee Cliffs; Storeton Hill; and Red Rocks; including the nationally designated Heswall Dungeon, which is the only outcrop of the oldest rock strata observable in Wirral.</p> <p>There are 5 Country Parks: at Eastham, with views over the Mersey Estuary; Royden Park and Thurstaston Common, with views over the Dee Estuary; the four-mile North Wirral Coastal Park, with views across Liverpool Bay and to North Wales; Arrowse Country Park; and Wirral Country Park, the first designated country park in Britain with a popular twelve-mile multi-purpose footpath, cycleway and bridleway from West Kirby to Parkgate and Hooton in Cheshire West and Chester. Eastham Country Park, Royden Park, Thurstaston Common and Wirral Country</p>



	<p>Park, in particular, attract large numbers of visitors from wider Merseyside and beyond.</p> <p>Dibbinsdale Local Nature Reserve runs into the heart of the urban area in Settlement Area 4 and the tributaries associated with the Dibbinsdale Brook are all well-established wildlife corridors.</p>
<b>Heritage</b>	<p>The Settlement Area contains 104 entries on The National Heritage List for England, which relate to 170 structures, approximately 10 percent of the Borough total, of which one is Grade I and a further twelve Grade II*. The villages at Gayton, Thornton Hough, Barnston, Thurstaston, Frankby, Saughall Massie and Eastham are Conservation Areas. The villages at Thornton Hough, Storeton and Raby and areas of more modern suburban development at St David's Road, Eastham; Oxford Drive; Thornton Hough; and at Woodlands Drive and Overdale Avenue, Barnston are designated as Infill Villages in the Green Belt. Thornton Hough is the largest of the rural settlements and acts as a visitor destination in its own right. Brimstage, Carr Hall Farm and farm shops at Thurstaston and Clatterbridge also provide local attractions. Small areas of market gardens remain at Hoylake, Leasowe and along the Dee Coast. Storeton Hall is identified as a Scheduled Ancient Monument and the grounds of Thornton Manor are designated as an Historic Park and Garden. Both sites are listed on the national Heritage at Risk Register along with a Scheduled Monument moated site 400m north east of New Hall.</p>
<b>Utilities</b>	<p>The power lines that run across Wirral, from Capenhurst to Prenton and on to Liverpool, are an essential part of the National Grid electricity transmission network. The Borough's main high-pressure gas main also runs along the M53 Corridor.</p> <p>The trans-national underground power cable between Scotland and North Wales completed in 2018 runs via the Irish Sea from Leasowe, between Hoylake and Moreton, Greasby and West Kirby and to the east of Heswall into Cheshire West and Chester before connecting at Connah's Quay.</p> <p>Water supply and disposal infrastructure has limited capacity to support additional development within the rural areas.</p> <p>The northern parts of the Area are served by the North Wirral Wastewater Treatment Works at Meols.</p> <p>An Aircraft Beacon for national and international flights operates from a site just outside Moreton.</p>
<b>Road Network</b>	<p>A number of the roads throughout the Settlement Area are minor and retain a rural character.</p> <p>The M53 Motorway runs through the Fender Valley and the open countryside between Prenton and Eastham.</p> <p>Major roads between main settlements and the M53 Motorway include A551 between Leasowe and Wallasey and A553 between Moreton and Birkenhead (to Junction 1); A5027 between West Kirby and Saughall Massie (to Junction 2); A551 from Heswall to Woodchurch (to Junction 3) and A5137 between Heswall and Spital (to Junction 4). Other main routes crossing the Settlement Area include A553 between Hoylake and Moreton; B5139 between West Kirby and Greasby; and A540 between Hoylake, Heswall and Chester.</p>

	<p>There is existing traffic congestion at Arrowe Park, Barnston and Junction 4 of the M53 Motorway at Clatterbridge.</p> <p>Some of these routes impact on Conservation Areas like Frankby and Barnston.</p>
<b>Public Transport Infrastructure</b>	<p>While the main rural settlements are no more than 10 minutes away from the urban area by car, the majority of the Area is not very accessible by public transport.</p> <p>The railway line between Bidston and Wrexham in North Wales runs alongside the M53 Motorway in the Fender Valley between the mid-Wirral settlements and Birkenhead and across the open countryside from Prenton to Heswall. There is a 198 space Park and Ride facility available at Bidston station.</p>
<b>Cycling and Walking Infrastructure</b>	<p>National Cycle Route 56 crosses through the central part of the Area and the Wirral Circular Trail provides cycle and walking routes with links to the coastline.</p>
<b>Key issues</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintaining the Green Belt</li> <li>• Maintaining the local distinctiveness of settlements, rural villages and Conservation Areas</li> <li>• Maintaining the character of the landscape, rights of way, heritage, biodiversity and recreational open spaces associated with the countryside and coast and their contribution to the image and attractiveness of the Borough</li> <li>• Improving accessibility to key opportunities of employment, education and health care</li> <li>• Reducing the impact of traffic on rural villages and Conservation Areas</li> </ul>